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Russia, China kick off joint naval drills

July 20, 2023 *spacewar.com* reported: "Russia said Thursday it had started joint naval drills with China in the Sea of Japan as the two allies seek to deepen their military cooperation.

Ties between Moscow and Beijing have grown closer since Russia launched its Ukraine offensive last year, a move China has not condemned. The Russian defence ministry said the main goal of the exercises that will run until Sunday is to 'strengthen naval cooperation' between the two countries and 'maintain stability and peace in the Asia-Pacific region'.

The drills will include 'anti-submarine missions and naval combat' and the sea and air escort of ships, the ministry said, adding there are also plans 'to carry out joint artillery fire'.

The Russian navy is represented by two anti-submarine ships, two corvettes as well as auxiliary ships, the ministry said. Beijing said on Sunday it was sending five warships, including a guided-missile destroyer..."



South Korea's President Threatens to 'End' North Korean Regime Aboard U.S. Nuclear Sub

July 20, 2023 *breitbart.com* reported: "South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol vowed that any North Korean nuclear attack would be 'the end of that regime' on Wednesday while touring the USS *Kentucky*, an Ohio-class nuclear ballistic missile submarine currently stationed in the southern port city of Busan.

Yoon, a hardline conservative, has used his term at the helm of his country to bring South Korea's foreign policy more in line with America and undo concessions made to the communist North Korean regime under his predecessor, leftist Moon Jae-in. Yoon negotiated the return of American nuclear submarines to the Korean peninsula during a visit to Washington, DC, in April, resulting in the first such vehicles docked in the country since 1981.

Prior to the *Kentucky's* arrival, the *USS Michigan*, a nuclear-powered submarine arrived in Busan in June.

'Unlike *Kentucky*, *Michigan* has been converted from carrying nuclear ballistic missiles to fielding 154 Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles,' the U.S. Naval Institute's news portal (USNI) explained on Tuesday..."

Hamas threatens Israel after Jews ascend Temple Mount

July 19, 2023 *Arutz Sheva* reported: "The Palestinian Authority's official *Wafa* news agency reported on Tuesday that dozens of 'settlers' had 'invaded' the Al-Aqsa Mosque under protection of the Israel Police. According to the report, the Jewish visitors entered the Temple Mount in groups, one after the other, conducted 'provocative' tours of the site and held religious worship ceremonies.

Muhammad Hamada, spokesman for Hamas in Jerusalem, said that 'the insistence of hordes of settlers to continue desecrating the courtyards of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, and to perform religious ceremonies and Talmudic prayers in its courtyards, is dangerous aggression towards and a blatant violation of its sanctity.'

Hamada accused the Israeli authorities of providing protection to the 'hordes of settlers' and of securing their 'invasions' of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, noting they bear full responsibility for this 'aggression'..."

Due to Iran's actions: US to send additional fighter jets and warship to Middle East

July 18, 2023 *Arutz Sheva* reported: "The United States will send additional F-35 and F-16 fighter jets, along with a warship to the Middle East, the Pentagon said on Monday, according to *Reuters*. The move is part of a bid to monitor key waterways in the region following Iran's seizure and harassment of commercial shipping vessels in recent months.

In May, the White House announced that the Biden administration would be making a series of moves in the region, but at the time did not say what it would include.

'The (Pentagon) is increasing our presence and ability to monitor the (Strait of Hormuz) and surrounding waters,' Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh told reporters on Monday. It was not clear where exactly the additional jets would be placed and how long they would stay in the region..."

Here Come the Grasshoppers...

July 17, 2023 **[beforeitsnews.com](#)** reported: "It was just a matter of time before the grasshoppers joined the party. In 2023, global crops have been devastated by plague after plague. Farmers in the U.S. and elsewhere have had to deal with seemingly endless drought, unprecedented heat, nightmarish flooding and horrifying outbreaks of disease. In fact, citrus greening disease is one of the primary reasons why the orange harvest in Florida is only going to be about half as large as it was last year. It has just been one thing after another for our farmers, but ravenous hordes of insects have been one plague that has been noticeably absent from the list. Unfortunately, that has now changed. Just recently, a swarm of grasshoppers so enormous it was actually spotted by weather radar systems as it descended upon Tooele, Utah.



A massive swarm of grasshoppers has invaded Tooele, Utah, causing significant damage to crops. The plague-like surge was captured by weather radar systems of the National Weather Service on the evening of June 21 as it headed northeast toward the Great Salt Lake.

Alex DeSmet, a meteorologist, told the Salt Lake Tribune the unusual radar detection of the grasshoppers was associated with their distinctive non-uniform movement. Unlike weather events such as rain or snow, grasshopper swarms exhibit irregular patterns. Normally, we don't see swarms of this size in North America. But the warmer and drier winters we have witnessed in recent years have resulted in a population explosion of the little critters..."

New Russian warship with hypersonic missiles joins Black Sea fleet – report

July 17, 2023 **[jpost.com](#)** reported: "The Russian Navy's Black Sea Fleet has welcomed a new warship, the missile corvette *Tsiklon*, TASS reported, citing the Russian Defense Ministry last week. Other reports have noted that the *Tsiklon* warship will be able to fire hypersonic missiles.

The *Tsiklon* was officially handed over to the Russian Navy for service in a ceremony on July 12 under the auspices of Admiral Nikolay Yevmenov, the Russian Navy commander-in-chief. The ship is the latest in a number of similar missile corvettes reportedly set to replace the Russian Navy's current *Buyan-M* ships..."

Ted Cruz bill would inform customers when household smart devices are spying on them

July 14, 2023 **[foxbusiness.com](#)** reported: "Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, on Tuesday urged lawmakers to support a bipartisan bill that would inform consumers when their smart devices are "spying" on them.

Cruz, the ranking member on the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, went to the Senate floor and spoke in favor of the Informing Consumers about the Smart Devices Act — a bill he introduced alongside Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., the committee chair. The bipartisan bill would require the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to mandate that smart devices disclose to customers whether they have audio or visual recording components.

The Texas senator warned that common household appliances like refrigerators, washers, dryers and even air fryers could have microphones or cameras that infringe on their owners' privacy.

"With any technological advancement, there can be trade-offs, and for smart devices one of the potential trade-offs is our privacy," Cruz said Tuesday. "In Texas, we become very aware of that cost. The past few years, smart thermostats have allowed electric companies to control the temperature in your own home from afar in the name of conserving energy. Furthermore, a lot of Americans don't realize or expect that the growing number of smart household devices and appliances, have cameras on them, and microphones that can surreptitiously record families and transmit data..."

Israel protests as Sweden allows Bible burning outside embassy on Saturday

July 14, 2023 **[timesofisrael.com](#)** reported: "Israeli officials protested to Sweden on Friday after local police gave the go-ahead to a request to allow the burning of a Bible outside of the Israeli embassy in Stockholm on Saturday, saying that the decision was tantamount to a 'hate crime.'

Local police two weeks ago said they had received an application from an individual in his 30s to burn a Jewish and a Christian Bible outside Israel's Embassy in Stockholm on July 15 as 'a symbolic gathering for the sake of freedom of speech.' It comes just weeks after Quran burnings took place in the city. It was not immediately clear if the person planned to burn a copy of the Bible or a Torah scroll. The move sparked widespread outrage in Israel and Jewish groups..."