



# PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly World News Briefs

December 8, 2018

## **U.S. Challenges Russian Claims in Sea of Japan**

*December 6, 2018* VOAnews.com reported: "A U.S. Navy destroyer Wednesday sailed into waters claimed by Russia in the Sea of Japan in a direct challenge to Moscow."

The guided-missile destroyer USS McCampbell 'sailed in the vicinity of Peter the Great Bay to challenge Russia's excessive maritime claims and uphold the rights, freedoms and lawful uses of the sea enjoyed by the United States and other nations,' U.S. Navy Lt. Rachel McMarr, a spokesperson for the U.S. Pacific Fleet, said in a statement.

The move is part of what the Navy calls 'freedom of navigation operation,' which challenges nations that claim sovereignty over waters beyond the 12 nautical miles allowed by international maritime law.

Russia claims all of Peter the Great Bay, which is home to its Pacific fleet..."



## **Ukraine urges 'comprehensive' NATO response to Russia**

*December 4, 2018* spacedaily reported: "Ukraine on Tuesday pressed NATO to come up with a "comprehensive answer" to Russian aggression in the Black Sea, as the alliance treads carefully for fear of escalating tensions further."

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin hinted that at least one NATO member was ready to enhance its presence in the Black Sea in response to a call from Kiev following Russia's seizing of ships and sailors in the Kerch Strait.

NATO foreign ministers meeting in Brussels discussed the Azov Sea standoff but did not agree any concrete new measures to help Ukraine.

"What is critically important is to have a very clear and comprehensive answer to Russian acts of aggression... (and) Russian abuses of Black Sea security," Klimkin told reporters.

The clash last week off the coast of Crimea, annexed by Moscow in 2014, left 24 Ukrainian sailors and three navy ships in Russian hands and sent tensions soaring.

European leaders have rebuffed Ukrainian calls for more support against Moscow, but Klimkin indicated that a NATO country was ready to step up, without giving clear details.

"This presence will be enhanced and we have to see which country will be the pioneer. You will hear that not from us but from the alliance member," he said.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg repeated a call for Russia to return the sailors and ships and ensure freedom of navigation in the Azov Sea, an offshoot of the Black Sea home to key Ukrainian ports.

He said the alliance had stepped up its presence in the area over the past year, but announced no new practical help for Ukraine. The United States is pressing Europe to "show some leadership" on the Azov Sea crisis."..."

## **State: Iran Tests Ballistic Missiles Capable of Carrying Nuclear Warhead to Europe**

*December 4, 2018* Breitbart.com reported: "Iran test-fired a medium-range ballistic missile over the weekend capable of carrying a nuclear payload to parts of Europe, Israel, and anywhere else in the Middle East, a top U.S. Department of State (DOS) official stressed Monday, arguing the move violates a United Nations resolution."

On Saturday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo revealed in a statement:

The Iranian regime has just test-fired a medium range ballistic missile that is capable of carrying multiple warheads. The missile has a range that allows it to strike parts of Europe and anywhere in the Middle East. This test violates UN Security Council resolution 2231 that bans Iran from undertaking 'any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology...'

As we have been warning for some time, Iran's missile testing and missile proliferation is growing. We are accumulating risk of escalation in the region if we fail to restore deterrence. We condemn these activities, and call upon Iran to cease immediately all activities related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons..."

## **China Increases Naval Patrols Around Taiwan to Challenge U.S. Navy**

*December 4, 2018* Breitbart.com reported: "China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has greatly increased its presence in the Taiwan Strait, part of the greater South China Sea, in response to the growing number of freedom of navigation operations (FONOPs) by the U.S. Navy, the South China Morning Post reported on Monday."

The Post confirmed the news with the Taiwanese Defense Ministry, which operates independently of Beijing. While Taiwan is a sovereign nation with a fully functional federal government, the Chinese Communist Party regards it as a rogue province whose government requires submission to Beijing. A Taiwanese source told the Hong Kong-based newspaper that China's military has increased 'irregular' operations in the Taiwan Strait and mirrored American activity in the region.

'Each time the U.S. sent warships through the Taiwan Strait, the PLA has also dispatched its fleets to track the U.S.' movements,' the source reportedly said.

The Defense Ministry itself told the Post through an official response to a query that the PLA had 'effectively monitored the situations and movements around the Taiwan Strait by means of its air and naval mechanisms to ensure national security and regional stability.'..."

