Military Technology Competition In Asia: Some Recent Trends





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Summary

1. **China's military modernization and rapid build-up has sparked an arms race with Asian states that can afford it.**
2. **Arms racing with China and with third countries and will continue even if the U.S. "Rebalance" to Asia is a success. Degree of U.S. success will pace Asian demand for advanced military technology.**
3. **China's support that allows North Korea to exist, plus its military assistance, is making worse longstanding latent interest in nuclear weapons in South Korea and Japan.**
4. **China is seeking "space control" with its dual use space program. Japan offers broadest response; Japan, South Korea and Taiwan are emphasizing preservation of space access.**
5. **China has assembled the greatest variety and largest number of ballistic and cruise missiles, but now Taiwan, South Korea and perhaps Japan are developing ballistic and/or cruise missiles.**
6. **China is developing multiple 5th generation fighters while Japan, Singapore and perhaps South Korea are opting for the F-35. South Korea and Japan pursue an indigenous 5th gen design.**
7. **China may have over 100 submarines, all wealthy Asian states have them and want better subs.**
8. **NATO's interests are strengthened when Asia is stable and it is best not to help those who are promoting instability.**

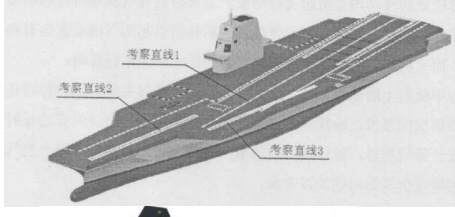
China's People's Liberation Army In 2026: Rough Estimates—If The CCP Thrives

Space Forces: Dual Use: Space Capsule; Space Station; Space Plane.
ASAT: Ground + Air Launched; Laser.
Satellites: 3-4th gen Recon/Com/ELINT/EW
Micro and Nano Sat Networks



Nuclear, Missile: 3rd Gen Solid Fuel ICBM/IRBM/MRBM/SRBM
SSBN: 5-10; ASBM
Warheads: @ 1,000 Strategic; @ 1,000 tactical
Strategic and Tactical BMD; Energy Weapons


Naval Forces: Carriers: 2-3 CV; 1CVN; 5th Gen Carrier Fighters
LHD: 6; LPD: 6; DDG: 30+; FFG: 50+
SSN: 5-10; SSK: 70+ SSB: ?



Air Forces: Fighters: 4th/ 4+ Gen: @ 1,400; 5th Gen: @200
Bombers: 150+ ; UCAV: Strategic and Tactical
Large Transports: 100+


Ground Forces: PLA Army, Marine and Airborne Global Projection

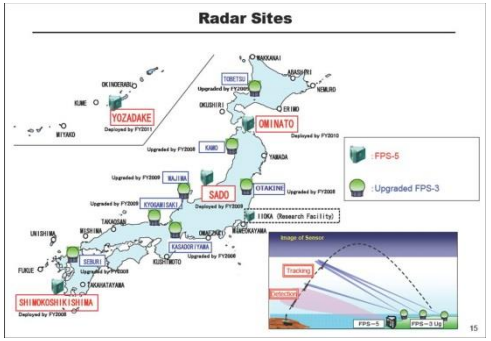
Will The US "Rebalance" Succeed In Deterring China, Assuring Allies?

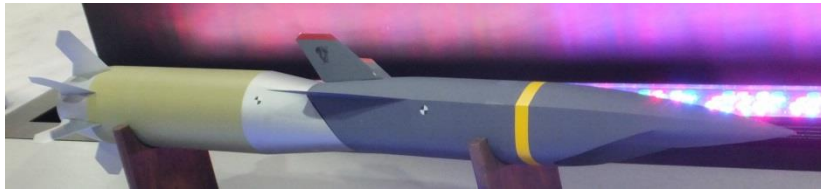
The Obama Administration "Rebalance" of 2011-2012 could be defeated by the U.S. budget.

If budgets were not an issues, it is apparent that the U.S. could establish a multi-national ISR network to support new long range strike platforms (bombers, UCAVs, Arsenal ships) and new MRBMs and IRBMs. Offense is becoming more important than BMD.

