



GRYPHON GROWL

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July 8, 2025



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SIPR

go.intelink.sgov.gov/CPI6RmN
 Current Intelligence Brief (Monthly)

JWICS

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

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Gryphon Growl Feedback Form: <https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/WhpBtWbWYi>

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 Your input helps improve and enhance our product.

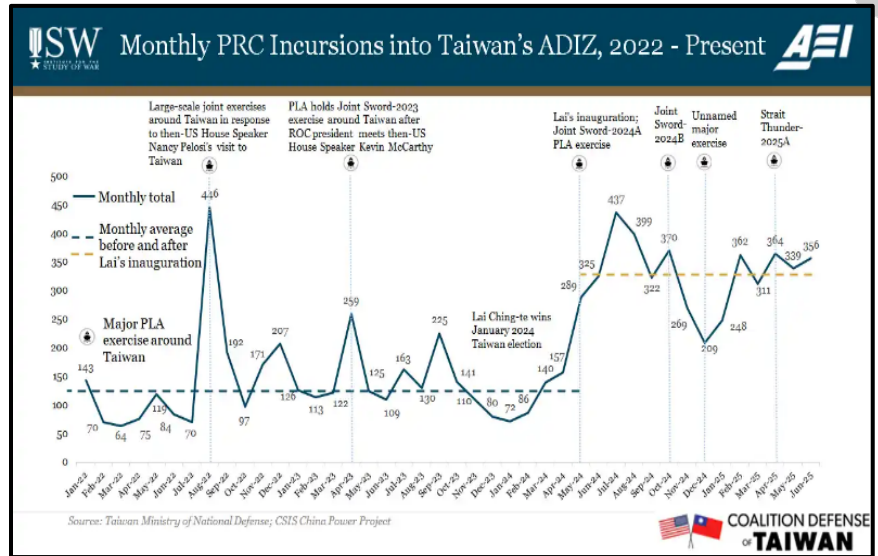
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INDOPACOM

ISW: CHINA-TAIWAN UPDATE

Key Takeaways:

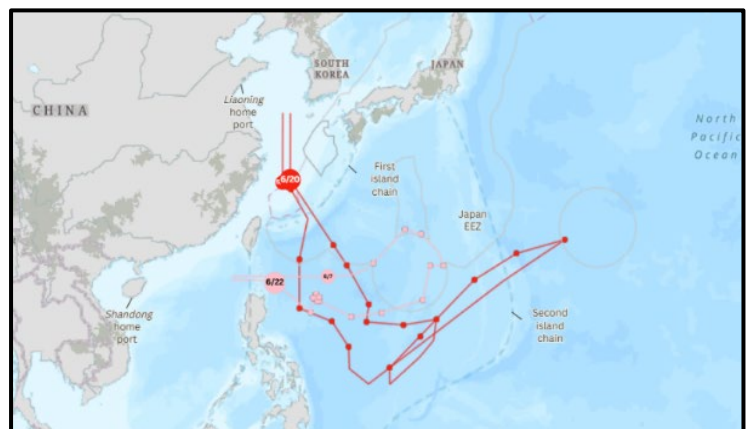
- PRC:** The PRC is leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) company DeepSeek to support its military and intelligence apparatus, taking further steps towards "intelligentization". An unnamed senior U.S. State Department official reported that DeepSeek is referenced more than 150 times in publicly unavailable procurement records for the PLA and other entities affiliated with the Chinese defense industrial base.
- Taiwan:** Taiwan is expanding and modernizing its annual Han Kuang joint military exercise to prepare its military and population for a PLA invasion. These changes reflect Taiwanese President Lai's emphasis on societal resilience and national defense and unity against PRC aggression and coercion.
- Korean Peninsula:** North Korea and South Korea continue to strengthen their defenses around their shared border, despite newly elected South Korean President Lee's emphasis on inter-Korean cooperation. Lee has called for the reinstatement of the CMA, which collapsed in November 2023.
- Iran:** Iran may be seeking closer military cooperation with the PRC as an alternative to Russia, but the PRC has shown no willingness to assist Iran materially. Iranian Defense Minister Aziz Nasir Zadeh met with PRC Defense Minister Dong Jun on June 26 while attending the defense ministers' meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, his first foreign trip since the Israeli and U.S. strikes on Iran.



