

Tuesday 09/01/20

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Photos: China's New Carrier-Based Early Warning Aircraft Spotted on First Flight

As China expands its carrier fleet to include catapult-launched aircraft, it's adding new planes to round out the air wing's capabilities. A new airborne early warning (AEW) aircraft, the KJ-600, made its first flight last week, and its design is clearly inspired by the US Navy's E-2 Hawkeye. The new carrier-based aircraft took to the skies for the first time over Shaanxi's Xi'an last week, the [Xi'an-based magazine Ordnance Industry Science Technology reported](#). However, the Chinese Defense Ministry has made no official statement or verification of the event to the press.

Photos of the prop-driven aircraft in flight appeared on social media just as commercial satellite photos of the KJ-600 sitting on the tarmac at a Xi'an air base began to circulate as well. However, the plane's layout was not that much of a mystery for military observers: an experimental design used to build the KJ-600, called the JZY-01, appeared in 2018. That aircraft was in turn based on the Russian Au-24 transport aircraft, which at 77 feet long is far too big to launch from an aircraft carrier.

Much about the KJ-600's design is clearly inspired by the Grumman E-2 Hawkeye, a well-proven AEW aircraft in use by the US Navy [and many of its allies since the 1960s](#).

An E-2D Hawkeye lands aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).

This is likely because the Hawkeye's design is already optimized for its role: its propeller engines [allow it to loiter for up to four hours high above the carrier battle group](#), where its huge radome mounted above the fuselage can dramatically extend the radar range of the fleet. Its slender fuselage leaves enough room for between four and six crew members to operate, while still being small enough to fit below decks on the carrier, and its four-finned tail provides it with superior stability as it lugs around that huge radome.

The Soviet Union's proposed Yak-44 AEW aircraft would have used a remarkably similar design to the Hawkeye as well.

However, the KJ-600 will almost certainly not fly from the Shandong or the Liaoning, the People's Liberation Army Navy's (PLAN) only two aircraft carriers at present. A heavy plane like the Hawkeye doesn't generate enough thrust to survive the low-speed launch off the ramp on the front of the flight deck, requiring instead the more powerful catapult launching system used by US aircraft carriers - and featured on the PLAN's upcoming Type 003 carrier. That warship is under construction in Shanghai [and is expected to be completed in 2021](#).

China's carriers do have a form of AEW aircraft in specially modified Z-18J helicopters, but they have a far shorter range than the KJ-600 would likely have: some 200 miles versus a 500-mile radius. However, even that is better than the carrier's tower-based radar, which cannot see beyond the horizon, just 12 miles away.

The KJ-600 isn't the only new carrier-based aircraft under development in China: in July, the Chinese Aeronautical Establishment, the research and development branch of the Aviation Industry Corporation of China, [announced it would be teaming up with Shenyang Aircraft Corporation](#) to test a new carrier-based aircraft later this year. As Shenyang made the FC-31 "Gyrfalcon" stealth aircraft, which has been [widely anticipated to become China's new carrier-based fighter](#), it has been assumed the announcement refers to the FC-31.

Like the KJ-600 and the E-2 Hawkeye, the FC-31 has also seen comparisons drawn with the United States' F-35 fighter, but [as Sputnik reported, their similarities are superficial](#) and do not warrant the accusation that it was copied from the Lockheed Martin jet using stolen designs, as former US national security adviser John Bolton has claimed.

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Trump Pledges Millions in Federal Aid to Wisconsin After Days of Protests in Wake of Blake Shooting

In the wake of massive protests over the police shooting of an unarmed Black man, US President Donald Trump announced on Tuesday he is sending millions of dollars in funds to small businesses as well as the police force in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Trump said [at a roundtable talk in the Wisconsin port city on Tuesday](#) that he was sending extensive financial support to Kenosha, including \$1 million to the Kenosha Police Department, "so that you have some extra money to go out and do what you need to do," \$4 million to support local businesses "that got burned up, burned down," and more than \$42 million "to support public safety statewide, including direct support for law enforcement and funding for additional prosecutors to punish criminals, and resources to provide services to victims of crime."

"When you grab them and then nothing happens, then they're back on the street. That doesn't work out too well," Trump said, noting Attorney General William Barr requested the additional funding.

"I'm committed to helping Kenosha rebuild, we all are," Trump said.

