

**Featured MSP Perspectives:**



**MSP Perspectives:**

Temper Expectations for the Guidelines on Air  
Military Encounters  
— p. 4

**Naval Development and Policy:**

China, Asean kick off inaugural maritime field  
training exercise in Zhanjiang, Guangdong  
— p. 5

**Maritime Safety and Security:**

Photos Show Confrontation Between USS  
Decatur and a Chinese Navy Warship in South  
China Sea  
— p. 7

**Shipping, Ports, and the Maritime Economy:**

Asia Leads in Container Shipping Connectivity  
— p. 9

# Table of Contents

<b>MSP PERSPECTIVES</b>	<b>4</b>
Temper Expectations for the Guidelines on Air Military Encounters	4
<b>NAVAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY</b>	<b>5</b>
China, Asean kick off inaugural maritime field training exercise in Zhanjiang, Guangdong	5
BRP Tarlac now in Russia for first-ever port visit	5
US Navy proposing major show of force to warn China	5
Key contract signed for new frigates	5
Defense ministry to test own cooperative engagement capabilities for MSDF ships	5
Indonesia to build integrated military base in Morotai, North Maluku	6
Japan offers to help build Australia's future submarine fleet if French deal falls through	6
Japanese Amphibious Soldiers Hit the Beach in the Philippines with U.S. Marines, 7th Fleet	6
S.Korea Has Conducted No Artillery Drills Since April	6
Building contemporary, state of the art fleet tanker for Pakistan Navy	6
Navy to Create Task Fleet for Far Sea Operations	6
Indonesia offers inclusive Indo-Pacific concept by creating new growth centers	6
Budget watchdog questions Navy's plan for 355-ship fleet	6
SDF destroyers refueled by U.S. vessel as Chinese warship lurks	6
New weather stations start operation on China's Nansha Islands	6
<b>MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY</b>	<b>7</b>
Photos Show Confrontation Between USS Decatur and a Chinese Navy Warship in South China Sea	7
TLDM-Maritime Malaysia joint exercise to enhance understanding	7
Vietnam Coast Guard vessel pays first visit to India	7
Japan surveying border isles to protect maritime interest, security	7
70 Palawan fishermen, tour boat operators get free tracking devices	7
Coast Guard Releases 'Maritime Commerce Strategic Outlook'	8
Australia assigns warship to enforce North Korean sanctions	8
Japan, China to sign agreement on maritime search and rescue	8
Indonesia fights for eradication of fisheries crime at UN	8
Satellite monitoring could help curb illegal fishing in shark sanctuaries	8
Minister does trial test of local-made radar to anticipate ship accidents	8
ASEAN eyes maritime exercise with U.S. next year: Singapore minister	8
Police to improve procedures to tackle crime in Sabah waters	8
Multi-agency task force to combat illegal fishing	8
China unilaterally ceases joint maritime rescue drill with Taiwan	8
<b>SHIPPING, PORTS, AND THE MARITIME ECONOMY</b>	<b>9</b>
Asia Leads in Container Shipping Connectivity	9
China funded Hambantota Port to be a multi purpose port	9
Ten countries sign historic agreement to protect Central Arctic Ocean	9
UN warns on risks of container consolidation	9
IMF-WB - Indonesia, Vietnam discuss fish processing cooperation	9
Indonesia's proposal on tuna labeling approved by asean ministers	10
S. Korea eyes development of port in Russian Far East	10
3D printing facility to be built at PSA's Pasir Panjang Terminal	10
Why Pakistan is backing away from Chinese-funded infrastructure projects	10
India, Myanmar sign MoU on operationalisation of Sittwe Port	10
IMO's MEPC approves action plan on GHG emissions reduction	10
S. Korea to provide financial assistance for shipbuilding industry	10
Maritime Cybersecurity Survey Indicates Industry is Unprepared for Risks	10
Seychelles Achieves World First with Sovereign Blue Bond	10
IMO Adopts Action Plan on Marine Plastic Litter	10

## **NOTES**

Please click on the links for the full report. All links and news reports are correct at the time of publication. Through this bulletin, you will be linked to external websites. We have no control over the nature, content, and availability of those sites. The inclusion of any links does not necessarily imply a recommendation or endorsement of the views expressed within them.

