



GRYPHON GROWL

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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)
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INDOPACOM

DEFENSENEWS: CHINA TO PARADE NEW MISSILES IN BEIJING



Russian and North Korean leaders Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, respectively, joined Chinese leader Xi Jinping on the Tiananmen Square rostrum in Beijing on 3 September to witness a parade vaunting China's military might.

Among the People's Liberation Army (PLA) military kit rolling along Chang'an Avenue was a host of new weapon systems, including ballistic, cruise, anti-ship and air defense missiles.

The parade will ostensibly celebrate "the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War," according to China.

With several parade rehearsals having taken place already, numerous new missiles to be unveiled in the parade have been spotted. Among them are the DF-26D and HQ-29.

After its unveiling in 2015, the DF-26 intermediate-range ballistic missile was christened the "Guam killer" since it has sufficient range to reach the U.S. Island territory from China. The Pentagon's most recent China military power report noted: "The multirole DF-26 is designed to rapidly swap conventional and nuclear warheads and is capable of conducting precision land attack and anti-ship strikes in the Western Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea from mainland China."

The report estimated the PLA owns 250 launchers and 500 missiles already. Few analysts were expecting a DF-26D variant, and it is still unclear what enhancements the new missile possesses. Some speculate it might incorporate active radar seekers or decoys to defeat missile defense systems. Whatever its improvements are, the DF-26 will continue to threaten all U.S. bases in the Western Pacific.

TWZ: CHINA'S NEW DF-61 INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE BREAKS COVER

What looks to be a new Chinese road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) dubbed the DF-61, or at least a transporter-erector-launcher (TEL) for it, has emerged amid last-minute preparations for a massive military parade in Beijing. There have been reports for some time now that China has been developing next-generation ICBMs, including a successor to its road-mobile DF-41 ICBM, as part of a larger buildup of its nuclear deterrent arsenal.

Imagery showing 16-wheeled TELs loaded at least with canisters marked DF-61 (whether or not there is an actual missile inside is unknown) is now beginning to circulate online. It is currently early morning on 3 September in Beijing. Preparations for the imminent parade, which will mark the 80th anniversary of the country's victory over Japan in World War II, have been going on for months now, and various new capabilities have already surfaced.



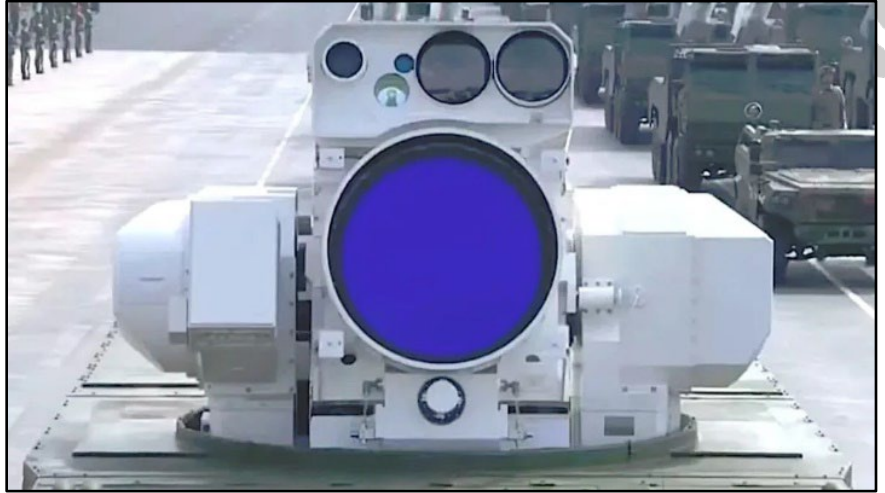
No hard details have yet to emerge about the DF-61, and it is unknown at this time whether or not it is said to be in service. A point of reference, the DF-41 was first shown to the public at another major parade in 2019, but its development is understood to have started before 2000, and it had reportedly begun entering operational service in 2017. The DF-41 is some 20 meters long, has an estimated range of between 12,000 and 15,000 kilometers, and can be loaded with up to 10 multiple independently-targetable reentry vehicle (MIRV) warheads, according to the Missile Defense Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) think tank.

TWZ: CHINA'S IMPOSING LY-1 HIGH-POWER LASER WEAPON UNVEILED AT HUGE MILITARY PARADE

A very large directed energy laser weapon was among the new capabilities officially rolled out for the first time at a massive military parade in China. Called the LY-1, the laser has so far been described as primarily intended for shipboard self-defense, but was shown at the 3 September event in a form that also points to land-based applications.

The 3 September parade in Beijing was months in the making, and new drones, missiles, and other systems had already emerged during the preparations. The event marked the 80th anniversary of what was then the Republic of China's victory over Japan during World War II.