US allies hope the U.S. can make good on Alliance commitments, but they are also "hedging" by investing in 5th gen fighters, new missiles and new submarines. Incentives are growing for independent nuclear deterrents.

China's response: more nuke missiles, longer range ASBMs, supersonic ASCMs and its own investments in UAVs, new submarines.





China's Support For North Korea Increasing Nuclear Anxieties

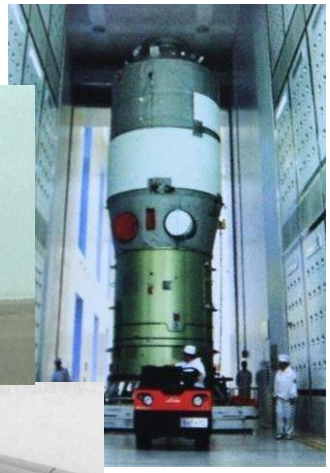
Chinese financial, political and military technology support, especially since early 1990s, has been instrumental in North Korea's nearly becoming a nuclear missile state.

China's late 2011 transfer of 16-wheel TELs for the KN-08 ICBM marks a dramatic turn in PRC support for North Korea's nuclear capability. The KN-08 has an estimated 6,000km range, enough to reach Anchorage, Alaska—or to reach London from Iran.

This, plus China's growing regional nuclear arsenal, put pressures on the U.S. to reintroduce regional nuclear forces. If the U.S. does not do so, that will increase desire for these weapons in Tokyo and Seoul, and then Taiwan, and perhaps Vietnam and Australia.

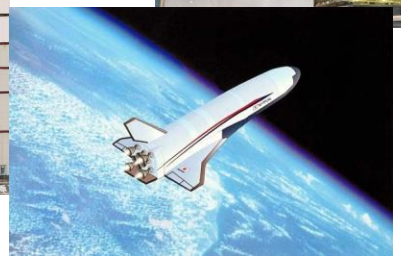
Space: China Seeks Control; Others Seek To Preserve Access

China: Space program PLA controlled and Dual Use.
Shenzhou capsule, Tiangong, Space Station, dual use.
Orbital and sub-orbital space plane program.
Active ASAT; Kuaizhou rapid launch SLV
Sats: Recon; Nav; ELINT; Near Space
Manned Moon landing by 2025; Dual use base by 2049 ?


Japan: Civil program with some MilSats; fiscally challenged
Key partner for ISS; 11 on Shuttle and ISS missions
HTV and basics for Manned Space; Epsilon solid SLV
Space Plane ambitions; Quazi-Zenith regional navsat
MilSats; Civil 30+ surveillance sat network





South
Korea: Civil program with military-political import.
Naro/KSLV; KSLV-2
Interest in manned space; one to ISS
Arirang: E/O; IR and Radar sat series

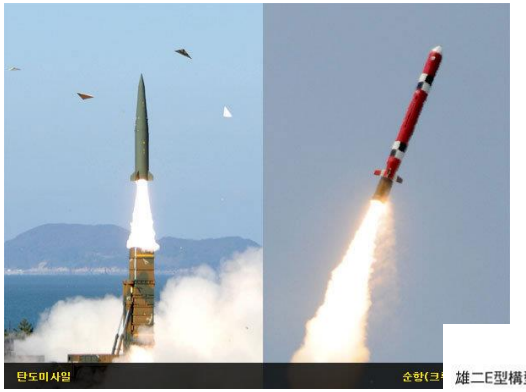
Taiwan: SLV program, unclear when operational

Missiles In the Asian Theater: Growing Weapon of Choice

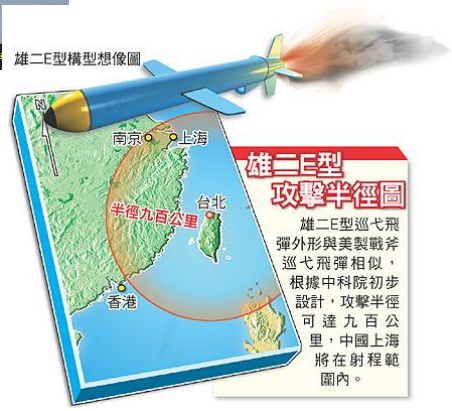
China: 1,200+ SRBMs; 500+ LACM; 120+ IRBM/MRBM
Russian source: 150+ tac nuke warheads on SRBMs
ASM: YJ-12, supersonic; CM-400AKG, hypersonic
Next Generation SRBM, MRBM and IRBM near deployment

