



# PROPHETIC TIMES

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## **Russian Nuclear Bombers Intercepted Near Alaska**

*September 6, 2018* freebeacon.com reported: "Two Russian nuclear-capable bombers were intercepted by American F-22 jets near Alaska on Saturday, the North American Aerospace Defense Command disclosed.

The bombers were detected flying near the Aleutian Islands, said Michael Kucharek, a spokesman for the Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).

"Two Alaskan-based NORAD F-22 fighters intercepted and visually identified two Tu-95 'Bear' long-range bomber aircraft flying in the Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zone, south of the Aleutian Islands," he told the Free Beacon.

Kucharek declined to specify the distance the bombers flew from the west coast of Alaska to protect operational security.

"However the two Russian Tu-95 bomber aircraft were intercepted and monitored by the F-22s until the bombers left the ADIZ along the Aleutian Island chain heading west," he said. "At no time did the Russian bombers enter Canadian or United States sovereign airspace."..."

## **U.S. Promises to 'Respond Swiftly' if Assad Uses Chemical Weapons in Idlib**

*September 6, 2018* Breitbart.com reported: "The White House on Tuesday issued a clear warning to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad that he must not use chemical weapons during the massive assault on Idlib province he is expected to launch in the coming days.

The White House statement warned Assad and his allies against the 'reckless escalation of an already tragic conflict' that would risk hundreds of thousands of civilian lives.

'Let us be clear, it remains our firm stance that if President Bashar al-Assad chooses to again use chemical weapons, the United States and its Allies will respond swiftly and appropriately,' the White House said.

Observers in Idlib, the last province of Syria held by rebel forces, report an increasing tempo of artillery barrages from Syrian troops and airstrikes blamed on Russia. The most recent report said eight civilians were killed by Russian airstrikes, five of them children..."

## **Japan earthquake: Sapporo ROCKED by 6.7 earthquake - landslide traps people in homes**

*September 5, 2018* express.co.uk reported: "The Magnitude 6.7 quake struck 70 miles south of Sapporo on the island of Hokkaido, according to the US Geological Survey (USGS). The tremor triggered a landslide which covered homes in the rural town of Atsumi trapping residents inside.

People in Sapporo were woken up by strong shaking shortly after 7pm BST (3am Thursday local time) as the earth moved for around 20 seconds. Japanese TV showed damaged buildings and quoted police as saying some people had been trapped in collapsed structures.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said officials have set up a command center to coordinate rescue efforts. At least 10 people have been taken to hospital after being injured in the quake. Reports of power outages in Japan's northernmost prefecture have been widely shared on social media."..."



## **Russian military successfully test-fires new interceptor missile**

*September 5, 2018* SpaceWar.com reported: "According to the Russian Defense Ministry's statement, the new missile interceptor has reliably confirmed its performance specifications and successfully accomplished the set task by destroying a simulated target with a required accuracy.

'An air and missile defense unit of the Russian Aerospace Forces has carried out another successful test of a new interceptor missile at the Sary Shagan anti-ballistic missile testing range in Kazakhstan,' the ministry said in a statement.

In April, Russian Defense Ministry reported that a new upgraded anti-ballistic missile system designed to protect Moscow against air and space attacks, as well as to carry out tasks in the interests of missile attack warning systems and control of outer space, has been successfully tested in Kazakhstan..."

## **'No ruling out Israeli strikes on Iranian targets in Iraq'**

*September 4, 2018* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman on Monday signaled Israel could strike Iranian targets in Iraq if they threatened Israel, saying it would hit wherever necessary.

'We will face any Iranian threat, no matter where it comes from,' Liberman said in response to a question about reports that Iran had provided ballistic missiles to allied Shiite militias in Iraq in recent months.

'Our freedom of action is total,' he told a conference organized by an Israeli media company.

Israel has pledged to stop Iran, its main enemy, from entrenching itself militarily in neighboring Syria, where Tehran is backing President Bashar al-Assad's regime in his country's civil war."..."

## **Thorny trade, defense issues await US diplomats in India**

*September 4, 2018* spacedaily.com reported: "Two of President Donald Trump's top officials are finally heading for talks in India this week, after Washington twice pulled the plug on the summit. The so-called 2+2 dialogue will see Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis meet with their Indian counterparts on a range of key defense and trade issues.

