

December 10, 2024

SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

**An Initiative by the Nuclear and Arms Control Centre,
MP-IDSA**



China's seaside commercial spacecraft launch site completes first mission

Xinhua, December 1, 2024

China successfully launched a new carrier rocket into space from the Hainan commercial spacecraft launch site in the southern island province of Hainan. The Long March-12 carrier rocket sent two experimental satellites into their planned orbits. The mission was the maiden flight of the Long March-12 carrier rocket, and the first launch mission undertaken by the Hainan commercial spacecraft launch site. The launch site is located at a latitude of 20 degrees north, benefiting from the advantages of this low latitude, which can increase rocket payload capacities and reduce rocket fuel costs. The launch site will also accelerate the cultivation of the commercial space industry and talent in Hainan, with industrial chains covering spacecraft R&D, launch services and satellite applications.

<https://english.news.cn/20241201/8e585e91141449e5852fbb26d68be5bc/c.html>

China and Russia stage nuclear bomber exercise in Sea of Japan

Ryan Chan

Newsweek, December 1, 2024

China and Russia sent nuclear-capable bombers over the waters between Japan and South Korea, which are the treaty allies of the United States, for their ninth joint strategic air patrol. The Chinese Defence Ministry said the joint bomber patrol was conducted over the Sea of Japan, also known as the East Sea in South Korea. It is located between the Japanese archipelago to the east, the Korean Peninsula to the west, and the Russian Far East region to the north. Newsweek has reached out to the defence ministries of Russia and Japan for comment by email.

<https://www.newsweek.com/russia-china-news-stage-nuclear-bomber-exercise-near-south-korea-japan-1993313>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Lithuania's declaration of three staff members of China's Office of the Chargé d'Affaires in the country as personae non gratae for violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 2, 2024

China noted that Lithuania will soon form its new government, and multiple Lithuanian political figures have expressed a desire to improve ties with China. China hopes that the new government

of Lithuania will take action to abide by the political commitment that Lithuania made in the communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Lithuania, uphold the one-China principle and bring bilateral ties back to the right track.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241217_11495801.html

China tensions prompt U.S. Navy race to reload missiles at sea

Daniel Michaels, Mike Cherney and Tonia Cowan

The Wall Street Journal, December 2, 2024

A U.S. Navy destroyer can fire dozens of cruise missiles within minutes. Reloading the deadly warship back in port can take two months. In a war against China, that could be a fatal weakness. To overcome the delay, Navy engineers pulled a 30-year-old crane out of storage, wired it up to computers, and used it to build a new prototype reloading system called the Transferrable Reload At-sea Method. TRAM, as it is known, promises to slash the time needed for missile reloading, potentially to just days.

<https://www.wsj.com/world/china-tensions-prompt-u-s-navy-race-to-reload-missiles-at-sea-70d58178>

China has ‘no right’ to demand Philippines to remove US Typhon missile system

Raissa Robles

South China Morning Post, December 2, 2024

China has “no right” to demand the removal of the US Typhon missile system stationed in the Philippines or tell Manila not to purchase it, according to a Philippine official and security analysts. The Mid-Range Capability (MRC) missile launcher was transported from the US to the city of Laoag in the northern Philippines for the 39th Balikatan exercises involving troops from the US, Philippines, Australia and France from April 22 to May 10. It was supposed to leave the country by June but has been retained since then by the Philippine military for further assessment.

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3289036/china-has-no-right-demand-philippines-remove-us-typhon-missile-system>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the US House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic report saying the virus probably leaked from the Chinese lab

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 3, 2024

The so-called report by the US, without any substantial evidence, came up with a suggestive, misguided conclusion to frame and throw mud at China. This is a repetition of the old playbook of using the issue of origins tracing for political manipulation. There is nothing credible about that so-called conclusion. Origins-tracing is a serious science issue. In the spirit of science, openness, and transparency, China has actively supported and participated in global science-based origins-tracing, and firmly opposed any form of political manipulation. It is “extremely unlikely” that the pandemic was caused by a lab leak—this is the authoritative conclusion reached by the experts of the WHO-China joint mission following their field trips to the lab in Wuhan and in-depth communication with researchers and it is a conclusion based on science.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241217_11495804.html

US hits China's chip industry with new export controls

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, December 3, 2024

The US has introduced new export controls in an effort to curtail China's ability to create an advanced semiconductor industry and to slow its development of artificial intelligence with military applications. The restrictions on the export of critical semiconductor manufacturing tools will affect both US companies and foreign firms that use American technology in their chipmaking equipment. The US will also prevent the export of advanced high bandwidth memory (HBM), a crucial component in AI chips, to China.

