



CHINA MULLS REVAMPING MILITARY REGIONS: JAPAN REPORT

January 1, 2014 SpaceDaily.com reported: “China is considering reorganising its seven military regions into five in a bid to respond more swiftly to a crisis, the Japanese daily Yomiuri Shimbun reported on Wednesday. The news comes amid rising tensions over Beijing's territorial claims in the region, with China and Japan squaring off over a chain of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea.

Each of the new military regions will create a joint operations command that controls the army, navy and air force as well as a strategic missile unit, the major daily said citing senior Chinese military officials and other sources. The planned revamp would mark a shift from the current defence-oriented military that relies mainly on the army to one that ensures more mobile and integrated management of the army, navy, air force and strategic missile units, Yomiuri said.

“It is a proactive measure with eyes on counteracting the Japan-US alliance,” the daily quoted one of the officials as saying.

Tokyo and Beijing are locked in a simmering territorial row over Tokyo-controlled Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea which China also claims and calls the Diaoyus. The United States, while insisting it does not take sides on sovereignty disputes, has said that the islands are under Tokyo's management and so come under a security treaty in which it is required to defend officially pacifist Japan against attack.

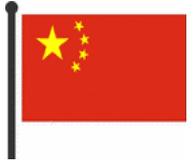
Under the proposed military structure China aims to strengthen its attack capability to secure air and naval superiority in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, the daily said.

The newspaper also reported that Japan plans to deploy its first “Global Hawk” unmanned surveillance planes at an airbase in Misawa, on the northern tip of Japan's main Honshu Island, adjacent to a US airbase where the same type of aircraft will be based later this year. Japan's defence ministry plans to deploy three Global Hawk drones between April 2015 and March 2016, Yomiuri said.

Misawa is located about 2,300 kilometres (1,430 miles) north of the Senkakus which Chinese coastguard ships have frequently approached, sometimes moving into territorial waters, since Tokyo nationalised some of the islands in September 2012.

Equipped with sophisticated sensors and radars, the Global Hawk drone is capable of flying more than 30 hours non-stop and detecting the movements of vessels, aircraft and missiles within a radius of 500 kilometres from an altitude of 18,000 metres. It does not have attack capability. The defence ministry and the US air force will jointly maintain the drones to ensure they operate effectively, the report said. In addition, information collected by the Global Hawk will be shared and jointly analysed, Yomiuri said.

China, which has been ramping up military spending over its past decade of strong economic growth, has also tussled with the Philippines and Vietnam over maritime territories.”



WORLD'S CLIMATE WARMING FASTER THAN FEARED, SCIENTISTS SAY

January 1, 2014 The London Telegraph reported: “Is the planet marked its fourth hottest year on record, a study published in the journal Nature found increasing levels of carbon dioxide will lead to thinner ocean clouds and reduce their cooling impact, causing temperature rises of at least 5.6F (3C) over the course of the century.

The team of scientists said the findings show some climate models have been too “optimistic” and previous estimates of a minimum temperature rise of only 2.7F (1.5C) could now be discounted. The optimistic models did not properly assess the impact of water evaporation, which sometimes rises only a short distance into the atmosphere and causes updraughts that reduce cloud cover, the study found.

“These models have been predicting a lower climate sensitivity but we believe they’re incorrect,” Professor Steven Sherwood, from the University of New South Wales, told The Sydney Morning Herald...

The study comes amid a controversy in Australia over claims by Maurice Newman, Prime Minister Tony Abbott’s top business adviser, who said the world had been taken “hostage to climate change madness”. Mr Newman said the climate change establishment, led by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, remained “intent on exploiting the masses and extracting more money”.

“The scientific delusion, the religion behind the climate crusade, is crumbling,” he wrote in The Australian. “Global temperatures have gone nowhere for 17 years... If the IPCC were your financial adviser, you would have sacked it long ago.”...

NORTH KOREAN LEADER WARNS OF NUCLEAR DISASTER, THREATENS U.S.

January 1, 2014 The Sydney Morning Herald reported: “North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has said the Korean peninsula will be engulfed by “massive nuclear disaster” if war breaks out there again, warning the US it will not be safe in the event of a conflict.

“If the war breaks out again in this land, it will bring about a massive nuclear disaster and the US will never be safe,” Kim said in his New

Year message, broadcast on state television.

