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Chinese, Russian air forces conduct 11th joint strategic patrol

On June 27, the Chinese and Russian air forces [conducted](#) their 11th joint strategic air patrol in the airspace over the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea, and the western Pacific Ocean. The two sides had been [participating](#) in this “joint strategic patrol” since 2019, sending a large mixed formation of bombers, fighters, tankers, and surveillance aircraft to these waters. The Chinese side sent four H-6 strategic bombers, six J-16 fighters, a Y-20 aerial refueling tanker, a KJ-500 AEW&C aircraft, a Y-9 SIGINT/ electronic intelligence aircraft, and J-10, J-11 fighters. The Russian Air Force dispatched two Tu-95 bombers, two Tu-142 maritime patrol aircraft, Su-30 fighters, Su-35 Fulcrum-F fighters, and Il-78 aerial refueling tanker. The joint patrolling began at the Sea of Japan towards south of Okinawa and continued into the western Pacific. With 15 warplanes the joint patrolling lasted for 6-hours. In response, the Japan Air Self-Defense (JASDF) scrambled its F-15 fighters, while US Air Force F-35A also intercepted the patrol. Besides, South Korea also sent its fighters after their air patrol briefly entered the country’s Air Defense Identification Zone (AIDZ). The joint patrol aimed to improve interoperability between the two air forces, specifically in aerial refueling and command & control. However, these patrols are becoming both larger and increasingly complex over time. On June 28, Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro

Koizumi [called](#) the strategic patrol a threat to Japan. On the same day, the South Korean Defense Ministry issued a formal complaint to the Chinese and Russian embassies in Seoul saying their patrol warplanes entered and exited the nations’ air defense identification zone over the Sea of Japan and East China Sea. In response, the Russian state media outlet Tass said the joint patrol operated within international law and did not violate any foreign airspace.

China slams Japan, Philippines over maritime delimitation negotiations

China has [condemned](#) recent maritime delimitation negotiations between Japan and the Philippines, claiming the talks illegal and invalid. During the Philippine President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. [visit](#) to Japan in late May, the two sides issued a joint statement to negotiate on the delimitation of exclusive economic zone and continental shelf between Japan and the Philippines. China’s State Council Taiwan Affairs Office stated on June 10 that their proposed “delimitation negotiations” gravely infringe on China’s maritime rights and interests, run counter to international law and the basic norms governing international relations, and are entirely illegal, null and void. The disputed maritime area falls directly east of Taiwan, a strategic region where China claims its own lawful EEZ and continental shelf jurisdiction under international and domestic law. China asserts that the ongoing negotiations violates the United

Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Besides slamming the negotiations, Beijing has deployed coast guard vessels to conduct law enforcement [patrols](#) at the disputed waters as well as hydrographic survey of the waters east of Taiwan on June 6. The operation, [launched](#) by China's Ministry of Transport from June 6 to 10, in coordination with the Fujian and Guangdong maritime safety administrations, the East China Sea Navigation Support Center, and the East China Sea Rescue Bureau. The operation intended to exercise China's maritime administrative jurisdiction, strengthening long-range offshore patrol and enforcement capabilities, improving traffic management, ensuring maritime safety, and safeguard national rights and interests. The operation covered 1,030 nautical miles, inspected 198 passing vessels and rectified violations involving three ships, reinforcing enforcement and traffic-control capabilities in the area and further improving maritime safety. On the other hand, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) [condemned](#) Beijing's action on June 9 saying that China is attempting to use this opportunity to normalize patrols and law enforcement in the waters east of Taiwan, dispatching coast guard vessels to engage in illegal enforcement activities. Moreover, the statement added that when Japan and the Philippines hold negotiations, they should fully consider Taiwan's overlapping claims, and continue to communicate and consult with Taiwan.

