

MS DAILY BRIEF - 21 August 2022

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China has the capacity to have five aircraft carriers by 2030. Despite Chinese rise, U.S. remains 'queen of the oceans'

A US think tank report shows that China's People's Liberation Army Navy has the capacity to have five aircraft carriers and 10 submarines equipped with nuclear ballistic missiles by the end of 2030.

China currently has three aircraft carriers, two of which are operational. The Liaoning and Shandong aircraft carriers are currently operational.

Beijing also launched a new-generation aircraft carrier on 17 June, the first of its kind to be designed and built entirely in China. The Type 003 aircraft carrier, christened Fujian.

Type 003, however, uses a catapult launch, which appears to be an electromagnetic-type system similar to the one originally developed by the US Navy.

The US Naval Institute cites a report entitled China's Choices by the think tank Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments which analyses China's rise and shows that Beijing has the resources to operate five aircraft carriers and 10 nuclear ballistic missile submarines by the end of the year. The experts' calculations are based on economic growth.

US Admiral (r.) Phil Davidson, former commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command, called the report realistic, saying it fits with China's rise and Beijing's ambition to achieve military supremacy.

The U.S. official recalled that despite this military rise in the area of naval forces, China does not have the current capability to overcome the strength of the U.S. Navy.

With 11 aircraft carriers, the US remains "queen of the oceans"

According to the quoted source, the US admiral says that the US retains its superiority over China, both in terms of surface ship and submarine capabilities, but believes that Washington should have a well-developed plan to extend this superiority.

Thus, despite Beijing building ships on automatic fire, quantity does not cover quality.

The US currently owns 11 aircraft carriers that give the measure of the US Navy's impressive naval might. In addition to the aircraft carrier itself, the ship is accompanied by a naval battle group, which in turn consists of destroyers, frigates, submarines, supply ships, ammunition ships, etc. Basically, in addition to mobility in terms of movement, the military strength of a battle group led by an aircraft carrier is truly impressive.

Source: https://www.defenseromania.ro/china-are-capacitatea-de-a-dispune-de-cinci-portavioane-pana-in-2030-in-ciuda-ascensiunii-chineze-sua-raman-regina-oceanelor_617790.html

Chinese military aircraft and ships spotted near Taiwan

At least 17 Chinese military aircraft and six ships approached Taiwanese space on Friday, the administration in Taipei announced, amid lingering tensions over a visit by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Taipei's Defence Ministry said on Friday that 17 Chinese military aircraft had been detected in the vicinity of Taiwan and eight had crossed the median line in the Taiwan Strait, according to Reuters. Six Chinese military vessels have also been detected near Taiwan.

China has staged its largest-ever military exercises around Taiwan in response to a visit to Taipei by Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the House of Representatives in Washington. In addition, Beijing has signalled that military manoeuvres around Taiwan will become routine.

Beijing warned Washington not to underestimate China's determination to maintain sovereignty over Taiwan. Qin Gang, China's ambassador to the United States, rejected Washington's argument that members of Congress are acting separately from the presidency. Qin Gang said visits to Taiwan by Nancy Pelosi and other members of Congress violate agreements between Washington and Beijing. "We are managing the serious effects of Pelosi's visit. The United States should not underestimate the strong attitude, determination and ability of the Chinese government and people to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Qin Gang said Tuesday.

"In recent decades, China has opposed visits by members of Congress to Taiwan as we believe it violates the 'one China' principle. Congress is part of the US system of government, not an independent and uncontrollable branch. Congress is obligated to respect the US foreign policy line. That is why we feel very frustrated and unhappy about Senator Edward Markey's visit to Taiwan. It is provocative and unhelpful," the Chinese ambassador stressed.

The administration in Washington has stressed on several occasions that, in the context of the separation of powers, Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, makes her own decisions.

Source: <https://monitorulapararii.ro/avioane-si-nave-militare-chineze-depistate-in-apropierea-taiwanului-1-45137>

Warships sunk in the Danube during World War II have surfaced due to drought

Europe's worst drought in recent years has pushed the Danube to one of its lowest levels ever, exposing the bodies of dozens of explosives-laden German warships sunk during World War II near the Serbian river port city of Prahovo, Mediafax reports.

The ships were among hundreds of German vessels sunk in 1944 while retreating from the Black Sea in the face of advancing Soviet forces, and still hamper river traffic during low water levels, according to Reuters.

However, this year's drought, which scientists believe is a consequence of global warming, has exposed more than 20 ships on a stretch of the Danube near Prahovo in eastern Serbia, many of which still contain tons of ammunition and explosives and pose a danger to navigation.

"The German flotilla has left behind a big ecological disaster that threatens us, the people of Prahovo," said Velimir Trajilovic, 74, a pensioner from Prahovo who has written a book about the German ships.

Workers in the local fishing industry are also at risk, including those from Romania, who are just across the river.