Trump's visit to Kenosha went against the wishes of Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers, who asked Trump to "reconsider" his visit in light of considerations about "what your presence will mean for Kenosha and our state."

"I have to see the people who did such a good job for me," [Trump said at a Monday press conference](#) in reference to his Tuesday visit. "It could increase love and respect for our country."

After 29-year-old Jacob Blake was shot in the back during a traffic stop last week by Kenosha police, inflicting wounds that paralyzed him below the waist, massive protests broke out in Kenosha and across the United States. At least half a dozen buildings were set ablaze in the city and two protesters were killed by a protestor with a rifle.

In response, [Evers mobilized some 750 Wisconsin National Guard soldiers](#) and Trump [dispatched nearly 1,000 additional guardsmen](#), plus 200 federal law enforcement officers to crush the protests and restore order.

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Listen: US Airline Pilots Landing in Los Angeles Baffled by 'Guy in a Jetpack' Flying Nearby

Pilots in a pair of airliners coming in to land at California's Los Angeles International Airport on Sunday got the shock of their life when what everyone agreed was a man flying using a jetpack appeared near their aircraft.

While aircraft pilots have had to adjust to the rise in commercial drones in recent years, which sometimes appear close to the flight paths of landing or taking off airplanes, it seems watching out for people in jetpacks might be the next adjustment pilots will have to make.

At least two passenger airliner crews reported the strange incident on Sunday evening, noting the man was flying at roughly 3,000 feet up in the air.

"We just passed a guy in a jetpack ... off the left side, maybe 300 yards or so, about our altitude," the pilot of an American Airlines flight told the air traffic controllers at the airport [in a recording obtained by Fox 11 Los Angeles](#).

A few minutes later, the pilot of a Skywest aircraft confirmed the sighting, saying over the radio: "We just saw the guy passing by us in the jetpack."

In response, the tower alerted a JetBlue flight on its way in: "JetBlue 23, use caution, a person in a jetpack reported 300 yards south of the LA final at about 3,000 feet, 10 mile final."

"We heard and we are definitely looking," the JetBlue pilot responded. His copilot could be heard musing "only in LA."

[The FBI's Los Angeles Field Division told NBC on Tuesday](#) it is "aware of reports by airline pilots of a possible sighting of someone flying with a jet pack" and "is working to determine what may have occurred."

In recent years, a technology that was once firmly in the realm of science fiction has become a reality as commercial and military developers have put out several experimental designs for personal flying devices.

One company, the UK-based Gravity Industries, [has anticipated a jetpack racing league will become popular](#) using the devices it tested in 2018, and the [British Ministry of Defense has shown an interest](#) in adopting the technology as well.

More recently in Arizona, a mysterious UFO was spotted in March [that to many people seemed to be a man in a jetpack](#). Perhaps the man has made a trip west to California?

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US Army Holds Live-Fire Rocket Artillery Drills Less Than 70 Miles From Russian Border

The US Army announced on Monday the beginning of live-fire drills involving rocket artillery in Estonia, less than 70 miles from Russian territory. The move comes just days after large Russian naval exercises in the Bering Sea, near Alaska.

On Tuesday, US Army Europe's Rail Gunner Rush exercise began, featuring artillery barrages by the 41st Field Artillery Brigade. The drills are hosted at Estonia's Tapa Army Base, just 66 miles from Russian territory.

The 41st Field Artillery Brigade uses the M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS), which can fire barrages of up to 12 missiles at a time. [The Army's news release announcing the drills noted](#) this will be the unit's first live-fire drill after being rebased outside Germany.

While the drills come just days after [Russian naval exercises in the Bering Sea](#) that attracted Washington's close eye - [and the media's wild paranoia](#) - the Pentagon said the "routine training exercise is not tied to any current events in the region."

Even though the shooting drills will happen practically within earshot of Russian soil, the US media has refused to relent in its drive to paint the exercises as justified and not at all hostile. [On Monday, the right-wing Washington Times said in its report](#) that the drills "aren't a direct response to any recent Russian aggression," but they are "calculated measures to send a message to an increasingly brazen Kremlin."

"Russia over the past six months also has routinely entered air defense zones off the coast of Alaska, drawing harsh rebukes from the Pentagon. Last Friday, Russian planes intercepted a US B-52 that the Pentagon says was 'conducting routine operations' over international waters of the Black Sea," the Times continued. Those "routine operations" were actually [an unprecedented overflight of every single NATO member](#) by four nuclear-capable strategic bombers.

