



The Daily internal information source for the D.C. area submarine officer

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Morning Call

A daily compilation of the most current published news articles and commentary concerning the U.S. Submarine Force, with assistance from Rory O'Connor, TEAM SUB.

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First lady will christen sub in NN

The new Texas submarine will be named officially at the ceremony later this month, the first such event in nine years at the Newport News shipyard.

By Peter Dujardin, Hampton Roads Daily Press, July 20, 2004

NEWPORT NEWS -- First lady Laura Bush will christen the shipyard's newest submarine July 31 at a morning event on the banks of the James River, Northrop Grumman Newport News said Monday.



Northrop Grumman Newport News employees Warren Moore and Jerry Hayden put last minute touches on the ceremonial cover that will adorn the bow of the Virginia-class submarine Texas during the christening ceremony July 31.

overlooking the James River. The crowd, expected to number about 5,000, will include workers from Newport News shipyard and General Dynamics' Electric Boat division, the yard's partner on the sub, and their families.

The event will mark the first submarine christening in Newport News since March of 1995, when the Cheyenne, the last of the Los Angeles-class submarines, was christened during a nighttime ceremony complete with fireworks and a laser light show. At the time, it appeared that the Cheyenne might be the yard's last submarine.

The first ship in the class, the Virginia, was christened last summer at General Dynamics' Electric Boat headquarters, in Groton, Conn. That boat will be commissioned into the Navy's fleet at an Oct. 29 ceremony at the Norfolk Naval Station.

(The Virginia commissioning is by invitation only, too. For that event, the public can contact the Navy League of Hampton Roads and request an invite. The Navy League's local email address is navyleague@earthlink.net.)

In an earlier event, the North Carolina, the fourth sub in the class, celebrated its keel laying in a May event at the Newport News yard. Though modern Navy construction no longer uses keels and

The Texas, known as SSN (submersible ship nuclear) 775, is the second boat in the Virginia class, a new group of nuclear-powered attack submarines that eventually could consist of 30 ships. That boat is the first of the class to be getting its christening in Newport News.

During the traditional event, which celebrates the official naming of the submarine as the Texas, Lone Star State native Laura Bush will strike a champagne bottle against the boat's hull. U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas) will deliver the keynote address.

The ceremony - which is closed to the public - will begin at 11 a.m. behind the yard's nine-story submarine outfitting facility, on a concrete patio



The Texas made its first voyage - on land - Saturday, July 17 as part of its roll-out from the Modular Outfitting Facility in preparation for the July 31 christening ceremony.

the yard was already well into the building project, the event was still held to mark the start of the project.

The Virginia-class boats can carry up to 38 Tomahawk cruise missiles, and they will have the ability to drop off and retrieve Navy SEALs close to shore.

In 1995, when the USS Cheyenne was christened, it appeared that it could be the Newport News yard's last hurrah in the sub business. The Navy, it seemed, was destined to award all future sub contracts to the shipyard's then-competitor, Electric Boat, and keep the Newport News yard as strictly an aircraft carrier builder.

But that was before Virginia lawmakers stepped in, seeing to it that Newport News got to stay in the submarine business.

The Pentagon and shipyards developed a new teaming process in which two yards would partner on building submarines. Under the arrangement, the two yards literally work on the same boats - each specializing in parts of the boats, and taking turns on nuclear plant installation and final assembly.

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[Appropriators To File Conference Report Today, Details Out Soon](#)

By Amy Butler, Defense Daily, July 20, 2004, Pg. 1

Lawmakers are expected today to file their joint report on the FY '05 defense spending bill, and the report will outline plans for several key Pentagon programs that are facing cuts.

Sources on Capitol Hill said they expect to begin releasing details of the final bill as soon as this afternoon. A joint conference committee last week finished negotiating the details of its marks to the president's \$401.7 billion defense spending request for FY '05.

Among the programs on the chopping block are the president's missile defense program, military space efforts and several aircraft programs.

Industry sources suggest the Pentagon's Space Based Radar (SBR) program will take a fatal blow in the final version of the FY '05 spending bill, garnering only \$75 million of the requested \$327.7 million requested. This cut, if approved, would mirror the House's proposal. Senators suggested clipping \$100 million from the effort.

