



# GRYPHON GROWL

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## SIPR

[go.intelink.sgov.gov/CPI6RmN](https://go.intelink.sgov.gov/CPI6RmN)  
 Current Intelligence Brief (Monthly)

## JWICS

[go.intelink.ic.gov/3vKnmH3](https://go.intelink.ic.gov/3vKnmH3)  
 AFLCMC CC Intel Brief (Monthly)  
 Winged Warrior (Bi-Weekly)  
 CyREN (Bi-Weekly)

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# INDOPACOM

## **NEWSWEEK: TAIWAN LOOKING TO PURCHASE MORE U.S. WEAPONS**



Taiwan is reportedly planning to place additional weapons orders, including air defense systems and rocket launchers, with its security partner, the United States, as the self-ruled democratic island faces increasing military pressure from its powerful neighbor, China.

The Chinese Communist Party has long claimed sovereignty over Taiwan, despite never having governed the island. Chinese leader Xi Jinping has vowed to use force to achieve unification if necessary, and his armed forces have been preparing for a potential invasion of Taiwan.

While the U.S. no longer maintains diplomatic relations with Taiwan, it is required by the Taiwan Relations Act to provide the island with defensive arms and to maintain its own capability to resist any attempt to resolve cross-strait differences by non-peaceful means.

Taiwan plans to acquire an additional 28 American rocket launchers—known as the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)—and nine National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS), the Taiwanese newspaper Taipei Times reported on 10 August. The U.S. previously approved the sale of three NASAMS to Taiwan, which are expected to be deployed near the island's capital, Taipei, with the first to be delivered by the end of the year. The additional systems will enhance the defense of central and southern Taiwan.

HIMARS is a long-range, mobile, precision-fire launcher capable of firing four different variants of munitions. NASAMS is a short-to-medium-range, land-based air defense system designed to protect bases, ports, populated areas and other high-value assets.

## **DEFENSENEWS: CHINA'S MILITARY WANTS TO TARGET U.S. UNDERSEA SENSOR NETWORK**

Submarines are a major part of China's naval strategy, and U.S. underwater sensors are a major threat to those subs, Chinese experts warn.

Thus, some People's Liberation Army Navy, or PLAN, officers are advocating a systematic attempt to destroy America's undersea sensor network in time of war. This includes destroying, sabotaging or spoofing underwater microphones using a variety of countermeasures, from undersea drones to China's huge fleet of commercial fishing vessels.

Chinese experts believe that "the U.S. undersea surveillance system suffers from a number of vulnerabilities, amplified by the sheer scale of the Western Pacific battlespace," Ryan Martinson, a professor at the China Maritime Studies Institute at the U.S. Naval War College, wrote in an essay for the Center for International Maritime Security. "If enough nodes are degraded, the system as a whole may lose its functionality."



Ironically, American and Chinese views of the undersea balance of power seem mirror images. The U.S. and its Pacific allies worry over China's growing submarine fleet, which the Pentagon predicts will reach 65 units this year and 80 by 2035. China already can deploy six nuclear ballistic and six nuclear attack submarines, plus several conventional subs armed with anti-ship missiles, including 21 advanced Yuan-class diesel-electric boats.

## **BBC: CHINA RAMS OWN WARSHIP WHILE CHASING PHILIPPINE VESSEL**



A Chinese warship plowed into its own coast guard vessel on 11 August while the latter was chasing a Philippine vessel in the South China Sea, Manila said.

Philippine coast guard officials were distributing aid to fishermen in the disputed Scarborough Shoal, Commodore Jay Tarriela said, when the Chinese coast guard "performed a risky maneuver" which inflicted "substantial damage" on the Chinese warship's forward deck.

China confirmed that a confrontation took place and accused the Philippines of "forcibly intruding" into Chinese waters, but did not mention the collision. The South China Sea is at the center of a territorial dispute between China, the Philippines and other countries.