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Both sides are likely to herald Thursday's talks -- the first of their kind between the two nations -- as proof positive of their rapidly growing strategic partnership in the region. But between the friendly photo calls and soundbites, the diplomats must smooth a slew of problems, exacerbated by Trump's testy relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The talks were first meant to be held in April and then in June but both were postponed, triggering speculation of a possible rift between the two countries amid disputes over trade.

Putting aside the interpersonal dynamics of their two bombastic leaders, the Indian and US officials must tackle two urgent issues -- America's demands for India to stop buying Iranian oil, and for it to think twice about making new Russian arms purchases.

"Creative thinking will be needed in the 2+2 dialogue to overcome these challenges, which should also ensure that there are no nasty surprises and difficult issues are settled through quiet diplomacy," Rakesh Sood, a distinguished fellow at the New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation, wrote in an opinion piece for The Hindu newspaper.

In 2016, Washington designated India a "Major Defense Partner," capping years of efforts to improve India-US ties under President Barack Obama. The aim was to improve military cooperation and cut red tape to ease defense deals. It is having some success, with the two countries set to discuss expanding the scope and complexity of joint military exercises.

India and the US are also close to signing an agreement that would ensure communications between their two militaries are compatible and secure. America desperately wants India on its side to provide a regional bulwark against China's seemingly inexorable regional expansion that has already seen it secure a long-term lease on a Sri Lankan port.

And it wants India to distance itself from Russia, notably by stepping back from decades of purchases of Russian military equipment. Proof of US outreach can be seen in the Pentagon's recent renaming of its massive Pacific Command to Indo-Pacific Command."..."

### **Trump warns Assad against 'reckless' attack in Idlib**

*September 4, 2018* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "US President Donald Trump on Monday warned Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad against a 'reckless' attack in the Syrian province of Idlib. In a tweet, Trump also warned Russia and Iran against taking part in such an attack.

'President Bashar al-Assad of Syria must not recklessly attack Idlib Province. The Russians and Iranians would be making a grave humanitarian mistake to take part in this potential human tragedy. Hundreds of thousands of people could be killed. Don't let that happen!' he wrote..."

### **Japan claims China 'escalating' military actions**

*September 3, 2018* SpaceDaily.com reported: "Japan's defence chief on Monday warned the country faces a tough security environment, with China and Russia stepping up military activity and North Korea posing 'imminent threats'.

Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said China had been 'unilaterally escalating' its military activities in the past year, including carrying out new airborne operations around Japan and running a nuclear submarine near disputed East Coast isles.

'China has been rapidly improving its military strength and fast increasing its military activities,' Onodera told an annual gathering of the top brass of Japan's Self-Defense Forces.

'It is unilaterally escalating its military activities in the sea and aviation spaces around our country. This has become a significant concern for our country's defence,' he said..."

### **Muslim Extremists Attack Coptic Christian Homes in Egypt**

*September 3, 2018* Breitbart.com reported: "Coptic Christian homes in the southern province of Minya were attacked by Muslims protesting their use as places of worship and refuge, the region's archdiocese said Saturday.

'Four Coptic homes were attacked Friday by residents from the village and other nearby areas,' said Bishop Makarios of Minya, about 250 kilometres (155 miles) south of Cairo.

The archdiocese of Minya published a post on Facebook saying 'extremists' had attacked the village of Demshaw Hashem because of the 'existence of a church', AFP reports. It said Christian residents of the village use homes and halls for prayer in the province with the highest Coptic Christian population in the country.

'Extremists attacked Copts, stole quantities of jewelry and money, destroyed household appliances and set fire to property,' it said, outlining three people including a firefighter were injured..."

### **Ukraine launches joint military drills with NATO**

*September 3, 2018* spacedaily.com reported: "Ukraine on Monday launched joint military exercises with the United States and a string of other NATO countries as tensions with Russia remain high over the Kremlin-backed insurgency in the country's east. The annual Rapid Trident military exercises, taking place in the western Ukrainian village of Starychi until September 15, involve some 2,200 soldiers from 14 countries.

"(The participants) stand in solidarity with Ukraine, for Ukrainian security, Ukrainian sovereignty, and Ukrainian territorial integrity," the US Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch said at the opening ceremony.

The drills start a week before Russia holds its biggest military exercises since the Cold War, in the east of the country and with the participation of China and Mongolia. A spokesman for the Ukrainian drills Taras Gren told AFP that some 350 pieces of military equipment will be used during the exercises."..."