It is unclear whether the program will be allowed to continue on the acquisition track; House lawmakers suggested in their version of the bill barring SBR from the acquisition route, leaving only technology development projects in its wake.

In a July 7 appeal to the cuts, DoD argued they would "negate an acquisition strategy built through broad consensus between the Department and the Intelligence Community" and bring about termination of prime development contracts.

Teams led by Lockheed Martin [LMT] and Northrop Grumman [NOC] are working under separate, \$220 million contracts on SBR.

Two military satellite communications programs--the Transformational Communications System (TCS) and the Navy's Mobile User Objective System (MUOS)--are also ripe for large cuts.

The Pentagon requested \$774.8 million for the satellite segment of the TCS effort, which aims to infuse Internet protocols and laser communications devices into the satellite communications infrastructure to shuttle vastly more data more quickly than existing systems. In a seeming role reversal from the SBR marks, the Senate took a hard line on TCS, cutting \$400

million from the program because lawmakers are concerned the technology is too immature. House appropriators suggested a \$100 million cut.

Industry sources said they expect a fairly large cut for TCS--perhaps as high as \$300 million--and this kind of cut would have a domino effect on other programs. Most notably, the Pentagon would likely be forced to purchase another Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) satellite from a Lockheed Martin-led team. Either the first TCS or fourth AEHF satellite is needed for launch in FY '11.

Boeing [BA] and Lockheed Martin each have \$470 million contracts with the Air Force for TCS work.

The Navy's MUOS program to field a constellation of narrowband satellites is already facing a self-imposed delay as program officials extended the proposal period for contractors competing for the MUOS work. Yet, the House and Senate proposed \$110 and \$100 million cuts, respectively, to MUOS. This move, if approved, would delay fielding the system by two years and extend a gap in communications capabilities for the warfighter, DoD says in a July 9 appeal of the cuts.

Raytheon [RTN] and Lockheed Martin are vying for the MUOS contract.

Lawmakers also proposed cuts to the Air Force-Navy Joint Unmanned Combat Air System (J-UCAS) program. The Senate suggested slicing \$200 million, while House lawmakers supported the Pentagon's \$710.4 million request. The cut, if approved, would force an 18-month delay in the J-UCAS operational assessment whereby military officials examine the military utility of the combat drones, according to DoD's appeal of the cuts.

Another high-profile effort under scrutiny is the Navy's VXX program to procure new presidential transport helicopters. Both chambers propose a \$220 million cut to the Pentagon's \$777.4 million request for the effort in FY '05. Sikorsky [UTX] and a team including Lockheed Martin, AgustaWestland and Bell Helicopter Textron [TXT] are competing for the work.

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[Carrier Strike Groups Test New Fleet Response Plan](#)

By Scott Schonauer, European Stars and Stripes, July 18, 2004

ABOARD THE USS ENTERPRISE - American and allied naval forces in the eastern Atlantic Ocean have wrapped up a six-day exercise designed to practice maritime teamwork and test the ability to rapidly deploy.

The U.S. Navy ordered seven carrier strike groups out to sea in June as part of its new Fleet Response Plan, a strategy aimed at making a large number of ships available on a moment's notice. The USS Enterprise and USS Harry S. Truman carriers and accompanying ships and submarines cruised to the eastern Atlantic off the coast of Morocco to join ships from nine other nations as part of NATO-led Medshark/Majestic Eagle '04. The multinational drill was the final portion of Summer Pulse '04, a first-of-its-kind exercise involving the deployment of more than three-quarters of the U.S. Navy's 12 carriers.

The Navy's new plan is a major change in the way the fleet deploys to far-flung hot spots. Traditionally, the Navy sent carriers to sea for six months, followed by up to two years in port.

"It's a little bit more of a responsibility for us," said Master Chief Petty Officer Tim Gotkiewicz, command master chief for Carrier Air Wing 1, which deployed aboard the

Enterprise. "The bottom line is that in today's world, we can't just work the way we used to. We realize that."

Deploying ships much faster than in the past, something the Navy calls "surging," is supposed to help mold the fleet into a maritime force that can better fight terrorism and respond to future conflicts.