Source: https://www.stiripesurse.ro/nave-de-razboi-scurfundate-in-dunare-in-al-doilea-razboi-mondial-au-iesit-la-iveala-din-cauza-secetei_2520800.html

A kamikaze drone has again hit the headquarters of the Russian Black Sea Fleet Headquarters in Sevastopol (Video)

The headquarters of the Russian Federation's Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol has again been hit by a kamikaze drone. This is the second incident since the 31 July attack.

A drone attack targeted the Russian Black Sea Fleet Headquarters in Sevastopol on Saturday without causing any injuries, the governor of this city in the Crimean Ukrainian peninsula illegally annexed by Russia, Mikhail Razvojev, said, AFP reports.

Sounds as though Russian air defenses tried to engage the UAV.
<https://t.co/iysF1Ws3gB> pic.twitter.com/VaHx8uKpzt

- Rob Lee (@RALee85) August 20, 2022

„The drone was shot down right over the Fleet Headquarters, fell on the roof and caught fire," Razvojaiev wrote on his Telegram account. The incident "caused no major damage" or injuries, he added, attributing the attack to Ukrainian forces.

Reportedly footage of the UAV that struck the Black Sea Fleet's headquarters. It looks like the same kind of UAV used to strike the oil facility in Rostov from June.

<https://t.co/BjSCiGv3Zu> pic.twitter.com/6ibguhHSH7

- Rob Lee (@RALee85) August 20, 2022

There is also video footage showing the drone flying from different angles, which allows for identification. In particular, in this video it is clear that the drone was coming from the direction of the sea and several shots were fired at it.

The so-called "governor of Sevastopol" Mikhail Razvojev initially said that the drone "was not shot down", and half an hour later reported that the UAV was "shot down", but simply fell on the roof of the headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation.

This is the second drone strike against the Russian Black Sea Fleet Headquarters in Sevastopol in less than a month.

On 31 July, a drone hit the Fleet Headquarters courtyard, injuring five staff members and leading to the cancellation of all planned Russian Fleet Day celebrations.

Blamed by Russia for the attack, Ukraine has denied involvement, calling the accusations "a provocation".

The new incident comes as explosions and attacks targeting Russian military infrastructure are increasing in Crimea.

On Tuesday, explosions occurred at a military base and munitions depot in Crimea, with Russia calling the incident an act of sabotage.

Earlier in August, the explosion of munitions intended for military aircraft near the military airfield in Saki, Crimea, killed one person and injured several others.

Source: https://www.defenseromania.ro/o-drona-kamikaze-a-lovit-din-nou-sediul-flotei-marii-negre-a-federatiei-ruse-din-sevastopol_617806.html

Largest convoy passed through grain corridor to Odessa ports

7 ships loaded with agricultural products passed through the grain corridor to the ports of Greater Odessa. This was reported by the press service of the SE "Administration of Sea Ports of Ukraine", writes the publication Porta Ukrainy. According to the report, the bulk carriers Andan Torlak (flag - Liberia) and Maranta (flag - Cook Islands) and the tanker Filyoz

(flag - Malta) docked in the port of Chornomorsk on Friday evening, the port of Odessa began loading bulk. Carriers Ganosaya (flag - Cook Islands) and Kubrosli Y (under flag - Comoros), while Mohamad Y (under flag - St Kitts and Nevis) await their turn, as does tanker Foyle (under flag - Malta) on the way to the southern port.

In total, some 66,500 tonnes of wheat, maize and oil will be loaded on these vessels, which will head for ports in France, Sudan, Turkey and the Netherlands. On Saturday morning, 20 August, the tanker Zumrut Ana and the bulk carrier Ocean S (both under Liberian flag) left the port of Chornomorsk via the grain corridor towards the Bosphorus.

According to data from the Joint Coordination Centre (JCC), Zumrut Ana has 6.3 thousand tonnes of oil on board, Ocean S has 25 thousand tonnes of wheat. As part of the implementation of the agreements signed in Istanbul by representatives of Ukraine, Turkey and the UN, 27 ships left the ports of Odessa, Chornomorsk and "Pivdenny" in August, transporting 660,000 tonnes of agricultural products to more than 10 countries around the world.

Sources: <https://www.blackseanews.net/read/193334>

Two Russian ships with 16 Kalibr missiles are on duty in the Black Sea

Two Russian surface ships with 16 Kalibr cruise missiles on board are on combat duty in the Black Sea. This was reported in Telegram by the press service of the Armed Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Ukrinform reports. "As of August 20, 2022, there are two enemy Kalibr cruise missile carriers in the Black Sea, the total salvo is 16 missiles; in the Sea of Azov, the enemy continues to control maritime communications, keeping up to four ships and boats on combat duty; in the Mediterranean Sea - five Kalibr cruise missile carriers," the report said. It is noted that during the day, in the interests of the Russian Federation, the passage through the Kerch-Yenikal Strait was carried out: to the Sea of Azov - 29 ships, of which five ships moved from the Bosphorus Strait; to the Black Sea - 30 ships, of which 12 ships continued their movement in the direction of the Bosphorus Strait. The Navy said the Russian Federation continues to violate the 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) by turning off automatic identification systems (AIS) on civilian ships in the waters of the Sea of Azov.

