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Space Officials Outline Key Investments Needed to Ensure U.S. Maintains Edge

May 23, 2024 *spacewar.com* reported: “In testimony before a Senate Armed Services subcommittee, John D. Hill, deputy assistant secretary of defense for space and missile defense, outlined key investments in DOD’s budget request for fiscal year 2025 needed to keep pace with challengers to the U.S. in the space-warfare domain.

‘We are clearly in a time of rapid change in the space strategic environment,’ Hill told the Strategic Forces Subcommittee. ‘One that does not favor the slow or those resistant to change.’

He noted efforts by China and Russia to rapidly field space and counterspace capabilities meant to degrade and challenge the joint forces’ use of space-based services that provide warfighters with key advantages on the battlefield.

‘The scale and scope of the threats in space present significant risks to the American people, to our national interests, [and] to allies and partners,’ Hill said...

‘Space has never been more critical to the security of our nation, and the success or failure of the joint force depends heavily upon the capabilities that we present,’ Guetlein said. ‘Repeated actions by both the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China underscore the urgency for action’...”

Russia starts tactical nuclear drills near Ukraine

May 22, 2024 *spacewar.com* reported: “Russia on Tuesday announced the start of tactical nuclear weapons drills close to Ukraine, in what it said was a response to Western threats. Throughout its two-year offensive on Ukraine, Moscow has repeatedly talked-up its arsenal of nuclear weapons and its readiness to deploy them if it senses an existential threat. The West has accused President Vladimir Putin of irresponsible nuclear saber-rattling.

Russia’s defence ministry said Tuesday the drills were taking place in its Southern Military District, which borders and includes parts of Ukraine that Moscow claims to have annexed. It did not specify exactly where...”



China Holds Military Drills Around Taiwan as 'Punishment'

May 22, 2024 *barrons.com* reported: “China on Thursday launched two days of military drills to surround self-ruled Taiwan in what it said was "strong punishment" for the island's "separatist acts". The war games come after Lai Ching-te was sworn in as Taiwan's new president this week and made an inauguration speech that China denounced as a "confession of independence".

Communist China claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has vowed to bring the island under its rule, by force if necessary. Thursday and Friday's drills involve military aircraft and naval vessels surrounding the island to test their combat capabilities, China's People's Liberation Army announced.

Taiwan responded quickly to China's announcement on Thursday morning, saying it had deployed sea, air and ground forces to "defend freedom". "The Ministry of National Defence strongly condemned such irrational provocations and actions that undermine regional peace and stability," it said.

China has previously branded Lai a "dangerous separatist" who would bring "war and decline" to the island. On Tuesday, it warned of strong reprisals to Lai's inauguration speech, in which he vowed to continue to build up Taiwan's defence capabilities...”

George Barna identifies biggest threats facing the Church

May 21, 2024 *christianpost.com* reported: “George Barna, a leading expert in church and worldview trends, has weighed in on some of the biggest issues facing the Church — including the steady decrease in a biblical worldview and dwindling concern for spiritual formation — at a time of ‘Christian invisibility in our culture.’

In an interview with *The Christian Post*, the 69-year-old founder of The Barna Group, a market research firm specializing in studying Americans' religious beliefs and behaviors, said that over the last few decades, he's seen certain negative trends increasingly permeate Western Christianity.

'People have become more selfish, churches have become less influential, pastors have become less Bible-centric,' he said. 'Families have invested less of their time and energy in spiritual growth, particularly of their children. The media now influences the Church more than the Church influences the media, or the culture for that matter. The Christian Body tends to get off track arguing about a lot of things that really don't matter.'...''

Iranians celebrate President's demise

May 20, 2024 israelnationalnews.com reported: "As soon as the news broke on Sunday that the helicopter carrying Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi had crashed far north-western corner of the country, Iranians who oppose the regime began to celebrate. Celebrations then only increased after the President was announced to be dead.

According to several sources, Iranian citizens in several locations, including Raisi's hometown of Mashhad, shot off fireworks and played music in the middle of the night to celebrate the news. Iranian dissenters at home and abroad also took to social media as well to express their feelings following the death of the leader who was known as 'the Butcher of Tehran' for his role in sentencing thousands of prisoners of conscience to death in the 1980s..."

Former Iranian Foreign Minister: 'US sanctions to blame for crash that killed President'

May 20, 2024 israelnationalnews.com reported: "Former Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says the United States is at fault for the death of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash on Sunday. Talking to Iranian state media, the former minister blamed US sanctions for the crash: 'One of the causes of this heartbreaking incident is the United States, which by embargoing the sale of the aviation parts to Islamic Iran caused the martyrdom of the president and his companions.' He added that 'the crime of the United States will definitely be recorded in the minds of the Iranian people and in history.'

Dutch government announces plan to move embassy to Jerusalem

May 17, 2024 wndnewscenter.com reported: "In a surprise move early Thursday, an advance draft of a coalition agreement between four right-wing Dutch political factions announced their plan to move the Dutch embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem – at 'an appropriate time.' If and when this occurs, the Netherlands would be the most significant country to move its embassy to Jerusalem since the United States did so under former President Donald Trump in 2018..."

In addition to the United States, Papua New Guinea, Kosovo, Honduras and Guatemala have already moved their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. If the Dutch coalition holds and the nation's embassy is moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the decision would be a controversial one. Officially, the EU – under the terms of the 'Jerusalem Clause' – has refused to locate diplomatic missions in Jerusalem, Israel's official capital, until its final status with regard to the Palestinians has been decided..."

Gordon Chang to Newsmax: Biden Plans to 'Sign Away' Powers to WHO

May 14, 2024 newsmax.com reported: "President Joe Biden will "sign away America's powers" to the World Health Organization and its director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, through an executive agreement to link the United States to a pair of treaties under discussion related to worldwide pandemics, despite the WHO's history concerning COVID, China expert Gordon Chang tells Newsmax.

"The World Health Organization is going to meet in Geneva and it's going to look at two things, amendments of the international health regulations and the adoption of a pandemic agreement," Chang told Newsmax's "Greg Kelly Reports" Monday night about the WHO's meeting later this month.

"These two documents are so broad that they would give Tedros, in other words, that give China, control over the United States not just during a pandemic, but before," he added. "This would not just be world government. This would be totalitarian world government because potentially Tedros could tell the United States to do anything he wants."

Biden knows that he won't get votes from two-thirds of the Senate to vote for signing the treaty, as required by the Constitution, said Chang. "That means he's going to sign away America's powers," said Chang..."



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