The U.S. Navy and allied forces completed the exercise north of the Spanish Canary Islands on Friday. The training event included 20,000 military personnel on 30 ships and submarines. Eight U.S. surface ships, including the Sixth Fleet's command ship USS LaSalle, participated in addition to two U.S. submarines and two maritime patrol P-3 Orion aircraft. Seven U.S. Air Force tanker aircraft provided fuel for planes.

Part of the training included aircraft dropping inert and live smart bombs on Morocco's Cap Draa training range near Tan-Tan in the southwest region of the country. Dropping live ordnance is a rare opportunity for pilots.

"It's pretty realistic, I think," Gotkiewicz said. "We have some people playing enemy forces and we play the good guys. They try to keep everything as realistic as possible. We don't know what the enemy forces are doing. They'll try and run on us and they'll try and penetrate our space and all of that."

At the conclusion of the exercise, commanders planned to put together a list of what went right and what wrong. Sailors found out earlier that there are logistical challenges that go along with deploying so fast. For example, some departments reported that they needed more supplies.

Command Master Chief Petty Officer Robin Spelman, the Enterprise's command master chief, said the Navy is in the "baby phase" of the Fleet Response plan and is learning through this summer's exercise how to improve it. "People spent a long time planning this out working up to the point we're at right now," he said. "So, we want to make sure this really works and find out what the lessons learned are. "Once we've done it, we've learned what the lessons learned are, then we go back and refine it."

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The sonar threat: Navy should protect whales from damage

A Register-Guard Editorial, Eugene, Oregon, July 19, 2004

It's becoming increasingly apparent that submarine-detecting sonar systems can be lethal to whales, and the U.S. Navy should make whatever adjustments are necessary to protect marine mammals.

The linkage between whales and sonar isn't hard to figure. Marine mammals depend on sound to navigate, find food, locate their mates, identify predators and communicate. Flooding their ocean habitat with unnatural, high-intensity sound unavoidably affects them. Anyone with a house, a teenager and a stereo system should understand the dynamics.

A scientific study published last year determined that whales and other marine mammals can be killed or harmed by sonar. It theorized that the animals can become frightened by the man-made sound and surface too quickly, causing nitrogen in the blood to gassify, which can cause internal bleeding.

Four environmental groups recently sent a letter to Navy Secretary Gordon England, citing numerous instances in which whales have beached themselves during nearby Navy maneuvers - often hemorrhaging blood through their ears and eyes.

The groups - the Humane Society of the United States, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Ocean Futures Society and the International Fund for Human Welfare - emphasized that they recognized the importance of sonar to national security. But they rightly pointed out that the military should be able to carry out its vital mission, while at the same time taking care to observe environmental laws and to protect marine wildlife.

The Navy can do several obvious things to limit the damage to whales caused by sonar - especially in a post-Cold War environment when our admirals aren't living in fear that a Soviet nuclear submarine will suddenly surface off U.S. waters and flatten San Diego.

The Navy should start by not training or testing in those easily identifiable regions of the ocean attractive to concentrations of marine mammal species known to be sensitive to sonar systems. Scientists also recommend that the Navy establish safety zones around sonar-transmission vessels and, perhaps most importantly, reduce the strength of sonar signals.

The environmental groups contacted the Navy after a recent incident in which 200 melon-headed whales, a species that usually stays in deep water, herded together off the coast of Hanalei Bay in Hawaii. It turned out that the Navy had been using sonar in nearby exercises at the time.

Fortunately, local boaters kept vigil over the whales and herded them back to sea. Only one whale beached itself and died.

The Navy disputes claims that sonar was involved in incident, but the technology has been implicated in numerous strandings around the world. For example, investigators for the National Marine Fisheries Service concluded that Navy ships testing sonar in the Bahamas probably caused mass strandings of whales and dolphins several years ago.

In their letter, the environmental groups threatened legal action against the Navy. But it shouldn't take the threat of litigation to make the U.S. Navy fine-tune its sonar program to protect whales and other sensitive marine mammals.