<https://www.ft.com/content/2334d3d9-d744-4d1f-94cc-e328968b41ce>

U.S. officials say they still have not expelled Chinese telco hackers

Joseph Menn and Cate Cadell

The Washington Post, December 3, 2024

U.S. officials said they had not been able to expel Chinese government hackers from telecommunications companies and internet service providers, warning concerned users to turn to

encrypted messages and voice calls and giving no timeline for securing carriers. The downbeat press briefing came more than three months after the first report of Chinese spies deeply penetrating major carriers for espionage, and after the FBI and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) met with scores of companies to help them shore up defences and hunt for hackers in their networks.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2024/12/03/china-hack-salt-typhoon-telecom/>

China readying satellite-based kill chain, key U.S. commander says

Shinnosuke Nagatomi

Nikkei Asia, December 4, 2024

China is "using increasingly large numbers of satellites to find, fix, track and target U.S. and allied terrestrial capabilities, aircraft carriers" and more, completing a "long-range kill chain," U.S. Space Forces Indo-Pacific Commander Anthony Mastalir said. "What we have seen over the last 5-to-10 years is increased investment in China regarding military space capabilities," such as anti-satellite missiles, he said while speaking to reporters at Yokota Air Base in Japan.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Defense/China-readying-satellite-based-kill-chain-key-U.S.-commander-says>

Launch of US Space Forces Japan eyes to serve military interests: experts

Li Yawei

Global Times, December 4, 2024

The US Space Force launched a unit at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, with Chinese expert saying the launch of US Space Forces Japan is part of US' effort to implement its so-called "Indo-Pacific strategy," specially to serve its overall military interests. Japan in particular, is depicted by Washington as being on the forefront of America's own growing confrontation with China. In reality, Japan is given little choice, Brian Berletic, a geopolitical analyst and a former soldier of US Marine, told the Global Times recently. NASA has encountered a lot of difficulties, but the US will not allow itself to succumb to asking for China's help.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1324349.shtml>

China missile test a key sign of Rocket Force power

Bill Gertz

The Washington Times, December 4, 2024

China's People's Liberation Army Rocket Force is aggressively building up its missile forces with new and more lethal systems and with a heavy emphasis on deploying and building hypersonic missiles, according to defence officials. The Rocket Force, in charge of both conventional and nuclear missile power, "continued an aggressive modernization and production plan" this year, one official told Inside the Ring in a recent briefing on the Chinese military.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2024/dec/4/inside-ring-china-missile-test-key-sign-rocket-for/>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the countermeasures against 13 US military companies and six senior executives

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 5, 2024

The Taiwan question is at the core of China's core interests. In recent months, the US has announced multiple arms sales to China's Taiwan region. This gravely violates the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiqués, interferes in China's internal affairs, and undermines China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In accordance with the Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law of the People's Republic of China, China decided to take countermeasures against relevant military companies and senior executives of the US.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241217_11495808.html

China's southern Hainan Province plans to unveil a super satellite manufacturing hub in 2025

Global Times, December 5, 2024

A super satellite manufacturing factory is expected to commence operation at the Wenchang International Aerospace City in South China's Hainan Province in June 2025, the aerospace city said in a statement, noting that the factory will have the capacity to enable satellites to be launched immediately upon delivery. The super satellite factory covers an area of 60,000 square meters, making it the largest satellite factory in Asia, and it is estimated to complete roofing at the end of

2024. Construction of the factory and its supporting projects is now underway. According to the aerospace city, the site has already attracted nearly 1,000 aerospace companies and is set to become the nation's major satellite-related manufacturing hub.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1324404.shtml>

Chinese associations urge caution in buying U.S. chips over semiconductor export control

