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Greetings Colleagues,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific.
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NATO GENSEC Meets with Indo-Pacific Partners in The Hague



Figure 1: NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte met with its Indo-Pacific counterparts (IP4) /Image /NATO News/ YouTube

NATO and its four Indo-Pacific partners (IP 4) met in Hague at the summit on June 24-25. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte showed his gratitude with its Indo-Pacific counterparts, Mr. IWAYA Takeshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Rt. Hon. Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister of New Zealand; The Hon. Richard Marles MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense of the Commonwealth of Australia; Mr. Wi Sung-lac, National Security Advisor of the Republic of Korea. NATO and Indo-Pacific partners agreed to enhance cooperation in defense capabilities, maritime security, and space. According to the [joint statement](#) between the two, they reaffirmed their shared strategic interests and common values, recognizing that the security of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions is interconnected. Rutte expressed his gratitude to the Indo-Pacific partners for their steadfast support of Ukraine. The Japanese Foreign Minister, Iwaya, [stated](#) “security environment in the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic regions is becoming increasingly severe and that the security in both regions has become increasingly inseparable.” He further added that the necessity of responses to unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force, military cooperation between Russia and North Korea, and cyber-attacks.

Much of the focus of this year’s NATO summit was on increasing defense spending by 5% of GDP annually on core defense requirements, as well as defense security-related spending, by NATO members by 2035 due to the push by US President Trump. NATO members agree to allocate 5 percent of their defense spending in two categories: 3.5 percent to the defense budget and 1.5

percent to innovation and strengthening the military-industrial base. The second crucial focal point of the Hague Summit was the US bombing of Iran. There was considerable debate and discussion on how far the US bombing pushed the nuclear enrichment program. It was surprising that [the Hague Summit Declaration](#) and the Joint Statement with Indo-Pacific partners did Not include a reference to China.

Despite no reference to China in the joint statement, NATO members and Indo-Pacific partners have real concerns about China's aggressive actions in the South China Sea, China's assistance to Russia in providing dual-use materials, trade, and energy, as well as North Korea's cooperation with Russia in the Ukraine war. Additionally, China's Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) capability prevents countries from accessing and operating in the designated areas.

The questions remain answered after the NATO summit: U.S. Role and the future of Russia-Ukraine war? US approach to European Security? What is the strategy to deal with China?

Do the US and European countries have the same stance on the above questions?

US, Australia, and Japan Joint Exercise Concludes in Australia

US, Australia, and Japan defense forces participated in multilateral military exercise "Southern Jackaroo 25", the Townsville Field Training Area,

Queensland, Australia. The multilateral exercise is designed to enhance interoperability and combined readiness with Allies and partners

Exercise Southern Jackaroo is a unique opportunity for the Marines of to strengthen alliances and partnerships and ensure that U.S. Marines are forward-postured and ready to respond with allies across the Indo-Pacific. Through sustained engagements with multinational allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific. [Read More](#)

Shanghai Cooperation Organization Divides on Terrorism Issue

Defense Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held their meeting in Qingdao, China. The organization couldn't issue the joint statement due to India's objection to not mentioning the Kashmir (Pahalgam) terrorist attack on April 22 but to highlight the hijacking of the Jaffar Express by the Balochistan Liberation Army in Pakistan in March.

India's Defense Minister Rajnath Singh attended the meeting and refused to sign the draft statement due to divergent standards on terrorism. It is worth mentioning that India launched a military operation to destroy the terrorist infrastructure in the border region and beyond, and it led to the conflict between two arch-rival neighboring countries.

SCO includes India, Belarus, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. [Read More](#)

US and China Negotiate on Trade

The United States and China have reached a trade agreement. The two largest economies outlined a trade framework to facilitate rare earth exports and reduce technology restrictions. More details of the trade deal between the US and China have yet to be revealed. The US will ease technology restrictions on transferring technology to China, while China will supply rare earth materials to the US swiftly.

It is worth mentioning that President Trump announced a 36 percent tariff on China; subsequently, China retaliated by imposing restrictions on the supply of rare earth materials to the United States. The long trade talks between trade officials from the US and China took place in Geneva and London earlier this month. Both superpowers are seeking to stabilize their trade relations. It has been reported that US President Trump plans to visit China in the near future with business officials and CEOs of major companies.

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Indo-Pacific Quiz

US has ended all trade talks with which country?

a. Canada

c. Japan

b. India

d. Germany

Where will the next NATO Summit take place in 2026?

a. U.K.

c. Türkiye

b. France

d. Greece

Consortium Highlights

❖ Upcoming Event: US-Japan Alliance, August 22, 9:30 EST

Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for June 22 Newsletter Quiz

Q. What is the name of U.S. Strike in Iran?

b. Operation Midnight Hammer

Q. Who left the G7 summit early due to the conflict in the Middle East?

a. U.S. President

Contributions: Indu Saxena