Tensions between Beijing and Manila have sharply escalated in recent years, with each side accusing the other of provocations and altercations at sea, including some involving weapons such as swords, spears and knives. The Scarborough Shoal, a triangular chain of reefs and rocks, has been a flashpoint between the two countries since China seized it in 2012.

Video released by Manila showed a Chinese coast guard vessel firing water cannons as it chased the Philippine coast guard ship, before slamming into a much larger Chinese ship after making a sudden turn. The collision rendered the Chinese warship "unseaworthy", Tarriela said. It is unclear if anyone was injured in the incident.

## **DEFENSEPOST: NORTH KOREA GAINS COMBAT SAVVY, ADVANCED ARMS IN UKRAINE-RUSSIA WAR**

North Korea has been gaining modern battlefield experience and advanced military technology through its troops' active involvement in the war between Russia and Ukraine, according to a Ukrainian military official.

Pyongyang sends troops as well as military hardware and supplies to Moscow as part of a defense pact signed last year. In exchange, the Kremlin provides money, advanced military training, and technology to the isolationist regime.

This development affects the security of both Europe and Asia, and "may weaken Beijing's leverage" over its nuclear-capable neighbor, used as a buffer state against U.S.-allied South Korea, Kyiv's military intelligence chief, Lt. Gen. Kyrylo Budanov, shared with The Japan Times.

North Korea deployed troops to fight alongside Russian forces last year, with their involvement only confirmed in April 2025, following Moscow's claim that it retook Kursk from Ukraine. More than 1,000 casualties among Pyongyang's forces were reported in December, due to outdated training, as well as poor coordination and language barriers with Russian troops. However, the North Koreans quickly adapted to modern warfare, which includes operating and countering drones, Budanov said.

Meanwhile, South Korea's intelligence agency revealed that Pyongyang will send more troops, military builders, and sappers, or combat engineers whose tasks include mine-clearing and construction work, this year.





# EUCOM

## ISW: RUSSIA-UKRAINE UPDATE

### Key Takeaways:

#### United States

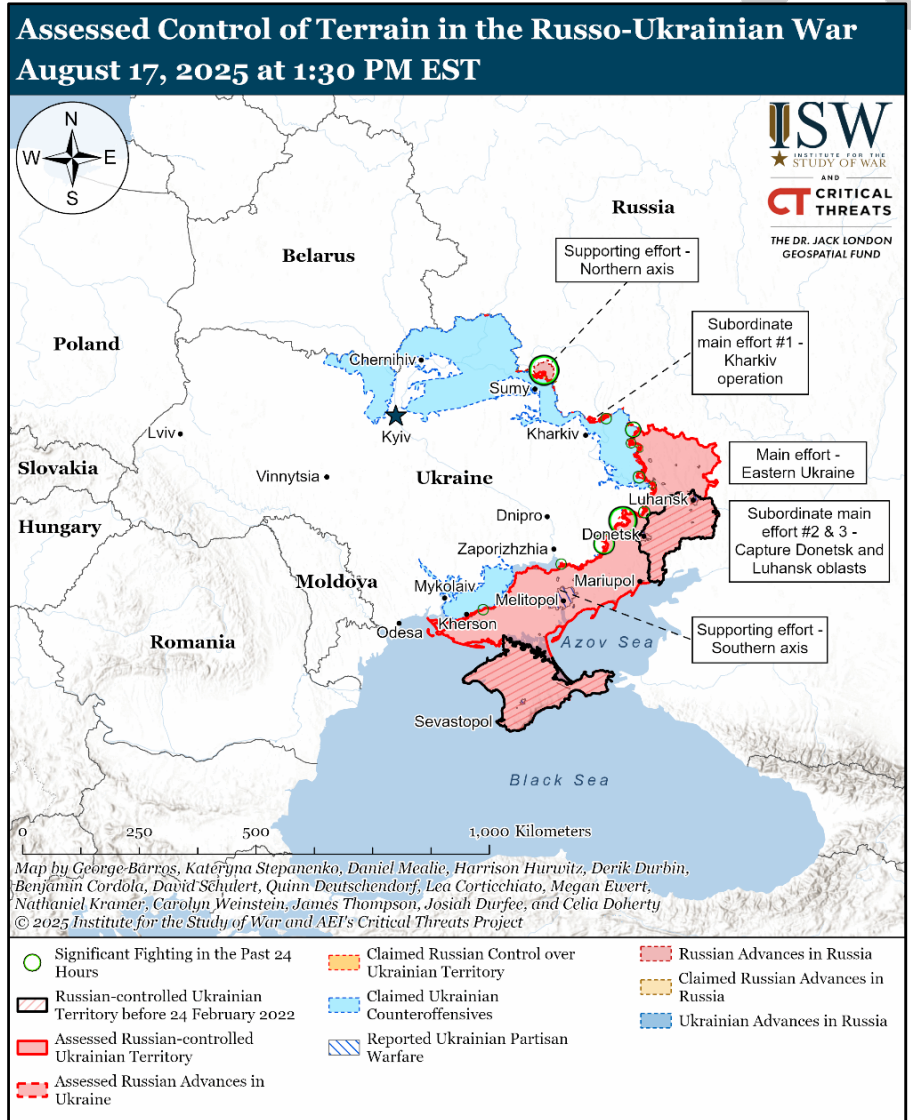
- U.S. officials acknowledged that Putin has yet to demonstrate a willingness to offer the concessions necessary to reach a peace agreement.