NEWSWEEK: CHINA REVEALS DETAILS OF DUAL AIRCRAFT CARRIER OPERATIONS IN WEST PACIFIC

The Chinese navy said on 30 June that its two aircraft carriers repeatedly encountered foreign warships and aircraft while operating simultaneously in the broader western Pacific. Both CNS Liaoning and CNS Shandong maintained "high vigilance and responsiveness" to combat scenarios, handling the situation "professionally and soundly," China's navy said.

The Liaoning and the Shandong were deployed for about two weeks in June on the eastern side of a U.S. defensive line known as the first island chain—comprising Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines in the western Pacific. Japan, a U.S. treaty ally, closely monitored the dual Chinese aircraft carrier deployment—the second such operation since October in the South China Sea—during which one of its patrol aircraft was intercepted by missile-armed fighter jets launched from the Shandong.



Both the Liaoning and the Shandong have completed "far-sea combat-oriented training" and returned to their respective home ports of Qingdao and Sanya, according to China's navy. Regarding the "coordinated and systematic" training, both Chinese aircraft carriers conducted a series of drills—including reconnaissance and early warning, counterstrikes, maritime assaults, air defense and aircraft flight operations—under "combat conditions."

DEFENSEPOST: TWO CHINESE NATIONALS ARRESTED IN U.S. FOR ESPIONAGE



Two Chinese nationals have been arrested for espionage and for allegedly seeking to recruit members of the U.S. Navy to serve as intelligence assets, the Justice Department said on 1 July.

Yuance Chen, 38, and Liren Lai, 39, face charges of acting as agents of the Chinese government and a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison if convicted, the department said.

Chen, a resident of Happy Valley, Oregon, and Lai, who arrived in Houston, Texas, in April on a tourist visa, were arrested by the FBI on 27 June, it said.

According to a criminal complaint, Chen and Lai carried out a number of intelligence activities in the United States on behalf of China's Ministry of State Security.

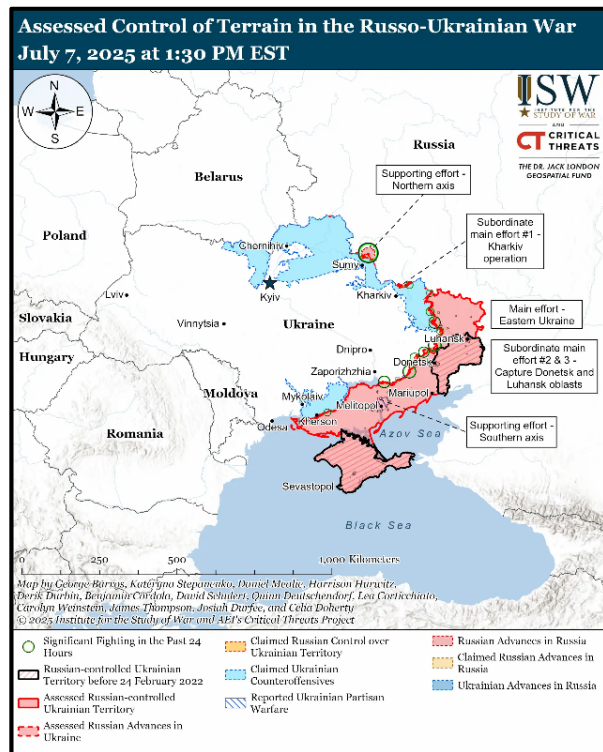
The activities included paying cash for national security information and seeking to recruit members of the U.S. Navy as potential assets of the Ministry of State Security. "This case underscores the Chinese government's sustained and aggressive effort to infiltrate our military and undermine our national security from within," Attorney General Pamela Bondi said in a statement. According to the criminal complaint, Lai recruited Chen, a legal permanent resident of the United States, to work for the Ministry of State Security in 2021.