Despite its official unveiling, much about the turreted LY-1 laser, including its power rating, remains unknown. It has a single, very large circular aperture for its beam director. There are also multiple smaller circular apertures, some of which would be tied to electro-optical and/or infrared cameras used for target acquisition and tracking. A box-like structure on the right side of the turret (left when viewed from the front) might hold an additional sensor, such as a radar or passive radio-frequency sensor, or other components of the system.



"The LY-1 has sufficient space for power units, meaning that it could have higher power, enabling it to be capable of intercepting not only attacks from unmanned equipment, but also anti-ship missiles, with very low-cost for each interception," according to a report on 3 September from China's *Global Times* newspaper, an outlet run by the ruling Chinese Communist Party, citing an independent expert. "Shipborne laser weapons can effectively damage the optical sensors of enemy weapons and equipment."

TWZ: CHINA UNVEILS LARGE UNMANNED STEALTH FIGHTER DESIGN DURING MILITARY PARADE



The massive military parade in Beijing on 3 September has provided us with a much closer look at some of the country's new air combat drone initiatives, the gradual emergence of which, in the run-up to the event, prompted much discussion. Of these various drone designs, one, in particular, stands out. This is a low-observable tailless design that is also very large, broadly equivalent in size to China's J-10 medium-weight fighter. Overall, its design is indicative of high performance, pointing firmly to a true uncrewed stealth fighter, while its appearance suggests that it may well already be flyable — or is otherwise a very authentic mock-up.

While the designation of the new drone remains unknown, there have been claims that it is provisionally named Unmanned Air Superiority Fighter. Meanwhile, for the sake of clarity, China-watchers have taken to referring to this design as the Type B drone.

The drone in question was shown among other uncrewed designs on the back of a flatbed truck during the 3 September parade marking the 80th anniversary of China's victory over Japan in World War II. Seen now in full, and uncovered, the drone is significantly bigger than the other previously unknown designs that had been seen ahead of the parade, in satellite imagery and covered with tarpaulins during rehearsals. Collectively, the various new drone designs — at least five in total — were widely considered to be something akin to Chinese equivalents of the U.S. Air Force's Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA).

MILITARYWATCH: RUSSIAN AND CHINESE SUBMARINES CONDUCT FIRST EVER JOINT PATROL



The Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy and the Russian Navy have for the first time conducted a joint patrol in the Pacific, at a time of increasingly close defence cooperation between the two neighbours. This follows the first ever deployment of Chinese submarines to Russia for joint exercises in late July. The Russian Navy Pacific Fleet reported regarding the operation: "The joint patrol was launched in early August, after the Russian-Chinese drills Maritime Interaction 2025 had concluded in the Sea of Japan. The diesel-electric submarine Volkhov of the Pacific Fleet and a submarine of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy took to patrolling along an approved route in the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea." The Russian submarine, a Kilo Class vessel, reportedly covered over 2,000 nautical miles during its voyage.

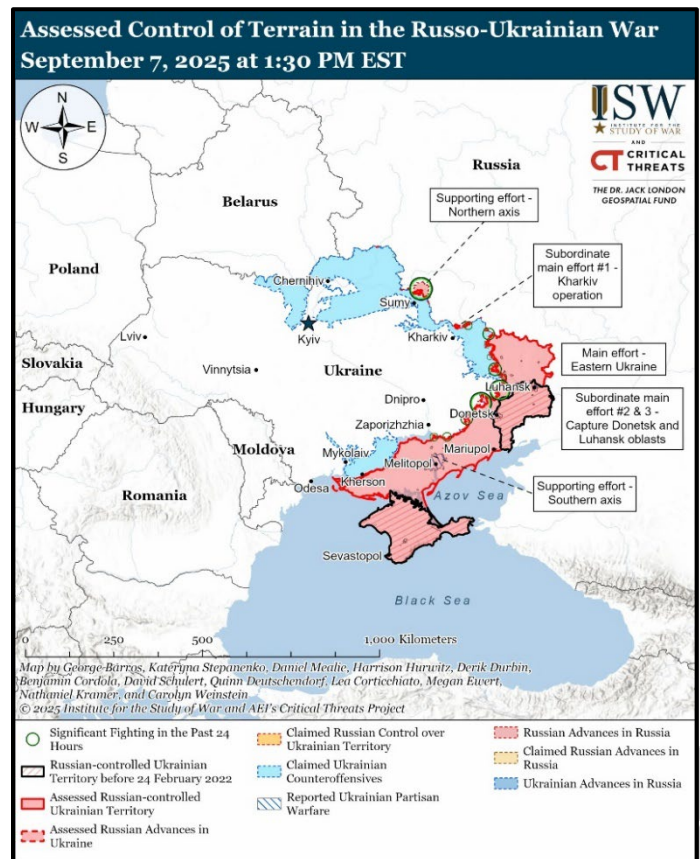
China has deployed warships for joint operations with the Russian Navy on multiple occasions, including in Eastern Europe and in the Eastern Mediterranean. A possible next step after joint short ranged patrols using diesel electronic submarines would be the deployment of much larger long ranged nuclear powered attack submarines for joint patrols or operations in the Pacific. Joint operations by Chinese and Russian aviation units have also escalated significantly in recent years, with the two countries having conducted multiple joint bomber patrols since the late 2010s. A major landmark in June 2024 saw Chinese H-6 bombers deployed beyond the Pacific for operations off the coast of Alaska, which required them to land and refuel on Russian territory before accompanying Russian Tu-95MS bombers to fly unprecedentedly close to the continental United States. China has also significantly increased its participation in exercises with Belarus, Moscow's sole ally in Europe, and in July 2024 deployed ground forces to the country for Eagle Assault 2024 drills near the Belarusian-Polish border. These exercises have served to increase interoperability while helping Russia and Belarus to shoulder fast mounting pressure on their defences from NATO members.