### **Space Force: To stand alone or not to stand alone**

**December 3, 2018** spacedaily.com reported: "Top administration officials are debating whether to create a stand-alone Space Force to handle space defense or a Space Force that falls within the Air Force, officials tell VOA. Either option requires congressional approval, which could prove difficult with a Democratic-led House and a Republican-led Senate.

An Oct. 26 memo obtained by VOA directs that the Department of Defense create the "optimal organizational construct to meet (the president's) intent."



The memo, signed by Executive Secretary of the National Space Council Scott Pace and National Security Council official Earl Matthews, instructs the Pentagon to focus on whether the Space Force is most efficient as a new independent department or as "a separate service within the Department of the Air Force, along the lines of the U.S. Marine Corps within the Department of the Navy or the U.S. Coast Guard within the Department of Homeland Security."

This latter organizational structure has bipartisan support in the House, but the former has often been seen by Democrats as an expensive solution. Vice President Mike Pence and Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan met Thursday to discuss how to build the first new military branch since 1947, as President Donald Trump has directed."..."

### **Nearly 1,400 aftershocks have been measured since Friday's 7.0 earthquake in Alaska**

**December 3, 2018** Anchorage Daily News reported: "Dozens of small earthquakes rattled Anchorage and Mat-Su on Sunday night and early Monday -- and a few bigger ones probably caused unwanted wake-ups.

Twin magnitude 3.5 shakers struck at 9:51 and 9:52 p.m. Sunday, the first 10 miles north of Anchorage and the second 18 miles northwest of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, according to the U.S. Geological Survey Earthquake Science Center.

A magnitude 3.4 quake was measured 10 miles northwest of Anchorage at 10:40 p.m. A 3.5 hit at 1:30 a.m., 17 miles northwest of JBER, followed by a magnitude 3.8 just before 3:20 a.m. 13 miles northwest of JBER. Twin 3.2 quakes followed just before 6 a.m., one near Anchorage and the other near Wasilla.

Aftershocks from Friday's magnitude 7.0 quake will continue to diminish over time, but that doesn't mean the shaking will stop right away."..."

### **Iran says it will continue missile tests after U.S. allegation**

**December 2, 2018** Reuters reported: "Iran said on Sunday it would continue missile tests to build up its defenses and denied this was in breach of U.N. resolutions following U.S. allegations that Tehran had tested a new missile capable of carrying multiple warheads.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Saturday condemned what he called Iran's testing of a medium-range ballistic missile in violation of the 2015 international agreement on the Iranian nuclear program, from which Washington has withdrawn.

'Missile tests...are carried out for defense and the country's deterrence, and we will continue this,' Brigadier-General Abolfazl Shekarchi, spokesman for Iran's armed forces, was quoted as saying by the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

'We will continue to both develop and test missiles. This is outside the framework of (nuclear) negotiations and part of our national security, for which we will not ask any country's permission,' Shekarchi said. He did not confirm or deny Iran had tested a new missile..."

### **The US Military Is Genetically Engineering New Life Forms To Detect Enemy Subs**

**December 1, 2018** defenseone.com reported: "The Pentagon is also looking at living camouflage, self-healing paint, and a variety of other applications of engineered organisms, but the basic science remains a challenge.



How do you detect submarines in an expanse as large as the ocean? The U.S. military hopes that common marine microorganisms might be genetically engineered into living tripwires to signal the passage of enemy subs, underwater vessels, or even divers.

It's one of many potential military applications for so-called engineered organisms, a field that promises living camouflage that reacts to its surroundings to better avoid detection, new drugs and medicines to help deployed forces survive in harsh conditions, and more. But the research is in its very early stages, military officials said.

The Naval Research Laboratory, or NRL, is supporting the research. Here's how it would work: You take an abundant sea organism, like *Marinobacter*, and change its genetic makeup to react to certain substances left by enemy vessels, divers, or equipment. These could be metals, fuel exhaust, human DNA, or some molecule that's not found naturally in the ocean but is associated with, say, diesel-powered submarines. The reaction could take the form of electron loss, which could be detectable to friendly sub drones.

"In an engineered context, we might take the ability of the microbes to give up electrons, then use [those electrons] to talk to something like an autonomous vehicle. Then you can start imagining that you can create an electrical signal when the bacteria encounters some molecule in their environment," NRL researcher Sarah Glaven said at a November event put on by the Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Lab."..."



*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor  
UCGIA Phoenix, Northern AZ, Show Low & Hawaii  
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*