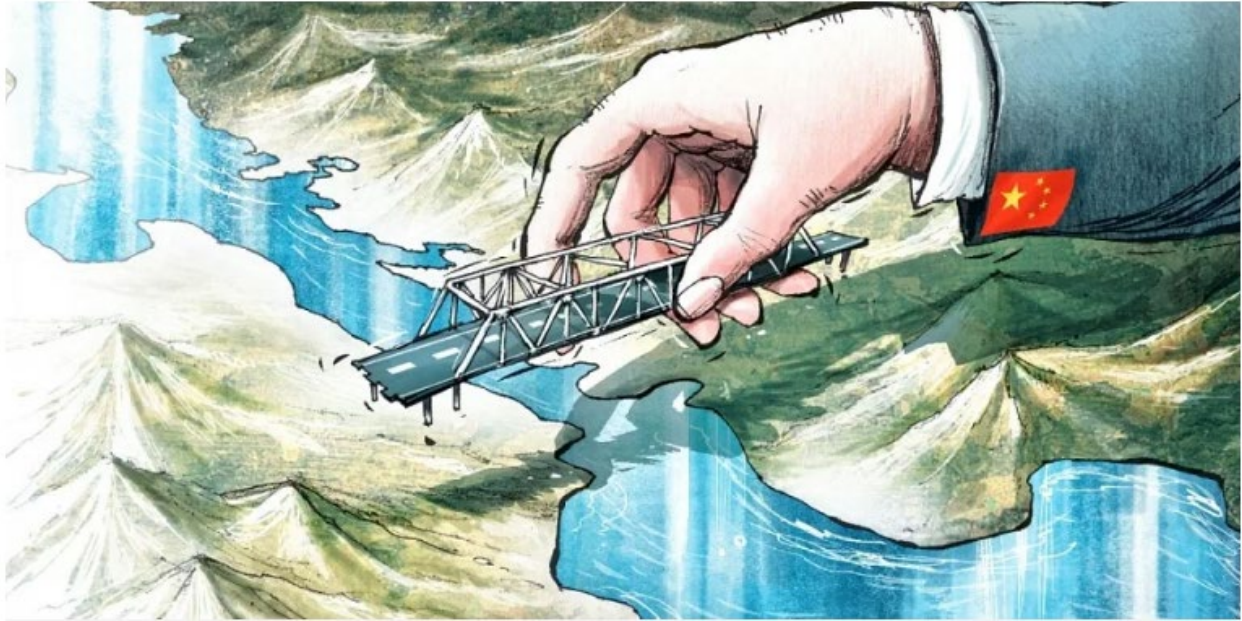


**Joint Intermediate Force Capabilities Office
Weekly Media Report
7 August 2023**



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This news and information summary is a compilation of selected unclassified stories and information distributed by the Joint Intermediate Force Capabilities Office's Public Affairs team. It is for official program use only. The intent of this summary is to provide media-based context regarding intermediate force capabilities (IFCs)/non-lethal weapons (NLWs) in all environments as well as other related program information of interest to the IFC/NLW communities. This e-mail contains material copyrighted by original media sources; copying or disseminating for private use or gain is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners. The views expressed in the selected stories are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Defense or the U.S. Government. (DoD 5230.29, August 13, 2014)".

NEWS ARTICLES

- The Institute for Defense Analysis published a report which examines strategic competition and the potential for a gray zone-origin military conflict between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the United States in the 2027 to 2032 timeframe.
- A Strategist articles compares the Korean War to current tensions in the Taiwan strait.
- Several items on grey zone conflict and strategy appeared in the Financial Times this week.
- India announces a paper being developed based on a multi-agency exercise to counter Chinese grey zone tactics.
- There were a pair of articles on development of laser weapons by other foreign countries.
- The Army awarded a counter-drone contract to a pair of companies.
- DOD has released their latest revision of the Law of War Manual.

GRAY ZONE COMPETITION

CHINA

Indian security agencies pool in ideas to counter China's 'invisible warfare'

By Mayank Singh, New Indian Express, 31 July 2023

The Indian security establishment has been conducting an exercise to bring multiple agencies on a common ground following China's wider application of 'Grey Zone Warfare.' The Grey Zone is defined as "competitive interactions among and within state and non-state actors that fall between the traditional war and peace duality" by the United States Special Operations Command.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2023/jul/31/indian-security-agencies-pool-in-ideas-to-counter-chinas-invisible-warfare-2600394.html>

The west must match Russia and China in the dark arts of the grey zone

By Micheal Miklaucic, Financial Times, 31 July 2023

Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine grinds into its 18th month. It is a war fought with blood and iron. Shorn of the nuance or ambiguity of the so-called grey zone, this is old-fashioned, heavy metal warfare. Desperate to prevail, Russia has dangled the threat of nuclear retaliation against any western-supported escalation. In these circumstances one might ask if the grey zone remains a valid concept? Are cyber attacks, disinformation and influence campaigns still relevant? The answer is a resounding "Yes".

<https://www.ft.com/content/255b091f-f885-4abe-b5c1-f99fb787cd8f>

Seventy years on, the Korean War still resonates

By John Blaxland, The Strategist, 28 July 2023

Commemorations in South Korea yesterday, and elsewhere around the world, marked the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice at Panmunjom on 27 July 1953. Today, amid the war in Ukraine and tensions in East Asia that could flare into hostilities, the lessons of the Korean conflict are worth close re-examination.