EUCOM

ISW: RUSSIA-UKRAINE UPDATE

Key Takeaways:

- Russia launched its largest combined drone and missile strike against Ukraine of the war to date on the night of 6 to 7 September with 823 total projectiles.
- The Russian Ministry of Defense (MoD) attempted to deny that Russian forces struck civilian infrastructure across Ukraine or the Cabinet of Ministers building within Kyiv City.
- Russian drone strike packages against Ukraine will likely continue to expand if Russia is able to increase its long-range strike drone production.
- Russia is continuing to expand its long-range strike drone production in part due to support from the People's Republic of China (PRC).
- Russia's latest strikes against Ukraine further demonstrate that Russian President Vladimir Putin is disinterested in ending his war in Ukraine and stopping the killing.
- Ukraine continued its attacks against military and oil infrastructure in Russia on the night of 6 to 7 September.
- Ukrainian forces advanced in the Kostyantynivka-Druzhkivka and Dobropillya tactical areas. Russian forces advanced in northern Kharkiv Oblast.



TWZ: RUSSIA JUST MADE ITS FIRST SUCCESSFUL DRONE BOAT ATTACK ON A UKRAINIAN NAVAL SHIP



Russia says it carried out a drone boat attack on a Ukrainian Navy reconnaissance ship in the mouth of the Danube River, marking Moscow's first confirmed use of these weapons that Ukraine has deployed to great effect. The Ukrainian Navy confirmed an attack on one of its ships but did not say how the strike was carried out. Meanwhile, Ukraine carried out an aerial drone strike deep behind enemy lines on a Russian missile corvette in the Sea of Azov.

"Using a high-speed uncrewed surface (USV) vehicle, the Ukrainian Navy's Simferopol medium reconnaissance ship was defeated at the River Danube mouth," the Russian Defense Ministry (MoD) claimed. "As a result of the attack, the Ukrainian ship sank."

"This marks the first recorded instance of Russian forces employing a naval drone to strike a Ukrainian warship," the official Ukrainian United24 media outlet reported. Ukrainian officials did not name the vessel or provide details about its status. "We confirm the fact of the strike on the ship," Ukrainian Navy spokesman Dmitry Pletenchuk told the Ukrainian Ukrinform news outlet. "Currently, the elimination of the consequences of the attack is ongoing. The overwhelming majority of the crew is safe. The search for several sailors continues. Unfortunately, one crew member was killed, and several were wounded."

DEFENSENEWS: RUSSIA'S 'ZAPAD' DRILL HAS EUROPE ON EDGE ABOUT LOW-KEY ATTACKS

As Russia and Belarus launch the "Zapad 2025" joint military drill this month, eyeing buildups of military forces along NATO's eastern borders and direct simulations of attacks on Poland and the Baltic States, the four Eastern European allies are gearing up for the drills of their own in anticipation of low-intensity attacks against their infrastructure.

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland plan to respond by holding their own training for some 40,000 troops to mirror "Zapad 2025."

This year's edition of the exercise is scheduled for 12 to 16 September. Russia used the previous "Zapad," or "West" in Russian, training in September 2021 to deploy the forces that eventually invaded Ukraine in February 2022 the following year.

The joint exercise usually takes place every two years, but the Kremlin decided to cancel the 2023 edition as Russia was struggling to source troops and gear for its aggression against Ukraine. While Moscow's military capacities continue to be largely tied up in the ongoing invasion, "Zapad 2025" is expected to comprise nuclear weapons and Russian-made hypersonic missiles.



