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US Cast as Villain During Meeting of Afghan Neighbors

April 20, 2023 [voanews.com](#) reported: "A gathering of regional foreign ministers to discuss the way forward in Afghanistan this week brought little in the way of new initiatives but provided a forum for several of Kabul's neighbors to blame the country's economic plight on the United States and its Western allies.

The United States 'was portrayed as an irresponsible actor, which for two decades destroyed Afghanistan and now refuses to cover the damage,' said a Central Asian diplomat who described to *VOA* the general mood at the Samarkand meeting hosted by Uzbekistan and attended by representatives of Afghanistan, China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity.

That message was reflected on the Russian Foreign Ministry's Telegram channel, which said the participants 'emphasized that the U.S. and its NATO allies must be held accountable for the outcome of their 20-year military campaign, which brought Afghanistan to its current dire state.'..."

'Get ready': Taiwan civilians train for Chinese invasion

April 19, 2023 [spacewar.com](#) reported: "Physician Lin Yuh-ting has taken time out of her weekend to learn civilian defence tips she can relay to her two young children in case China invades self-ruled Taiwan.

There are no weapons, just vital training on how to react to China's hybrid warfare.

The classes are part of a growing Taiwanese urgency to be ready for a worst-case scenario after seeing the Ukraine war from afar and enduring two rounds of Chinese drills in the past year, including exercises that ended last week.

'When there's the possibility of a war, I think we should get prepared,' said 45-year-old Lin, who was attending the Kuma Academy's classes in Taipei.

'Being on the frontline isn't the only way to help,' she said, adding her eight- and 12-year-old children should know what to do in a crisis.

Kuma's instructors offer practical tips on evacuation preparations, such as finding the nearest air raid shelter and what to pack in emergency go-bags..."

US warship sails through Taiwan Strait days after China drills

April 18, 2023 [spacewar.com](#) reported: "A US warship sailed through the waters separating Taiwan and mainland China, the US Navy said, days after Beijing staged war games around the self-ruled island.

Led by the United States, multiple Western navies regularly conduct 'freedom of navigation operations' to assert the international status of regional waterways such as the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea.

The USS Milius guided-missile destroyer 'conducted a routine Taiwan Strait transit April 16 (local time) through waters where high-seas freedoms of navigation and overflight apply in accordance with international law', the US Navy said in a statement.

'The ship transited through a corridor in the Strait that is beyond the territorial sea of any coastal State.'

This was the first such US operation through the waterway since January.

The US 7th Fleet shared images Monday on Twitter of crew looking out into the strait, one of the most crucial waterways in the world for international shipping.

China said on Monday it had tracked a US warship through the Taiwan Strait, adding that the United States had "hyped up" the transit.

Colonel Shi Yi, a Chinese military spokesman, said troops in the area "remain on a high level of alert at all times and will resolutely defend national sovereignty and security as well as regional peace and stability".



China claims Taiwan as its territory and has vowed to bring the island under its control one day. It also claims the entire Taiwan Strait as its territorial waters....”

US, Allies Stage Drills as North Korea Warns of Security Crisis

April 18, 2023 voanews.com reported: “The United States, South Korea and Japan conducted a joint missile defense exercise Monday aimed at countering North Korea’s growing nuclear arsenal, as a top North Korean army official warned the U.S. that it risks ‘a clearer security crisis and insurmountable threats.’

Last week, North Korea conducted one of its most provocative weapons demonstrations in years by flight-testing for the first time an intercontinental ballistic missile powered by solid fuel. It is considered a more mobile, harder-to-detect weapon and could directly target the continental United States.

South Korea’s navy said Monday’s three-way drills took place in international waters off the country’s eastern coast and focused on mastering procedures for detecting, tracking and sharing information on incoming North Korean ballistic missiles. The one-day naval exercise involved an Aegis destroyer from each country...”

1/3rd of scientists fear AI decisions could spark nuclear-level disaster – report



April 14, 2023 jpost.com reported: “Artificial intelligence (AI) may be paving the way for bold new shifts in the world, but it could also lead to a nuclear-level catastrophe, a significant minority of researchers say, according to a survey from Stanford University’s Institute for Human-Centered AI.

The findings come in Stanford’s 2023 Artificial Intelligence Index Report, an annual update on the state of the AI sector.

The survey overall stated that a large majority (73%) think AI is leading to revolutionary changes in society. Just over a third (36%), however, felt that AI decisions could lead to disaster...”

The survey didn’t exactly explain how AI decisions could cause a nuclear catastrophe, though it did show how AI could be used in nuclear sciences, such as making nuclear fission.

What should be noted though is that AI decisions mean it is a decision being made by the AI itself, rather than by humans using it.

But could someone use an AI to try and cause a horrific disaster? Could someone make an AI that could potentially lead to the AI making a decision that would cause such a thing? Absolutely – and someone has already tried.

Enter ChaosGPT. This AI chatbot was made by an unknown individual using AutoGPT, the open-source program that basically uses OpenAI’s model to make an autonomous ChatGPT-like chatbot. When given an input, these autonomous AI chatbots can theoretically make their own process of accomplishing the given task without intervention...”

Taiwan stages war and disaster drills after Chinese exercise

April 14, 2023 breitbart.com reported: “Screaming citizens reacted to everything from missile strikes to a chemical weapons blast and a deadly metro station attack during disaster-preparedness drills in Taiwan on Thursday.

More than 1,000 volunteers enacted this alarming range of potential disasters and more in the wake of China’s latest war games that ended only three days earlier.

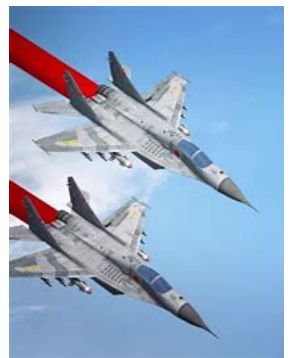
The emergency scenarios played out in Taichung city had emergency workers rushing to evacuate the wounded on stretchers, and dead mannequins being carted away in body bags.

‘I am proud to be Taiwanese and I believe in our country. We need to learn more about disaster prevention and war,’ said local government worker Chang Wei-chen, 40.

‘It will be helpful to us.’

Self-ruled Taiwan is on high alert after Beijing staged three days of military drills that simulated ‘sealing off’ the island.

China claims democratic Taiwan as its own territory and has vowed to take it one day, by force if necessary. Chinese jets and warships have continued circling Taiwan even after the conclusion of the massive drills...”



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