Should you encounter any problem in retrieving the articles, or if you have any comments/suggestions/request, please feel free to contact us at:

RSISMSP@ntu.edu.sg

## **Maritime Security Programme, RSIS**

### ***Editorial Team***

Lee YingHui  
Collin Koh



#### **Author**

Collin Koh

Research Fellow, Maritime Security Programme

Barely a month after a near-miss close encounter between the USS Decatur and a Chinese warship, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting promulgated the Guidelines for Air Military Encounters (GAME), which extended confidence-building from the surface to aerial domain, reflecting concerns about potential instability in the South China Sea. A logical next step is for other countries to adopt this new set of guidelines and development suggest this reality is not far from hand. It is encouraging that the eight dialogue partners that make up the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), including China and the US lent "in-principle" support for the world's first multilateral set of guidelines governing behaviour between military air forces.

But this still begs the question whether ASEAN's expression of concerns would be effective in altering the behaviour of extra-regional powers, not least China and the US, in the South China Sea. As far as China and the US are concerned, the ADMM's new aerial guidelines are anything but novel, one reason why there's no reason for either to object. The two powers had inked very similar provisions in bilateral agreements since 2014, including a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the Rules of Behaviour for Safety of Air and Maritime Encounters in 2014, and the Agreement on Establishing a Consultation Mechanism to Strengthen Military Maritime Safety.

Both sides have also agreed in the following year to more detailed rules of engagement for air-to-air encounters in a subsequent supplement to the 2014 MOU. In fact, comparing the two mechanisms, the ADMM's aerial guidelines seems to draw more than just inspiration much from the 2015 Supplement – and yet the US-China agreements are far more elaborate document, for example containing provisions for annual assessment meetings to review their effectiveness, and specific communications rules.

The existence of such agreements between the US and China did not ensure total compliance, however. In May 2016, two Chinese J-11 fighter jets flew within 15m of a US Navy EP-3 reconnaissance aircraft east of Hainan island, in what US authorities described as an "unsafe" encounter, and a violation of the inked agreements. In February 2017, another "unsafe" aerial incident happened, in the general vicinity of the Scarborough Shoal, when a US Navy P-3C maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft and a Chinese KJ-200 airborne early warning plane flew within about 304m of each other.

Fortunately, most of the interactions between Chinese and US air and maritime forces have been safe and professional, and incidents did not escalate into more

serious mishaps thanks in no small part to a factor more important than the presence of these agreements - the continued bilateral channels of communications.

If anything, GAME may have the effect of impressing upon Beijing and Washington the urgency of prudently managing safe maritime and aerial interactions between their forces, and expressing ASEAN's collective concerns about tensions in the South China Sea to shape regional norms of good behaviour. But there are clearly limitations on what this new initiative can possibly accomplish, even if it is adopted by other extra-regional parties.

What we must keep in mind is that China and the US will likely continue to implement and gradually augment their bilateral mechanisms to manage conflict, regardless whether guidelines are promulgated to the ADMM-Plus. No doubt extra-regional powers will at least express support for such initiatives to show their support for ASEAN's continued relevance and centrality within the regional security architecture. Given its pivotal role in maintaining regional peace and stability in the South China Sea, ASEAN will do well to heed caution because it risks being pulled apart, where many regional countries are looking at security cooperation that do not include others, so that they can influence and shape ASEAN's position.

Given the pace of activities taking place in and around the disputed waters, tensions are not likely to subside anytime soon. Nevertheless, ASEAN-led initiatives such as ADMM and ADMM-Plus remain useful insofar as they help constantly remind all concerned parties to manage tensions out of control.

A longer version was originally published with *Channel NewsAsia* (see [link](#))



ASEAN-CHINA | 22 OCTOBER | THE STRAITS TIMES

## China, Asean kick off inaugural maritime field training exercise in Zhanjiang, Guangdong

Eight ships kicked off the first Asean-China Maritime Field Training Exercise in Zhanjiang in China's southern Guangdong province on Monday (Oct 22).