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Yes, Ratify Sea Treaty

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel editorial, July 17, 2004

In a harmonic convergence of truly historic proportions, the Bush administration, the military, oil and mining companies and environmental groups all agree that the U.S. Senate should ratify the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. Earlier this year, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on a 19-0 vote, sent the treaty to the Senate floor with a recommendation for ratification. The administration has placed it on its list of treaties that deserve "urgent" action by the Senate.

So what's the holdup? Apparently it's Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), who thinks approval of the treaty may damage the Republican Party with some members of its political base. Were the treaty to come up for a vote, insiders say, it would pass overwhelmingly. But some conservatives who are uncomfortable with any multilateral agreements have raised unwarranted fears about the consequences if the United States signs on to the treaty. Frist doesn't want to offend those folks, so he's allowing the treaty to languish. That's a mistake for U.S. economic, maritime and security interests.

Here's what one of Frist's fellow Republicans, Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, has to say about the treaty: "It can help ensure that our Navy ships and submarines can navigate freely to

defend America's national security, that our cargo vessels and tankers have access to all the world's sea lanes and that we can control the vast riches up to 200 miles off our shores - and in some cases beyond - including the huge schools of fish in the ocean and the oil and gas that lie underneath it."

Lugar is right. Contrary to what its critics claim, the treaty would enshrine - not disrupt - long-standing sea protocols and customs. It guarantees, for example, current custom on freedom of navigation of straits such as the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, which has become critical for U.S. troop transport. It would also guarantee the U.S. rights to fish and mine the seabed off its coasts, and it would provide environmental protection of rare resources. In no instance would it hand over U.S. security or economic interests to the United Nations, as its critics charge.

Beyond that, the treaty will play a key role in shaping the future of international agreements governing the seas. If the U.S. is not part of the convention, the result could be a diminished - and diminishing - voice in what shape that future will take. That's clearly something the U.S. can't afford to allow.

Avoiding such a result is in the hands of the Senate and, specifically, Frist, who can schedule a vote on the treaty any time. The Republican majority leader needs to get on board with his president and see to it that U.S. rights on the seas are maintained.

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'Wonderbug' changes waste into power

By Robert S. Boyd, Knight Ridder Newspapers, July 19, 2004

WASHINGTON - Geobacter, a class of bacteria, is tiny and yet so talented that it can turn deadly uranium waste into harmless muck, generate electricity from rust and garbage, and even run a toy car.

It's a lot to expect from an invisible little bug less than a thousandth of an inch long. But the Energy Department, the Pentagon and the National Science Foundation are exploring the potential of Geobacter and related microorganisms to perform useful work.

"Geobacter gives us a cheap and simple alternative to a cleaner, safer environment and the generation of cleaner forms of energy," said Derek Lovley, the biologist who discovered the bacteria in 1987 at the muddy bottom of the Potomac River in Washington. Lovley heads the Geobacter Project, a team of 50 researchers based at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

So far, 20 species of the Geobacter genus have been recognized, plus 30 in closely related families. Scientists have identified the genes of several of these species and figured out their inner workings.

The first big job for the clever little microbes is to help clean up billions of gallons of deadly radioactive uranium waste left over from the Cold War. This summer is the third year of an Energy Department test of their abilities at an old uranium waste field at Rifle, Colo.

In the test, Geobacter acts like a tiny deliveryman, shuttling electrons from atoms in a harmless organic substance, such as vinegar, to a species of highly radioactive uranium known as Uranium-6. Compounds containing Uranium-6 easily dissolve in water, contaminate rivers and underground aquifers, and sicken or kill fish, animals and people.

The addition of two new electrons reduces an atom of Uranium-6 to a safer version called Uranium-4, a solid material similar to natural uranium ore. It sinks to the bottom of the water, where it can be extracted or left safely in place.

"Geobacter is principally responsible for the reduction of Uranium-6 to Uranium-4 and its consequent removal from groundwater," said Philip Long, an environmental geologist at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash. "Because it is less soluble in groundwater, it represents less of a risk in drinking water."

To improve the bacteria's performance, researchers drilled holes in uranium-contaminated ground and poured vinegar down the holes.

"It's good food for Geobacter - simple and inexpensive," said Lovley. In 24 hours, the number of bacteria doubles.

