

Weekly Debrief: November 19, 2023

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U.S. Government Updates

Biden meets with Xi Jinping at Apec

President Biden met with General Secretary Xi on the sidelines of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in California for about four hours with other high-level officials. Some of the highlights of the meeting:

- Military-to-military communications will resume, to include U.S.-China Defense Policy Coordination Talks and the U.S.-China Military Maritime Consultative Agreement meetings
- Establishment of a working group to combat illicit drug manufacturing and trafficking; Affirmed need to address risks of AI systems; Increase passenger flights early next year and restore full implementation of the U.S.-China air transportation agreement

China's perspective:

- Xi noted the two countries are faced with two options "in the era of global transformations unseen in a century": either to enhance solidarity and cooperation or to provoke rivalry and confrontation
- China is promoting its rejuvenation through modernization and it will not seek hegemony or export its ideology
- Committed to developing its relationship to the U.S., but has interests that must be safeguarded and red lines that should not to be crossed
- The U.S. should stop arming Taiwan and that China will realize reunification

White House, MFA of the PRC

Congressional members raise issues on China pre-Biden's meeting with Xi

In several Congressional sessions, Senators Schumer (D-NY) and Cornyn (R-TX) separately called on Biden to specifically address the fentanyl crisis and Chinese companies producing precursor chemicals, and the need for reciprocity between U.S. and Chinese businesses.
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Commerce Secretary Raimondo's meeting with counterpart Wang Wentao

- Discussed progress made under the commercial issues working group; Agreed that subject matter experts from both sides will discuss the protection of trade secrets in January 2024
- Raimondo underscored U.S. export controls are narrowly targeted at technologies that have national security impact and looks forward to working with Ministry of Culture and Tourism to promote ties and plans to hold an in-person meeting in early 2024

China's perspective:

- Wang expressed concerns about recent U.S. semiconductor export controls
Dept of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce of the PRC

Department of Defense Updates

Army deploying new strike weapon in Indo-Pacific

According to U.S. Army Pacific commander Gen. Charles Flynn, the U.S. Army plans to deploy its new Mid-Range Capability (MRC) long-range launcher, known as 'Typhon,' in the Indo-Pacific next year. Flynn did not disclose if it would be place on foreign soil under an agreement or in the US territory of Guam.

Breaking Defense

Marines stand up new regiment in Japan

The Marine Corps established its second littoral regiment at Camp Hansen in Okinawa, Japan, where the 12th Marine Regiment was converted into the 12th Marine Littoral Regiment (MLR). The 12th MLR will integrate with the Joint Force, support deterrence efforts and remain prepared to respond to potential crises.

US Marines

US approves USD \$2.35 billion sale of Tomahawk missiles to Japan

The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Japan of Tomahawk Weapon System and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$2.35 billion.

- Japan has requested to buy up to two hundred (200) Tomahawk Block IV All Up Rounds (AURs) (RGM-109E); up to two hundred (200) Tomahawk Block V AURs (RGM-109E); and fourteen (14) Tactical Tomahawk Weapon Control Systems (TTWCS)
- Also included is support for the Tomahawk Weapon System (TWS) (the All Up Round, the Tactical Tomahawk Weapon Control Systems (TTWCS) and the Mission Distribution Software Suite Centers (MDSSC))

DSCA

Indo-Pacific partners meet to discuss fuel exchange agreements

International military petroleum, logistics, and financial representatives from countries bordering the Pacific and Indian oceans were invited to attend to learn more about how to strategically posture fuel access in the region.

- Agreements enable access to over 600 worldwide Defense Fuel Supply Points and authority to conduct replenishment at sea and aerial refueling
- DLA Energy's International Fuel Agreements team is responsible for establishing and maintaining long-term DoD fuel agreements with foreign militaries and currently has 40 fuel agreements across the world

Defense Logistics Agency

Pacific air chiefs gather to address regional security, strengthen partnerships

The heads of national air forces from around the globe participated in the opening ceremony for the week-long Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2023, held at Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint-Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Nov. 14. The symposium will feature panels discussing the importance of air domain awareness, lessons learned from recent conflicts, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The event will also feature several social engagements for the international partners to strengthen their bonds.

US Air Force

USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) returns to Yokosuka

The U.S. Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), returned to its forward-deployed port in Yokosuka, Japan, following a six-month deployment in the Indo-Pacific region, Nov. 19.

- Ronald Reagan participated in numerous multi-national integrated military exercises, with participants from the Navies of Japan Australia, Korea and Indonesia. Reagan travelled 56,219 nautical miles and conducted daily flight operations with fixed and rotary-wing aircraft amounting to 1,838 launches and recoveries, and 2,157 rotary wing sorties.

US Navy

Newly Released Reports

China's First Political School in Africa *Africa Center for Strategic Studies*

Investigating China's Economic Coercion: The Reach and Role of Chinese Corporate Entities *Atlantic Council*

PCH191 Modular Long-Range Rocket Launcher: Reshaping the PLA Army's Role in a Cross-Strait Campaign *China Maritime Studies Institute*

U.S.-China Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement *Congressional Research Service*

Annual Report to Congress: 2023 *U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission*