



Consortium of Indo-Pacific  
Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail June 24-30, 2024**

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Greetings Colleagues,

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

**RIMPAC 2024 Begins with the Motto: "Partners:  
Integrated and Prepared"**



*Figure 1: RIMPAC 2024 Logo*

The world's largest military exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) [kicks off](#) on June 27, 2024, in Honolulu Hawaii. During the exercise, which will run until August 1, a staggering number of over 25,000 personnel from approximately 29 nations, along with an impressive fleet of 40 surface ships, three submarines, 14 national land forces, and over 150 aircraft, will be training and operating in the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean. It is the 29<sup>th</sup> iteration of the multinational maritime exercise that began in 1971.

RIMPAC is a biennial naval exercise that offers a valuable training opportunity that is not just a routine exercise, but a crucial event that fosters and maintains cooperative relationships among participants from diverse nations. This international maritime exercise is of utmost importance for ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. It will also include its largest humanitarian aid and disaster relief management operations.

The Vice Adm. John Wade, commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet and RIMPAC 2024 Combined Task Force (CTF) [said](#), "The exercise's purpose is to build relationships, to enhance interoperability and proficiency and, ultimately, contribute to the peace and stability in the vitally important Indo-Pacific region."

This year's exercise includes forces from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of

the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Against the backdrop of escalating tensions over China's territorial claims in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, and the increasing presence of Russia in the Asia-Pacific region, RIMPAC 2024 takes on even greater significance. It is a key platform for the U.S. and its allies in the Indo-Pacific to strengthen their collective security.

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## **China's President Xi Addresses on 'Five Principles of Co-existence'**

As China celebrates the [70th anniversary](#) of its foreign policy's guiding principles, it's important to note the absence of Indian representation. This is significant because the Chinese foreign policy concept of the *Five Principles* of co-existence first articulated in 1954, is closely related to Sino-India relations.

On June 28, 1954, [Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai and Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru](#) issued a Joint Statement to extend their vision of Panchsheel as the framework for collaborating with other countries to establish peace and security in the world.

These principles known in India as Panchsheel doctrine. The five principles include: Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity

and sovereignty, Mutual non-aggression, Mutual non-interference, Equality and mutual benefit, and Peaceful co-existence.

However, China failed to walk the talk on Panchsheel in 1962, attacking India and grabbing Indian territory in the Himalayan region. Furthermore, after the [Galwan Valley clash in June 2020](#), which resulted in casualties of 20 Indian soldiers, the bilateral relations between China and India have significantly deteriorated. China's growing assertiveness in the Indian Ocean region has raised substantial concerns within India. The ongoing tension has significantly impacted the diplomatic, economic, and security dynamics between the two countries.

In addition, China's [assertive actions](#) in the South China Sea and the East China Sea raise questions about its Five Principles foreign policy framework. [Read More](#)

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## **North Korea Test-Launches Ballistic Missiles**

As per reports North Korea test-launches two ballistic missiles. It is important to note that Japan, the Republic of Korea, and United States have just concluded its [inaugural exercise Freedom Edge](#), a trilateral multi-domain exercise from June 27-29, 2024. As per the Trilateral statement, “Freedom Edge expresses the will of Japan, ROK, and U.S. to

promote trilateral interoperability and protect freedom for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, including the Korean Peninsula.”

The Joint chief of staff condemned North Korea's test launch and expressed its concern for peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula. [Read More](#)

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## **U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Economic Dialogue Starts**

U.S. Undersecretary of Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, Jose W. Fernandez met with its Vietnamese counterpart Minister Dung in Washington. Both leaders discussed critical minerals, clean energy, and semiconductors to investment promotion to boost the economic cooperation with the comprehensive strategic partnership. It is worth mentioning that President Biden travelled to Hanoi in September 2023 and U.S has upgraded its relations with Vietnam at the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. [Read More](#)

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## **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

When did the RIMPAC exercise commence?

a. 1970

c. 1971

b. 1974

d. 1975

Which anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa is observed on June 23?

a. 77<sup>th</sup>

c. 78<sup>th</sup>

b. 79<sup>th</sup>

d. 80<sup>th</sup>

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## **Consortium Highlights**

- CIPR Book Launch Event for **Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific Construct**. Details will be shared soon.
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