"We are faced with a dangerous situation in which a small, accidental military clash can lead to an all-out war."

Mr. Kim added he would not beg for peace and vowed to protect the impoverished but nuclear-armed North with strong self-defence measures against enemies. The young leader also hailed the recent execution of his powerful uncle as a "resolute action", labelling Jang Song-thaek "scum".

"Our party took resolute action to remove ... scum elements within the party last year," Mr. Kim said, accusing Mr. Jang of trying to build his own power base within the ruling party.

"Our party's timely, accurate decision to purge the anti-party, anti-revolutionary elements helped greatly cement solidarity within our party," he said. It was the first time Mr. Kim had publicly criticised his disgraced uncle, who was executed on December 12 on charges including treason and corruption.

Mr. Jang, 67, played a key role in cementing the leadership of the inexperienced Kim Jong-Un, who took power after the death of his father and long-time ruler Kim Jong-il in December 2011. But Mr. Jang's growing political power and influence drew resentment from his nephew, who is barely half of his age, analysts said."..."

AL QAEDA OPENS SYRIAN JIHAD SCHOOL

December 31, 2013 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Jabhat Al Nusra, an Islamist group affiliated with Al Qaeda, maintains an infrastructure of governance as one of the central opposition forces. Aside from managing religious courts based on Islamic sharia law, the group has opened new schooling programs emphasizing Islam and jihad.

In the southern Syrian town of Daraa, a school established by the organization teaches roughly 30 students ranging in age from 10 to 15 to believe in Allah, follow Islam, and aspire to jihad holy war. Video footage from the school shows students learning by rote passages from the Koran, reading 'our path is the path of jihad.'

The use of child soldiers by rebel forces, including the more 'moderate' Free Syrian Army (FSA), has been documented, and shows how the lessons learned in the school may quickly be turned into action. On the walls of the classroom hang posters featuring verses from the Koran, including one praising jihadist 'martyrs,' explaining that they aren't 'dead' but rather 'living' with Allah..."

GLOBAL WARMING SCIENTISTS FORCED TO ADMIT DEFEAT... BECAUSE OF TOO MUCH ICE

December 31, 2013 The Daily Mail reported: "They went in search evidence of the world's melting ice caps, but instead a team of climate scientists have been forced to abandon their mission ... because the Antarctic ice is thicker than usual at this time of year

The scientists have been stuck aboard the stricken MV Akademik Schokalskiy since Christmas Day, with repeated sea rescue attempts being abandoned as ice breaking ships failed to reach them.

Now that effort has been ditched, with experts admitting the ice is just too thick. Instead the crew have built an icy helipad, with plans afoot to rescue the 74-strong team by helicopter

The expedition is being lead by Chris Turney, a climate scientist, who was hoping to reach the base camp of Douglas Mawson, one of the most famous Antarctic explorers, and repeat observations done by him in 1912 to see what impact climate change had made.

It is thought that the group, which includes scientific researchers and a journalist, will now be able to escape by air after two sea rescues failed."..."

NEW BILL AIMS TO BAN FAITH BASED TELEVISION

December 26, 2013 breathecast.com reported: "Congress might try to pass a bill to cancel Christian and local TV programming if it goes through. Louisiana Republican representative Steve Scalise presented the Next Generation Television Marketplace Act, which aims to eliminate the "must-carry" set of laws honoring free, local television.

"Decades-old broadcast, cable and satellite laws dramatically restrict access and limit consumer choice," Scalise said in a statement. If The Next Generation Television Marketplace Act is ratified, many Television ministers feel it will become extinct on cable stations.

"(The bill) would be a significant detriment to Christian TV stations and the viewers who rely on them for spiritual guidance," said National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) network CEO and President Dr. Jerry Johnson.

Trinity Broadcasting Network, one of the nation's prevalent Christian networks in America and worldwide, echoes Dr. Johnson's sentiments

"Valuable local affiliate programming, strongly demanded by consumers including myself, is proof that archaic government regulations are unnecessary today," said Scalise, who is also the Republican Study Committee Chairperson.

NRB President Dr. Johnson disagrees with Scalise because he believes "long-standing carriage rules ensure that viewers can access the important and edifying programming their local Christian broadcasters offer free-of-charge."

