



Situation Room

**** SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE ****

Period under review: from 17 June 2021 to 23 June 2021.

[This report is based on publicly available sources to describe a changing situation. Information subject to change.]

Situation analysis recap:

- Seven Chinese air force warplanes flew into Taiwan's air defence identification zone on Thursday, 17 June. The latest fly-by that involved two J-16 fighter jets, four J-7 fighters and one Y-8 electric warfare aircraft was aimed at testing interoperability of its two generations of planes. It was also intended to test their ability to counter electronic interference.
- The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theatre Command tracked and monitored the *USS Curtis Wilbur*, a US Navy destroyer, as it sailed through the Taiwan Straits on Tuesday, 22 June. The Chinese claim that the U.S. aimed to stir up trouble in the region.
- Addressing the European Parliament's security and defence sub-committee on Thursday, Japanese Defence Minister, Nobuo Kishi, said, that China's military intentions are unclear and its armed forces' rapid expansion is of serious concern.
- Japan's defence minister urged European nations to have a stronger military involvement in the Asia-Pacific as Tokyo tries to put diplomatic pressure on Beijing to counter China's steep rise of influence in the region.
- The delays at Yantian Port, one of China's busiest container ports, are further snarling trade routes and lifting record freight prices even higher. Port authorities estimate that it should be running as normal by the end of June.
- China's longest-serving ambassador to Washington, Cui Tiankai, said on Tuesday, 22 June that he will be leaving his post after eight years. Qin Gang, a former close aid to Chinese President Xi Jinping is set to be named China's new ambassador to U.S.
- British Foreign Minister Dominic Raab arrived in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi, the first stop on a three-nation tour of Southeast Asia designed to further the U.K.'s recent Indo-Pacific tilt. In addition to Vietnam Mr. Raab will be visiting Cambodia and Singapore.

Sources/Further Reading:

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Analysis by: **Matjaž J. Leben**

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