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Eisenhower strike group launches missions against Islamic State

April 1, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "The USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group is participating in Operation Inherent Resolve with new airstrikes, the Navy said on Wednesday.

Missiles were launched by Carrier Air Wing 3 against Islamic State positions in Iraq and Syria from the strike group's position in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, the Navy statement said.

The air launches came after IS took responsibility for an attack this week at Palma, Mozambique.

'Our Strike Group is ready and capable of providing direct, long-range combat operational air support from the Eastern Mediterranean Sea,' Rear Adm. Scott F. Robertson, commander of Carrier Strike Group 2, said in a statement on Wednesday..."

Philippines says Chinese ships 'swarming' area around disputed Spratly Islands

April 1, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "A fleet of Chinese ships that sparked a diplomatic row after parking at a reef off the Philippines for weeks are now scattered across the contested Spratly Islands, a government agency said Wednesday, condemning Beijing's 'unlawful presence' in the area.

Over two hundred ships were first spotted on March 7 at Whitsun Reef, around 320 kilometres (175 nautical miles) west of Palawan Island in the South China Sea.

Manila ordered Beijing to withdraw the ships, calling their presence an incursion into its sovereign territory.

China — which claims almost the entirety of the resource-rich sea — has claimed the vessels are fishing ships sheltering from bad weather. But Manila insists they are from Beijing's Maritime Militia, frequently accused of conducting covert military operations in the area..."

Iran General Salami Claims Invincibility: 'Enemies Cannot even Dream of Victory'

March 31, 2021 Breitbart.com reported: "Iran has such military strength and experience in dynamic modern warfare no enemy can even dream of beating it, Major General Hossein Salami, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, declared Tuesday.

According to the official Tasnim News agency, Salami added 'the enemy has realized that it could by no means win a victory over Iran through a military war, which is why military action against the Islamic Republic has been taken off the table.'

Salami's comments came at a conference held in commemoration of Iranian martyrs. Tasnim reports the military leader claimed experience of war on Iran in the 1980s has led 'the enemies to the conclusion that it is impossible to defeat Iran through military action even in dreams.'

His boasts are a continuation of a theme that has long dominated Iranian geo-politics, as Breitbart News reported..."

China's Military Preparing for U.S. Intervention in Taiwan Strait

March 31, 2021 newsweek.com reported: "China is readying itself for American and Japanese involvement in any Taiwan Strait conflict, with recent warplane exercises around the island aimed at displaying its ability to isolate Taiwan from potential support, according to analysts in Beijing and Taipei.

After 10 People's Liberation Army aircraft, including fighter jets and reconnaissance planes, flew sorties into Taiwan's air defense identification zone on Monday, a senior defense official in Taipei noted the "offensive posture" of the military exercise. Deputy Defense Minister Chang Che-ping described the waves of Chinese aircraft as part of a naval and air force "joint operation."

The gesture by Beijing was notable for its pincer-like flight pattern around Taiwan after the Japanese defense ministry reported two additional PLA warplanes crossing the East China Sea and Miyako Strait between the Japanese-controlled islands. One of the aircraft then headed southwest before turning north to fly parallel to Taiwan's eastern coastline.



Taipei

The additional sorties in the east showed the PLA was able to strike targets in eastern Taiwan, "but also lock down the island entirely from possible interventions by U.S. and Japanese forces," according to the report from Beijing.

Recent Chinese warplane incursions into Taiwan's defensive airspace amounted to "political signaling" by Beijing, said senior security analyst Su Tzu-yun, who is with Taiwan's Institute for National Defense and Security Research." ..."

NATO allies intercept 6 groups of Russian aircraft over Europe

March 31, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "NATO fighter jets intercepted six different groups of Russian military aircraft Monday, the alliance said.



Jets from the alliance scrambled 10 times to shadow Russian bombers and fighters during 'an unusual peak of flights' near NATO airspace over the North Atlantic, North Sea, Black Sea and Baltic Sea, officials said in a press release.

'Intercepting multiple groups of Russian aircraft demonstrates NATO forces' readiness and capability to guard Allied skies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year,' Brigadier General Andrew Hansen, Deputy Chief of Staff Operations at Allied Air Command, Ramstein, Germany, said Tuesday in the release.

Norway, Turkey, Britain, Belgium, Italy, Romania and Bulgaria all participated in the scrambles, which took place over the course of less than six hours Monday. According to NATO, the Russian aircraft never entered alliance airspace and the interceptions were conducted in a safe and routine manner..."

Report: Biden to offer Iran some sanctions relief

March 30, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "US President Joe Biden's Administration is planning to put forth a new proposal to jump-start talks with Iran as soon as this week, two people familiar with the situation told *Politico* on Monday.

According to the report, the proposal asks Iran to halt some of its nuclear activities, such as work on advanced centrifuges and the enrichment of uranium to 20 percent purity, in exchange for some relief from US economic sanctions. The details of the proposal are still being worked out, one of the sources told *Politico*.

It is not at all certain that Iran will accept the terms. Earlier this year, Tehran rejected a US proposal it deemed unacceptable, then offered its own idea that Biden's team declared a non-starter, two people familiar with the situation said..."

Iran, China sign huge 25-year strategic deal; could reduce US regional influence

March 29, 2021 timesofisrael.com reported: "Iran and China on Saturday signed a 25-year strategic cooperation agreement addressing economic issues amid crippling US sanctions on Tehran, according to Iranian state media.

The agreement, dubbed the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, covers a variety of economic activity from oil and mining to promoting industrial activity in Iran, as well as transportation and agricultural collaborations, according to the report.

No additional details of the agreement were revealed as Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese counterpart Wang Yi took part in a ceremony marking the event.

The New York Times reported that China will invest some \$400 billion in Iran in exchange for oil as part of the deal. The two countries will also step up military cooperation with joint training, research and intelligence sharing, the report said..."

US Adding Air Power to Naval Operations in Disputed South China Sea

March 26, 2021 voanews.com reported: "Regional experts say U.S. officials are using a range of aircraft to make speedy yet thorough checks on China's expansion in a disputed Asian sea.

The flights, added to the more obvious passages of navy ships through the South China Sea, will further inflame China, analysts say, adding that planes see more than ships and complete their missions faster.

Aircraft can handily survey the sea and due to their altitude see 'a lot of things a vessel cannot' from a 'bird's eye' view, said Alexander Vuving, a professor at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Hawaii. Planes come and go faster than ships, he added. U.S. warship passages into the South China Sea doubled in 2019..."

Compiled by L. Jim Tuck

UCG Minister

<ljt5053@sbcglobal.net>