NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION REPORT

National Security Division Report

Week ending April 2, 2021

Taiwan reports largest ever incursion by Chinese air force

Twenty Chinese military aircraft entered Taiwan's air defense identification zone on Friday, in the largest incursion reported by the island's defense ministry and marking a dramatic escalation of tension across the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan's defense ministry said the air force deployed missiles to "monitor" the incursion into the southwestern part of its air defense identification zone.

It also said its planes warned the Chinese aircraft, including by radio.

It marked the largest incursion to date by the Chinese air force since Taiwan's defense ministry began disclosing almost daily Chinese military flights over the waters between the southern part of Taiwan and the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands in the South China Sea last year.

Some of the Chinese aircraft flew in the airspace to the south of Taiwan and passed through the Bashi Channel which separates the island from the Philippines, Taiwan's defense ministry said in a statement.

China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, has stepped up military activities near the democratic island in recent months, a move Taiwan says jeopardizes regional stability.

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Resolution No. 38: Taiwan Straits Dialogue

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Shortage of military working dogs a national security risk, report warns

A domestic shortage of military working dogs is threatening national security, a recent report from the U.S. Navy's Naval Post Graduate School warns.

"Although working dogs are not an official part of the current defense industrial base, the low domestic production capacity of working dogs threatens some of the government's capabilities to provide national security," researchers wrote in the report. "Of the dogs within the current workforce, approximately 90% were bred overseas." Military working dogs are normally one of four breeds: German Shepherd, Belgian Malinois, Dutch Shepherd or Labrador Retriever. Many are imported from Europe. Their tasks include detecting explosives, sniffing out drugs and tracking enemies.

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Members of Congress introduced legislation last week that would elevate the Coast Guard's role on the Joint Chiefs of Staff -- a move they say would bring it "in line" with the Defense Department services.

Reps. Charlie Crist, D-Fla., and Steven Palazzo, R-Miss., have sponsored a bill that would give the Coast Guard commandant full voting rights on the Joint Chiefs. The panel includes six military service chiefs -- the heads of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force and National Guard -- along with a chairman and vice chairman.

"The Coast Guard plays a key role in keeping our nation safe, making the service more than worthy of a seat at the Joint Chiefs of Staff table," Crist said in a release Tuesday.

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Resolution No. 23: Support for the Department of Homeland Security and Coast Guard

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Legislative Issues

• Availability of Healthcare benefits for residents at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in proposed language of the FY22NDAA – The American Legions support funding that provides long-term solvency and viability of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (Resolution No. 107, 2016)

• Quality of Life for Service members and their Families – We owe our military men and women a debt of gratitude we can never repay for all that they — and their families — sacrifice to serve our country. The American Legion supports a fully funded quality of life (Resolution No. 85, 2016)

• Ensure the Coast Guard is paid – The American Legion supports a fully funded United States Coast Guard (Resolution No. 23, 2016)

• Expedited Citizenship through Honorable Military Service – The American Legion supports measures to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed before discharge (Resolution No. 15, 2018)

• Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure – The American Legion supports refined processes and policies that will enhance interagency cybersecurity and promulgate best practices and standards and ensure the protection of critical infrastructure from cyber and other electronic attacks. (Resolution No. 20, 2017)

• Addressing the Forever Wars – The American Legion advocate for elevating diplomacy to build a better, safer world (Resolution No. 22, 2020)

Staff Activity:

- Staff participated in a wreath laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial with other VSO to include AMVETs, as well as rolling thunder members. The laying of the wreath is for Vietnam Veterans day which was signed into law in 2017 called *Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act* for March 29th which was the end of large scale combat operations in the war.

Rhonda Powell, Director, National Security Division, rpowell@legion.org, 202-861-2700
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