



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

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Greetings Colleagues,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific. Press the reply button for your feedback and comments.

Dependence on Defense Supplies from China poses Risk - GAO Reveal

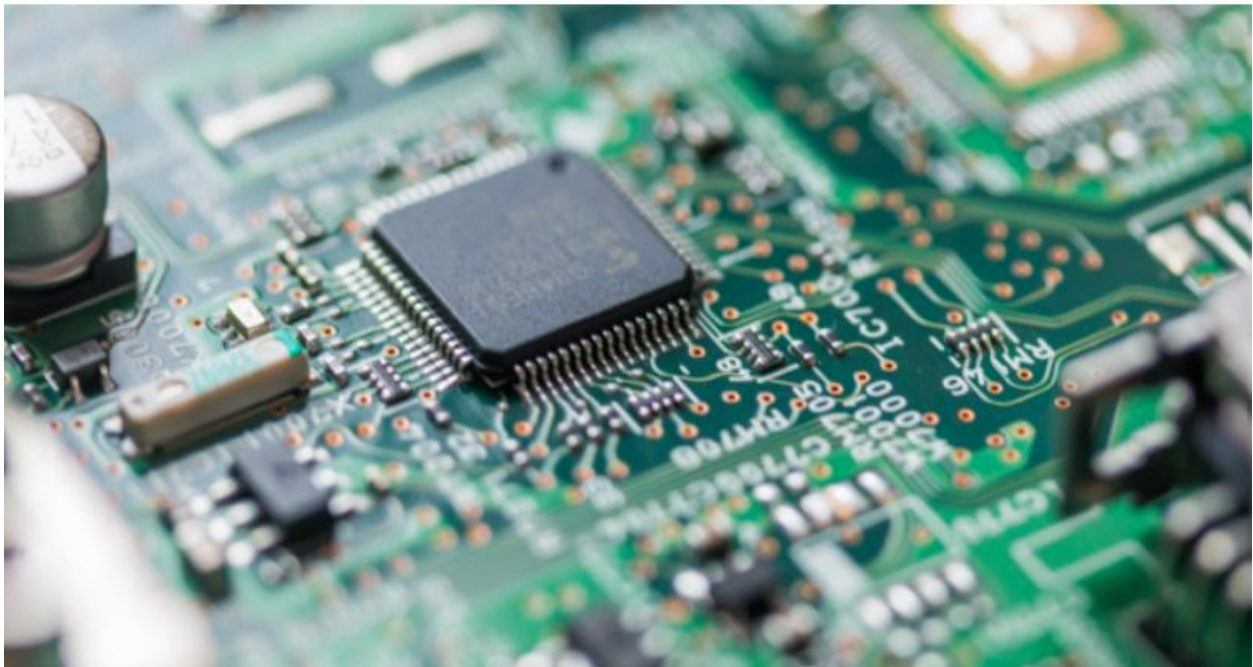


Figure 1: Image / US Government Accountability Office

The US military and its industrial base are heavily dependent on foreign suppliers for raw materials, batteries, and other non-combatant parts. The material supplies from China pose a risk to national security, the Government Accountability Organization revealed in its new report.

The GAO warns in its July 2025 report, "The Department of Defense (DOD) considers reliance on foreign sources for items it procures a national security risk. DOD estimates that over 200,000 suppliers help produce advanced weapon systems and non-combat goods. The primary procurement database for the federal government, however, provides little visibility into where these goods are manufactured or whether materials and parts suppliers are domestic or foreign."

January 2024 National Defense Industrial Strategy stated that DOD's dependence on adversarial sources for goods it procures is a mounting national security challenge. These suppliers may cut US access to critical materials or provide "back doors" in their technology that serve as intelligence pathways. The Conference Report and a House Report for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 include provisions for GAO to report on DOD's dependence on foreign entities and its processes for determining whether it is procuring goods from China.