#### Russia:

- Russia will be unable to seize the remainder of Donetsk Oblast rapidly through force, as Russian forces have failed to do for over a decade. Russia could only rapidly seize all of Donetsk Oblast if Ukraine concedes to Putin's demand and withdraws from the remainder of the oblast.
- Russian forces have historically thrown themselves into costly campaigns to seize fortified or urban areas in eastern Ukraine, a reality far from Putin's claims of rapid advances.
- Recent Russian advances northeast of Pokrovsk do not indicate that Russia can rapidly seize fortified or urban areas.
- Russia continues to deny Ukraine's sovereignty and to demand the right to dictate Ukrainian domestic affairs.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin's insistence that any peace agreement must address Russia's perceived "root causes" of the war will make it difficult to reach a peace agreement as rapidly as Trump desires, given the complexity of the "root causes."
- Russia's "root causes" extend beyond Ukraine, and eliminating them would require substantial negotiations with NATO.
- Putin's offer of a Russian law forbidding a future invasion of Ukraine is not credible because Russia has already twice broken previous binding international commitments not to invade and because Putin has shown that he can freely change Russian law as he desires.
- The details about Ukrainian security guarantees to which Putin may have agreed remain unclear at this time, but the Kremlin may be attempting to resurrect its demands about security guarantors from April 2022 that would have neutered such guarantees.

#### Ukraine:

- Ukrainian forces recently advanced in northern Sumy Oblast and near Toretsk. Russian forces recently advanced near Pokrovsk.



## **ARMYRECOGNITION: ITALIAN F-35 JETS SCRAMBLE OVER BALTIC TO CONFRONT RUSSIAN SU-24 AND SU-27 INTRUSIONS**

On 13 August, two Italian Air Force F-35 Lightning II fighter jets scrambled from Ämari Air Base in Estonia under NATO's Air Policing mission to intercept Russian aircraft operating near Alliance airspace, as reported by NATO Air Command. This marks the first time Italian fifth-generation fighters have been deployed in such a role in the Baltic theatre, a significant operational milestone that comes just a few days after Hungarian Gripens conducted a similar mission. The back-to-back incidents highlight a clear escalation in Russian aerial maneuvers in the region, increasing the risk of miscalculation and underscoring the Baltic airspace's central role in NATO-Russia tensions.

The 32nd Wing detachment of Italian Task Force at Ämari maintains a constant Quick Reaction Alert posture, ready to launch at any moment to protect NATO skies. The 13 August interception involved a Sukhoi Su-24 "Fencer" and a Sukhoi Su-27 "Flanker", both operating without flight plans or transponders, a tactic NATO has repeatedly linked to deliberate probing of Alliance defenses and intelligence-gathering activities. The Su-24, a twin-engine variable-sweep wing aircraft designed for low-level penetration and precision strike missions, is capable of delivering a broad range of munitions, suggesting its presence could indicate a simulated strike or reconnaissance mission near NATO borders.



