



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail April 7-13, 2025

Greetings Colleagues,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific.

Press the reply button for your feedback and comments.

China's Military Boost, 'Rehearsals' Threatens Indo-Pacific Security



Figure 1: Indo-Pacom Commander Adm. Samuel Paparo during his testimony at a House Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington, April 9, 2025. Image /DoD

U.S. Indo-Pacific commander Admiral Samuel Paparo warned about China's military drill around Taiwan, stating these are not just drills but "dress rehearsals for forced unification." During the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing this week, Admiral Paparo noted that China's unprecedented military buildup and increasingly aggressive actions are a threat to the U.S. homeland and its allies and partners. He further said, "The People's Liberation Army (PLA) escalated military pressure against Taiwan by 300% in 2024 through activities such as Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) entries and centerline crossings." He added that China is outpacing the United States in air, maritime, missile, and space capability while accelerating these.

It is worth mentioning that China considers Taiwan as a breakaway province and aims for its reunification. However, Taiwan sees itself as a self-governing island, distinct from China, with an elected democratic government. Though the U.S. supports the One China policy, it also supports Taiwan's Defense and Security under Taiwan's Relation Act.

China held several aggressive military maneuvers around Taiwan in the past year and [launched live-fire exercises](#) in the Taiwan Strait and the East China Sea after the recent visit of the U.S. DEFSEC to the region. Former US Indo-Pacific Command leader Philip Davidson assessed that China might invade Taiwan by 2027. With the US-China trade war intensifying, China's aggressive actions toward Taiwan could increase. [Recent news](#) reported that

Taiwan plans to use its 13,000 7-Eleven stores as wartime centers in case of any contingency.

Moreover, the Indo-Pacom Commander asserted that China's claim over disputed islands in the South China Sea and use coercive behavior against Philippines and other Southeast Asian nations destabilize the Indo-Pacific region.

Australia and Philippines Strengthen Cooperation

Australia and the Philippines strengthen their defense and security relationship. Both countries will conduct military exercises to enhance cooperation and interoperability through maritime partnership. As per the media release, the Joint Australian Training Team - Philippines (JATT-P) program will conduct over 20 training activities and exchanges this year between the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), more than doubling the number delivered in 2024.

The Chief of Joint Operations, Vice Admiral Justin Jones, said, "The Philippines is one of Australia's most important regional defense partners, and we share a commitment to a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region." Furthermore, the Australian government "gifted" twenty unmanned aerial systems (drones) to the Philippine Coast Guard as part of Australia's

P629 million assistances to the country for its Maritime Domain Awareness mission [Read More](#)

NATO Chief Visits Japan

During his inaugural visit to the Indo-Pacific since assuming office in October, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte underscored the importance of enhancing collaboration with Japan. In a joint statement, both sides reiterated the shared strategic interests and values of Japan and NATO and stressed that their partnership is of strategic importance to the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions. Both sides urge China to maintain maritime order in the South China Sea and the East China Sea and encourage a peaceful resolution of cross-strait relations. The leaders condemned the growing military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, including Russia's use of North Korean missiles and North Korean troops in combat against Ukraine.

NATO chief visited Yokosuka Naval Base and was briefed by Japan's Self-Defense maritime forces. Japan and NATO are focusing on strengthening their industrial partnerships to enhance the supply chain. He also met with top Japanese cabinet ministers and Diet Council members. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which two Southeast Asian countries worst hit by U.S. Tariffs?

- a. Vietnam & Singapore
- b. Vietnam & Cambodia
- c. Indonesia & Malaysia
- d. Vietnam & Laos

In which year did Vietnam achieve reunification?

- a. 1975
 - b. 1977
 - c. 1976
 - d. 1979
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Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Podcast: **South China Sea and Importance of International Arbitration in Territorial Disputes**, April 9, 2025 @7:00 PM EST. [Listen Here](#)
 - ❖ Webinar: U.S.-Japan Alliance: Strengthening Defense and Security in the Indo-Pacific, April 30th. 9:00 AM EST
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Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for April 6 Newsletter Quiz

Q. How many members countries are in the BIMST-EC organization?

- c. Seven

Q. What percent of taxes China put on U.S. as retaliation of Trump's reciprocal tariffs?

a. 34 Percent

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