Liaoning aircraft carrier task force completes far-sea combat training

PLA Navy's Liaoning aircraft carrier task force [concluded](#) a rigorous 40-day far-sea combat training deployment in the South China Sea and western Pacific on June 22. The routine drills aimed to test and improve the carrier group's integrated combat capabilities in open-sea combat scenario. The formation conducted day-and-night ship-aircraft confrontation, tactical flight drills, and live-weapon exercises. It executed joint land-sea operations and coordinated maneuvers with amphibious assault ship formations in the western Pacific. The PLA Navy [announced](#) that the Liaoning task force also operated alongside the Shandong aircraft carrier formation in the western Pacific. Chinese carrier-group were tracked and monitored by the Japanese vessels and aircraft. The Liaoning carrier group departed for the Western Pacific on May 19, and also exercised in the South China Sea and other unstated regions. The Liaoning carrier-group returned to its home port from far-sea combat training in mid-June. The PLA Navy claimed that the carrier-group was capable of launching sorties rapidly near U.S. military bases in Japan using J-15 long range fighters.

Militaries of China and New Zealand Hold 13th Strategic Defense Dialogue

The 13th China-New Zealand Strategic Dialogue was [held](#) in China on June 8 in Shanghai, China for an in-depth and candid discussions on international and

regional security issues of shared concern, and reaffirmed the willingness to strengthen substantive engagement and cooperation. The dialogue [aimed](#) to enhance mutual understanding and trust between the two sides. The meeting was attended by Vice Chief of defense Force Rear Admiral Mathew Williams and Deputy Secretary Policy & Planning of the Ministry of Defense Richard Schmidt for New Zealand. The Chinese delegation was represented by officials from the Ministry of National defense. The two sides confirmed their willingness to strengthen substantive engagement and cooperation, helping to enhance mutual understanding and trust. Although this dialogue between the Chinese and New Zealand armies [focused](#) on military security, the signal of political mutual trust it conveys has indirect but far-reaching commercial significance for SMEs in New Zealand. The normalization of military exchanges between the two countries is a microcosm of a healthy relationship, and SMEs can use it to stabilize expectations, but the core remains business negotiation and market development. Last Dialogue was held in Wellington in 2024.

China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan co-organize border inspection

China and a “Joint Party” [comprising](#) Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan concluded their first round of border disarmament compliance inspection. They began inspection at the

eastern section of the China-Russia border from May 27 to June 4. This joint inspection is in accordance to the Agreement on Confidence-Building in the Military Field along the Border Areas signed in 1996 and the Agreement on the Mutual Reduction of Military Forces Along the Border Areas signed in 1997 by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan. As per agreements signed, the military inspection teams of China and the Joint Party conducted four rounds of eight compliance inspections annually on each other’s military forces, technical equipment, and other assets within a 100-kilometers zone along the border. During the inspection, the military inspection teams from the Chinese side and the Joint Party held symposium, conducted mutual visits to troops and border cities, and engaged in cultural and sports exchanges, deepening cooperation, strengthening relations, and creating a favourable atmosphere for jointly safeguarding peace and security in the border areas. From June 9 to 11, the team [conducted](#) inspection along the western section of the China-Kazakhstan border that falls under the jurisdiction of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. On the morning of June 9, the nine-member joint military inspection team entered China via the Port of Khorgos and traveled by vehicle to a regiment of the Xinjiang Military Command to conduct their inspection. The meeting at the regiment provided detailed briefings on personnel composition, equipment models, and the layout of the

barracks and facilities. After the briefing, the team inspected various integrated storage facilities within the barracks. Later on, a nine-member Chinese military team entered the Kazakhstan via the Port of Khorgos on June 15 for inspection at the Raimbek Border Guard Sub-detachment in the Chundzha region of Kazakhstan. After the inspection, the Chinese officer noted that over the years, the five countries have engaged in highly effective cooperation regarding security law enforcement, border control, and combating transnational crime.

Chinese defense minister holds talks with South African counterpart

Chinese Defense Minister General Dong Jun [visited](#) South Africa and held talks with South Africa's Defense and Veterans Affairs Minister Angie Motshekga on June 1, marking the first visit to the country by a Chinese defense minister in 12 years. The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on the relations between the two countries and two militaries, the international and regional situation, and other issues of common concern. The two sides agreed to strengthen strategic communication, improving institutional frameworks, conducting professional exchanges, and deepening education and training collaboration. The discussions focused on expanding practical security collaborations, maritime security, joint exercises, and education, while reaffirming their shared commitment to the consensus reached by their respective

Heads of State. This visit marks China's first defence ministerial visit to South Africa in 12 years. Before the meeting, the South African side [hosted](#) a welcome ceremony for General Dong Jun and he was accompanied Motshekga during the guard of honour.