## **EURASIAN TIMES: RUSSIA READIES WORLD'S 1ST NUCLEAR-POWERED CRUISE MISSILE — 9M730 BUREVESTNIK**



According to multiple media reports, Russia is preparing for new tests of its much discussed and feared 9M730 Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile, a "one-of-a-kind" weapon in Moscow's arsenal.

If these tests are successful, Russia will become the first country in history to have an operational cruise missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead that moves on a nuclear propulsion system, giving it an unlimited range that can hit any other point on the planet from any point.

"Russia appears to be on the verge of conducting a new test of its controversial nuclear-powered cruise missile, the 9M730 Burevestnik (NATO code: SSC-X-9 Skyfall), from the Pankovo range in the Arctic Archipelago of

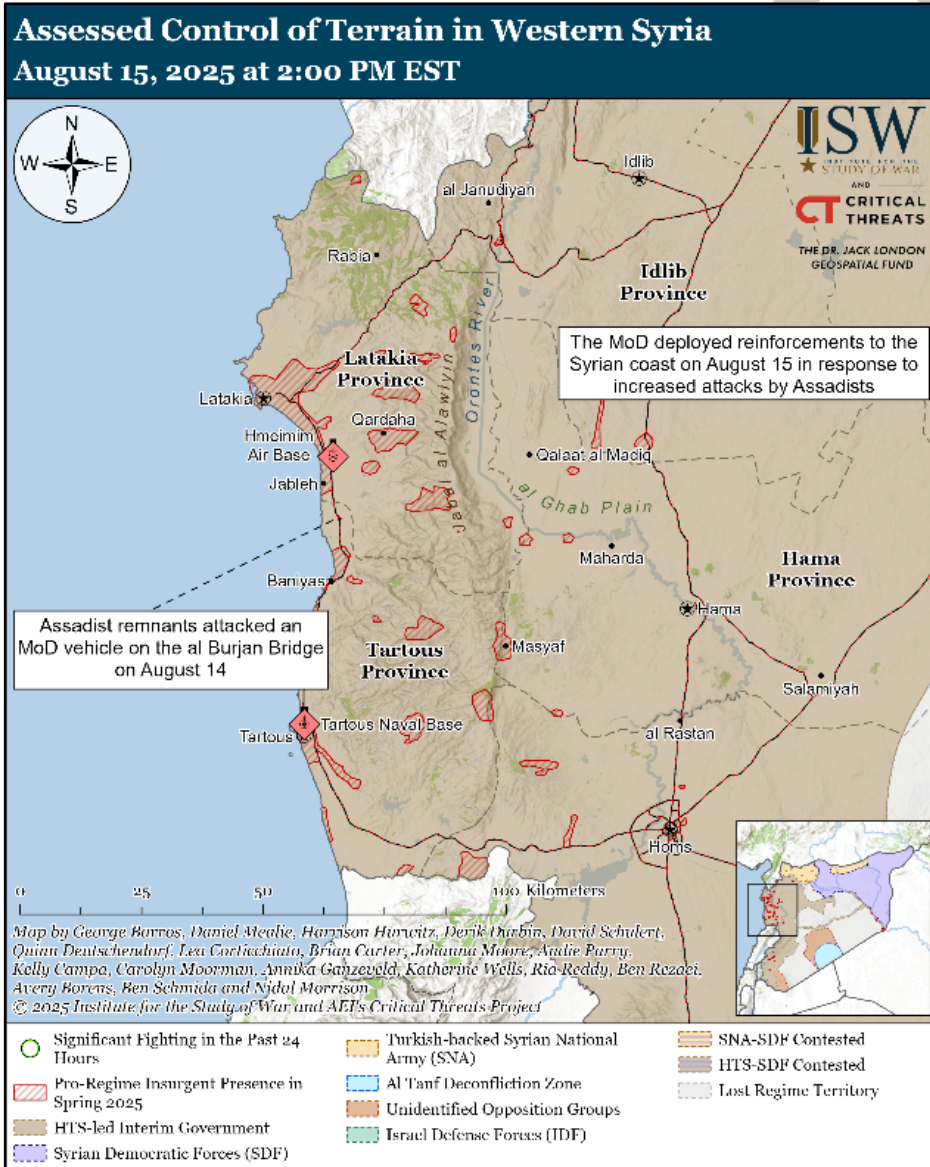
Novaya Zemlya," Defense Romania reported. While Moscow has not made any official announcement, multiple clues point in this direction.