EUCOM

ISW: RUSSIA-UKRAINE UPDATE

Key Takeaways:

- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reiterated the Kremlin's rejection of a ceasefire and unchanged demands, including demilitarization and regime change in Ukraine.
- Russia is leveraging its "Rubikon" Center for Advanced Unmanned Technologies to improve its theater-wide drone capabilities, including in priority frontline areas in Donetsk Oblast.
- Russian forces have yet to reach parity with Ukraine's innovative and deeply integrated drone program, however.
- Russian forces appear to be reprioritizing offensive operations in the Pokrovsk direction over the Kostyantynivka direction after several weeks of unsuccessful activity aimed at advancing toward Kostyantynivka.
- Russian Minister of Transport and former Kursk Oblast Governor Roman Starovoit reportedly recently committed suicide after Russian President Vladimir Putin removed Starovoit from his position, likely due in part to the Ministry of Transport's role in Russian failures that enabled Ukraine's Operation Spider Web in June 2025.
- Putin may have planned to punish Starovoit by arresting him on charges related to his time as the governor of Kursk Oblast in order to avoid acknowledging the Kremlin's failure to prevent Operation Spider Web.
- Ukrainian forces continue to conduct long-range strikes against Russia's defense industrial base (DIB).
- Ukrainian forces recently advanced near Novopavlivka. Russian forces recently advanced in northern Sumy Oblast and near Toretsk, Pokrovsk, and Novopavlivka.



AP: RUSSIA RAMPS UP ITS OFFENSIVE, PUTTING PRESSURE ON UKRAINE'S RESERVE TROOPS

Russia stepping up attacks in Ukraine's northeast and east

Russian forces, unable to attack the well fortified city of Pokrovsk head on, are attempting to encircle the strategic logistics hub, an operation that requires encroaching the borders of neighboring Dnipropetrovsk region.



An emboldened Russia has ramped up military offensives on two fronts in Ukraine, scattering Kyiv's precious reserve troops and threatening to expand the fighting to a new Ukrainian region as each side seeks an advantage before the fighting season wanes in the autumn.

Moscow aims to maximize its territorial gains before seriously considering a full ceasefire, analysts and military commanders said. Ukraine wants to slow the Russian advance for as long as possible and extract heavy losses.

Kremlin forces are steadily gaining ground in the strategic eastern logistics hub of Pokrovsk, the capture of which would hand them a major battlefield victory and bring them closer to acquiring the entire Donetsk region. The fighting there has also brought combat to the border of the neighboring Dnipropetrovsk region for the first time.

In an effort to prevent Moscow from bolstering those positions in the east, Ukrainian forces are trying to pin down some of Russia's best and most battle-hardened troops hundreds of kilometers away, in the northeast Sumy region.

"The best-case scenario for Ukraine," said Russian-British military historian Sergey Radchenko, "is that they're able to stall or stop the Russian advance" in the Ukrainian industrial heartland known as Donbas, which includes the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Then Ukraine could "use that as the basis for a ceasefire agreement."

DEFENSEPOST: ERDOGAN CONFIDENT TURKEY TO BE READMITTED TO U.S. F-35 PROGRAM IN STAGES



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has expressed confidence Turkey would be readmitted to the U.S. F-35 program and receive the stealth fighter jets in line with "an agreement" with U.S. President Donald Trump.

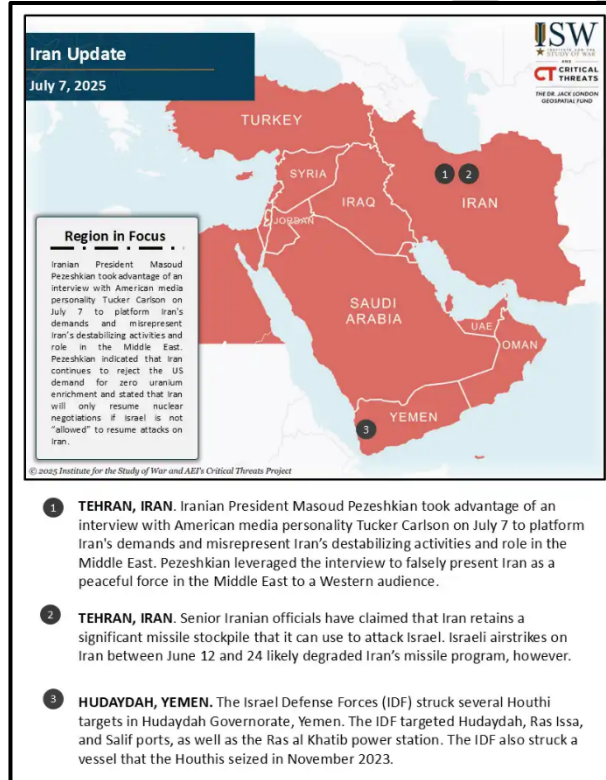
Washington booted Turkey out of its F-35 program in 2019 and a year later imposed sanctions on Ankara over its purchase of an S-400 Russian surface-to-air missile defense system, but since Trump's return to office, the two NATO allies appear keen to end the dispute.

