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Russia, China taking space into dangerous territory, US says

July 18, 2024 *voanews.com* reported: “Russia and China are edging ever closer to unleashing space-based weapons, a decision that could have far-reaching implications for America’s ability to defend itself, U.S. military and intelligence agencies warn.

Adding to the concern, they say, is what appears to be a growing willingness by both countries to set aside long-running suspicions and animosity in order to gain an edge over the United States.

‘I would highlight ... the increasing amount in intent to use counterspace capabilities,’ said Lieutenant General Jeff Kruse, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

‘Both Russia and China view the use of space early on, even ahead of conflict, as important capabilities to deter or to compel behaviors,’ Kruse told the annual Aspen Security Forum on Wednesday. ‘We just need to be ready.’

Concerns about the safety of space surged earlier this year when House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Turner called for the declassification of ‘all information’ related to what was described as a new Russian anti-satellite capability involving nuclear weapons...”

China says nuclear arms talks with US halted over Taiwan weapons sales

July 17, 2024 *voanews.com* reported: “China said Wednesday it had suspended negotiations with the United States on nuclear non-proliferation and arms control in response to Washington’s weapons sales to Taiwan.

The U.S. and China in November held rare talks on nuclear arms control, part of a bid to ease mistrust ahead of a summit between leader Joe Biden and Xi Jinping.

Further dialogue had not been publicly announced since, with a White House official in January urging Beijing to respond ‘to some of our more substantive ideas on risk reduction.’

But China’s foreign ministry on Wednesday said recent U.S. sales of arms to self-ruled Taiwan were ‘seriously undermining the political atmosphere for continued arms control consultations between the two sides.’

‘The U.S. has... continued its arms sales to Taiwan, and taken a series of negative actions that seriously damage China’s core interests and undermine political mutual trust,’ foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian said.

‘For this reason, China has decided to suspend negotiations with the United States on a new round of arms control and non-proliferation consultations,’ he added...”

China, Russia conduct joint Pacific military patrol

July 16, 2024 *spacewar.com* reported: “China and Russia conducted a joint naval patrol in the northern and western Pacific, Beijing’s defence ministry said Sunday, adding that the exercise was not ‘targeted’ at any other nation.

The two countries have drawn closer in recent years and tout their friendship as having ‘no limits’. Both share hostile relations with US-led Western defence alliance NATO.

Beijing has further strengthened its diplomatic, economic and military ties with Moscow since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

China, which has never condemned the invasion, maintains it is a neutral party to the conflict. But Western leaders have criticised it for giving political and economic support to Russia, including trade in goods that have both civilian and military uses.



Lt General Jeff Kruse
Director of DIA

‘According to the annual plan and the consensus between China and Russia, naval vessels of China and Russia recently carried out their fourth joint maritime patrol in the western and northern Pacific Ocean,’ the Chinese defence ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

‘This operation is not targeted at any third party and has nothing to do with the current international and regional situation,’ it added...”

U.S., South Korea sign nuclear deterrence guidelines against rising North Korea threat

July 15, 2024 spacewar.com reported: “U.S. President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said that any nuclear attack by North Korea would be met with a "swift, overwhelming and decisive response," as they authorized a new set of guidelines on deterrence strategy.

The leaders met on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Washington, D.C., on Thursday and discussed the agreement, according to a joint statement.

"The presidents reaffirmed their commitments in the U.S.-ROK Washington Declaration and highlighted that any nuclear attack by the DPRK against the ROK will be met with a swift, overwhelming and decisive response," the joint statement said.

The Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are the official names of South Korea and North Korea, respectively.

"President Biden reiterated that the U.S. commitment to extended deterrence to the ROK is backed by the full range of U.S. capabilities, including nuclear," the statement added...”

Secret Service investigating how gunman was able to get so close to Trump

July 14, 2024 voanews.com reported: “The U.S. Secret Service is investigating how a gunman armed with an AR-style rifle was able to get close enough to shoot and injure former President Donald Trump at a rally Saturday in Pennsylvania, a monumental failure of one the agency’s core duties.

The gunman, who was killed by Secret Service personnel, fired multiple shots at the stage from an ‘elevated position outside of the rally venue,’ the agency said.

An *Associated Press* analysis of more than a dozen videos and photos taken at the Trump rally, as well as satellite imagery of the site, shows the shooter was able to get astonishingly close to the stage where the former president was speaking. A video posted to social media and geolocated by the *AP* shows the body of a man wearing gray camouflage lying motionless on the roof of a manufacturing plant just north of the Butler Farm Show grounds, where Trump’s rally was held...”

Kremlin warns Russia could target Europe if US deploys missiles

July 14, 2024 spacewar.com reported: “The Kremlin on Saturday warned that the deployment of US missiles in Germany could make European capitals targets for Russian missiles in a repeat of Cold War-style confrontation.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov spoke of a ‘paradox’ in which ‘Europe is a target for our missiles, our country is a target for US missiles in Europe’.

‘We have enough capacity to contain these missiles but the potential victims are the capitals of these countries,’ he said, speaking to Russian state television channel Russia 1.

Peskov also hinted that such a confrontation could undermine Europe as a whole — in the same way that the Cold War ended with the Soviet Union’s collapse.

‘Europe is coming apart. Europe is not living its best moment. In a different configuration, a repeat of history is inevitable,’ he said...”



Dmitry Peskov
Kremlin Spokesman