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## CHINA

### PLA Navy Hold Drills in South China Sea

The People's Liberation Army (PLA)'s [Naval destroyer Zunyi](#) (Type 055) participated in naval drills in the South China Sea, where exercises involving air defence, anti-missile and sea assault combat drills were carried out. The exercises were [tasked to test](#) the combat capabilities of the ship in terms of early-warning, coordination with smaller vessels and capability of integrated search and rescue in joint combat operation. The PLA Navy with new ships and equipment is focusing its exercises on integrated training as it is evident from this exercise.

### PLA Southern Theatre Command Holds Live-Fire Exercise in the Myanmar Border

Due to the instability in the China-Myanmar border, China [conducted a three-day live-fire exercise](#) along the border in Yunnan, starting from 25 November. As clashes began between insurgent groups and the Myanmar military in the northern state of Shan, the PLA Southern Theatre Command announced that they are conducting live fire exercises where it tested the troops' for 'rapid mobilising, border sealing and fire strike capabilities. Moreover, the [PLA](#) revealed that they deployed howitzers and anti-battery radars, where they are tested against hostile projectiles, and artilleries against mountain and forest targets. The exercises exhibited PLA's apprehension about the instability spilling onto its borders in Yunnan and strengthening its response mechanisms.

## JAPAN

### JSDF Helicopter Targeted by Laser

The Public Relations department of the Japanese Ground Self-Defence Forces (JGSDF) Northern Command (headquartered in Hokkaido prefecture) on 1 November [announced](#) that an AH-1S Cobra gunship operating out of JGSDF Camp Obihiro was targeted by a strong light source, possibly a laser, aimed at it as it overflew the town of Shihoro, 30 kilometres from the base. The incident was reported by JSDF spokespeople as having occurred at around 5pm on 31 October. Though neither the crew nor the helicopter took any damage, the type and origin of the laser have not been identified, and an investigation is underway as of last report.

### Japanese PM Call for Greater Japan-ASEAN Cooperation

In an address to the Philippine Congress on 5 November, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida called for greater public and private sector [cooperation between Japan and the ASEAN countries](#). PM Kishida affirmed that Tokyo will mobilise funds to support ASEAN resilience and sustainability with emphasis on maritime security and resilient supply chains. He underscored that Japan will collaborate with ASEAN to realise principles of openness, transparency, inclusivity and a rules-based framework. It has been opined that Japan is pushing for closer ties with ASEAN to counter Chinese influence in the region.

## TAIWAN

### Taiwan Enhancing Military Preparedness

Reportedly, Taiwanese Navy's 151<sup>st</sup> Fleet and the Marine Corps carried out a naval

exercise at Kaohsiung's Sizihwan Beach. It was termed as "[the first of its kind](#)" naval exercise at the beach. It simulated an amphibious assault by the Chinese navy. Taiwanese assault boats, AAV-7 amphibious assault vehicles, MK 154 mine-clearance systems participated in this exercise.

Further, according to media reports, production of TC-2 air defense system is well under way in Taiwan, which the Taiwanese military will deploy "[alongside the U.S.-made Avenger missile system.](#)" The TC-2 system uses the Sky Sword II missile. National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology has developed the missile. It has the range of maximum 15 kilometres.

Also, Taiwan will begin "[receiving deliveries of 38 M1A2T Abrams tanks and 11 HIMARS systems](#)" from the US in 2024. Therefore, Taiwanese military will "[send more than 114 soldiers to the US](#)" in 2024 for training on them. In fact, it sends "[high-performing individuals](#)" for training in foreign military academies, particularly to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, from time to time. However, Taiwan's Control Yuan recently underlined that most of the military personnel who go for training abroad "[apply for discharge as soon as they can](#)" after they return. This trend is higher in the army. It has recommended that the military "[review its practices and improve retention rates.](#)"

## THE KOREAN PENINSULA

### South Korea, Japan and the US to Share Real-Time Information on Missiles

Amidst rising threat perception from North Korea's frequent missile launches, Japan, South Korea and the US on 12 November

[agreed to share information](#) on North Korea's missile launches in real-time. Japanese Defense Minister Minoru Kihara, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and South Korean National Defense Minister Shin Won-sik reached the agreement in a three-party talk. Reportedly, during the meeting the three countries discussed ways for strengthening cooperation in a severe-security environment. Following the conclusion of the agreement, South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol informed a press-gathering that Seoul was working towards [greater military preparedness](#) with the US armed forces to manage any provocation from North Korea, including a Hamas style surprise attack.

### North and South Korea Scrap Military Deal Over Spy-Satellite Launch

As Seoul [suspended](#) a part of the 2018 military accord (known as the Comprehensive Military Agreement) with Pyongyang as protest over the latter's launch of spy-satellite on 21 November, North Korea declared that it would restore all the military measures that were halted under the deal with South Korea, designed to de-escalate tension along their shared border. A statement from North Korea's Defence Ministry stated that "'From now on, our army will never be bound by the September 19 North-South Military Agreement," the statement said. It added that "We will withdraw the military steps, taken to prevent military tension and conflict in all spheres including ground, sea and air, and deploy more powerful armed forces and new-type military hardware in the region along the Military Demarcation Line." The US supporting South Korea's decision to suspend a part of the agreement opined that North Korea failed to adhere to the CMA.