## CENTCOM

## ISW: CENTCOM UPDATE

## Key Takeaways:

- Syria:** Assadist remnants have reportedly increased attacks targeting Syrian transitional government forces on the Syrian coast in recent days, which underscores the continued threat that Assadist remnants pose to Syrian security. The Syrian Ministry of Defense (MoD) stated on 15 August that Assadist attacks targeting MoD forces in Latakia and Tartous provinces have increased over the past three days. Assadist remnants attacked a MoD vehicle on the al Burjan Bridge in Latakia Province on 14 August. The MoD deployed significant reinforcements, including armored units, to the Syrian coast on 15 August in response to the increase in attacks. Transitional government forces previously arrested Assadist remnants who likely attempted to conduct a false flag attack on a church in Tartous Province on 6 August.
- Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) Dissolution:** Iranian-backed Iraqi militia Kataib Hezbollah Secretary General Abu Hussein al Hamidawi published a statement on 15 August in which he called for strengthening Iranian-backed Iraqi militias, likely in response to recent U.S. efforts to weaken the Axis of Resistance. Hamidawi underlined the necessity of “supporting” Iranian-backed Iraqi militias with advanced weapons, enhanced technical capabilities, and improved “defensive and destructive capacities.”
- Iran-Houthi Relations:** Iranian Supreme Leader International Affairs Adviser Ali Akbar Velayati emphasized Iranian support for the Houthis during a meeting with the Houthi representative to Iran on 14 August. Velayati denied that the Axis of Resistance has weakened and underlined the Houthis' pivotal role in the Axis of Resistance's war against Israel in a meeting with Houthi Representative to Iran Ibrahim al Dailami.
- Hezbollah Disarmament:** Hezbollah Secretary General Naim Qassem threatened to incite anti-government protests in Lebanon if the Lebanese government attempts to disarm Hezbollah during a speech on August 15. Qassem reiterated that Hezbollah will not surrender its weapons until Israel halts its operations and withdraws from southern Lebanon.





## **REUTERS: TURKEY TO HELP SYRIA WITH WEAPON SYSTEMS, EQUIPMENT UNDER NEW ACCORD**



Turkey will provide weapons systems and logistical tools to Syria under a military cooperation accord signed on 13 August, a Turkish Defense Ministry source said, adding that Ankara would also train the Syrian army in using such equipment if needed.

Turkey, a NATO member, has been one of Syria's main foreign allies since the ousting of President Bashar al-Assad last year. It has vowed to help train and restructure Syria's armed forces, rebuild the country and its institutions, and support efforts to protect Syrian territorial integrity.

In a first step towards a comprehensive military cooperation accord that they have been negotiating for months, Turkey and Syria inked a memorandum of understanding on 13 August after meetings between their foreign and defense ministers, and intelligence chiefs.

"The memorandum aims to coordinate, plan military training and cooperation, provide consultancy, information and experience sharing, ensure the procurement of military equipment, weapon systems, logistical materials and related services," the Turkish Defense Ministry source told reporters on 14 August.

## **NORTHCOM**

### **DEFENSEPOST: U.S. FIRM BUILDS CHINESE HQ-22 AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM REPLICA FOR USAF**

U.S. defense contractor Torch Technologies is producing a batch of China's HQ-22 surface-to-air missile system full-scale replicas for U.S. Air Force (USAF) training purposes.