Lovley called this technique "simpler, cheaper and more environmentally friendly than the more commonly used 'muck, suck and truck' operations." This method, in which contaminants are laboriously dug or pumped up and transported elsewhere, would take decades and cost billions of dollars.

If Geobacter passes its tests, the Energy Department must decide whether and where to begin large-scale application.

"The technology could be used in the near future," Long said in an e-mail. "However, regulatory and public acceptance will be required prior to widespread use."

Public reaction to widespread use of bacteria, like other genetic experiments, could be hostile. But Lovley contends that Geobacter is harmless. "They're already in the environment," he said. "They've shown no pathogenic (disease-causing) traits. They're everywhere in almost any soil."

Geobacter also can be used to turn toxic petroleum byproducts, such as benzene, into inoffensive carbon dioxide.

Geobacter's ability to make electricity from rust is generating interest. It removes electrons from one type of iron atom, known as Fe-2, and converts it into another form, Fe-3, the basis of ordinary rust. The electrons zip along a wire, from a positive to a negative pole, as in a miniature battery.

Lovley's lab has exploited this bit of energy to light electric bulbs, operate a calculator and power a toy car. In the future, he predicted, bacteria power could be used in less developed countries to charge batteries, run radios, televisions or computers, even light a small hut. You might even be able to use it at home to generate electricity from garbage, he said.

Although Geobacter generates only tiny amounts of electricity in the laboratory, it works more efficiently than the traditional burning of "biomass," meaning wood, cornstalks, trash and the like.

Lovley claims his bacteria can recover 80 to 90 percent of the energy potential locked up in iron, compared with an average of 30 percent of the energy stored in biomass by traditional means.

"We're efficient but slow. We're trying to get efficient but fast," he joked.

The Defense Department also is interested in using the energy in iron-rich mud at the bottom of the sea to power submarine detectors and other sensors.

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[USS Razorback gets paint job](#)

The Evening Times, Crittenden County and Eastern Arkansas, July 19, 2004

ROLLING FORK, Miss. (AP) -- The USS Razorback will have a fresh look when it arrives at its new home next month.

The Razorback, the longest serving submarine in history, received new paint at the port here while waiting to move up the Arkansas River.

North Little Rock, Ark., Mayor Patrick Hays says the World War II-era submarine has traveled 7,000 miles and will become the centerpiece of a planned maritime museum on the Arkansas River.

The Navy decommissioned the 312-foot vessel Nov. 30, 1970, and handed it over to the Turkish navy, which recently agreed to sell it to North Little Rock for \$1.

A tug moved the submarine from Turkey and into the Mississippi River.

Capt. Tom Willoughby of the Tug Rhea, who joined the tug at New Orleans, said that compared to other salvage tows, this one has been particularly difficult.

"The submarine is real narrow and we're having to take it up the Mississippi River, against its normal flow," Willoughby said. "It just wants to wobble as we go."

Steve Nawojczyk, assistant to the mayor of North Little Rock, said the large tug was designed for ocean work and "they can't go any further up the river."

Another problem occurred with unsuccessful attempts to pump water out of the ballast tanks on the stern end of the submarine.

The Razorback is drafting at 11.5 feet at its bow and at nearly 15 feet at its stern. Shallow portions of the Arkansas River are 9 feet.

Port Commissioner David Work says inland river barges will be used to lift the submarine to a level that will allow it to continue its journey.

Officials said the sub should make a Friday ceremony at Montgomery Point Lock and Dam, about 15 miles north of Rosedale. The Razorback will be brought back to Rosedale until adjustments are made so it can reach its new home.

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[Shipping: New salvage sub ordered](#)

Norway Post, July 15, 2004

In an attempt to prevent another submarine accident similar to the "Kursk" tragedy, Norway, France and Great Britain have together ordered a new salvage sub able to rescue a submarine crew anywhere in the world.

The salvage craft will be based in Glasgow, Scotland, Aftenposten reports.

The sub will be able to bring out the crew from disabled submarines anywhere in the world within 72 hours.

It will have a crew of three, and will be able to dive to a depth of 600 metres, according to Norwegian Defence Logistics (FLO).