In response, the Russian Embassy in Washington, DC, issued a statement condemning both the drills and the media's response as "demonstrative saber-rattling."

"We drew attention to messages, including in The Washington Times with anti-Russian assertions, and media support to the exercises of the US and Estonian Armed Forces taking place from 1 September to 10 September using multiple launch rocket systems in the immediate vicinity of the Russian borders – 70 mi (110 km)," [the embassy said Monday on Facebook](#).

"The Russian Federation has repeatedly offered to the United States and its allies to limit training activities and to divert exercise areas from the line of contact between Russia and NATO. We consider the actions of the US Armed Forces in Estonia provocative and extremely dangerous for regional stability."

Earlier this year, Washington also dispatched a B-1B Lancer, a strategic bomber originally designed for low-altitude supersonic sprints into the Soviet Union to deliver nuclear strikes, [on a surprise globetrotting trip from South Dakota to Estonia](#) for another set of live-fire exercises in conjunction with the Estonian Armed Forces.

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Former COVID-19 Ground Zero Wuhan Reopens Schools After Seven Months

Students in China's Wuhan, the original epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic, returned to class on September 1 as the city reopened all of its schools following a seven-month shutdown. Nearly 1.4 million students resumed classes in around 2,800 kindergartens, primary schools and middle schools in the city. High schools were reopened in May, according to AFP. State media broadcast images of students hoisting the Chinese flag, a daily routine in schools across the country.

Despite the reopening of schools, however, officials are remaining vigilant and have devised online teaching plans in the event of potential COVID-19 outbreaks.

In addition, students have been advised to wear masks while traveling to and from school and avoid public transportation if possible. Drills and training sessions to prepare students for new outbreaks will also be conducted at schools.

Shanghai reopened schools in May, while the country's capital city of Beijing, which experienced a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in late June, will reopen all of its schools this month. In Beijing, teachers and students will also be required to wear masks on school property. Wuhan was responsible for around 80% of China's more than 4,600 COVID-19 deaths, according to AFP.

The city was under lockdown for more than two months starting in late January. The restrictions were lifted in April, and no new local transmissions of the virus have been reported in the city since May 18, according to Reuters.

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US Divorce Agreement Sales Soar by 34% During COVID-19 Pandemic

An analysis by Legal Templates, a company that helps simplify the process of creating legal contracts, reveals that the firm saw a 34% increase in US sales of divorce agreements during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the same period in 2019.

According to the company's [findings](#), many marriages were destroyed in less than three weeks of quarantine. In addition, couples in Southern states were most likely to sign a divorce agreement. In fact, the rate of divorce in the South was two to three times higher than in other US regions.

The Southern states with the highest divorce rates were Mississippi, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Alabama and Louisiana. These are also some of the US states hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The company determined that they saw separation inquiries hit a peak on April 13, at about the same time that the majority of US states were beginning to impose strict lockdown measures to curb the further spread of the novel coronavirus. The report notes that officials saw a 57% increase in inquiries on April 13 when compared to figures from February 13.

Newlyweds were “hit hardest by a significant margin,” according to the report. The findings reveal that while only 11% of people who sought a divorce agreement from Legal Templates last year had been married for five months or less, that figure nearly doubled to 20% during the same period in 2020 during quarantine. That means that a “significant number” of couples who got married this year between January and March ended up purchasing a divorce agreement between April and June.

In addition, the rate of divorcing couples with children has spiked compared to 2019, with the number of life insurance policies purchased to secure spousal support payments for divorce settlements increasing this year as well.

During the pandemic, 45% of couples that filled out Legal Templates' divorce agreement had children under the age of 18, marking a 5% increase from the same period in 2019.

“It’s clear from our data that the COVID-19 crisis has increased divorce rates across America - particularly in newlyweds and couples with young children,” Legal Templates concluded in its report.

“Unfortunately, the stressors presented during these unpredictable and unprecedented times were too much for many couples to handle. It’s possible that divorce rates will continue to rise as economic, financial, social, institutional, and psychological turmoil from the COVID-19 virus unfolds,” the firm added.

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Video: Off-Duty US Cop Caught Slashing Tires of Parked Cars, Probe Launched

A man caught on camera slashing the tires of parked cars on a street in Pittston in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, has been identified as one of the city’s police officers.

According to a [report by local outlet Fox56](#), the officer, whose name has not yet been revealed, slashed between three and five tires on Saturday night.

The officer has been suspended with pay while an investigation is conducted by the Luzerne County District Attorney’s Office and the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office to avoid a conflict of interest with the police department.

"We will investigate every matter. I am very confident we will handle it the right way. I have full confidence in our police department. I have full confidence in the state police," Pittston Mayor Mike Lombardo said in a [recent statement to local outlet WNEP](#).

"I would describe him [the cop] as a good, responsible officer who did his job. With younger officers coming on, I think he was always someone who worked with them. When I was called and found out who it was, I was shocked," the mayor added. The cop, who was off duty at the time of the incident, is believed to have used a knife to slash the tires of several cars. Lombardo also confirmed that alcohol was involved and that charges will be filed against the officer. Lombardo also dispelled rumors that the officer was driven to slash the tires following a dispute inside a restaurant. "He was outside. He did not have any altercation with anybody either being served in the restaurant or associated with the restaurant," the mayor explained.

The officer's identity will be released to the public after charges are filed.

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Give More, Get More: Study Finds Generosity Linked to Lower Mortality Rate

A new study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences suggests that those who are more generous live longer.

The [study](#), conducted by researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock, Germany, found that the act of giving is linked to lower mortality rates.

The findings were based on population-level data for 34 countries to determine the correlation between wealth transfer generosity and national mortality. The researchers also made sure to account for other factors like gross domestic product and income inequality, which can also affect a population's life expectancy.

For instance, the researchers determined that people in Senegal in Sub-Saharan Africa share the lowest percentage of their lifetime income and have the highest mortality rate among the countries studied. In South Africa, few resources are shared, and the mortality rate is also relatively high.

"Our analyses suggest that redistribution influences the mortality rate of a country, regardless of the per capita gross domestic product," study author Fanny Kluge wrote in a [September 1 news release](#).

On the other hand, people in Japan and Western European countries frequently transfer resources. Specifically, France showed the highest average for individual wealth transfer and resource-sharing in Europe. Citizens of France and Japan share between 68% and 69% of their lifetime income, and the risk of dying in the next year for citizens 65 or older in those countries is only half of what it is in China and Turkey, where people share between 44% and 48% of their earnings.

South American countries also have higher levels of transfer payments, with people sharing more than 60% of their lifetime income with others on average. "Their [South American countries] mortality levels remain above the values for Western Europe, Australia, Japan, and Taiwan," the study notes.

The researchers surmise that wealth transfers may help meet the survival needs of dependent children and the elderly, driving down a country's mortality rate.

"Why might intergenerational transfer generosity benefit survival? The most obvious explanation would be that transfers improve health and survival by meeting the material needs of the recipients, particularly dependent children and the elderly, or the destitute of any age," the authors write.

"But the link we find between transfers and survival might reflect more than this. Transfer intensity may reflect the strength of social networks and social capital, which have been found to promote health. Transfer behavior is deeply rooted in human biology, and there is growing evidence that both giving and receiving transfers improve health."

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Maduro, Venezuelan Opposition Close to Deal on Election Participation - Report

Two Venezuelan opposition leaders are in talks with the government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on participating in the upcoming parliamentary elections in December, Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu revealed Tuesday.

"We are pleased to watch that a positive dialogue has developed between the government and the opposition in Venezuela with the impact of the initiatives we have been carrying out in coordination with the EU. We hope that this positive process will reflect on the elections in the upcoming period. We will always be with the people of Venezuela," Çavuşoğlu tweeted Tuesday.

According to Reuters, Turkish officials held discussions with Venezuelan politicians Henrique Capriles and Stalin González about joining the vote. In addition, both politicians have discussed involving outside observers for the vote, which Maduro has agreed to.

The latest announcement comes after the Venezuelan government announced that Maduro had pardoned more than four dozen political figures in opposition parties. Many of those pardoned were charged for participating in the uprisings against the Venezuelan government led by Juan Guaido in early 2019.

Çavuşoğlu arrived in Venezuela on August 18 to meet with officials in the country to help consolidate diplomatic ties between Ankara and Caracas, [according to the Turkish state media outlet Anadolu Agency](#).

"We are friends, and we are assisting each other in difficult times," he said at the time. "We are friends of Venezuela in good times and in bad."

In May 2019, the Venezuelan embassy in Washington, DC, was taken over by the unelected Venezuelan opposition. Even though Guaido declared himself the interim president of Venezuela and Maduro to be illegitimate at the time, Guaido's support has steadily waned, shedding allies with each failed coup d'état.

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Video: Researchers Develop Electron Beam for Cleaning Off 'Really Annoying' Moon Dust

A team of researchers at the University of Colorado (CU) Boulder have developed a new method to clean dust off objects on the lunar surface.

The researchers have suggested using an electron beam, or stream of negatively-charged, low-energy particles, to blow the troublesome dust off of surfaces. The technology is based on the repulsive forces between electrons inside microcavities formed between dust particles and substantial negative charges on the surrounding particles.

This is basically the reverse of the process that makes dust stick to things, akin to rubbing a balloon on your hair and watching it stick afterward.

"The charges become so large that they repel each other, and then dust ejects off of the surface," Xu Wang, a research associate in the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at CU Boulder, said in a [Monday press release](#), noting that lunar dust is "really annoying."

"Lunar dust sticks to all kinds of surfaces - spacesuits, solar panels, helmets - and it can damage equipment," Xu noted.

In their [study](#), the researchers used the electron beam to successfully dust inside a vacuum chamber.

"It literally jumps off," explained lead author Benjamin Farr. However, even though the method cleaned dusty surfaces by an average of around 75% to 85%, there is still room for improvement.

"It worked pretty well, but not well enough that we're done," Farr explained.

Although it will be awhile before real-life astronauts will be able to use the technology for daily clean up, the study's results suggest that electron-beam dustbusters may become a frequently used object on the moon.

A number of countries are in the race to return humans to the moon in the coming years, with US President Donald Trump saying he wants to see such a mission by NASA astronauts by 2024, when his second term would end if he is reelected in the upcoming November elections.

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Video: US Soldier Under Investigation, Relieved of Leadership Roles Over 'Racist' Holocaust Joke

Rising social media influencer and US Army 2nd Lieutenant Nathan Freihofer has become the latest in a long line of US military personnel who have been reprimanded or discharged due to social media posts.

Army officials suspended Freihofer, 23, from his leadership duties, and he is now the subject of an internal probe after netizens alerted the service to a recent so-called "comedy" post on his 3.1-million follower account, [Stars and Stripes reported on Monday](#).

Paul Szoldra, Task and Purpose editor-in-chief and US Marine Corps veteran, reposted a screen recording of the brief video in question. The video clip has amassed over 1.5 million views on Twitter alone.

"What's a Jewish person's favorite Pokemon character?" Freihofer asks his followers. "Ash!"

"Hey if you get offended, get the f**k out," Freihofer says after laughing. "It's a joke. Don't be a p***y."

Be advised, the video below contains language some may find offensive.

The US Army, however, did not end up following the influencer's suggestion, as an investigation into the post was launched within hours of it going viral.

"The statements made in the video are not indicative of the values we live by, and there is no place for racism or bigotry in our Army or our country," Major General Antonio Aguto, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, [wrote](#) in a [tweeted statement](#). "An investigation has been initiated into this matter, and the soldier has been suspended of any and all leadership authorities effective immediately, pending the results of the investigation."

Furthermore, the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum Twitter account retweeted Szoldra's post, highlighting that Freihofer wrote in his full post: "For legal reasons this is a joke."

The Oświęcim, Poland, museum sits on the grounds of the World War II-era Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. An estimated 1.1 million people, 960,000 of them Jewish, died or were killed at the present-day research center and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

"This is completely unacceptable. On social media or not, racist jokes are racist. Period," Army Sergeant Major Michael A. [Grinston said in condemnation](#) of his service's soldier.

According to [new Army regulations](#) and the service's "Think, Type, and Post" effort, service members are "responsible for content they publish on all personal and public internet domains to include social media sites, blogs, and other websites."

[A Military Times survey](#) administered to 1,630 active-duty service members revealed earlier this year that "36 percent of troops who responded have seen evidence of white supremacist and racist ideologies in the military, a significant rise from the year before, when only 22 percent — about 1 in 5 — reported the same in the 2018 poll."

The Army has also experienced a drastic uptick in soldier-linked street gang activity - translating to a 66% increase in law enforcement reports involving known or suspected gang or domestic extremist group members in fiscal year 2018, [Sputnik reported](#).

Current reports on the matter claim Freihofer's TikTok account has been suspended or deleted by either the influencer or the platform.

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Greece Eyes Paris Deal for 18 Rafale Fighter Jets Amid Uncertain East Med Tensions - Report

As Greece-Turkey negotiations over gas drilling remain in limbo, a Greek government official is claiming that Athens wants to expand its "deterrence force" and is currently amid arms talks with a number of countries, including France, to buy a variety of equipment.

"We are in talks with France, and not only with France, in order to increase our country's defence potential," the Athens official [told Reuters on Tuesday](#).

"Within this framework, there is a discussion which includes the purchase of aircraft."

Citing [Greek-language outlet iefimerida](#), the [Greek Reporter also claimed](#) the government was involved in talks, and specified that the current details of the aircraft discussions center on the potential procurement of 18 Dassault Rafale twin-engine, canard delta wing, multirole fighter jets.

"There is no agreement as written in several media. However, there are discussions on a number of subjects," a government source from Paris emphasized to Reuters.

Greek Minister of State Giorgos Gerapetritis clarified on Tuesday that Athens is "in consultations" to strengthen its armed forces.

"We already have the options menu for upgrading existing weapons systems and the purchase of new, under the financial constraints we have."

Early reports on the arms talks detailed that Greek officials seek to spend nearly \$12 billion (10 billion euros) over the next 10 years. Greek media claims \$1.19 billion to \$1.8 billion (1 to 1.5 billion euros) have been earmarked for the purchase of missiles, torpedoes and miscellaneous parts in the coming months.

Greece and neighboring Turkey have recently been entangled in a [series of military and political confrontations](#) due to Ankara's recent exploration of gas drilling in Athens-claimed waters. The near [monthlong cycle of contention](#) may come to a halt soon, however, according to Tuesday comments delivered to reporters by Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu.

"Provided Greece is ready for dialogue, we are ready to negotiate, advocating for a just allocation of resources," [Cavusoglu said](#) during a news conference.

At the same time, Ankara's openness to negotiations on the continental shelf borders in the eastern Mediterranean Sea should not be taken as a sign of Turkey backing down from its rights.

"Only police officers and gendarmes may be on the Meis [Kastellorizo] island. If the Greek side tries to exceed the allowed arms limitations, it will end up losing," he added, speaking of an island defined in the Paris Peace Treaties of 1947 as a demilitarized zone.

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Powerful Magnitude 6.5 Earthquake Strikes Northern Chile - EMSC

Early readings of the Tuesday phenomenon from the European-Mediterranean Seismological Center (EMSC) recorded a magnitude 6.5 earthquake off the shore of Atacama, Chile.

The center's Twitter account revealed that the earthquake struck some 129 kilometers southwest of the Chilean city of Copiapó. Initial seismograph readings were revised from magnitude 6.3 to magnitude 6.5 within the first hour after the event.

The possibility of the event triggering a tsunami [has been ruled out](#) by the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Chilean Navy.

Eyewitness footage, like that of Twitter user Sebastian Antonio Tirado Rufatt, has provided netizens with a glimpse of the quake

[Spanish-language testimonials](#) spanning more than 600 kilometers from the quake's epicenter have claimed the quake was noticeable and on the stronger side.

Hours prior, [Chile's northern coast](#) was assaulted by a magnitude 6.8 earthquake, the [EMSC reported](#). The event was followed by several aftershocks, one of which reached [magnitude 6.3](#).

A woman looks through binoculars as Greek and French vessels sail in formation during a joint military exercise in Mediterranean sea, in this undated handout image

The EU has threatened Turkey with sanctions over its unilateral drilling efforts, and French President Emmanuel Macron recently accused Ankara of provocations that he suggests may have damaged Turkey's credibility in NATO.

"I don't consider that in recent years Turkey's strategy is the strategy of a NATO ally ... when you have a country which attacks the exclusive economic zones or the sovereignty of two members of the European Union," he told reporters on Friday, [Reuters reported](#).

Despite the obvious tensions and the prospect of significant negotiations, Greece appears to be moving forward in aircraft procurement discussions with France, the EU's sole nuclear-armed country, [which recently deployed military assistance](#) to Greece.

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'Cold War' Label for Modern US-China Disputes 'Has Some Relevance' - Pompeo

Fox Business Network host Lou Dobbs' reference to a so-called new Cold War was qualified by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who told Dobbs' on his primetime show on Tuesday that US schools need to take a hard look at Confucius Institutes (CIs).

A month after receiving a warning from Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi about preventing a new Cold War, Pompeo was pushed by Dobbs on the possibility of that becoming a reality with China.

"This is different from the Cold War in that we are challenged by a country with 1.4 billion people," Pompeo replied, as reported by Reuters. "The Cold War analogy has some relevance ... The challenges are different, there are economic challenges."

"And now you'll see a broader effort, they'll be announcements, I think, in the coming days and weeks we will see the United States confront this in a very serious way, all for the benefit of the American economy," he emphasized.

The actual Cold War was a period of several decades of intense military competition between the capitalist United States, the socialist Soviet Union, and their respective allies, stretching from the years after World War II until 1991, when the Soviet Union was dissolved into 15 republics and socialist states in Eastern Europe were overthrown.

An August 13 news release from the US Department of State highlighted that it views CIs as foreign propaganda missions because the Chinese government "partially funds these programs" which "push out skewed Chinese language and cultural training for US students as part of Beijing's multifaceted propaganda efforts."

"I think everyone's coming to see the risk associated with them," Pompeo said of CIs on Tuesday.

He went on to declare that Beijing has been actively recruiting "spies and collaborators" at US colleges and universities. "I think these institutions can see that, and I'm hopeful we will get them all closed out before the end of this year," he said.

Dobbs, who formerly worked for CNN, has been repeatedly criticized by others in media for his bias in favor of US President Donald Trump and has made a number of bombastic statements

regarding China, particularly after Trump's baseless claim that the COVID-19 novel coronavirus was released intentionally or unintentionally from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Stressing the severity of COVID-19's impact, the Fox Business host argued in April to former deputy national security adviser K.T. McFarland that if Beijing were at fault for the virus, the US and China should already be at war.

"If we don't go to war over the loss of 31,000 American lives [to COVID-19] now, and certainly more to come, what do we go to war over?" he asked, soon after stating that he is not interested in yearslong plans, which are generally based on vaccine discovery estimates.

In a likely coincidental occurrence, Pompeo's Tuesday television appearance and Cold War comments coincided with the official gameplay reveal of "Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War." The video game, scheduled for a November 13 release, is the sequel to "Call of Duty: Black Ops." The title's mention of the Cold War emphasizes that the game is supposedly inspired by actual events, and [GFinity Esports claims](#) players "will come face-to-face with historical figures and hard truths." Russia, Germany, Vietnam and Nicaragua have been reported as [locations](#) featured in the game.

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Gargantuan Lionesses Adore 'Mom' - Video Club

Many of us have popular, common pets such as a dog or cat that we love and adore. Some people, however, have non-traditional animal friends.

Footage shared on Twitter captures a woman on a multi-acre property walking up to a pair of lionesses. The massive, wild felines are so excited to see their human "mom" that they both get up on their hind legs and proceed to shower her with hugs and affection.

Wow, now that takes some bravery!

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Mini-Stroke Over Par - Political Cartoon

In response to speculation regarding his unusual visit to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center last November, US President Donald Trump stated that the media is suggesting he went there as a result of suffering a series of "mini-strokes," although none of the claims he cited had suggested anything specific.

On Tuesday, [Trump tweeted](#): "It never ends! Now they are trying to say that your favorite President, me, went to Walter Reed Medical Center, having suffered a series of mini-strokes. Never happened to THIS candidate - FAKE NEWS."

The tweet was followed hours later by a statement from White House physician Sean Conley, who said he was speaking out at Trump's request.

"I can confirm that President Trump has not experienced nor been evaluated for a cerebrovascular accident (stroke), transient ischemic attack (mini stroke), or any acute cardiovascular emergencies, as have been incorrectly reported in the media," Conley said. Trump's visit to Walter Reed last year was unannounced and remained hidden for two days as he remained out of public view.

Is this a case of Trump having a Freudian slip? He is known for "thinking out loud." Or maybe he's just thinking about his golf game too much?