The Alabama-based company said the copies do not have firing capabilities, but they will feature the weapon's look, radar signature, heat signals, and battlefield behavior to enhance aircrew and electronic warfare teams' familiarity with the enemy military hardware. The mock-ups are being designed to "increase the realism for training and testing of our nation's service members" without exposing them to the risks of handling the actual equipment.

HQ-22 typically compared to the U.S. Patriot and Russian S-300 systems, the Chinese-made HQ-22 is a long-range air defense missile system with an operational range of up to 170 kilometers (105 miles). It can simultaneously engage a variety of aerial threats, including fourth-generation aircraft, ballistic and cruise missiles, and drones.



# CYBERCOM

## **REUTERS: POLAND FOILED CYBERATTACK ON BIG CITY'S WATER SUPPLY**

A large Polish city could have had its water supply cut off on 13 August as a result of a cyberattack, a deputy prime minister said after the intrusion was foiled.

Poland has said that its role as a hub for aid to Ukraine makes it a target for Russian cyberattacks and acts of sabotage. Gawkowski has described Poland in the past as the "main target" for Russia among NATO countries.

Gawkowski told Onet that the cyberattack could have meant there would be no water in one of Poland's big cities. "At the last moment we managed to see to it that when the attack began, our services had found out about it and we shut everything down. We managed to prevent the attack."

He said Poland manages to thwart 99% of cyberattacks. Gawkowski last year that Poland would spend over 3 billion zlotys (\$800 million) to boost cybersecurity after the state news agency PAP was hit by what authorities said was likely to have been a Russian cyberattack.





# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



AFMFC A2: World Threat Brief CAO: 10 June 2025

<https://usaf.dps.mil/sites/22244/SitePages/Command-Intel-Threat-Brief.aspx>



**China Aerospace Studies Institute:** CASI supports the Secretary of the Air Force, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other senior leaders of the Air and Space Forces. CASI provides expert research and analysis supporting decision and policy makers in the Department of Defense and across the U.S. government.

<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/CASI/>



**Research and Development Corporation (RAND):** RAND is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization that provides leaders with the information they need to make evidence-based decisions.

<https://www.rand.org/>



**Institute for the Study of War:** The Institute for the Study of War (ISW) is a non-partisan, non-profit, public policy research organization. ISW advances an informed understanding of military affairs through reliable research, trusted analysis, and innovative education.

<https://www.understandingwar.org/>



**Stockholm International Peace Research Institute:** SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. Established in 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.

<https://www.sipri.org/>



**Strategic Forecasting Inc. (VIA AF PORTAL):** Strategic Forecasting Inc., commonly known as Stratfor, is an American strategic intelligence publishing company founded in 1996. Stratfor's business model is to provide individual and enterprise subscriptions to Stratfor Worldview, its online publication, and to perform intelligence gathering for corporate clients.

<https://worldview.stratfor.com/>



**Defense Intelligence Agency Military Power Publications:** an intelligence agency and combat support agency of the United States Department of Defense, specializing in defense and military intelligence.

<https://www.dia.mil/Military-Power-Publications/>



**Perun:** An Australian covering the military industrial complex and national military investment strategy.

<https://www.youtube.com/@PerunAU>



**Task & Purpose:** Task & Purpose was founded in 2014 with a mission to inform, engage, entertain, and stand up for active-duty military members, veterans, and their families. The site quickly became one of the most trusted news and investigative journalism sources for the military, with its journalists reporting everywhere from the Pentagon to The White House and beyond.

<https://www.youtube.com/@Taskandpurpose>



**The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS):** is a bipartisan, nonprofit policy research organization dedicated to advancing practical ideas to address the world's greatest challenges.

<https://www.csis.org/>



**FRONTLINE** examines the rise of Xi Jinping, his vision for China and the global implications. Correspondent Martin Smith traces the defining moments for President Xi, how he's exercising power and his impact on China, and relations with the U.S. and the world.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/china-the-u-s-the-rise-of-xi-jinping/>