Rolls-Royce have been awarded the contract to deliver the equipment. The cost is estimated at NOK 585 million, which will be shared by the three nations.

According to FLO, more nations may be interested in joining the project.

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Defence date with Israel today

Sujan Dutta, The Telegraph, Calcutta, India, July 19, 2004

New Delhi -- Senior officials of Israel's military-industrial complex would be in a delegation expected to hold talks with the defence ministry tomorrow, official sources said today.

The visit comes close on the heels of visits by senior Indian military officials, including the vice chief of army staff Lt General Shantonu Choudhary and Vice Admiral Arun Prakash, who is due to take over as the navy chief on July 31.

India-Israel military ties continue to grow despite both sides being cagey about publicising the relationship. This is the first time that a senior Israeli defence delegation will be visiting New Delhi since the United Progressive Alliance government took over. The Congress' major ally, the Left has been critical of the growing ties with Israel and has been steadfast in its support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation. But defence minister Pranab Mukherjee has said that India's security considerations were paramount and that its military relations would be guided by that token.

Talks with the Israeli defence team will focus on acquisition of Barak missiles for Indian warships and joint development in projects. India's premier defence firm, Hindustan Aeronautics, has already entered into an agreement with Israeli Aircraft Industry that is marketing the HAL-manufactured Advanced Light Helicopter.

New Delhi has bought unmanned aerial vehicles from Israel and is understood to be negotiating purchases of more surveillance systems such as sensors, night vision and remote sensing devices. Some of the IAF Russian-origin fighters are also being upgraded with Israeli avionics.

Israel is a distant second to Russia as a supplier of military equipment to India. About 70 per cent of Indian military hardware is sourced from Russia or from the former Soviet Union countries. But India is Israel's largest buyer of military equipment. Israel packages its military trade with India into its diplomatic ties.

India-Israel military trade is now estimated to have crossed \$ 10 billion. The latest acquisition signed was for five Phalcon airborne early warning and control systems in a \$ 1.5 billion deal.

Last September, a major Israeli delegation that had come to Delhi, sought and got an assurance from the then defence minister George Fernandes that information on military ties and military technology would be kept confidential. The Israelis had asked for the assurance because it was not very comfortable with India's diplomatic relations with Iran. Israel accuses Tehran of backing Hizbollah militants in its territory.

Israel has proposed to India that it can consider participating in a development programme for a conventional submarine. India and Israel are also understood to have agreed to collaborate on developing a short-range missile.

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Three purposes of military maneuver at Dongshan Island

By People's Daily Online, China, July 19, 2004

"Focus on the military maneuver at Dongshan Island", published on China Youth Daily on July 3, first revealed some information about the military maneuver at Dongshan Island, and

drew extensive attentions from readers. Outlook Weekly reported this week that, the large-scale military maneuver by the PLA certainly has its purposes just like the military maneuvers in all other countries and regions, military experts analyzed.

The main purpose of holding "Military Maneuver at Dongshan Island" for eight consecutive years, according to the analyses of military experts, lies first of all in improving the army's joint combat capabilities under modernized conditions, and examining the achievements in the training of the PLA. Secondly, it is to declare to the "Taiwan Independence" elements, should they remain impenitent and dare to disintegrate the country someday, the PLA is capable and confident in settling the Taiwan Issue by military forces. And thirdly it is to declare to the whole world that it is China's internal affairs to settle the Taiwan issue and will tolerate no foreign country to poke its nose into the matter.

Locating in the Taiwan Straits, the Dongshan Island is 98 nautical miles away from the Penghu Islands to the east, and 166 nautical miles away from Kaohsiung, occupying a very important strategic position. At the beginning of the founding of New China, the PLA has ever defeated many a harassment of the Kuomintang (KMT) remnant forces.

As the PLA has carried out large-scale military drills here for many times, "Dongshan Island Maneuver" has caught the attention from more and more people and also from the world, especially the "attention" from some countries.

