



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail July 14-20, 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.

US and Australia kick off Talisman Saber 2025 Exercise



Figure 1: High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems from the US and Allies launch live-fire exercise in Queensland, Australia, during Talisman Saber exercise, July 14, 2025 /IMAGE/DOD

United States and Australia have started Exercise Talisman Sabre 25 in Adelaide, Australia. This extensive military exercise involves 19 nations and more than 30,000 service members participating across various domains, including land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace. This exercise represents the largest bilateral military training exercise between the United States and Australia.

This year the new participant countries India, Singapore, Thailand, the Netherlands and Norway have joined with the returning nations returning Canada, Fiji, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Korea, Tonga and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, two observer nations Malaysia and Vietnam, may also join the exercise. The participant countries underscore the importance of readiness, collective strength and deterrence for the peace and security in the Indo-Pacific.

The multinational forces demonstrate the maneuvers capabilities and integrated live-fire exercise across multiple domains during the exercise. Lt. Gen. Joel B. Vowell, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Pacific said, "It's readiness to respond when our nations call us to do that, and it's effectively a deterrent mechanism, because our ultimate goal... By rehearsing, by practicing together, by staying in tune with each other, we are providing that readiness to

our armies, our navies, our air forces, our space forces, our cyber forces.” [Read More](#)

US and Indonesia sign Trade deal

US President Donald Trump announces a landmark deal with Indonesia that will open the entire Indonesian market for US products and goods. According to the agreement, Indonesia will purchase USD 15 billion in energy, \$4.5 billion in American agricultural products, and 50 Boeing jets. Given that Indonesia’s tariff is reduced from 32 percent to 19 percent, it is supposed to be effective from August 1. Trump [stated](#), “For the first time ever, our Ranchers, Farmers, and Fishermen will have Complete and Total Access to the Indonesian Market of over 280 million people. Further, US Exports to Indonesia will be tariff and non-tariff-barrier-free.”

Indonesia is the largest and fastest-growing economy in Southeast Asia, the world’s fourth most populous country, with over 280 million consumers. Indonesia has been playing a proactive role as Chair of G-20 and ASEAN and diversifying its relations with the US, China, Europe, India, Japan, and Gulf Countries. Indonesia seeks a long-term vision for charting its development path and to maintain a robust supply chain despite its short-term struggle with ongoing tariff negotiations with the United States

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India's Foreign Minister Visits China after Five years of Galwan Clash

India's External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaishankar, met his counterpart, Wang Yi, in Beijing. He also met with President Xi Jinping and appraised the bilateral relations between the countries. Furthermore, he also met with Vice President Han Zheng. This is the first visit of a foreign Minister to Beijing in five years after the deadly clash between Indian and China in June 2020, and India lost 40 soldiers in a non-combatant fight. Following the Galwan incident, relations between the two neighbors, which have the largest populations and economies in the world, were extremely hostile. Notably, there is an uptick in the relationship between both countries after the meeting between PM Modi and President Jinping on the sidelines of a summit in Kazan in October 2024.

The primary purpose of Jaishankar's visit is to attend the Foreign Ministers' meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). However, the visit extends beyond the SCO and holds broader significance. India aims to reset its relationship with China, focusing on regional cooperation regarding critical issues such as trade and terrorism. [Read More](#)

Moscow Formally recognizes the Taliban

Russia has made another move in its realpolitik approach to sustain its influence on the global stage by recognizing the Taliban as the governing

authority of the Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan after the Taliban seized power in 2021. In light of changing geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East, the US has recognized the new Syrian government led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, which has been removed from the US terrorist list.

Moscow seeks a bigger role in regional cooperation in trade, energy, and regional connectivity through Central Asia to South Asia amid Trump's shifting perspective toward the Russia-Ukraine war and his frustration with Putin. It remains to be seen how the geopolitical and geoeconomic dynamics will evolve in the coming time for Russia, given its good relations with Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which country has held the Upper House Election on July 20, 2025?

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| a. Taiwan | c. Japan |
| b. Australia | d. South Korea |

Which is the first country to recognize the Taliban?

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| a. Pakistan | c. Iran |
| b. China | d. Russia |
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Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Upcoming Event: US-Japan Alliance, August 22, 9:30 A.M. EST
 - ❖ View: **Battleship Drones: Desert Storm, Remotely Piloted Vehicles, and Joint Lessons for the 21st Century Warfighters.** [Read Here.](#)
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Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for July 13 Newsletter Quiz

Q. Where is Misawa Air Base located?

c. Japan

Q. Which country will hold the ASEAN Chair in 2026?

c. Philippines

Contributions: Indu Saxena