It is noted that a key component of the F-35 fighter jet is manufactured in China. As a result, the Pentagon had halted deliveries from Lockheed Martin

due to federal regulations banning the use of alloys sourced from Russia, North Korea, and China. [Read More](#)

China and Russia Showcase Military Strength in Sea of Japan

China and Russia begin a joint naval exercise in the Sea of Japan. The Joint Sea-2025 exercise commences near the Russian port of Vladivostok. As per [reports](#), Russian and Chinese forces would conduct "artillery firing, practice anti-submarine and air defense missions, and improve joint search and rescue operations at sea." China and Russia have carried out joint exercises since 2012. Beijing and Moscow flex their muscles against the US and its Western Allies to counterbalance the US-led world order.

Moscow and Beijing have deepened their relations since the Ukraine war in 2022. Both countries have uplifted their partnership to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" and enjoy a "no limit" strategic partnership. Continuous pressure from the US on China to urge Putin to withdraw from Ukraine persists. China neither condemns Putin's war against Ukraine nor relinquishes its economic and strategic cooperation.

While President Trump is frustrated with Putin ignoring the peace talks and ending the Ukraine war, there is a new movement of positioning of a nuclear submarine by the US after "highly provocative remarks" from Dimitri Medvedev, Russian former Prime Minister, on the risk of nuclear war between two nuclear-armed adversaries. [Read More](#)

US Tariffs Pause is Over, Countries Face New Tariffs

President Trump's tariff deadline is over on August 1st, 2025. Some countries have made deals with reduced tariffs, while others haven't reached an agreement and will pay more tariffs. Indo-Pacific countries, including Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, received reduced tariff rates between 15% and 20%.

| Country | Percentage |
|------------------|------------|
| Laos | 40 |
| Myanmar | 40 |
| India | 25 |
| Brunei | 25 |
| Vietnam | 20 |
| Sri Lanka | 20 |
| Taiwan | 20 |
| Cambodia | 19 |
| Thailand | 19 |
| Philippines | 19 |
| Malaysia | 19 |
| Indonesia | 19 |
| Pakistan | 19 |
| Bangladesh | 19 |
| Japan | 15 |
| South Korea | 15 |
| Vanuatu | 15 |
| Papua New Guinea | 15 |

India, the strategic partner of the US, has failed to reach a deal and will receive a 25 % tariff. Moreover, President Trump put a “penalty” on India for buying oil and defense weapons from Russia. Trump is frustrated that Russia

is not engaging in talks to end the war in Ukraine. Additionally, India's ongoing purchase of oil from Russia costs India more than it does any of its other strategic partners in the Indo-Pacific. [Read More](#)

Myanmar Junta Forms Interim Government, Intends to Hold Election

Myanmar military ended the State of Emergency and formed the interim government ahead of planned elections in the country; however, the military chief Min Aung Hlaing has assumed the new role of President, assuming control. The military regime is set to prepare for the vote at the end of this year. It is worth mentioning that Myanmar's military regime has violently suppressed the pro-democracy movement since it overturned the democratically elected government in February 2021. Military rulers have been heavily cracking down on protesters and activists and have sentenced thousands to prison after the military coup in 2021. As per the Amnesty International report, an estimated more than 6,000 civilians were killed and more than 1.6 million displaced after the coup in 2021. On Feb. 21, 2021, the military Junta overthrew the elected government, accusing it of fraud in the elections. Since then, civil war has been going on, and the ethnic group "Three Brotherhood Alliance" has controlled a large swathe of territory.

It remains to be seen whether the next elections will be fair and transparent under the military Junta, which intends to reshuffle the state election commission and the anti-corruption commission. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Where is Darwin Harbor Located?

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| a. Australia | c. Japan |
| b. USA | d. New Zealand |

Which countries in the Indo-Pacific received highest tariffs on August 1?

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| a. Laos | c. Cambodia |
| b. Myanmar | d. India |

Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Upcoming Event: US-Japan Alliance, August 22, 9:30 A.M. EST
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Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for July 27 Newsletter Quiz

Q. Which country has withdrawn from UNESCO?

b. USA

Q. Which country doesn't border Thailand?

d. Singapore

Contributions: Indu Saxena