CGTN, December 5, 2024

Chinese industrial associations have voiced strong opposition to the United States' latest control measures on semiconductor exports and urged domestic firms to exercise caution when purchasing U.S. chips. The China Semiconductor Industry Association (CSIA), the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM), the Internet Society of China (ISC) and the China Association of Communication Enterprises (CACE) released separate statements saying that they firmly oppose the U.S. abuse of export control measures.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-12-05/Chinese-associations-urge-caution-in-buying-U-S-chips-1z5CL1AR07m/p.html>

Bolster defences against China hackers or face fines, FCC warns telecoms

Eva Dou and Ellen Nakashima

The Washinton Post, December 5, 2024

Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel has drafted plans to regulate the cybersecurity of telecommunications companies as the federal government faces pressure to respond to a massive compromise of U.S. phone networks by Chinese government hackers. If implemented, the plans would put phone network operators on warning that the FCC could pursue financial penalties against them if they do not do enough to protect their networks. It would be the first time that the agency has asserted such powers under federal wiretapping law.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2024/12/05/fcc-salt-typhoon-cybersecurity-china/>

How the chip war could turn under Trump

Chris Miller

Financial Times, December 6, 2024

What does the return of Donald Trump imply for the global chip war? Trump didn't start the subsidy race — credit here goes to Chinese leader Xi Jinping — but his first administration focused the US on tech competition with China. Biden then extended Trump-era policies regarding tariffs, subsidies, and export controls. Now Trump is returning just as artificial intelligence intensifies demand for computing power.

<https://www.ft.com/content/44084570-19a1-4049-8306-46a38648a0a4>

Manila's move threatens regional peace: Typhoon missile system

Yang Xiao, Lin Ziqin and Du Jifeng

China Daily, December 6, 2024

The US' Typhon medium-range missile system, which was transported to the Philippines for a joint military drill earlier this year and should have left the country's shores by September, has remained in northern Philippines since April at the request of the Philippine government. Manila is considering deploying it permanently in order to counter the so-called threat from China. The deployment of medium-range missiles in the Philippines has not upset China as a few US military conspirators think nor does it increase the Philippines' military power as some Philippine politicians believe. Instead, the missile system poses a threat to the security and development of all the countries in the region, and endangers the safety and interests of the Philippine people.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202412/06/WS675232d1a310f1265a1d1679.html>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Paraguay Foreign Ministry's cancellation of the visa of a Chinese diplomat

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 6, 2024

The delegation of the Chinese government has been in Paraguay upon invitation to attend the 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO. The relevant department of Paraguay—a member state of the UN and UNESCO and the host country of the 19th session meeting—made unfounded and

unjustified accusation and demand against a relevant member of the Chinese delegation. This is seriously inconsistent with international practice. China is firmly opposed to it.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241217_11495818.html

US will run out of missiles in war with China, lose the conflict, warns Congressional wargame

Firstpost, December 6, 2024

The United States would lose a war with China after running out of missiles within days, according to a simulation organised by Congress. In the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party simulation of a US-China armed conflict, members of Congress as well as private experts flagged the inefficiency of the US defence industry in supplying the US military needs appropriately and the inability of the United States to win a war the conflict. The warnings come at a time when China is ramping up aggression around Taiwan and other US partners in the Indo-Pacific region. Any armed conflict in the region is bound of rope in the United States as most of the nations in the region are US allies and partners — including the self-governing island of Taiwan.

<https://www.firstpost.com/world/us-will-run-out-of-missiles-in-war-with-china-lose-the-conflict-warns-congressional-wargame-13842294.html>

PLA looks into China-US collaboration in biosecurity research

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, December 6, 2024

In the field of biosafety research, Chinese scientists have collaborated significantly more with scientists from the United States than from any other country, according to a survey by the People's Liberation Army (PLA). In these collaborative studies, “the keywords with the highest emergence intensity are ‘bioterror’, followed by ‘bacillus anthracis’, ‘PCR’, ‘identification’ and ‘biological warfare agents’,” the project team wrote in a report published in the Journal of Air Force Medical University on November 27.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3289472/pla-looks-china-us-collaboration-biosecurity-research>

Mainland rebukes Lai Ching-te for separatist actions during U.S. "stopover"

Xinhua, December 6, 2024

A Chinese mainland spokesperson said the actions of Lai Ching-te during his "stopover" in the United States again proved that the so-called stopover was just political manipulation of Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities to solicit U.S. support for "Taiwan independence." Zhu Fenglian, spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, said at a media briefing that Lai's "stopover" was also a political trick of the United States to use the Taiwan question to contain China. Zhu denounced the DPP authorities for obstinately advocating the separatist stance of "Taiwan independence," brazenly clinging to external forces and deliberately pursuing independence by force.