Japan: Considering development of SRBM for first time
ASM-3: ramjet engine, supersonic, 200km range
Epsilon SLV as basis for IRBM

ROK: Hyunmoo-2 300km range solid-fuel SRBM
Hyunmoo-3 1,500km range LACM



Taiwan: Hsiung Feng-2E: 1,000+km range LACM
Hsiung Feng-3: 200km range supersonic ASM
Possible MRBM program

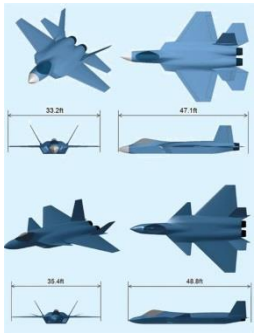


Air Forces: Upgrading to 4+ Gen and Starting With 5th Gen

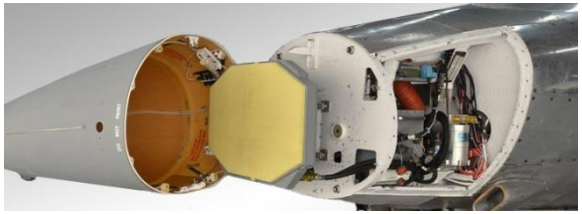
China: 4+ Gen: J-10B, J-11D and J-16
5th Gen: Shenyang J-31, Chengdu J-20, + 1 ?
Land and Carrier-based UCAV
Next Gen Bomber and Large Transports

Japan: 4+ Gen: Some F-15J mod with AESA
5th Gen: 42 F-35A; ATD-X follow on ?
UAV/UCAV technology development
P-1 ASW, C-2 medium transport

ROK: 4+Gen: F-16Cs mod with AESA
5th Gen: F-35A or KFX ?

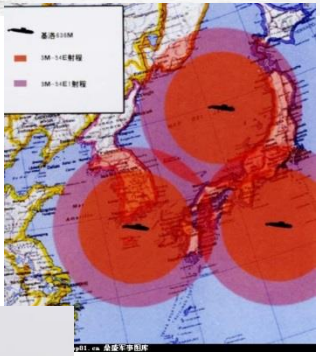


Taiwan: 4+ Gen: F-16A mod with AESA
5th Gen: F-35B in 2020s ?
UCAV development



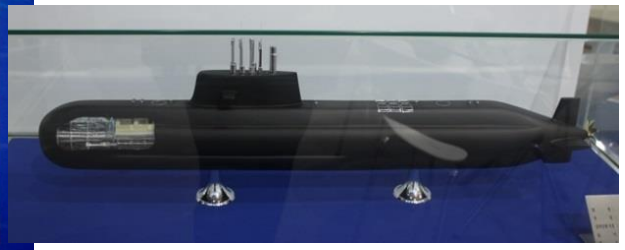
Attack Submarines: Next Gen AIP and Some Interest In SSNs

China: Type 039A *Yuan* SSK: 20 estimate; AIP; ASCM
Kilo: 12 in service; 8 with *Club* missile system
Type 039 *Song:* 13-14 in service; ASCM
Type 093 SSN: 5 and then Type 095
Type 032 SSB: combat derivative? AAMs
50+ older Type 033 and 035 in service



Japan: Building up to 22 SSK force
Soryu class: 10 to be built (?); 4,200 tons, AIP
Perhaps most advanced Asian SSK, for ASW

ROK: Building up 19 modern SSK force
KSS-1/Type 209/1200: 9 in service
KSS-2/Type 214: 9 to be built, AIP
KSS-3: Ready in 2020s; 3,500 tons; AIP; VLS



Taiwan: Now seeking indigenous 1,500 ton SSK