"I believe that Mr. Trump will remain loyal to the agreement we made. I think the F-35s will be delivered to Turkey step-by-step during his term," Erdogan said while returning from Azerbaijan, the Anadolu state news agency reported on 5 July.

CENTCOM

ISW: CENTCOM UPDATE – IRAN UPDATE**Key Takeaways:**

- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian took advantage of an interview with American media personality Tucker Carlson on July 7 to platform Iran's demands and misrepresent Iran's destabilizing activities and role in the Middle East. Pezeshkian leveraged the interview to falsely present Iran as a peaceful force in the Middle East to a Western audience.
- Senior Iranian officials have claimed that Iran retains a significant missile stockpile that it can use to attack Israel. Israeli airstrikes on Iran between June 12 and 24 likely degraded Iran's missile program, however.
- The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) struck several Houthi targets in Hudaydah Governorate, Yemen. The Israeli strikes follow a Houthi ballistic missile attack targeting Ben Gurion Airport in central Israel on July 5.
- The Houthis claimed responsibility for a July 6 complex attack targeting the Liberian-flagged bulk carrier *Magic Seas* off the coast of Hudaydah, Yemen. The Houthis had not attacked a merchant vessel in the Red Sea since November 2024. This attack highlights that the Houthis remain capable of resuming attacks on ships whenever they want and for reasons they choose.

**THEGUARDIAN: PENTAGON SAYS U.S. STRIKES SET BACK IRAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM 'ONE TO TWO YEARS'**

The Pentagon has collected intelligence material that suggests Iran's nuclear program was set back roughly one to two years as a result of the U.S. strikes on three key facilities last month, the chief spokesperson at the defense department said at a news conference on 2 July.

"We have degraded their program by one to two years," Parnell said at a news conference held at the Pentagon. "At least, intel assessments inside the department assess that."

Parnell's description of the strikes marked a more measured estimate than Trump's assertions about the level of destruction. A low-confidence Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) report based on early assessments said Iran's program was set back several months.

The evolving picture of the severity of the damage to Iran's nuclear program comes as U.S. intelligence agencies have continued to push out new assessments, using materials that suggested the centrifuges at the key Fordow enrichment site were destroyed even if it was unclear whether the facility itself had caved in.

REUTERS: NETANYAHU MEETS TRUMP AT WHITE HOUSE AS ISRAEL, HAMAS DISCUSS CEASEFIRE

U.S. President Donald Trump, hosting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House on 7 July, said the United States had scheduled talks with Iran and indicated progress on a controversial effort to relocate Palestinians out of Gaza.

Speaking to reporters at the beginning of a dinner between U.S. and Israeli officials, Netanyahu said the United States and Israel were working with other countries who would give Palestinians a "better future," suggesting that the residents of Gaza could move to neighboring nations.

"If people want to stay, they can stay, but if they want to leave, they should be able to leave," Netanyahu said.

"We're working with the United States very closely about finding countries that will seek to realize what they always say, that they wanted to give the Palestinians a better future. I think we're getting close to finding several countries."



AP: SHIP ATTACKED IN THE RED SEA AFTER A BULK CARRIER SINKING CLAIMED BY YEMEN'S HOUTHI REBELS



A Liberian-flagged cargo ship came under fire from Houthi rebels on 7 July in the Red Sea, with two on board reported to be hurt and two others missing in an assault a day after the Yemen-based rebels sunk another vessel.

The attack on the Greek-owned bulk carrier Eternity C in the crucial maritime route came after the Houthis attacked the Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned bulk carrier Magic Seas with drones, missiles, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire on 6 July, forcing its crew of 22 to abandon the vessel.

The two attacks and a round of Israeli airstrikes early on 7 July targeting the rebels raised fears of a renewed Houthi campaign against shipping that could again draw in U.S. and Western forces, particularly after U.S. President Donald Trump's administration targeted the rebels in a major airstrike campaign.