As reported, foreign media used consciously or unconsciously many "most" in the reports on "Dongshan Island Maneuver"--the largest joint beach landing drill of the three services (army, navy and airforce) ever since the founding of PLA; the maneuver using the most advanced weaponry and with highest scientific and technological content; the maneuver spanning over the greatest region; a maneuver with most CPC officers; the maneuver of the highest level; the maneuver with the most complete variety of military arms and the most numerous people; a huge maneuver receiving most attention from the high-rankings of the Central Military Commission; very close to Taiwan, and Dongshan Island is most similar to Taiwan in geographical conditions, etc..

According to a report in the paper on military issues, the PLA participating the "Dongshan Island Maneuver" are navy, army, airforce and the 2nd artillery troops; maneuver exercises include tactics and strategic missile attack, blockade and counter blockade, assault landing and counter-landing, air raid and anti-air raid, airborne, electronic interference and anti-interference, satellite reconnaissance and tracking, recruit privately owned boats and trans-regional deployment as well as attack at aircraft carrier, stealth fighter, cruise missile, helicopter and counter pinpoint strike, counter reconnaissance and monitoring, "enclose, fight, attack and aid", directional target seizure and battlefield mopping-up and consolidation etc..

New weaponry used in "Dongshan Island Maneuver" include: Su-27 and Su-30 Fighters, "Sovremenny"-class Destroyer, "Kilo"-class Submarine, homemade new nuclear attack submarine, Fighter-8 II, Flying Leopard Bomber, supersonic anti-ship missiles, various tactic missiles and cruise missiles etc..

This year's "Dongshan Island Maneuver" will last for one week with over 18,000 to take part in. It is a multi-arms joint combat drill with the aim of seizing the air dominance over Taiwan. The airforce will play the major role, the army missile troops and the 2nd artillery troops will both participate in the maneuver.

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U.S. takes economic beating in Asia

James P. Pinkerton, New York Newsday editorial, July 20, 2004

BANGKOK - One of these days, Americans are going to throw their weight around and discover that others have even more weight than they do.

That hasn't happened yet, but it will soon, here in Asia. And such counter-weighting will come as a surprise to Americans, who should be paying attention but aren't.

This city of 6 million looks like Tokyo or Seoul a few decades ago. That is, most of the people are poor, but they are hard-working, gadget-crazed and focused on getting ahead.

Like the other Asian economic tigers before them, Thais are cutting corners on their way to wealth. The Bangkok Post reports that 80 percent of the software used here is pirated. That's bad, although elsewhere in Asia the figures are worse; in China, an estimated 92 percent of software is ripped off. Software thievery costs software makers - most of them American - some \$29 billion a year.

A similar contempt for Western intellectual property is shown toward pharmaceuticals. The big idea coming from the recent AIDS conference here was that the "pharma" companies should either give away their AIDS medicines or give away their patents, so that generic drug makers - there are many such companies here and many more in India - can make the profits instead.

Some will justify such thievery as being justified by the life-saving nature of the drugs at issue. But it's harder to justify the action of China, which recently canceled Pfizer's patent for Viagra, enabling the drug to be made generically and locally. That single decision chipped billions off of the value of the Manhattan-based company, including benefits to its employees.

Yet, Americans seem heedless. Most don't follow foreign news, even when it affects their own well-being - and the U.S. government is almost entirely focused on the Middle East. And so, if present trends continue, at about the time that the United States succeeds in pacifying Fallujah, the Chinese economy will have grown larger than America's.

Indeed, the investment firm of Goldman Sachs projects that in 2050 China's gross domestic product will be 25 percent bigger than ours, while India's GDP will be three-fourths that of the United States. To be sure, America's per-capita income will still be much higher, but power - military as well as economic - is a function of aggregate totals, not individual shares.

And while forecasts are notoriously unreliable, signs of this geopolitical shift abound, even if they are not much noticed back in the United States. Two years ago, President George W. Bush labeled North Korea as part of the "axis of evil," but since then Uncle Sam has lost interest. The Pentagon has even announced plans to withdraw a third of U.S. forces from South Korea. And so the United States plays from a weakened position.

Earlier this month, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice traveled to Beijing to seek China's help on disarming Pyongyang's nuclear weapons. But the Chinese round-filed Rice's request; they wanted to send a much different message. The headline in July 15's Bangkok Post was blunt: "US told to stop arms to Taiwan." Probably not one American in a hundred knows that Beijing regards Taiwan as a part of China in the same way that Americans view Long Island as part of America. That comparison doesn't necessarily make the Chinese morally correct, but it does suggest that they are ultimately prepared to go to war for the island.