<https://english.news.cn/20241206/89b7583aa08b49098ebb0a7da3a9dd61/c.html>

Donald Trump picks former senator and CEO David Perdue for ambassador to China

Demetri Sevastopulo and Alex Rogers

Financial Times, December 6, 2024

President-elect Donald Trump has named former senator David Perdue to serve as ambassador to Beijing in one of the most critical US diplomatic roles given the prospect for rising tensions with China. The choice stood in contrast to some of Trump's other picks for national security roles that will be critical for relations with China. He has chosen Florida senator Marco Rubio, a vocal China hawk, for secretary of state, and Mike Waltz, a congressman and China critic, for national security adviser. One former US official said the choice of Perdue "underscores a growing trend where diplomacy is a function of corporate influence". It suggested Trump might prefer someone who could facilitate economic deals rather than more traditional diplomacy, the former official said.

<https://www.ft.com/content/1f683a80-3967-45ac-a829-d1e5707b7d3f>

China lodges strong protests with US over Lai's 'stopover'

Global Times, December 6, 2024

China deplored and has lodged strong protests to the US over arranging for Taiwan regional leader Lai Ching-te's "stopovers" in Hawaii and Guam and having official interactions with the Taiwan region, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said, urging the US to adhere to one-

China principle and stop sending seriously wrong signals to the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces. By arranging for Lai's "stopovers" in Hawaii and Guam, having official interactions with the Taiwan region, helping Taiwan expand so-called "international space," and providing platforms for "Taiwan independence" separatist activities, the US gravely violated the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiqués.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1324513.shtml>

China's new-generation Long March rockets to facilitate manned lunar, Mars missions

China Daily, December 7, 2024

China's new-generation manned launch vehicle, the Long March 10 carrier rocket, will enhance the country's lunar transfer orbit payload capacity from 8.2 tonnes to 27 tonnes, according to Long Lehao, a rocket designer at the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT). Long March 10 is being developed to launch new-generation manned spacecraft and landers for China's lunar landing program, said Long, who is also an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering. Its development is progressing in an orderly manner, and it has completed its first-stage power system tests, he noted.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202412/07/WS67539009a310f1265a1d1a5a.html>

Chinese rocket scientists find ICBMs age much faster than they thought

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, December 7, 2024

A subtle, yet significant, issue with the solid fuel used in intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) has been uncovered in a study by Chinese rocket scientists. And it could explain the frequent launch failures experienced by some nuclear powers in recent years. Under normal storage conditions, typical missile fuel can appear stable for 160 years or more. But tests conducted at the National Key Laboratory of Solid Rocket Propulsion in Xian found that considerable changes may occur in the fuel columns within 30 years, making them unable to withstand the loads during flight.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3289504/chinese-rocket-scientists-find-icbms-age-much-faster-they-thought>

PACAF Boss: As China Expands Reach of Missiles and Warplanes, US Needs 'Inside Force'

Greg Hadley

Air & Space Forces Magazine, December 8, 2024

As China extends the reach of its missiles and aircraft farther and farther beyond its shores, the Air Force must ensure two keys to effectively counter that threat: first, to build out the underlying capability to make USAF's agile combat employment strategy, and second, to ensure the Air Force has the "inside force" to penetrate China's defences, a top Air Force leader said. PACAF commander Gen. Kevin B. Schneider, speaking at an event with AFA's Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, said the People's Republic of China is continuing to build out its anti-access/area denial strategy with its growing ballistic missile force. "And every day, that missile capability from the PLA grows in number, capability, and range," Schneider said.