Source: <https://www.blackseanews.net/read/193328>

First ship after the unblocking of Black Sea ports named Rysoil Terminal

"SP Rysoil Terminal" in the port of Chornomorsk met the tanker Filyoz (flag - Malta), which became the first ship to arrive for loading at this terminal after the unblocking of Ukrainian Black Sea ports. This was reported by Risoil press service, writes Porta Ukrainy. Over 5,000 tonnes of oil will be transported by a Filyoz tanker. In addition, after six months of waiting, the bulk carrier I Maria (flag - Belize) left the port of Chornomorsk. The terminal crew loaded almost 28,000 tonnes of Ukrainian corn on board. On August 7, Rysoil Terminal sent the first oil and corn vessels to the port of Chornomorsk since the beginning of Russia's large-scale military invasion. Under the implementation of the agreements, 25 vessels left the ports of Odessa, Chornomorsk and "Pivdenny" in August, with which 630,000 tons of agricultural products were exported to more than 10 countries of the world.

Source: <https://www.blackseanews.net/read/193313>

The Federal Property Management Agency has completed the evaluation of Sevmorzavod's shares

Federal Property Management Agency has completed the valuation of Sevmozavod shares stolen for integration into USC The Federal Property Management Agency has completed the valuation of a 100% stake in Sevastopol Marine Plant, named after Sergo Ordzhonikidze JSC. The shares will be contributed to the authorized capital of United Shipbuilding Corporation JSC (USC) as a contribution from the Russian Federation, reports PortNews. This will enable the development of the state's scientific, technical and production potential and the improvement of the structure of shipbuilding industry organisations. The valuation of the property was carried out in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation "On Certain Issues of the Joint Stock Company United Shipbuilding Corporation". In May 2022, the Federal Property Management Agency reported that it was finalising the transformation of FSUE Sevastopol Marine Plant, named after Sergo Ordzhonikidze, into a joint-stock company, with subsequent integration into USC. Sevastopol Marine Plant, named after Sergo Ordzhonikidze, is the largest ship repair and shipbuilding enterprise in Crimea, captured by the Russian Federation after the annexation of the peninsula in 2014. JSC United Shipbuilding Corporation is the largest shipbuilding company in Russia. Established in 2007 with 100% federal ownership. The holding includes about 40 enterprises and industry organizations (major shipbuilding and ship repair yards, leading design offices). Currently, the largest part of the domestic shipbuilding complex is consolidated on the basis of USC. The Russian market is the main one for the corporation, which also exports its products to 20 countries around the world. Remember that the Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Sevastopol Marine Plant named after Sergo Ordzhonikidze" is on Ukraine's sanctions list. JSC United Shipbuilding Corporation is on the sanctions lists of Ukraine, the EU and the US. Detailed information on sanctions can be found in the Database of legal entities against which Ukraine, the EU and the US have imposed sanctions in connection with Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Source: <https://www.blackseanews.net/read/193338>

Boeing receives full HAAWC production contract from U.S. Navy

Navy awards Boeing High Altitude Anti-Submarine Warfare Weapon Capability, or HAAWC, a full-rate production contract.

The U.S. Navy has awarded Boeing a contract for full-rate production of the High Altitude Anti-Submarine Warfare Weapon Capability, or HAAWC, with work expected to begin in the coming months. The HAAWC is an all-weather add-on kit that allows the launch of the MK 54 torpedo near or below the cruising altitude of the Boeing P-8A Poseidon. "This is an important milestone as it brings HAAWC one step closer to becoming fully operational and deployed by the Navy," said Dewayne Donley, program manager. The contract includes production of HAAWC Air Launched Accessories, or ALA, kits and containers for Navy and international customers. There are also provisions for Boeing to provide engineering services such as design studies, testing, prototyping and/or analysis of production issues. Provisions for repair services include hardware repair and maintenance services for government-owned ALA HAAWC and associated hardware and equipment. A supply item ordering option also allows the Navy to purchase spare hardware in support of the program. Carried aboard the P-8A multi-mission maritime patrol aircraft, the advanced weapon system will meet the Navy's operational need to conduct anti-submarine warfare from higher altitudes and greater distances.

"Our solution transforms the MK 54 into a precision glide weapon in GPS-assisted and GPS-refused environments," Donley said. "The HAAWC system provides flexibility, allowing the Navy to conduct anti-submarine operations across the entire P-8A flight

envelope." To date, the global operational P-8 fleet has accumulated more than 450,000 accident-free flight hours.

Boeing's HAAWC consists of a modular Air Launch Accessory Kit, or ALA, that attaches to a Mark 54 torpedo, transforming it into a precision-guided glide weapon. At the ALA separation point, the ALA deploys a stabilizer to enter the water as intended. (Boeing illustration) The long-range anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft is capable of conducting extended surface, maritime and littoral operations and performs humanitarian and search and rescue missions around the globe.

Source: <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/08/boeing-receives-haawc-full-rate-production-contract-from-u-s-navy/>