

**Joint Intermediate Force Capabilities Office
WEEKLY MEDIA REPORT
21 August 2023**



Chinese Coast Guard vessel uses water cannon to interfere with Philippine fisherman inside their national waters.

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NEWS ARTICLES

- Israeli soldiers use NLW to disperse protest.
- John Klein writes about space as a new domain for gray zone conflict.
- Though widely debunked, conspiracy theorists continue to blame directed energy weapons for Hawaii fires.
- A CNN report discusses the role of Chinese Maritime Militia in the South China Sea.
- James Holmes writes on the U.S. and Philippine Coast Guard joint patrols and postulates that this will have a positive effect toward controlling China in the South China Sea.
- Russia has developed a remotely operated mine clearance vehicle that uses microwave energy to activate mines and IEDs.
- China announces a prototype laser rifle with similar size and weight to an AK-47.

- Director of the Missile Defense Authority noted that laser weapons have made significant progress in recent years.

GRAY ZONE COMPETITION

CHINA

U.S.-Philippine Coast Guard Patrols: Time To Provoke The Provocateur

By James Holmes, 1945, 17 August 2023

Reality has set in on both sides of the Pacific with respect to Communist China. The Philippine Star is reporting that joint U.S.-Philippine coast guard patrols will take to the sea by year's end.

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2023/08/u-s-philippine-coast-guard-patrols-time-to-provoke-the-provocateur/>

'Little blue men': Is a militia Beijing says doesn't exist causing trouble in the South China Sea?

By Brad Lendon, CNN, 12 August 2023

News that a Chinese coast guard ship fired water cannon on a smaller Philippine counterpart in a disputed area of the South China Sea should be worrying enough, given the region is widely seen as a potential flashpoint for global conflict.

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/12/asia/china-maritime-militia-philippines-tensions-intl-hnk-ml/index.html>

Irregular warfare in space is an ongoing threat – and the US must adapt.

By John J Klein, Breaking Defense, 11 August 2023

Irregular warfare has never been an irregular occurrence. Likewise, irregular actions in the space domain are ongoing and routine occurrences.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/08/irregular-warfare-in-space-is-an-ongoing-threat-and-the-us-must-adapt/>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE/DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Laser weapons 'finally' seeing 'real progress,' Missile Defense Agency official says

By Theresa Hitchins, Breaking Defense, 17 April 2023

With directed-energy research now coming to fruition, the Missile Defense Agency is putting "increased emphasis" on development of directed-energy weapons for shooting down adversary missiles, according to a senior MDA official.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/08/laser-weapons-finally-seeing-real-progress-missile-defense-agency-official-says/>

OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES

China Unveils ZKZM-500: Revolutionary 'Non-Lethal' Laser Rifle That Could Be a Game-Changer on Battlefield

By Inno Flores, Tech Times, 18 August 2023

Scientists in China have developed a prototype laser assault rifle reminiscent in size of an AK-47.

<https://www.techtimes.com/articles/295282/20230818/china-unveils-zkzm-500-revolutionary-non-lethal-laser-rifle.htm>

Russia Banks On 'Laser Weapons' Mounted On Remote-Controlled MCVs To Fight Ukraine's Deadly Anti-Tank Mines

By Sakshi Tiwari, The Eurasian Times, 19 August 2023

The press office of Ruselectronics Holding Company, which is a division of the state-owned technology company Rostec announced that the Listva mine-clearing vehicle is set to get a more potent microwave gun to more effectively combat modern mines.

<https://www.eurasiantimes.com/new-gun-mounted-on-listva-mcv-to/>

Israeli army violently represses peaceful Friday demonstration

By International Solidarity Report, 11 August 2023

On Friday, August 4, a peaceful demonstration was violently attacked by the Israeli army around the West Bank village of Deir Istyia, Salfit governorate.

<https://palsolidarity.org/2023/08/israeli-army-violently-represses-peaceful-friday-demonstration/>

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

<http://jnlwp.defense.gov>

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