

**Joint Intermediate Force Capabilities Office
WEEKLY MEDIA REPORT
28 August 2023**



A Chinese naval fleet during the exercise in the East China Sea. (Image: China Military Online)

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NEWS ARTICLES

- There was an article about the Chinese Coast Guard confrontation with Philippine Coast Guard vessels near Ayungin Shoal.
- A piece discusses space as another theater in the gray zone conflict with China.
- The U.S. Navy increases its research efforts into microwave and laser weapon technology.
- Four day "Ulchi" civil defense exercise kicks off in Korea to practice responding to gray zone provocations from North Korea.
- Eurasia Times claims that Chinese Fishing Militias are the biggest threat to U.S. Naval vessels in the South China Sea.
- Philippine vessels conduct a resupply of one of their ships in spite of Chinese harassment.
- An article on high powered microwave systems appeared in an Albuquerque local affiliate.

GRAY ZONE COMPETITION

CHINA

Philippine supply boats breach a Chinese coast guard blockade

By Jim Gomez and Aaron Favila, Military Times, 23 August 2023

As a United States Navy plane circled overhead, two Philippine boats breached a Chinese coast guard blockade in a dangerous confrontation Tuesday in the disputed South China Sea to deliver food and other supplies to Filipino forces guarding a contested shoal.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/flashpoints/china/2023/08/23/philippine-supply-boats-breach-a-chinese-coast-guard-blockade/>

Chinese 'Fishing Militias' Emerge As Biggest Threat To US Navy Warships Operating In South China Sea

By Parth Satam, The Eurasian Times, 3 August 2023

The emergence of images of hundreds of Chinese fishing vessels in the South China Sea (SCS) days after China Coast Guard (CCG) vessels used water cannons on Philippine ship hints that China's controversial maritime militia might play a role if a conflict erupts between Beijing and Manila and the US-led coalition.

<https://www.eurasiantimes.com/chinese-fishing-militias-emerge-as-biggest-threat-to-us/>

Philippine Military Tells China's Coast Guard to "Behave"

By Paul Benecki, Maritime Executive, 20 August 2023

The Philippine military plans to make another attempt at sending a supply convoy to the BRP Sierra Madre, a deteriorating World War II-era LST that serves as an outpost on Second Thomas Shoal. China's coast guard and maritime militia partially blocked the last run, and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Col. Medel Aguilar has specific guidance for Chinese forces: "behave."

<https://maritime-executive.com/article/philippine-military-tells-china-s-coast-guard-to-behave>

How NASA's Artemis program could help to defeat China

By Mark Whittington, The Hill, 20 August 2023

Recently, NASA administrator Bill Nelson offered a warning about Chinese designs on the moon.

Forcing China to spend resources it doesn't have on the lunar great game could help tip that country over the edge. Just as President Reagan's economic and military strategy, which included the Strategic Defense Initiative, is partially credited for destroying the Soviet Union, Artemis could be part of a plan to bring down the Chinese Communist Party.

<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/4158841-how-nasas-artemis-program-could-help-to-defeat-china/>

The August 5 Ayungin Shoal incident: Confronting Chinese grey zone ops in West Philippine Sea

By Renato Cruz DeCastro, PhilStar Global, 19 August 2023

On Aug. 5, 2023, China Coast Guard (CCG) vessels blocked and used water cannons against a Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) convoy delivering supplies to the small Philippine garrison on board a beached Philippine Navy (PN) commissioned Landing Ship Tank (LST) BRP Sierra Madre on Ayungin Shoal.

<https://www.philstar.com/news-commentary/2023/08/19/2289851/august-5-ayungin-shoal-incident-confronting-chinese-grey-zone-ops-west-philippine-sea>

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

Navy gears-up for research efforts in electromagnetic weapons and high-power lasers for ship defense at sea

By John Keller, Military-Aerospace ELECTRONICS, 21 August 2023

U.S. Navy electromagnetic weapons researchers are surveying industry to find companies able to support research efforts into high-power RF and microwave weapons and high-power lasers to protect surface warships from missiles, swarming boats, and unmanned aircraft.

<https://www.militaryaerospace.com/power/article/14297871/electromagnetic-weapons-highpower-lasers-ship-defense>

OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES

4-day Ulchi civil defense drill kicks off Monday

By The Korea Times, 21 August 2023

This year's exercise will include drills to respond to evolving threats from North Korea, such as nuclear threats, drone attacks, cyberthreats and low-level "gray-zone" provocations, designed to avoid developing into an armed conflict or war.

https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2023/08/113_357466.html

DOMESTIC

High-powered microwave systems and the future of electromagnetic warfare

By Chad Brummett & Allison Giron, KRQE Albuquerque, 25 August 2023

J. Mark Delgrande is the chief technology officer of Verus Research in Albuquerque. High-powered microwave systems are a keystone of the work done in this facility which could have a variety of applications in the future. "Say, an adversary wanted to put a radio and communications tower on top of a hospital. Well, I can use a high-power microwave system to take out the communications center without putting a bomb through the hospital," said Delgrande.

<https://www.krqe.com/nm-frontiers/high-powered-microwave-systems-and-the-future-of-electromagnetic-warfare/>

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Philippines must stand up for its rights at South China Sea shoal

By Alexander Vuvving, Nikkei Asia, 18 August 2023

There are two ways to break a system of international order.

One is to blatantly violate its rules with military force; the other is to chip away at its rules with actions that stay in the gray zone between what is permissible and what is not. The former is exemplified by Russia's behavior in Ukraine; the latter, by China's actions in the South China Sea.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/Philippines-must-stand-up-for-its-rights-at-South-China-Sea-shoal>

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<http://jnlpw.defense.gov>

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