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## U.S. army resumes Europe exercises after pandemic pause

*May 14, 2020* spacewar.com reported: “US military exercises in Europe that were suspended because of the coronavirus pandemic will go ahead next month but in a scaled-back format, the Army said Wednesday.

US-Polish Exercise Allied Spirit, originally planned for May, will see the mobilization of 6,000 soldiers from the two countries from June 5-19 at the Drawsko Pomorskie base in the north of Poland, the army said in a statement.

‘All COVID-19 precautionary measures will be taken to ensure the health and protection of participating armed forces and the local population,’ it said.

The 4,000 US soldiers that will take part had already traveled to Europe for Defender-Europe 20, the biggest US military deployment in Europe in 25 years...”

## U.S. Navy gives a show of force in South China Sea

*May 14, 2020* spacewar.com reported: “The U.S. Navy continues its exercises in the Western Pacific Ocean despite the postponement of multinational maneuvers because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Independence-class Navy littoral combat ships patrolled the contested South China Sea this week, with the USS Montgomery and USNS Cesar Chavez arriving on May 7 in support of a Panamanian-registered drill ship. The USS Gabrielle Giffords arrived on Tuesday, a Navy statement said.

Last week the Air Force and Marines conducted training exercises near China amid increased tensions in the region, the site of competing maritime claims.



In the nearby Philippine Sea, three submarines joined ships and aircraft of the U.S. 7th Fleet for a joint advanced warfighting training exercise.

The actions are, in part, a show of force in an area of competing maritime claims, and a reaction to Chinese harassment of the ship drilling for resources in waters claimed by China, which the United States and other countries regard as international waters...”

## Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister: ‘The EU capitulated to Palestinian Authority pressure’

*May 13, 2020* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “On Wednesday, the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs is releasing its newest report, ‘Blood Money’, which provides an in-depth analysis on the ties between the international-designated terrorist group the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Palestinian NGO ‘Addameer’.

In the report, the ministry delves into the dangers which lay in the European Union transferring funds to terror-ties civil society organizations.

The report was released following the European Union’s announcement in late March that it will not refuse funding for activities organized by Palestinian entities and groups which are affiliated, sympathize with, or support any of the entities mentioned in the EU-restrictive list – including Palestinian terrorist groups.

Minister of Strategic Affairs Gilad Erdan accused the EU of ‘capitulating’ to the Palestinian Authority by refusing to cut funding to anti-Israel and pro-terrorist organizations.

‘The EU had an opportunity to stand against terrorism. Unfortunately, the European Union capitulated to Palestinian pressure. Millions of euros, which have already been transferred by European countries to the Palestinian organization Addameer, illustrate the danger in the EU’s stance.

This is a dangerous precedent which could enable terrorist groups an opportunity to launder their finances.’ ...”

## U.S. says Chinese hacking vaccine research

*May 11, 2020* spacewar.com reported: “The US Federal Bureau of Investigation and cybersecurity experts believe Chinese hackers are trying to steal research on developing a vaccine against coronavirus, two newspapers reported Monday.

The FBI and Department of Homeland Security are planning to release a warning about the Chinese hacking as governments and private firms race to develop a vaccine for COVID-19, the *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times* reported.

The hackers are also targeting information and intellectual property on treatments and testing for COVID-19. US officials alleged that the hackers are linked to the Chinese government, the reports say. The official warning could come within days. In Beijing Foreign Affairs ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian rejected the allegation, saying China firmly opposes all cyber-attacks..."

### **U.S. accuses China, Russia of coordinating on virus conspiracies**

*May 11, 2020* spacewar.com reported: "The United States on Friday accused China and Russia of stepping up cooperation to spread false narratives over the coronavirus pandemic, saying Beijing was increasingly adopting techniques honed by Moscow.

'Even before the COVID-19 crisis we assessed a certain level of coordination between Russia and the PRC in the realm of propaganda,' said Lea Gabrielle, coordinator of the State Department's Global Engagement Center, which tracks foreign propaganda.

'But with this pandemic the cooperation has accelerated rapidly,' she told reporters.

'We see this convergence as a result of what we consider to be pragmatism between the two actors who want to shape public understanding of the COVID pandemic for their own purposes,' she said..."

### **Ominous trend in American West could signal a looming "megadrought"**

*May 9, 2020* cbsnews.com reported: "Come spring, the American West's vast water reservoirs are supposed to fill with melting snow.

However, this year, as in recent years, the large reservoirs of Lake Mead and Lake Powell in the Colorado River basin area have seen declining water levels — an ominous trend that a new study warns could signal a looming megadrought.

"The persistence of the drought conditions, in the Colorado River basin especially, is essentially unprecedented in human history," John Fleck, author of "Water is for Fighting Over," told CBS News' John Blackstone.



Fleck has spent years studying the Colorado River, a crucial source of water for much of the region around it.

He said that Lake Mead and Lake Powell's reservoirs have what he described as "big bathtub rings" around them, left behind as the water declines.

"There is less water in the system now than there was 20 and 30 years ago," he said.

Fleck explained that a "wet year" every few years may seem like the drought is ending, but those years are still comparatively lower than decades before.

"When we do get a snowpack in the mountains over winter, we are seeing less water make it into the rivers, and downstream to the farms and cities and the fish and the ecosystems that depend on the water," he said.

A team of scientists is researching megadroughts that have lasted as long as 40 years, using tree ring evidence going back 1,200 years.

"If they go back in time 500 years or so, there were these phenomenal droughts — in terms of both severity and in terms of length," Park Williams, the scientist leading the research, said.

"And until recently, those droughts have always been spoken about with almost a mythical-type character."

Williams said the drought of the last two decades "developed the same way that the megadroughts did."..."

### **China slams U.S. after Trump virus 'attack' claim**

*May 8, 2020* SpaceWar.com reported: "China accused the United States on Thursday of trying to shift blame over the coronavirus, after President Donald Trump said the pandemic was a worse 'attack' than Pearl Harbor or 9/11.

Tension between the world's two biggest economies has reached fever pitch in recent days as they have exchanged barbed comments on each other's handling of the virus.

'We urge the US side to stop shifting the blame to China and turn to facts,' said foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying at a press briefing.

On Wednesday Trump drew analogies with the virus, which emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan last year, and infamous military and terrorist attacks on the United States..."

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