[Full Report](#)

THE PHILIPPINES | 1 OCTOBER | PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### BRP Tarlac now in Russia for first-ever port visit

Strategic sealift vessel BRP Tarlac (LD-601) officially docked at Vladivostok, Russia at around 11 a.m. (Manila time) Monday.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES | 4 OCTOBER | CNN

### US Navy proposing major show of force to warn China

The US Navy's Pacific Fleet has drawn up a classified proposal to carry out a global show of force as a warning to China and to demonstrate the US is prepared to deter and counter their military actions, according to several US defense officials.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 4 OCTOBER | SBS NEWS

### Key contract signed for new frigates

The federal government has signed an interim contract with BAE Systems Australia for construction of the navy's \$35 billion Hunter Class frigates.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 5 OCTOBER | THE MAINICHI

### Defense ministry to test own cooperative engagement capabilities for MSDF ships

The Ministry of Defense has decided to develop its own "cooperative engagement capability" (CEC) system that would enable Self-Defense Force (SDF) units to share enemy information in real time such as locations and carry out joint counterattacks against enemy weapons such as cruise missiles, according to ministry officials.

[Full Report](#)

Continue on page 6

INDONESIA | 6 OCTOBER | ANTARA NEWS

### **Indonesia to build integrated military base in Morotai, North Maluku**

The Leo Wattimena Air Force base on the island of Morotai, North Maluku, would be strengthened as an integrated military base for the defense of eastern Indonesia.

[Full Report](#)



AUSTRALIA-JAPAN | 11 OCTOBER | ABC NEWS

### **Japan offers to help build Australia's future submarine fleet if French deal falls through**

Japan's visiting Foreign Minister says his country would still be prepared to export its submarines to Australia if protracted contract negotiations between Defence and French company Naval Group eventually collapse.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN-PHILIPPINES-UNITED STATES | 15 OCTOBER | USNI NEWS

### **Japanese Amphibious Soldiers Hit the Beach in the Philippines with U.S. Marines, 7th Fleet**

It was no ordinary beach assault when troops took off on amphibious assault vehicles from a U.S. Navy ship and raced ashore in a training exercise with U.S. Marines.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 17 OCTOBER | THE CHOSUN ILBO

### **S.Korea Has Conducted No Artillery Drills Since April**

South Korea has suspended since April both live-fire drills of K-9 self-propelled howitzers and joint South Korea-U.S. marine drills on the northwesternmost islands off North Korea's coast in the West Sea.

[Full Report](#)

PAKISTAN | 19 OCTOBER | THE NEWS INTERNATIONAL

### **Building contemporary, state of the art fleet tanker for Pakistan Navy**

Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW) has build the state of the art, IMO/MARPOL compliant double hull 17000 tonnes displacement Fleet Tanker for Pakistan Navy.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 19 OCTOBER | KBS WORLD

### **Navy to Create Task Fleet for Far Sea Operations**

South Korea is expanding its Navy to handle broad range operations beyond its immediate shores.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 24 OCTOBER | ANTARA NEWS

### **Indonesia offers inclusive Indo-Pacific concept by creating new growth centers**

Indonesia offers an open and inclusive Indo-Pacific cooperation by creating new centers of growth and paying attention to centrality of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES | 24 OCTOBER | NAVY TIMES

### **Budget watchdog questions Navy's plan for 355-ship fleet**

A federal financial watchdog is questioning whether the Pentagon will ever reach its ambitious goal of a 355-ship Navy.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 26 OCTOBER | THE ASAHI SHIMBUN

### **SDF destroyers refueled by U.S. vessel as Chinese warship lurks**

Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyers Kaga and Inazuma were refueled by U.S. replenishment vessel Pecos in the South China Sea to the south of Vietnam on Oct. 25 as a Chinese destroyer tailed them.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 31 OCTOBER | XINHUA

### **New weather stations start operation on China's Nansha Islands**

China said Wednesday that its meteorological observation stations on three reefs on the Nansha Islands have started operation.

[Full Report](#)



gCaptain

CHINA-UNITED STATES | 2 OCTOBER | GCAPTAIN

### **Photos Show Confrontation Between USS Decatur and a Chinese Navy Warship in South China Sea**

gCaptain has just obtained photos showing a confrontation involving the U.S. Navy destroyer USS Decatur and a Chinese Navy warship in the disputed South China Sea over the weekend.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 2 OCTOBER | THE BORNEO POST

### **TLDM-Maritime Malaysia joint exercise to enhance understanding**

The joint exercise between the Royal Malaysian Navy (TLDM) and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (Maritime Malaysia) could boost diplomatic relations and understanding especially in combating maritime security threats in the country.

[Full Report](#)

VIETNAM | 2 OCTOBER | VIETNAM PLUS

### **Vietnam Coast Guard vessel pays first visit to India**

Vessel 8001 from the High Command of Vietnam Coast Guard, Zone 3, led by Vice Commander Sen. Lt. Col. Nguyen Minh Khanh docked in Chennai port on October 2, beginning its visit to India at the invitation of Rear Admiral Paramesh, Commander of the Indian Coast Guard Eastern Region.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 7 OCTOBER | THE ASAHI SHIMBUN

### **Japan surveying border isles to protect maritime interest, security**

Japan has started surveying border-area islands, whose owners and usage often remain a mystery, to maintain its territorial waters and far-flung locations in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

[Full Report](#)

THE PHILIPPINES | 10 OCTOBER | PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### **70 Palawan fishermen, tour boat operators get free tracking devices**

Around 70 fishermen and boat operators in two coastal villages here received free portable tracking devices recently from the joint project of a Manila-based aviation and maritime company and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

[Full Report](#)

*Continue on page 8*



UNITED STATES | 11 OCTOBER | SEAPOWERS MAGAZINE

### **Coast Guard Releases 'Maritime Commerce Strategic Outlook'**

The Coast Guard has released a 10-year vision for enabling maritime commerce, which "emphasizes the critical need for a ready, relevant, responsive Coast Guard," the service said in an Oct. 11 message.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 12 OCTOBER | ASSOCIATED PRESS

### **Australia assigns warship to enforce North Korean sanctions**

Australia has assigned a guided missile frigate to the East China Sea to boost international efforts to enforce sanctions against North Korea, an Australian officer said on Friday.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-JAPAN | 15 OCTOBER | THE MAINICHI

### **Japan, China to sign agreement on maritime search and rescue**

Japan and China have decided to sign an agreement to facilitate cooperation over search and rescue operations when accidents take place in waters off the two countries, government sources said Monday.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 16 OCTOBER | ANTARA NEWS

### **Indonesia fights for eradication of fisheries crime at UN**

Fisheries crime not only has a dire impact on the environment but also threatens the security and economy of a country, an Indonesian diplomat stated.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 17 OCTOBER | UPI

### **Satellite monitoring could help curb illegal fishing in shark sanctuaries**

Scientists from the University of California, Santa Barbara want to use satellite tracking technology to

ensure shark sanctuaries around the world are true sanctuaries -- not hotbeds of illegal activity.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 18 OCTOBER | ANTARA NEWS

### **Minister does trial test of local-made radar to anticipate ship accidents**

The Ministry of Transportation will test local radars by the Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology Surabaya (ITS), namely an early warning and ship safety monitoring system called Automatic Identification System of ITS (AISITS).

[Full Report](#)

ASEAN-UNITED STATES | 19 OCTOBER | KYODO NEWS

### **ASEAN eyes maritime exercise with U.S. next year: Singapore minister**

Singapore Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen said Friday that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is planning a maritime exercise with the U.S. Navy next year.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 19 OCTOBER | MALAY MAIL

### **Police to improve procedures to tackle crime in Sabah waters**

The police will improve all procedures and actions made previously in efforts to tackle crime that occurred in the border areas in Sabah waters especially in the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCom).

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 21 OCTOBER | NEW STRAITS TIMES

### **Multi-agency task force to combat illegal fishing**

Malaysia has established a multi-agency special task force to curb illegal fishing in its waters.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-TAIWAN | 25 OCTOBER | TAIWAN NEWS

### **China unilaterally ceases joint maritime rescue drill with Taiwan**

China has decided to halt the cross-strait joint maritime rescue drill this year amid heightened regional tensions, confirmed Taiwan's Coast Guard Administration on Oct. 25.