<https://www.airandspaceforces.com/pacaf-boss-china-expanding-reach/>

Li Qiang holds "1+10" Dialogue with heads of major International Economic Organizations

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 9, 2024

On December 9, 2024, Premier Li Qiang of the State Council held the "1+10" Dialogue with President of the New Development Bank Dilma Rousseff, President of the World Bank Ajay Banga, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva, Director-General of the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development Rebeca Grynspan, Director-General of the International Labour Organization Gilbert F. Hounbo, Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Mathias Cormann, General Manager of the Bank for International Settlements Agustín Carstens, Chair of the Financial Stability Board Klaas Knot, and President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Jin Liqun, at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. They had in-depth exchanges under the theme of "Building Consensus on Development to Promote Global Common Prosperity".

https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202412/t20241211_11542528.html#:~:text=On%20December%209%2C%202024%2C%20Premier,World%20Trade%20Organization%20Ngozi%20Okonjo%2D

Japan ‘doesn’t need to be nervous’ about PLA warships’ Miyako Strait transit: expert

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, December 9, 2024

Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force claimed it had spotted three Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy vessels transiting through the Miyako Strait. Chinese military expert Song Zhongping said Japan does not need to be nervous over the Chinese warships’ normal voyages. Japan’s Self-Defence Forces (JSDF) have earned the nickname “chief photographer” among Chinese military observers, as JSDF often take photos of Chinese warplanes and warships when the latter conduct training exercises or patrols in far seas. Song, the Chinese military expert, told the Global Times that the PLA regularly makes transits in the Miyako Strait, and Japan is being excessively nervous about them, because the Miyako Strait, as well as the West Pacific, are high seas.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1324694.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on China convening expert-level P5 meeting in Dubai

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, December 10, 2024

On December 4, 2024, as the chair of the P5 mechanism, China convened an expert-level P5 meeting in Dubai, the UAE. Representatives from the five nuclear-weapons States (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States) attended the meeting. The parties had a candid discussion on nuclear doctrines. It was agreed that such discussion was timely for the purposes of enhancing understanding of each other’s nuclear doctrines and avoiding misunderstanding and miscalculation. In its capacity as the chair, China will continue to facilitate the P5 discussions.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241217_11495828.html

China reveals its playbook for dealing with impending Trump trade war

Katrina Northrop and Vic Chiang

The Washington Post, December 10, 2024

Donald Trump hasn’t yet returned to the White House, and his threatened tariffs on Chinese goods haven’t yet been imposed, but Beijing is already revealing its playbook for dealing with the next administration — and it’s one that will involve aggressive retaliation. So far in December — in

response to Biden administration actions — Beijing has launched an antitrust investigation into Nvidia, slapped stringent controls on exports of critical minerals, told companies to avoid buying American computer chips, and imposed sanctions on 13 American defence firms.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/12/10/china-trump-trade-war-tariffs/>

China's Long March-8A rocket set for maiden flight in January 2025

People's Daily Online, December 10, 2024

The Long March-8A carrier rocket, designed to serve as China's future primary launch vehicle for medium- and low-Earth orbit missions, is scheduled to conduct its maiden flight in January next year, according to its developer China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT). The Long March-8A was successfully loaded onto a ship and began its journey to the Wenchang Space Launch Site in south China's Hainan Province. "The Long March-8A is an upgraded version of the Long March-8 rocket, specifically developed to meet the launch requirements of large-scale constellation networks in medium- and low-Earth orbits," said Song Zhengyu, chief designer of the Long March-8 rocket from the CALT.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1210/c90000-20252057.html>

Taiwan says China has deployed largest fleet of ships in decades

David Pierson and Amy Chang Chien

The New York Times, December 10, 2024

Taiwan said that China was conducting its largest maritime operations in nearly three decades, sending nearly 90 naval and coast guard vessels into waters stretching from the southern Japanese islands to the South China Sea. Taiwanese defence officials said the scope of the deployment suggested that China was not only trying to show that it could choke the self-governed island, but also that it could block American allies in the region like Japan and the Philippines from coming to Taiwan's defence. China has "extended their military strength outward," Gen. Hsieh Jih-sheng, a senior official in Taiwan's ministry of defence, told reporters. "The numbers are indeed astonishing," he said, referring to the surge of Chinese vessels in the waters.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/10/world/asia/taiwan-china-naval-largest.html>

Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjan C. Oak

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