CYBERCOM

BLEEPINGCOMPUTER: GERMANY ASKS GOOGLE, APPLE TO REMOVE DEEPSEEK AI FROM APP STORES



The Berlin Commissioner for Data Protection has formally requested Google and Apple to remove the DeepSeek AI application from the application stores due to GDPR violations.

The commissioner, Meike Kamp, alleges that DeepSeek's owner, Hangzhou DeepSeek Artificial Intelligence, based in Beijing, unlawfully collects data from German users and transfers them for processing in servers in China.

However, China has very lax data protection regulations and a history of excessive data access requests to private entities. Because of this, it is unlikely that DeepSeek has implemented sufficient legal safeguards to guarantee its security to EU standards.

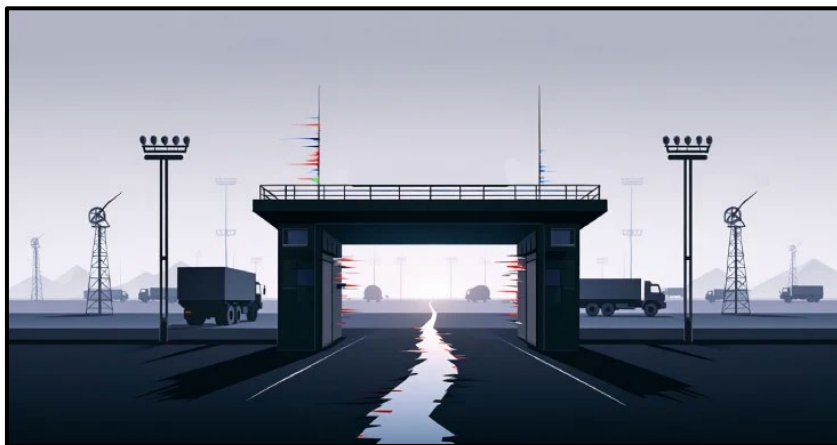
"The company has no branch within the European Union (EU)," explains the commissioner. "The service is made available to users in Germany, among other places, through apps in the Google Play Store and Apple App Store with German-language descriptions and can be used in the German language." "This makes the service subject to the provisions of the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)."

DeepSeek is a Chinese AI platform that rose to prominence in January 2025 after the release of the third generation of its chatbot, which came with extensive capabilities. Although this sudden popularity was quickly tarnished by serious cybersecurity problems that exposed insecure practices, the platform continued to enjoy popularity in the global AI community. The DeepSeek AI app has 50 million downloads on Google Play, Android's official app store, and thousands of ratings on Apple's App Store. Kamp had requested DeepSeek to voluntarily remove its apps from app stores in Germany May 6, 2025, but the company refused to comply.

THEHACKERNEWS: U.S. AGENCIES WARN OF RISING IRANIAN CYBER ATTACKS ON DEFENSE, OT NETWORKS, AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. cybersecurity and intelligence agencies have issued a joint advisory warning of potential cyber attacks from Iranian state-sponsored or affiliated threat actors.

"Over the past several months, there has been increasing activity from hackers and Iranian government-affiliated actors, which is expected to escalate due to recent events," the agencies said. "These cyber actors often exploit targets of opportunity based on the use of unpatched or outdated software with known Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures or the use of default or common passwords on internet-connected accounts and devices."



There is currently no evidence of a coordinated campaign of malicious cyber activity in the U.S. that can be attributed to Iran, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center, and the National Security Agency noted. Emphasizing the need for "increased vigilance," the agencies singled out Defense Industrial Base companies, specifically those with ties to Israeli research and defense firms, as being at an elevated risk. U.S. and Israeli entities may also be exposed to distributed denial-of-service attacks and ransomware campaigns.

Attackers often start with reconnaissance tools like Shodan to find vulnerable internet-facing devices, especially in industrial control system environments. Once inside, they can exploit weak segmentation or misconfigured firewalls to move laterally across networks. Iranian groups have previously used remote access tools, keyloggers, and even legitimate admin utilities like PsExec or Mimikatz to escalate access—all while evading basic endpoint defenses.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



AFMC A2: World Threat Brief CAO: 16 April 2024

<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/>



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<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>



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<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/>