



South American Defense Leaders meet to discuss regional gray zone threats.

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#### NEWS ARTICLES

- Army and Air Force are looking at innovative air defense capabilities for their respective Distributed Operations and Agile Combat Environment concepts in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Modern War Institute published a podcast on Irregular Warfare.
- U.S. Officials state that Chinese behavior in the South China Sea must be challenged.
- South American leaders meet to discuss regional threats, to include gray zone threats.
- Commander INDO-PACOM asserts that he wants to see more directed energy demonstrations.
- EOS demonstrates their counter-drone technology.
- Two opinion pieces on countering China appeared this week.
- A recent report indicates that China is developing weapons based on non-technology.

#### GRAY ZONE COMPETITION

#### **IRREGULAR WARFARE PODCAST: WHO'S WATCHING THE WATCHMEN?**

By Matthew Moellering and Laura Jones, Modern War Institute, 25 August 2023

Irregular warfare, by its nature, includes activities that distinguish it from those traditionally conducted by conventional forces. But if congressional oversight is designed with the latter in mind, does this create gaps in oversight of irregular warfare? If so, what can Congress do to address the problem?

<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/irregular-warfare-podcast-whos-watching-the-watchmen/>

## CHINA

### **China's 'aggressive behaviour' in South China Sea must be challenged, US Navy official says**

By Karen Lema, Reuters, 27 August 2023

China's "aggressive behaviour" in the South China Sea, including the use of water canon by its coast guard against a Philippine vessel, must be challenged and checked, the commander of the U.S. Navy's Seventh Fleet said on Sunday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/chinas-aggressive-behaviour-south-china-sea-must-be-challenged-us-navy-official-2023-08-27/>

### **South American Defense Leaders Meet to Discuss Regional Threats, Cooperation**

By Southern Command, 25 August, 2023

U.S. Army Gen. Laura Richardson, the commander of U.S. Southern Command, joined regional defense leaders to discuss security challenges and regional cooperation during the South American Defense Conference 2023 (SOUTHDEC 23) Aug. 23-24.

<https://www.southcom.mil/MEDIA/NEWS-ARTICLES/Article/3505731/south-american-defense-leaders-meet-to-discuss-regional-threats-cooperation/>

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE/DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### **Air Force and Army Collaborate on Air Defense That's Smaller and Cheaper for the Indo-Pacific**

By John Tirpak, Air and Space Forces, 29 August 2023

The Department of Defense and the armed services are focused and cooperating like never before on the logistical challenges of operating in the Pacific—exemplified by how the Army and Air Force are working together on air defense, USAF officials said Aug. 29.

<https://www.airandspaceforces.com/air-force-army-air-defense-distributed-operations/>

### **'Bring it': Adm. Aquilino open to greater directed-energy trials**

BY Colin Demarest, C4ISRNET, 28 August 2023

The U.S. commander in the Indo-Pacific is interested in more widely experimenting with and deploying directed-energy weapons designed to zap electronics or incinerate incoming threats.

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/battlefield-tech/2023/08/28/bring-it-adm-aquilino-open-to-greater-directed-energy-trials/>

## NATO/ALLIED

### **EOS demonstrates counter-drone systems**

By Max Blenkin, Australian Defence Magazine, 31 August 2023

Canberra defence and technology company EOS has demonstrated its gun and laser counter-drone systems to defence officials and foreign defence attaches during trials in outback NSW.

<https://www.australiandefence.com.au/news/news/eos-demonstrates-counter-drone-systems>

## OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES

### **Study Reveals China's Threat in Developing Nanoweapons**

By David Kelly, The New American, 28 August 2023

A recent comprehensive study revealed that China is developing an invisible arsenal of advanced and covert weaponry using next-generation technologies, particularly nanotechnology platforms, to provide the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) with warfare options on target populations.

<https://thenewamerican.com/world-news/china/study-reveals-chinas-threat-in-developing-nanoweapons/>

## DOMESTIC

### **Northrop Grumman delivers rugged mini-laser weapon to US government**

By David Szondy, New Atlas, 27 August 2023

Northrop Grumman has delivered a miniaturized high-energy laser, called the Phantom, to the US government that points to future laser weapons that are not only powerful, but small and rugged enough for field combat.

<https://newatlas.com/military/northrop-grumman-rugged-mini-laser-weapon-delivered-us/>

Related Article: <https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/northrop-grummans-rugged-phantom-laser>

#### OPINION/EDITORIAL

##### **Commentary: The Chinese aren't coming; they are here — Brooke Taylor**

By Brooke Taylor, My Journal Courier, 31 August 2023

Recent reports of Chinese malware compromising the Department of Defense military network are revealing but hardly shocking. China's People's Liberation Army technological and cyber-capabilities posed a national security risk for the United States for decades. Historically, China prefers to conduct gray zone operations under conventional warfare's threshold to achieve its national security objectives.

<https://www.myjournalcourier.com/opinion/article/commentary-18329506.php>

##### **Japan's Security Engagement with the Philippines**

By Felix Chang, Foreign Policy Research Institute, 28 August 2023

In June 2023, Japan's sent its largest coast guard patrol ship, the Akitsushima, to the Philippines. There, it participated in trilateral exercises with its Philippine and American counterparts for the first time.

<https://www.fpri.org/article/2023/08/japans-security-engagement-with-the-philippines/>

#### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES / SOLICITATIONS

##### **Applied Energetics Awarded \$1.99 Million Multi-Year Contract with the Office of Naval Research**

By Access Wire, 28 August 2023

Applied Energetics, Inc. (OTCQB:AERG), a leader in the advancement of ultrashort pulse laser (USPL) technologies, announced today that it has been awarded a \$1.99 million, two-year contract from the Department of the Navy, Office of Naval Research (ONR), to develop a high-peak and high-average power ultra-short pulse (USP) optical system.

<https://www.baystreet.ca/viewarticle.aspx?id=777242>

LINK TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NON-LETHAL WEAPONS PROGRAM WEBSITE:

<http://jnlwp.defense.gov>

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Approved by: Joint Intermediate Force Capabilities Office

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