CENTCOM

ISW: CENTCOM UPDATE

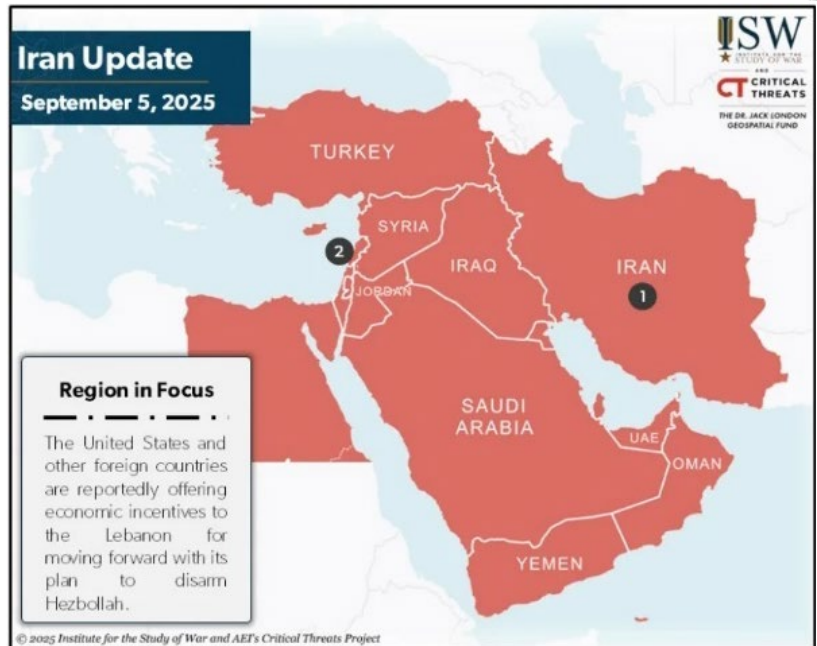
Key Takeaways:

Iran:

- **Snapback Sanctions:** Iran continued meeting with European officials and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) after the E3 (the United Kingdom, France, and Germany) triggered the snapback process, but Iranian officials show no indication that they will concede to E3 demands regarding the Iranian nuclear program.

Lebanon:

- **Hezbollah Disarmament:** The Lebanese Council of Ministers approved a plan on 5 September under which the Lebanese military will attempt to disarm Hezbollah. Hezbollah will likely try to subvert the Lebanese Armed Forces' (LAF) campaign to disarm Hezbollah over the fifteen-month implementation period to enable Hezbollah's reconstitution efforts and prevent the group's disarmament.
- **Economic Support for Lebanon:** The United States and other foreign countries are reportedly offering economic incentives to the Lebanese government for moving forward with its plan to disarm Hezbollah. These economic incentives would undermine Hezbollah's ability to build support among the Lebanese population by enabling the government to provide services that Hezbollah previously provided.



DEFENSEPOST: ISRAEL BUILDS UP MILITARY AHEAD OF GAZA CITY OFFENSIVE



Israel intensified its military build-up on 2 September as reservists began responding to call-up orders ahead of a planned offensive to capture Gaza City, nearly two years into a devastating war.

Despite mounting pressure at home and abroad to end its campaign in the Palestinian territory, Israel is gearing up to seize Gaza's largest city – intensifying bombardments and operating in the outskirts in recent days.

The United Nations estimates that nearly a million people live in Gaza City and its surroundings, where a famine has been declared.

In a statement, the military said it had in recent days “been carrying out logistical and operational preparations ahead of expanded combat operations and the large-scale mobilization of reservists.” Israeli media reported

that reservists began responding to draft orders, with Channel 12 saying a second wave was expected in November.

Approving the military's plans for the conquest of Gaza City in late August, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said he had authorized the call-up of about 60,000 reservists. At the time, an Israeli military official told journalists the draft would begin in September and that the main forces operating in Gaza in the next stage of the campaign would be active-duty forces, not reservists.

CYBERCOM

HACKERNEWS: IRANIAN HACKERS EXPLOIT 100+ EMBASSY EMAIL ACCOUNTS IN GLOBAL PHISHING TARGETING DIPLOMATS

An Iran-nexus group has been linked to a "coordinated" and "multi-wave" spear-phishing campaign targeting the embassies and consulates in Europe and other regions across the world.

The activity has been attributed by Israeli cybersecurity company Dream to Iranian-aligned operators connected to broader offensive cyber activity undertaken by a group known as Homeland Justice.

"Emails were sent to multiple government recipients worldwide, disguising legitimate diplomatic communication," the company said. "Evidence points toward a broader regional espionage effort aimed at diplomatic and governmental entities during a time of heightened geopolitical tension."

The attack chains involve the use of spear-phishing emails with themes related to geopolitical tensions between Iran and Israel to send a malicious Microsoft Word that, when opened, urges recipients to "Enable Content" to execute an embedded Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) macro, which is responsible for deploying the malware payload.

The email messages, per Dream, were sent to embassies, consulates, and international organizations across the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas, suggesting that the activity cast a wide phishing net. European embassies and African organizations are said to have been the most heavily targeted.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



AFMC 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>



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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/>