

**JOINT INTERMEDIATE FORCE CAPABILITIES OFFICE  
WEEKLY MEDIA REPORT  
14 AUGUST 2023**



An MH-60R helicopter lands aboard the destroyer USS Thomas Hudner while transiting the Strait of Hormuz, July 28, 2023. About 100 Marines have been training in Bahrain for specialized defensive teams that could briefly travel with commercial ships through and near the waterway. (Kerri Kline/U.S. Navy)

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This news and information summary is a compilation of selected unclassified stories and information distributed by the Joint Intermediate Force Capabilities Office's Public Affairs team. It is for official program use only. The intent of this summary is to provide media-based context regarding intermediate force capabilities (IFCs)/non-lethal weapons (NLWs) in all environments as well as other related program information of interest to the IFC/NLW communities. This e-mail contains material copyrighted by original media sources; copying or disseminating for private use or gain is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners. The views expressed in the selected stories are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Defense or the U.S. Government. (DoD 5230.29, August 13, 2014)".

**NEWS ARTICLES**

- How China uses economic coercion in gray zone competition.
- The role of European nations in Indian Ocean security.
- Chinese People's Republic Coast Guard vessels in Philippine waters harass Filipino vessels.
- China using gray zone tactics to expand influence in Central and South America.
- Marines train to protect civilian merchant ships transiting the straits of Hormuz.

- China comes under international backlash following water cannon use against Philippine vessel in South China Sea.
- Army sees challenges to deploying high energy lasers in austere environments.
- Air Force seeks more funding for counter-drone technology.
- Chinese scientists claim a breakthrough in laser technology.
- Dazzling laser in use to protect Washington D.C. airspace.
- Two analysts wrote an opinion piece calling for more Non-Lethal Weapons in DOD.

#### GRAY ZONE COMPETITION: CHINA

##### **China draws global fire for water-cannoning Philippine boat in South-China Sea**

By Geo TV News, 7 August 2023

China is facing a mounting global backlash following a recent incident in which one of its coast guard vessels water-cannoned a Philippine boat in the South China Sea, CNN reported.

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/503718-china-draws-global-fire-for-water-cannoning-philippine-boat-in-south-china-sea>

Related Articles and Statements: <https://www.state.gov/u-s-support-for-the-philippines-in-the-south-china-sea-5/>

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/philippines-summons-chinese-ambassador-water-cannon-incident-disputed-102063364>

<https://www.npr.org/2023/08/06/1192384562/philippines-condemns-chinese-coast-guard-water-cannon-boat-disputed-seas>

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2023/08/05/2286446/philippines-us-expected-start-joint-patrols-west-philippine-sea-year-end-nsc>

##### **US being ‘outcompeted’ by China in Latin America, Caribbean, SOUTHCOM general says**

By Doug G. Ware, Stars and Stripes, 4 August 2023

China is expanding its influence into Latin America and the Caribbean, and it could present increasingly greater threats to the United States, the top U.S. military commander for the region said Friday.

<https://www.stripes.com/theaters/us/2023-08-04/southcom-china-latin-america-richardson-10946466.html>

##### **Chinese ships harass PH vessels in WPS**

By Franco Jose C. Barona, The Manila Times, 6 August 2023

IT happened again. China deployed its coast guard and militia vessels to the West Philippine Sea where the country’s own ships were on a resupply mission in one of its islands considered as such because it lies within its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/08/06/news/chinese-ships-harass-ph-vessels-in-wps/1904032>

##### **The battle for the Indian Ocean: How the EU and India can strengthen maritime security**

By Frederic Grare and Manisha Reuter, European Council on Foreign Relations, 3 August

Throughout the last century, China was primarily a land-based power. But in its 2015 white paper on military strategy, Beijing explicitly set out its goal of becoming “a maritime power” before beginning to modernise and expand the People’s Liberation Army Navy (PLAN).

<https://ecfr.eu/publication/the-battle-for-the-indian-ocean-how-the-eu-and-india-can-strengthen-maritime-security/>

##### **Demystifying ‘De-Risking’: Can the PRC Sell to Countries and Coerce Them at the Same Time?**

By Ben Sando, Lieu I-Chen, Jamestown Foundation, 4 August 2023

With the rapid growth of its economic and diplomatic power, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) has cultivated diverse new connections with the societies of other states.

<https://jamestown.org/program/demystifying-de-risking-can-the-prc-sell-to-countries-and-coerce-them-at-the-same-time/>

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

**USAF Needs More Money to Stop Drone Swarms**

By Greg Hadley, Air and Space Forces.com, 10 August 2023

While the Pentagon continues to experiment with technologies that could disable or destroy swarms of small drones, the Air Force's lead on counter-drone acquisition said more funding is needed to counter the threat—and to turn promising efforts into programs of record.

<https://www.airandspaceforces.com/air-force-official-acquisition-funds-counter-drone-swarm/>

**US Army Discovers New Obstacle in Using High-Energy Laser Weapons**

By Joe Saballa, Defense Post, 10 August 2023

The US Army has discovered a new problem with using high-energy laser weapons to defend military assets from sophisticated drones.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/08/10/us-army-obstacle-laser/>

**US Marines already training to escort civilian tankers in bid to blunt Iranian interference**

By Alison Bath, Stars and Stripes, 4 August 2023

Marines newly deployed to the Middle East already are training for shipboard roles protecting oil tankers and other commercial ships from Iranian aggression, news that comes a day after U.S. officials told some media outlets they were considering the possibility of such a plan.

<https://www.stripes.com/theaters/middle-east/2023-08-04/iran-navy-marines-middle-east-10941994.html>

OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES

**Chinese military scientists achieved 'huge breakthrough' in laser weapon tech: Report**

By Srishti Singh Sisodia, WION, 11 August 2023

Military experts in China claim to have made a massive breakthrough in laser weapon technology by developing a new cooling mechanism that allows high-energy lasers to function “infinitely” without wasting heat buildup, the South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported.

<https://www.wionews.com/world/chinese-military-scientists-achieved-huge-breakthrough-in-laser-weapon-tech-report-624679>

DOMESTIC

**New AI laser system to guard US capital region from unauthorized aircraft**

By Patrick Tucker, Defense One, 10 August 2023

A decades-old government system to monitor unauthorized aircraft over the U.S. capital region is about to get an AI overhaul to speed up operations.

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2023/08/new-ai-laser-system-guard-us-capital-region-unauthorized-aircraft/389311/>

OPINION/EDITORIAL

**Why DoD Needs Greater Focus on Non-Lethal Weapons**

By Scott Savitz and Krista Romita Grocholski, Real Clear Defense, 10 August 2023

Non-lethal weapons (NLWs) can play a critical role in military operations. Diverse systems that emit long-range sounds, create dazzling glare, disable engines, entangle propellers or cause heating sensations can enable mission success in a variety of non-combat contexts. When facing gray-zone confrontations with rival powers, such as standoffs at sea, non-lethal capabilities can push back against an encroaching force while managing the risk of escalation.

<https://defenseopinion.com/why-dod-needs-greater-focus-on-non-lethal-weapons-intermediate-force-capabilities/427/>

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

<http://jnlwp.defense.gov>

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