After three years of bloody and exhausting fighting, the armistice brought a fragile peace. With nuclear weapons having emerged as part of the deterrent suite of capabilities, the war was contained, in part resembling the front lines of World War I.

Beijing's approach of salami slicing—of engaging in persistent harassment to erode resolve and yet avoiding crossing a kinetic threshold into open warfare—appears akin to the ancient Chinese game of Go, in which players add pieces to the board and seek to flip rather than remove or destroy the pieces of their opponents. Clearly, the People's Liberation Army is preparing for the possibility of war. But I would contend that its martial capability is informed by the vulnerabilities of China's geostrategic challenges, its 'Malacca dilemma', and its reliance on trade and investment.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/seventy-years-on-the-korean-war-still-resonates/>

Letter: Deterrence tactics drive tensions in Taiwan Strait

By Michael Swain, Financial Times, 27 July 2023

Dealing effectively with the Chinese military's escalation in the use of "grey zone" tactics requires a clear understanding of the dynamics driving it and the essential elements involved in countering it. Unfortunately, Kathrin Hille's and Demetri Sevastopulo's analysis falls short on both counts (The Big Read, July 24).

The US, China and, to some extent, Taiwan are locked in an interactive, escalating dynamic marked by a myopic focus on military deterrence over credible levels of reassurance. China's escalating military threats against Taiwan are — to a great extent — a reaction to what Beijing regards as various US and Taiwanese efforts to establish the permanent separation of the island from China. They are deterrence actions, which prompt further destabilising military and diplomatic deterrence behaviour by Washington and Taipei, in an endless escalatory spiral. This dynamic is the key to understanding increasing tensions in the Taiwan Strait, not a possible factor to be mentioned in passing.

<https://www.ft.com/content/1c24643c-c8aa-44fa-a33a-9be96236b1a6>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE/DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY **2023 DOD MANUAL REVISION – THE CIVILIAN PRESUMPTION MISNOMER**

By Hitoshi Nasu & Sean Watts, Lieber Institute, 1 August 2023

The changes made to the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Law of War Manual published yesterday have given U.S. military lawyers and their clients a great deal to consider. In addition to the introductory posts by DoD General Counsel, the Honorable Caroline Krass, and by COL (ret.) Michael Meier, Special Assistant to the Army Judge Advocate General for Law of War Matters, Articles of War will offer a series of posts addressing these changes.

This post considers the reversal of the longstanding U.S. DoD position that a presumption of civilian status is neither legally required nor operationally advisable in the context of attacks against persons and objects during armed conflict. After sharing details of the prior policy and the revision, we briefly examine the presumption's roots in Additional Protocol I (AP I) to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. We then assess the revision's conclusion regarding the presumption's status as customary international law. Finally, we pose a series of questions to explore the revision's prudence as a measure of legal policy making and warfighting.

<https://lieber.westpoint.edu/civilian-presumption-misnomer/>

Related Article: <https://sites.duke.edu/lawfire/2023/08/04/dods-law-of-war-about-face-is-problematic-for-both-civilians-and-warfighters/>

OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Revolutionizing Warfare: How Asia Pacific Nations are Embracing Laser Weapon Systems

By Fagan Wassani, Fagan Wassani Technologies, 2 August 2023

In the ever-evolving landscape of modern warfare, Asia Pacific nations are at the forefront of embracing cutting-edge technology. One such advancement that has been gaining significant traction is the use of laser weapon systems. These nations are revolutionizing warfare by integrating these high-energy, directed-energy weapons into their military arsenals, marking a significant shift in the way conflicts may be approached in the future.

<https://fagenwasanni.com/news/revolutionizing-warfare-how-asia-pacific-nations-are-embracing-laser-weapon-systems/43995/>

The Future of Warfare: A Deep Dive into Global Laser Weapon Systems

By City Life, 29 July 2023

The future of warfare is poised to be radically different from anything we have witnessed in human history. As technology continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace, the face of conflict and defense is changing rapidly. One of the most significant advancements in this regard is the development of laser weapon systems, a technology that has the potential to redefine the global military landscape.

<https://citylife.capetown/uncategorized/the-future-of-warfare-a-deep-dive-into-global-laser-weapon-systems/267611/>

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES / SOLICITATIONS

Anduril, Epirus to boost US Marine Corps drone defenses

By Colin Demarest, C4ISR Net, 2 August 2023

Two defense companies teamed up in support of the U.S. Marine Corps to create a system capable of detecting, tracking and zapping drone swarms.

Epirus, a directed-energy specialist, and Anduril Industries, focused on software and autonomy, fused their respective Leonidas high-power microwave weapon and Lattice command-and-control program for a recent Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory evaluation. The integration and testing was announced July 27.

The Leonidas system uses energy blasts to fry electronics, namely those aboard unmanned aerial systems. It can be used surgically, to target a single object, or more widely, to wall off an area. Lattice, on the other hand, acts as an artificial intelligence-enabled operating system, with applications ranging from air defense to border security.

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/industry/2023/08/02/anduril-epirus-to-boost-us-marine-corps-drone-defenses/>

LINK TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NON-LETHAL WEAPONS PROGRAM WEBSITE:

<http://jnlwp.defense.gov>

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