[Full Report](#)



ASIA | 10 OCTOBER | THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE

## Asia Leads in Container Shipping Connectivity

China remained the trading nation best connected to others by sea in 2018, according to UNCTAD's latest Liner Shipping Connectivity Index (LSCI), released alongside the Review of Maritime Transport 2018.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-SRI LANKA | 3 OCTOBER | COLOMBO GAZETTE

## China funded Hambantota Port to be a multi purpose port

The China funded Hambantota Port is to be a multi purpose port, the Hambantota International Port Group (HIPG) said.

[Full Report](#)

ARCTIC OCEAN | 3 OCTOBER | FISH INFORMATION AND SERVICES

## Ten countries sign historic agreement to protect Central Arctic Ocean

An agreement intended to prevent unregulated fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean is to be signed by representatives of five Arctic coastal states and five large fisheries nations meeting in Greenland today.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 4 OCTOBER | SPLASH 24/7

## UN warns on risks of container consolidation

Data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)...report contains some warnings over possible monopolistic activities by liner companies.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA-VIETNAM | 14 OCTOBER | ANTARA NEWS

## IMF-WB - Indonesia, Vietnam discuss fish processing cooperation

Indonesian Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Susi Pudjiastuti and Vietnamese Agriculture Minister Hoang Van Thang held a bilateral talks to discuss fisheries processing industry.

[Full Report](#)

ASEAN | 15 OCTOBER | ANTARA NEWS

### **Indonesia's proposal on tuna labeling approved by asean ministers**

Indonesia's proposal on the ASEAN Tuna Eco-labeling (ATEL) policy has been approved and endorsed at the ASEAN ministers of agriculture and forestry (AMAF) meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA-RUSSIA | 15 OCTOBER | YONHAP NEWS

### **S. Korea eyes development of port in Russian Far East**

South Korea's oceans ministry said Monday it will look into the feasibility of developing a port in Russia's Far East to help local companies take advantage of its strategic location.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 17 OCTOBER | CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

### **3D printing facility to be built at PSA's Pasir Panjang Terminal**

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) inked a deal on Wednesday (Oct 17) to build the world's first maritime 3D printing facility at PSA's Pasir Panjang Terminal.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-PAKISTAN | 19 OCTOBER | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

### **Why Pakistan is backing away from Chinese-funded infrastructure projects**

Adnan Aamir says concern over unfair terms means Pakistan's new government is less enamoured of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor than previous leaders.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA-MYANMAR | 22 OCTOBER | HINDUSTAN TIMES

### **India, Myanmar sign MoU on operationalisation of Sittwe Port**

India and Myanmar on Monday inked a crucial MoU for the appointment of a private operator of the Sittwe Port that will boost connectivity and help in creating local job.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 23 OCTOBER | BUNKERSPOT

### **IMO'S MEPC approves action plan on GHG emissions reduction**

The programme, approved at this week's meeting of MEPC 73 in London, 'sets a clear signal on how to further progress the matter of reduction of GHG

emissions from ships up to 2023,' said IMO Secretary General, Kitack Lim.

[Full Report](#)



SOUTH KOREA | 23 OCTOBER | HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS

### **S. Korea to provide financial assistance for shipbuilding industry**

South Korea's industry ministry said Monday it will seek ways to provide financial assistance for shipbuilders and their parts makers to help them develop new technologies and win new orders in the global market.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES | 27 OCTOBER | HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS

### **Maritime Cybersecurity Survey Indicates Industry is Unprepared for Risks**

Jones Walker LLP publicly released the findings of its inaugural Maritime Cybersecurity Survey, confirm[ing] that rapidly evolving technologies deployed throughout the U.S. maritime industry to increase efficiencies and competitiveness present significant cybersecurity risks, which the industry is unprepared to shoulder.

[Full Report](#)

SEYCHELLES | 29 OCTOBER | THE WORLD BANK

### **Seychelles Achieves World First with Sovereign Blue Bond**

The Seychelles, which recently issued a Blue Economy roadmap, recognized the need to rebuild and sustainably use its fish stocks through improved governance and management of the sector.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 31 OCTOBER | MARINE LINK

### **IMO Adopts Action Plan on Marine Plastic Litter**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has pledged to address the significant problem posed by plastics to the marine environment, with the adoption of an action plan which aims to enhance existing regulations and introduce new supporting measures to reduce marine plastic litter from ships.

[Full Report](#)