When China was weak, the United States paid little price for putting its "strategic umbrella" over Taiwan. But how high will that price be when China has more resources than we do? One straw in the wind: The Washington Times reports that China has developed a new submarine. American intelligence had no inkling of the program's existence until a sub was

spotted being finished in a shipyard. We must wonder: What else do the Chinese have up their sleeve?

And so it goes with Asia. Since we are not paying attention, we are being beat out economically and one day, perhaps, we will be beat out militarily.

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On Espionage, Submarine Warfare and China

By Tom Marzullo, Men's News Daily, July 20, 2004

In the decades to come, we will be looking at another submarine warfare technology race with the Chinese, like the one that was coming up to parity with Russia... that is if China does not implode fiscally like Russia did. But alas, the Chinese communists do appear to be more adaptable to the capitalist world than the Soviets who spawned them.

But as the old saying goes, "All is fair in love and war" so we should expect the kind of lucrative, below-the-radar actions that China has indulged in recently as it has rapidly expanded its nuclear arsenal and strategic delivery systems.

The Chinese continue to be working diligently towards the development of their own submarine production capability as shown by the recent publicity regarding the new 'Yuan' class submarine that appears to be a merger of Chinese and Russian technology. The strategic imperative that drives their interest and investment-heavy is not only that surrounding Taiwan, but also the longer term goal of establishing a two ocean capability on the Pacific and Indian oceans... but that particular long-term strategic goal and its implications will be discussed further in a future MND piece.

One of the absolutely unmistakable indicators of Chinese adaptability and interest in acquiring western technology is their 1991 treatise on Industrial and Technology Espionage concerning the cost-effective application of internally coordinated methods and sources for such information. This document, no longer openly available in China and presently classified by them, lays out a systematic plan for vastly improving their ability to steal the fruits of western research and development... that plan is now over a dozen years into its application phase and so what we can derive from it is a realistic picture of how the Chinese conduct themselves today.

Today, the United States faces a situation in which we are driven to abandon much of the maintenance and improvement of submarine technology as the sheer fiscal demands of the 'War On Terror' moves funding away from naval issues to land-based category, especially improving our special operations capacities. This is judged to be an acceptable opportunity cost today, but in doing so we are incurring two major categories of future expense and disability.

The first is the rapid deterioration of the hard-won industrial base that produces our submarines and associated hardware, such as sonar-buoys. The building ways in Newport News, VA and Groton, CT are already languishing from lack of work and their workforce's expertise is migrating to other industries, so that within a decade we will be faced with virtually starting over again.

The second (and less visible) category is our technological superiority itself... This is not only being leaked away through the open-source venues that make up the bulk of most intelligence collection, but also through surreptitious collection efforts. As always, new opportunities present themselves as the industry downsizes and financially strapped workers are being targeted to obtain the seemingly unconnected classified data points that when assembled

and analyzed will save the Chinese both precious time and billions in R&D costs. The engineering of the new Yuan-class submarine already indicates that the Chinese are no slouches at combining the very best of the available technology to home-grow their own designs.

In a much earlier piece I discussed the capabilities and previous successes in industrial and military espionage found in most of the staffs to the United Nations of various nations that found it both cost-effective and convenient. Russia and China are not the only countries that engage in these practices as many overtly allied countries also participate... France is also notable for it's special bureau tasked with extracting industrial and technological information.

It might help to note that the UN and the various staffs rife with intelligence gatherers are only a hundred miles or so away from Groton's submarine production facilities... just a pleasant drive away from all that extremely valuable information that the Chinese have made such concerted and lengthy efforts to obtain in an efficient manner.

The bottom line here is that we can dependably predict that the Chinese have already and will continue to profit exquisitely by such activities, while we are slowly but surely allowing our capacities to rot on the vine through neglect. We have long discussed the need for defending against such intelligence depredations, but doing something tangibly effective has thus far eluded us.

When the bill comes due for these choices, it may be far more than mere money that will have to be paid.

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