

# China Sentry

Weekly Debrief: December 17, 2023

*Covers the period between December 11 - 17, 2023*

## Contents

<b>U.S. Government Updates</b>	<b>1</b>
Congress passed the FY24 defense policy bill: Here's what's inside . . .	1
U.S. approves \$300 million support for Taiwan's tactical information systems . . . . .	2
U.S.-Chinese military hotline hasn't been restored a month after Biden-Xi summit . . . . .	2
Under Secretary Allen opens the U.S.-ASEAN Center in Washington, D.C. . . . .	2
Treasury announces sanctions on Chinese entities for supplying Russia's military-industrial base . . . . .	3
<b>Department of Defense Updates</b>	<b>3</b>
U.S. INDOPACOM Joint Mission Accelerator Directorate (JMAD) reaches initial operating capability . . . . .	3
DOD officials underscore 'ironclad' commitment to Philippines after China's unsafe maneuvers . . . . .	3
<b>Newly Released Reports</b>	<b>4</b>

## U.S. Government Updates

### Congress passed the FY24 defense policy bill: Here's what's inside

Congress passed its \$874.2 billion defense policy bill, sending it to the White House for President Biden's signature. Some brief highlights:<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Defense News

- The legislation also allows the Air Force to retire some F-15 Eagle fighters and A-10 Warthogs, but it blocks the retirement of 32 older F-22 Raptors.
- Expands the list of munitions eligible for emergency and multiyear procurement authorities. It adds Israel and Taiwan to the list in a program started last year to expedite the delivery and replenishment of munitions to Ukraine.
- Authorizes \$1 billion to finish buying a San Antonio-class amphibious ship per the Marines' unfunded priorities list.
- The bill also contains four key authorizations needed to implement the trilateral AUKUS agreement with Australia and Britain, including a provision allowing the transfer of three Virginia-class submarines to Canberra.
- Institutionalizes the sea-launched nuclear cruise missile program over the objections of the Biden administration for Virginia-class attack submarines

## **U.S. approves \$300 million support for Taiwan's tactical information systems**

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy follow-on life cycle support to maintain Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (C4) capabilities managed under its Syun An program. The C4 capabilities consisting of previously procured Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems-Low Volume Terminals (MIDS-LVT) and Joint Tactical Information Distribution System (JTIDS) equipment with parts and technical support.<sup>2</sup>

## **U.S.-Chinese military hotline hasn't been restored a month after Biden-Xi summit**

Nearly a month after President Joe Biden announced that he and Chinese President Xi Jinping had agreed to resume direct communications between U.S. and Chinese military commanders, U.S. defense officials have repeatedly tried to reach their Chinese counterparts but not received any responses, according to three senior U.S. officials.<sup>3</sup>

## **Under Secretary Allen opens the U.S.-ASEAN Center in Washington, D.C.**

Announced by Vice President Kamala Harris during the 2023 U.S.-ASEAN Summit, the Center will serve as a hub for U.S.-ASEAN engagement and deepen this important relationship. The Center will do so by bolstering support for U.S.

---

<sup>2</sup>Defense Security Cooperation Agency

<sup>3</sup>CNBC

economic and cultural engagement with Southeast Asia and helping connect key private sector organizations, academic institutions, and civil society. Its activities will also strengthen the United States' and ASEAN's joint efforts to promote an open, connected, prosperous, resilient, and secure Indo-Pacific region.<sup>4</sup>

## **Treasury announces sanctions on Chinese entities for supplying Russia's military-industrial base**

OFAC is designating a network of four entities and nine individuals based in the PRC, the Russian Federation, Hong Kong, and Pakistan involved in the facilitation and procurement of Chinese-manufactured weapons and technologies to Russia. Chinese national Hu Xiaoxun (Hu) has utilized his PRC-based private defense company Jarvis HK Co., Ltd. (Jarvis) and a network of associates to coordinate the sale of Chinese-manufactured weapons and technologies to Russia.<sup>5</sup>

## **Department of Defense Updates**

### **U.S. INDOPACOM Joint Mission Accelerator Directorate (JMAD) reaches initial operating capability**

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command JMAD has reached Initial Operational Capability. Adm. John C. Aquilino, commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, formally established the JMAD within the headquarters with the mission of driving the acceleration, integration, and interoperability of the most critical and strategic needs across INDOPACOM. The JMAD maintains an Industry Engagement team to facilitate DoD collaboration with commercial companies seeking to provide mature, innovative technology solutions that can answer JMAD requirements.<sup>6</sup>

### **DOD officials underscore 'ironclad' commitment to Philippines after China's unsafe maneuvers**

Defense officials remain in close consultation with counterparts from the Philippines following the latest unsafe operational behavior by Chinese military vessels against Philippine vessels operating lawfully in the South China Sea over the weekend, Pentagon Press Secretary Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said. Ryder underscored the United States' "ironclad" commitment to upholding its obligations under its mutual defense treaty with the Philippines and urged "all nations to work together in the region to ensure that ships and aircraft can sail wherever international law allows."<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup>Department of State

<sup>5</sup>Treasury Department

<sup>6</sup>USINDOPACOM

<sup>7</sup>Department of Defense

## Newly Released Reports

- [Shadow Play: A Pro-China Technology and Anti-US Influence Operations Thrives on YouTube](#) Australian Strategic Policy Institute
- [Resisting China's Gray Zone Military Pressure on Taiwan](#) Center for a New American Security
- [China's Essential Role in the Gulf States' Energy Transitions & The Out-compete World: Revisiting U.S. Economic Priorities for Competition with China in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [PLA Counterspace Command and Control](#) China Aerospace Studies Institute
- [Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity](#) Congressional Research Service
- [Ongoing Challenges Faced by Persons with Disabilities in the People's Republic of China](#) Congressional-Executive Commission on China
- [Reinforcing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific: Diplomacy and Deterrence in the Pivotal Year of 2022](#) Hudson Institute
- [China Space Talent](#) Institute for Defense Analyses
- [China's AI Exports: Developing a Tool to Track Chinese Development Finance in the Global South — Technical Documentation & China's AI Exports: Technology Distribution and Data Safety & Kicking the Tires? The People's Liberation Army's Approach to Maintenance Management](#) RAND Corp
- [Reset, Prevent, Build: A Strategy to Win America's Economic Competition with the Chinese Communist Party](#) House Select Committee on the CCP
- [China's Global Police State: Background and U.S. Policy Implications](#) U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission