

**National Institute for Deterrence Studies & Peter Huessy Seminar
Strategic Insights into China's Military Ambitions with Rick Fisher**

October 3, 2025, at 10:00-11:00 AM (Eastern)

Webinar Transcript

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Abstract

The National Institute for Deterrence Studies (NIDS) hosted a Huessy Seminar featuring defense expert Rick Fisher, who delivered a comprehensive analysis of China’s expanding military capabilities and strategic ambitions. Introduced by Kimberly Cherington and moderated by Peter Huessy, the seminar explored the implications of China’s recent military parade and its broader geopolitical signaling.

Fisher detailed China’s use of cognitive warfare—leveraging propaganda, military displays, and information control—to shape global perceptions and assert hegemonic intent. He examined the strategic significance of China’s nuclear modernization, including developments in intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and air-launched systems, as well as the emergence of a national missile defense system dubbed the “Red Dome.”

The seminar highlighted China’s growing reliance on proxy states such as Pakistan, North Korea, and Iran to extend its strategic reach, including nuclear cooperation and regional destabilization. Fisher warned of China’s ambitions beyond Taiwan, including influence in the Western Hemisphere, control over maritime choke points, and expansion into the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

In the concluding discussion, Fisher advocated for a robust U.S. response, including expanded nuclear deterrence, enhanced missile defense, and deeper strategic partnerships with allies like

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India and Japan. The seminar underscored the urgency of understanding and countering China's multifaceted military strategy to preserve global stability and deterrence.

Executive Summary

On October 3, 2025, the National Institute for Deterrence Studies (NIDS) convened a Huessy Seminar titled *Strategic Insights into China's Military Ambitions*, featuring defense analyst Rick Fisher and hosted by Peter Huessy. The seminar provided a comprehensive assessment of China's evolving military posture, its strategic objectives, and implications for global security.

Fisher emphasized China's use of **cognitive warfare**, describing how the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) manipulates information through military parades, air shows, and controlled media to shape perceptions and influence decision-making globally. He detailed China's **nuclear modernization**, including developments in intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and air-launched systems, as well as the emergence of a national missile defense system dubbed the "**Red Dome**."

The seminar highlighted China's increasing reliance on **proxy states**—notably Pakistan, North Korea, and Iran—to extend its strategic reach and destabilize regions. Fisher warned that China's ambitions go beyond Taiwan, encompassing global hegemony enforced through military, economic, and political influence, including activities in the **Western Hemisphere, Arctic, and Antarctic**.

In the Q&A session, Fisher advocated for a robust U.S. response, including:

- Expanding the U.S. nuclear arsenal to approximately **6,000 warheads**.
- Strengthening **missile defense systems** and tactical deterrence capabilities.
- Deepening strategic partnerships with allies such as **India** and **Japan**.
- Countering Chinese influence in Latin America and maritime choke points.

The seminar concluded with a reaffirmation of NIDS's mission to promote peace and stability through deterrence education, and a preview of upcoming events featuring senior defense officials and nuclear experts.

Unabridged Transcript

(Note: there will invariably be some word errors in the following transcript.)

00:06:05 - 00:00:38:09
Kimberly Cherington

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Good morning everyone. I'm Kimberly Cherington, and on behalf of the National Institute for Deterrence Studies, or NIDS, I want to welcome each of you to today's Huessy seminar, Strategic Insights into China's Military Ambitions, featuring our friend and special guest, Mr. Rick Fisher. We thank him for filling in today and can't wait for his remarks. Next week, we'll welcome Mr. Dave Hoagland, acting Deputy Administrator for defense programs at the US Department of Energy.

00:00:38:10 - 00:01:12:11

Kimberly Cherington

As long as he's able to join us and the following week, join us for Iran's Nuclear Crossroads Strategic Risks and Diplomatic Dilemmas with Olli Heinonen and Sarah Burkhard. To find all of our events and register you and your colleagues, please go to Thinkdeterrence.com. On the events page, we are adding new dates and speakers weekly, so be sure to check back regularly and follow us on social media so you don't miss out during today's presentation.

00:01:12:11 - 00:01:40:10

Kimberly Cherington

We encourage you to submit your questions in the chat at any time, or at the Q&A button at the top of your screen. We will address those in the Q&A portion of the talk. And now it's my pleasure to introduce our host for today's seminar, the esteemed Mr. Peter Huessy, President and Senior Director of Strategic Deterrence Studies at Geo Strategic Analysis and a senior fellow here at NIDS.

00:01:40:12 - 00:01:43:04

Kimberly Cherington

Peter, over to you.

00:01:43:05 - 00:02:05:10

Peter Huessy

Thank you, Kimberly, very much. For those of you joining us today, welcome. Rick Fisher, as you know, has been a previous guest, and he has talked to us earlier this year about the Chinese inventory of nuclear weapons and what they were building, what former Admiral Charles Richard called a breathtaking buildup of nuclear weapons when he was head of Stratcom.

00:02:05:11 - 00:02:30:15

Peter Huessy

And it's interesting that at that time, he was widely criticized by the abolition movement, here and particularly here in Washington, for exaggerating the Chinese buildup. He often said that every time he went and got another intelligence briefing about the Chinese buildup, it was twice as fast as it previously had been, and it was twice as twice as great.

00:02:31:00 - 00:02:57:04

Peter Huessy

So he said, double everything you previously heard and cut at the time. They're going to do, take to implement that an app which has now been proven to be correct, which I find interesting. Why I asked Rick to come back, as many of you saw the news coverage of the Chinese raids in with North Korea, with Russia, and with some number of people, like from Iran.

00:02:57:06 - 00:03:20:08

Peter Huessy

And what were the Chinese trying to tell us? I thought Rick Fisher would be an excellent person to come

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and translate. The hardware they're building is for a purpose, and that purpose is largely hegemonic. It has to do with not only Taiwan and the Western Pacific, but, as Rick will tell us today, it has to do with other parts of the world as well as space.

00:03:20:09 - 00:03:41:04

Peter Huessy

And for those the younger generation, they're now coming up and looking for work and getting married and owning a home and having children. Our deterrent capability keeps the world safe for that kind of prosperity which we all want to have, and also keeps us safe from having to go to war or our allies going to war, both of us.

00:03:41:04 - 00:04:21:06

Peter Huessy

So the deterrent we have in our nuclear forces is critical to maintaining not just the absence of using nuclear weapons, but keeping conventional war from breaking out. Because, as many people understand, the use of nuclear weapons would probably come after the breakout of conventional war. As you've seen in Ukraine, the Russians have multiple times, dozens and dozens of times threatened the use of theater nuclear weapons if the Ukraine or U.S. or NATO, use military force striking into Russia, which Russia would think was breaking a red line, so to speak.

00:04:21:07 - 00:04:36:12

Peter Huessy

So, on behalf of, Jim Petrosky, our president, who is here today from NIDS and on behalf of the organization, Rick, I want to welcome you to joining us today, and we look forward to your remarks.

00:04:36:13 - 00:05:00:03

Rick Fisher

Okay. Thank you very much, Peter. I hope everybody, can hear, and, I think I thank you, Peter, for that kind introduction. I hope everybody is survived, their October 1st, PRC, PRC National Day celebrations. And with that, we'll start with some slides.

00:05:00:03 - 00:05:10:15

Rick Fisher

There we go. Thank you very much, Kimberly. Okay. Next slide, please.

00:05:11:01 - 00:05:46:04

Rick Fisher

All right. I would like to approach this. Start with the starting point of the September 3rd parade, as a kind of, warfare tool in itself, as, as, something that that the Chinese regard as what they call cognitive warfare. Look, the Chinese Communist Party as many in the audience understand and has probably been part of previous efforts, decades ago.

00:05:46:06 - 00:06:28:03

Rick Fisher

They don't want to engage in substantive discussions, especially those that would limit its nuclear arsenal. And, you know, now that we're in the fifth year of, a rapid Chinese broad strategic buildup, without firing those weapons, they are being used. They are being used to fight a cognitive war. Which the Chinese believe is the massing of information, the directing of information, the manipulation of information to affect perceptions.

00:06:28:03 - 00:07:17:04

Rick Fisher

Perceptions that affect how decision makers make their decisions. Hopefully in ways that, advance the goals of the Chinese Communist Party. Of course, without direct physical conflict. And so, a parade is a tool. Zhuhai Air Show is a tool. And I recall back in, 1996 when I was able to first go to the first Zhuhai Air Show, it was, quite easy to walk up to the booths and, you know, look at, look at a, a Russian, helmet mounted display that, they had copied and they would explain how they, you know, did that or walk up to, a GPS, early GPS navigation company and,

00:07:17:07 - 00:07:47:10

Rick Fisher

and learn how, yeah, they were they were working on a radar guided precision guided DF 21, which I put into a Wall Street Journal op ed and was kind of one of the early warnings from the Chinese side of what became the Dongfeng 21 Delta anti-ship ballistic missile. But today, they don't allow any of the last July show in 24 featured no foreign journalists.

00:07:47:10 - 00:08:16:11

Rick Fisher

None were allowed. The show was projected entirely on the internet. You simply had to watch the images and make your own decisions. Information is neck down. I mentioned, and in 2021, the Chinese broad popular internet military internet was shut down, about a dozen websites that were, excellent sources of kind of gray data.

00:08:16:11 - 00:08:45:12

Rick Fisher

But, yes, interesting gray data, but they're gone. And now you have to pay for sort of agitprop. That contains some interesting details from the South China morning post or follow nasty bots that I'll after quote like a guy named Zhao Wei, who's whose main truck is anti-Semitism. But he posts censored saying military information.

00:08:45:12 - 00:09:15:13

Rick Fisher

I think to avoid being deplatformed. So out of the parade, we see actually two cognitive warfare objectives. And I think the first was to convince the United States and its democratic allies, partners, and all others who are watching that the Chinese Communist Party is building a new world order with the CCP, People's Liberation Army at the center.

00:09:15:14 - 00:09:45:06

Rick Fisher

And at first extending to proxies, which I include Russia, North Korea and Pakistan and others who want to join. There's a long list of countries that want to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. So the Chinese effort to build this new world order, without the United States, is real and has been underway for 20 years.

00:09:45:07 - 00:10:24:07

Rick Fisher

A second cognitive warfare objective was largely initiated on September 3rd. You had one of one of the propaganda departments, a real stars, a kind of Han envoy, somebody who was basically, a self-deputized

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scold, but really working hand in glove with, the propaganda department, United Front Works Department, a guy named Doctor Victor Gao, who's famous for a lot of reasons, but now is trotted out as sort of an unofficial envoy to tell you what you should think and how afraid you should be.

00:10:24:09 - 00:10:48:09

Rick Fisher

And on the third, in a post parade interview, he, he said and I quote “and I'm convinced, more and more convinced that the Chinese military is the strongest in the world next to nobody”, unquote. Now, you can just imagine what the implications of people actually believing this could be. And we're beginning to see those implications actually unfold.

00:10:48:10 - 00:10:54:15

Rick Fisher

Next slide, please.

00:10:55:00 - 00:11:50:09

Rick Fisher

Yeah. The Chinese are ordering their proxies to step out. They are they are gaining value from their decades of investment in proxies, particularly Pakistan and North Korea in. The degree to which China was defending, and arming Iran, in my opinion, was for a goal. We saw that, being previewed in early 2023 when, China helped broker a sort of initial rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

00:11:50:10 - 00:12:20:14

Rick Fisher

But when Israel and the United States took out the Iranian nuclear potential in the 12 day War, I think what we're going to see is a sort of a reaction in the same vein as China's reaction to the 2003 invasion and conquest of Iraq. Another great friend of China at the time being armed with by China as well.

00:12:21:00 - 00:13:23:08

Rick Fisher

That response back then was to enable its proxies to go nuclear or more nuclear, to help the North Koreans accelerate their nuclear and missile programs and to improve the nuclear and missile capabilities of Pakistan. Now, when we took out the Iranian option or let's say, trying to push a new Arab Iranian coalition, one that would probably be ratified by Chinese sharing directly or indirectly, nuclear technology, with Saudi Arabia at first and perhaps others, we, after we took that option away from on September 17th, the Pakistan option steps forward.

00:13:23:09 - 00:13:58:09

Rick Fisher

Now, this option has been underway for a number of years. When they signed their Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement on September 17, OPEC, a Saudi official, said that it had been underway for several years and it builds on an a very long standing Saudi Pakistani close conventional military relationship. But in in signing this agreement, Pakistan has extended its nuclear protection to Saudi Arabia.

00:13:58:10 - 00:14:45:05

Rick Fisher

Now, how can it actually do that? It's it doesn't have a global nuclear deterrent capability, but, we find out last December 19th from, a Biden administration, National Security Council official that, Pakistan is building an ICBM and that, a Chinese company is involved at least, it is part of the sanctions list,

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meaning that the Pakistani Chinese ICBM program has probably been underway for some time, adding up to the ability to move ahead with the Saudi nuclear pact.

00:14:45:06 - 00:15:28:03

Rick Fisher

Now, earlier this month, a Chinese, company called Pi sat, was reported in the Chinese in, Chinese webpage to have sold an initial 20 satellite constellation for surveillance and communication. So, they'll have some way to, target these ICBMs. And of course, the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation, which has long been Pakistan's, main solid fuel rocket partner, is making ICBM, capable solid fuel rockets in their Cujo series.

00:15:28:05 - 00:16:13:04

Rick Fisher

Both, a DF 31 and a DF 41 size, a potential ICBM. Or the Chinese could bless the transfer of, North Korean ICBM. Production means that that's also probably been enabled. Most likely been enabled by China, too. So we have a Chinese proxy campaign that is becoming much more active, more vigorous. China is financially and militarily enabling Russia's Ukraine war, China likely blessing, accelerating Russia and North Korea, military cooperations in which North Koreans die and Kim Jong un gets new Russian technology.

00:16:13:06 - 00:16:46:01

Rick Fisher

You know, China is now and Russia are moving to bolster North Korean nuclear power proxy Pakistan, long aimed at simply containing India, is now being redirected to, to global missions. And so, this this is only going to increase such as what's next tactical North Korean tactical nukes for Venezuela. It's all possible. Next slide please.

00:16:46:02 - 00:17:28:08

Rick Fisher

Here, as the slides will, will be made available, basically as I, I've updated, a slide from earlier this year that, sort of goes into more detail into the, the Russian, North Korean, Iran and Pakistan, nuclear and military cooperation. Russia is, is being supported because China expects Russia to play a substantive role in its potential future, perhaps even near-term war against, Taiwan.

00:17:28:09 - 00:18:25:15

Rick Fisher

We can expect, coordinated nuclear threats, perhaps even up to, coordinated tactical theater, nuclear demonstrations, to actual strikes. It is very unfortunate that the United States is not able to, retaliate up this ladder of potential escalation. We saw in, in June of last year, it was the sixth or ninth, China, Russia, nuclear capable bomber exercise, this time in which a, Chinese bomber stopped off an under, which was about, 4300 clicks away from Naval Base Kitsap.

00:18:26:00 - 00:18:58:10

Rick Fisher

So, these. The proxies are being activated. You know, China is not in direct war against anybody yet. But if the proxies are not contained or dealt with like they like they were recently in Iran, we will be tied down. And all of this will create opportunities for China to launch the wars that it wants to like against Taiwan.

00:18:58:11 - 00:19:35:00

Rick Fisher

Next slide please. Here, is a sort of a little bit of an updated slide from earlier, my sort of back of the napkin, estimates of, the growth of the North Korean nuclear arsenal. You're based on my estimates of production, probable or possible production capability, based on a scan of images that the North Koreans released in, 2023 and 2024.

00:19:35:02 - 00:20:07:06

Rick Fisher

But, the, the update to this is that with the production of, of one SBN likely to be followed by other SSP ends, North Korea can be depended upon to enter into a protected bastion strategy harkening back to gov and a bastion, a North Korean bastion up there in, in the neck, close to Vladivostok.

00:20:07:07 - 00:20:37:15

Rick Fisher

Could also become a bastion that the Chinese might want to use or the or the Russians might want to want to use. So, this this simply raises the, the cost of interdicting this, growing North Korean nuclear capability. Next slide please. Now we get to the second cognitive message, that China is the most powerful military in the world.

00:20:38:00 - 00:21:13:05

Rick Fisher

Now, leaving aside that that argument, here is, you know, the next remaining slides will we'll focus on how the parade has been deployed, used to try to back up that cognitive warfare goal of convincing us of China's military superiority, because it's going to be an enduring theme across, Chinese, spoken and digital propaganda, programs.

00:21:13:06 - 00:21:49:10

Rick Fisher

Then, one of the surprises, in a sense, was the revelation of the Dongfeng five. Charlie. We had we had come to expect that, the Dong Fang five DF five Charlie would be a large, Merv equipped weapon. It was tested, apparently. Supposedly reportedly tested with ten warheads. And on January 15th, 2017, so this the seem seemed logical.

00:21:49:11 - 00:22:17:04

Rick Fisher

The Dongfeng five B that had been revealed two years before. As is a version that doesn't say directly, but the China military power report says one version of the DF five could carry up to five curves. So, it was some surprise when, DF five C emerged, with what appears to be one large warhead cone.

00:22:17:05 - 00:23:00:13

Rick Fisher

Now, this missile has probably been upgraded along with all the upgrades that have been applied to the Long March, to see which is its analogous, space launch vehicle. But the when the parade announcer, added the description that, this this missile is capable of global strike coverage that seems to suggest and, something that has been picked up in, in broadcast in, in, the Chinese propaganda sphere that this is actually a fobs fractional orbital bombardment system capable, version of the DF five.

00:23:00:14 - 00:23:29:04

Rick Fisher

Could be the long march to see was said to be the platform for the two FOBs tests and 2021. If it's true, then that's an early challenge to our golden dome. National missile defense. Ambitions, aspirations, goals. Next slide, please.

00:23:29:05 - 00:24:08:07

Rick Fisher

Now, two missiles appeared in the 2019 parade and were simply painted over. The first one was what they now call the Dongfeng 61. It you can't get around it. It's just a painted over camouflaged Dongfeng 41 that we saw in the 2019 parade. Now the missile and the tube may be radically different, or it's simply the case that the party and the PLA simply don't want to fully reveal the Dongfeng 61.

00:24:08:08 - 00:24:42:07

Rick Fisher

Now, it's curious that, on September 14th, Victor Gao previously mentioned, was invited to speak to a forum in Manila where his main goal was to convince, the Filipinos that, you know, that there that islands in their territory, like Scarborough Shoal are not theirs, and that they should shut up if, China builds a base, within their economic exclusion zone, on Scarborough Shoal, that was his main goal.

00:24:42:07 - 00:25:07:06

Rick Fisher

But he also said this in terms of intimidation. One of the weapons China demonstrated a missile with all the warheads. We call it 61 because it contains can contain 60 nuclear warheads plus one hydrogen bomb. And that ICBM can cover every corner of the world in less than 20 minutes and destroy any target in any corner of the world without any possibility of being intercepted.

00:25:07:08 - 00:25:46:07

Rick Fisher

There. This is this is stock and trade for Victor Gao. This is his job to scare people. Now we can look at Dongfeng 61, and we can laugh and say, can't stuff 61 warheads in that thing. But that's not the whole story because the competing Kazakh corporation, China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation is developing a near four-meter diameter solid fuel space launch vehicle called Quattro 21, and even a larger version, Quattro 31.

00:25:46:09 - 00:26:24:05

Rick Fisher

Now we have images of the rocket motor that I've supplied, but we don't know that it's been tested yet. But this sort of S Space Shuttle SRB booster size solid rocket, if turned into an ICBM, could carry more weigh more than 60 warheads or maybe. Maybe, all of the reusable sleeves that China is developing, at least 20 companies' worth, will be that will be deputized, to deliver warheads.

00:26:24:06 - 00:26:41:14

Rick Fisher

But the point is, is that Victor Gauss threat contains a kernel of truth, and that's what makes it excellent propaganda. Okay, next slide please.

00:26:42:00 - 00:27:03:03

Rick Fisher

Now, a curious revelation of the parade was the Dongfeng 30 1BJ a a silo based version, probably of the

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Dongfeng 31 AG that was also revealed in the last parade. Now.

00:27:03:04 - 00:27:43:00

Rick Fisher

Bouncing around, Chinese social media, I was able to get, a, an aft view of this missile, the, the sort of, approved images that flooded the internet after, September 3rd did not contain a good aft view of, of of this missile. And, it the aft view does kind of confirm, another image that I, that I just found of how this tell will be loading, this cold launch tube into a silo.

00:27:43:01 - 00:28:16:08

Rick Fisher

All quite interesting. It tips up like, a known mobile ICBM. And it has winches that lower the tube into the silo. What is the performance of this missile? I mean, from open sources. We can't tell except on, September 5th, Chinese social Chinese media, platform called Du Yin.

00:28:16:10 - 00:28:53:15

Rick Fisher

Had had this description, quote, the missile has a range of approximately 14,000km and can carry 6 to 8 independently targetable nuclear warheads that utilizes high energy propellant and a composite guidance technology, achieving a strike accuracy of 100m. Now, this is an unofficial, unconfirmed source, but it's out in the Chinese ether. And, because that ether is tightly controlled, it's in a sense it's out there because Chinese censors allow it to be out there.

00:28:54:00 - 00:29:24:02

Rick Fisher

So, it has we have to have to pay attention to it. Now, this is the missile that initially, I suppose, will be placed in, in most of the new 300 plus silos that have been under construction since, visibly under construction since 2021. Interesting. I mean, it could be simply launched, like, like a, like a usual mobile ICBM.

00:29:24:03 - 00:29:57:14

Rick Fisher

But what this also tells us, in my opinion, is that China wants to be able to reload ICBM silos. And so, like, it reloads every smaller mobile missile. Now we have an ICBM that probably is going to be reloaded, although you could say a G and 41 could probably be reloaded as well. It's, it's kind of a long debate that I have with some friends over whether ICBMs will be reloadable.

00:29:57:14 - 00:30:09:14

Rick Fisher

This is a step in that direction. Okay. Next slide please.

00:30:09:15 - 00:30:44:11

Rick Fisher

The second missile to simply be painted over was the JL three. The latest, PLA Navy submarine launched ballistic missile. Now you can even see where the paint was, it was scraped off and scuffed over. They, they move they move the letters and the numbers farther down. The missile, tube. Now, this is probably a real JL two missile.

00:30:44:12 - 00:31:22:10

Rick Fisher

This is probably what it actually looks like. It has a shroud that comes off and it has one or maybe three warheads. A Chinese source from 2017, gave us some pretty interesting data. About what? What they called the JL to be that could carry 340, 60 kiloton warheads. On one level, the Chinese may not want us to really see what a JL three looks like.

00:31:22:11 - 00:31:44:01

Rick Fisher

Does it have an aerospike? That might indicate that it carries a larger number of warheads. They don't want us to know which is. Which is why JL three looks like JL two, but they don't they do want us to know it's there. They know, we know. It's there.

00:31:44:01 - 00:32:10:13

Rick Fisher

It we comment on it. We, we've, commented on a number of occasions that, we believe this missile is replacing JL two on existing, type O9 for SSP, ns but the Chinese are playing with us here. Okay. Next slide please.

00:32:10:14 - 00:32:45:06

Rick Fisher

And rounding out, the Chinese nuclear triad, the Chinese, for the first time put on approved public display, the JL one, air launched ballistic missile that we have been able to observe from various Chinese sources since about October 2020. It's emerged in vague Chinese internet images. But but now it's it's it's in the parade. Everything in the parade apparently is in PLA service.

00:32:45:06 - 00:33:17:01

Rick Fisher

So, dismissal definitely in PLA service. The carrier the shun Aircraft Corporation H6 in November is deployed in in units. I'm not sure it has its own, specific units yet, but it's out there. And it can carry one of the JL one. There are suggestions and, from Chinese sources recently that a larger bomber may be under development.

00:33:17:01 - 00:34:11:12

Rick Fisher

One that can carry multiple JL ones. And, you can find indications of this, perusing, sort of Chinese popular, internet, propaganda sources. But what we did see, about, two weeks ago on, commercial overhead was an unprecedentedly large new Chinese. What appears to be a UCAV, about the same size as our B20 one, and Chinese wags have, you know, as, as they usually like to do, have come up with, with artwork, showing how this UCAV could carry a JL one or, smaller, air to surface.

00:34:11:15 - 00:34:45:03

Rick Fisher

Hypersonic missiles and that this, you have might have the range along with the range of, the album, to be able to strike Washington DC. Now again, these are unconfirmed, unofficial sources. Again, cognitive warfare. That that the Chinese internet that the Chinese allow to be generated on their internet.

00:34:45:04 - 00:34:50:02

Rick Fisher

Next slide please.

00:34:50:03 - 00:35:36:12

Rick Fisher

Now, now we move into another sort of attack on Global Dome. Which is the Chinese global dome or red dome? I like to call it that. Elements of the Red dome have been assembling for a long time, but this is the clearest indication that they're moving toward, a national missile defense capability. The HQ 29 was revealed partially in leaked internet images toward the middle of the year.

00:35:36:13 - 00:36:10:14

Rick Fisher

This is really the first full view of this missile. And what's it capable of? Well, that fact that that bot on X that I mentioned previously, Zhao Doshi, who likes to post, interesting information about Chinese military systems, so he, so he can carry on with his, pretty disgusting anti-Semitism. Posted this on X on, on, September 27th, HQ 29.

00:36:10:14 - 00:36:51:04

Rick Fisher

Effective range 5000km. Flight ceiling 20 500km. Speed Mach 25. Mission profile. Midcourse interception against ICBMs, three stages. Allowing it to reach the entire range of low-Earth orbit up to 3000km. Large size. Allows carrying of a substantial kinetic kill vehicle. As has the ability to distinguish between dummy warheads and real warheads. So, this is this is an ABM and an asset.

00:36:51:05 - 00:37:12:04

Rick Fisher

We can expect that it will continue to be deployed. In the mobile version, we see and probably fixed land versions. And this is the beginning. There will be larger missiles that follow this one. Next, next slide.

00:37:12:05 - 00:38:06:05

Rick Fisher

Thank you, thank you. And here's an updated slide. About regarding some a lot of the indications of China's gathering red dome. And, just, on September 30th, the South China morning post, agitprop, purveyor that they are in chief, one of their chief agitprop purveyor, Stephen Chen, had a had a report basically saying that on an information distribution platform level, the PLA is in the early stages of development of a national missile defense system that is able to, quote, simultaneously monitor a thousand missiles fired at China from anywhere in the world.

00:38:06:06 - 00:38:48:15

Rick Fisher

The developers say. And, you know, they're leveraging diverse sensors in space, the ocean, the air, and on the ground that identifies and analyzes potential threats. So, all those, space event ships that China keeps on building, I would expect to be, integrated into a Chinese red dome system. And the rest of this slide is kind of about the history, the history of, of, Russia's contribution to, Chinese ground surveillance capabilities, large, very large-phased array radars.

00:38:49:00 - 00:39:03:09

Rick Fisher

And, they've actually held a number of missile defense tabletop exercises. All well and good for the for the red dome. Next slide, please.

00:39:03:10 - 00:39:51:08

Rick Fisher

Now, moving on to, theater, strike systems. The parade saw the first revelation of the DF 26 Delta. That designator Delta, of course, being very interesting. Is it a successor to the DF 21 Delta, the first anti-ship ballistic missile? And is that the message that China is trying to convey here that, this is now a 4000, 5000 kilometer range, very well guided, anti-ship ballistic missile that that takes Chinese strike and deterrent capabilities well beyond the second island chain.

00:39:51:09 - 00:40:30:02

Rick Fisher

Now, I included a quote from a friend, Admiral. Not only a retired Taiwan admiral who at one time was their J6 director. On the first he had a nifty analysis of this missile and, had had had some tough, tough words for us, put it bluntly, hypersonic weapons are still unanswered. The US military has neither kept up with the pace of development in this emerging threat, formed a plan of attack and developed effective interdiction methods.

00:40:30:03 - 00:40:51:14

Rick Fisher

That's sharp stuff coming from a friend. And, I also have images of the new sort of naval strike, tactical strike missiles that the Chinese unveiled, ship launched and submarine launched, and air launched. Next slide, please.

00:40:51:15 - 00:41:37:14

Rick Fisher

China also and unveiled new families of lighter weight armor. All well for power projection into China with China's growing fleet of Y 20 and Y 20 B strategic transport aircraft new hybrid, possibly hybrid powered, airborne assault vehicles. Kind of second generation, and at least for unmanned combat teaming vehicles, unmanned, combat teaming vehicles that could precede the manned invasion waves against Taiwan.

00:41:37:15 - 00:42:09:02

Rick Fisher

Precede the manned airborne vehicles, in distant deployments, the, the new main battle tank and the airborne vehicles are protected by new armored protection systems. So, in a sense, they're learning lessons from the Ukraine war and how to take out, all the nifty, shoulder launched, very effective, a shoulder launched, anti-tank missiles that can be obtained from the United States and in the West.

00:42:09:03 - 00:42:39:10

Rick Fisher

And hint came out again, more cognitive warfare on September 3rd. One of the makers of, Chinese humanoid robots posted a pretty curious interest of a humanoid robot and, four-legged dog robots all watching the, the nine three parade. A kind of an indication that in the next parade, we might be seeing a phalanx of actual armed humanoid robots.

00:42:39:12 - 00:43:42:09

Rick Fisher

If not the parade after that. Okay. Next slide, please. And, my final slide. Sorry to drone on here. On September 22nd, the Chinese dropped another cognitive warfare data bomb. A collection of images and

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GIFs, to mark the coming out of the new carrier. Their first full flat top, the kV 18 Fujian Carrier Air Wing with the first public showing of their new carrier AWACS, the cage 600, and then their new first carrier, fifth gen fighter, J35 and the catapult multiple modified J 15 T 4.5 gen fighter all launching from this carrier, which starts its career with an electromagnetic

00:43:42:10 - 00:44:20:03

Rick Fisher

carrier AWACS, launch system, an email system. And in an effort to show that China is able to match American capabilities and the cognitive warfare has been pretty intense, since, the 22nd, Chinese, Chinese articles and Chinese bots have made light, of how, you know, this is this is their first carrier versus how many carriers the Americans have built until we managed, to successfully deploy emails.

00:44:20:04 - 00:44:51:12

Rick Fisher

The fact that, our emails is not yet able to launch our fifth-generation carrier fighter, whereas the Chinese are able to do that, which they can talk to, meaning that, Fujian is better than the USS Ford. It's sort of China has an Apple catapult versus the American Android catapult. And they're also trying to make the case that J35 is stealthier than the F-35c.

00:44:51:13 - 00:45:23:10

Rick Fisher

I don't have the, the wherewithal to, judge that others perhaps listening can, can do a better job, but we should be prepared for, their K 600 to be developed into dedicated anti-submarine and electronic warfare versions, capability that we lost. Sadly, when we retired, the Lockheed Martin S3. Back in, the, the early 2000, I believe, mid late 2000, I believe.

00:45:23:11 - 00:45:30:02

Rick Fisher

But with that, again, I've droned on too long and I'm happy to take your questions.

00:45:30:03 - 00:45:46:10

Peter Huessy

Thank you very much. I have a series of questions I've kind of put in there sequential. First of all, what do you think China's ambitions are beyond Taiwan?

00:45:46:11 - 00:46:19:13

Rick Fisher

Well, the ultimate goal is, global political, military, economic hegemony, enforced by hegemony in the Earth, moon, and Mars system. If you if you read the by my explanation for why the Chinese Communist Party on this path is, it goes back to Tiananmen. The Tiananmen.

00:46:19:14 - 00:47:15:13

Rick Fisher

Period gave Deng Xiaoping and the Chinese Communist Party leadership the greatest shock in its in its history. In regards to its vulnerabilities to being overthrown. So, Tiananmen happened. The Americans really played no role. And in encouraging that that rebellion, and we certainly didn't exploit it afterwards. And nevertheless, the fear of students, kids, people basically taking their cue from early access to foreign media and kind of beginning to understand how the rest of the world lives, that was enough of a threat to the party so that they decided that, okay, you know, we can we can we can do what?

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00:47:15:13 - 00:47:41:08

Rick Fisher

We can suppress our own people to the maximum degree. But we can't prevent them from being influenced by the rest of the world until we control the rest of the world. So that's why you have this projection. And I, I look at the long list of countries that want to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and I, I shake my head.

00:47:41:08 - 00:48:04:11

Rick Fisher

I mean, these are these are countries that are basically signing up to a life of China, making most of their sovereign decisions and, and turning them into, unfree and unhappy places. But that's, that's the future. Okay. There are two.

00:48:04:12 - 00:48:32:01

Peter Huessy

Questions related to Beyond Taiwan. I have two in particular. One is what role is China playing in the Western Hemisphere, particularly the troublemaking they do here. But there's another point of it's often thought that China, since it relies on global oil transportation, oceans, that it has no interest in seeing the choke points like the Straits of Malacca or moose or the Red sea shut down.

00:48:32:02 - 00:48:57:08

Peter Huessy

But if they could shut down Japan, South Korea, Taiwan's oil supply while keeping their own going, that would be a real impact on the world's economy. So those two areas, what are they doing in the Western Hemisphere? And do you see evidence of them trying to build capabilities around the choke points, where maritime oil, transports?

00:48:57:09 - 00:49:15:06

Rick Fisher

Look, we have been in conflict with Chinese strategic ambitions in our own hemisphere. For. Over, over, over 20 years. Look, by 2010, it was becoming clear that the Chinese were working to, reequip Argentina for a second Falklands War. Had had China succeeded in doing this, and it kind of came close by 2015. A second Falklands War would have caused all of the all of the Latin countries that helped Argentina under the table. And, you know, we're definitely angry at the British American intervention on behalf of, you know, defending the Falklands.

00:49:55:12 - 00:50:34:12

Rick Fisher

All of those countries, I think would be all in helping Argentina. So we would be kind of isolated in our own hemisphere. And the champion, the new champion of that collection of, of Latin countries would be China. And we came, in my opinion, is just simply too close to that. Yes, we've taken advantage of the presidency of, President Malay and we, we've leveraged our, our good relationship with the Argentine Air Force.

00:50:34:12 - 00:51:13:11

Rick Fisher

And, you know, now they're going to be flying F-16s and, they're really not going to want a Chinese platform. But look, they're a democracy. The, Peronist could, could, win the next election, and will be,

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will be facing this collection of, of, problems one more time. My opinion. We need to take we need to have a real conversation with our British allies and, and try to find a way to neutralize the Falklands as a cause for war in Argentina and elsewhere.

00:51:13:12 - 00:51:46:05

Rick Fisher

My suggestion would be to turn it into a, a large, LPR base in order to be able to monitor Chinese FOBs attacks and, you know, turn it into jointly manned invite the Brazilians and others. They don't want to get nuked by Chinese nukes. And we present that as the threat and, why we should be cooperating, why there should be an informal but real, base of cooperation, anti-missile cooperation on the Falkland Islands.

00:51:46:06 - 00:52:23:12

Rick Fisher

As for choke points, yeah. I mean, you look at the degree to which the Chinese commercial port, maintenance and management companies are spread all around the world. Very well. You have essentially a step toward when. A country enters into a strategic partnership with China. After years of being courted with, access to the PLA arms sales, access to exercises.

00:52:23:14 - 00:52:40:15

Rick Fisher

Yes. Then the request comes. Can we can we have our training ship visit your port? Oh, can we have our aircraft carrier battle our nuclear-powered aircraft carrier battle group visit your port. This is the future. Indeed.

00:52:41:01 - 00:53:08:04

Peter Huessy

Okay, couple other questions. One is, is China's expansion militarily sustainable given their economy number one? Number two is the Chinese have used the phrase win, win. That that's their what they call peaceful rise is no threat to us. And then the second thing, third thing is where do you see them working in the Arctic. So, it's the Arctic.

00:53:08:04 - 00:53:18:15

Peter Huessy

It's is there are they proposing win-win solutions? And their economies sustain the military expansion that you're talking about?

00:53:19:00 - 00:54:06:05

Rick Fisher

Yes. It is a economy controlled by the party, an economy that is minutely, built to support all manner of military goals. You don't you don't build a bridge in your village without first clearing it with the PLA. And, you know, getting a bit of financial support for, for said bridge. And, you know, that that happens in just millions of different ways, all of which add up to, you know, China is able to mobilize very quickly, and, and send, hundreds of ferries across the Taiwan Strait after having started, the nuclear incident on the Korean Peninsula.

00:54:06:05 - 00:54:23:10

Rick Fisher

That that ties us down. Win. I mean, that that's been a, a chief Chinese, propaganda device for, for decades. I'm sure what was what was the question.

00:54:23:11 - 00:54:39:09

Peter Huessy

But the one was in the Arctic that there issued. The second one was on win win was do they have the economic capability to go forward with their military ambitions? And you've kind of answered that question.

00:54:39:11 - 00:55:08:14

Rick Fisher

Yeah. Yeah, they do have the ability. I mean, we can certainly, put a dent in it if we isolated them completely economically, something I thought should have been an option when they started, nuclear missile arming North Korea back in 2010. There about no, 2011 thereabouts, but Arctic. Oh, yeah. Look, Antarctica is being squeezed.

00:55:09:00 - 00:55:39:06

Rick Fisher

There are now five. The Chinese want to put, what, seven bases in Antarctica now? They're pretty public about testing scientific laser devices to test the atmosphere. Hey, look. The poles, those who the space warriors understand, low-Earth orbit ISR passes closest to the Earth over the poles. So having lasers in Antarctica, no matter what they're doing, is, in my opinion, a very big deal.

00:55:39:07 - 00:56:08:01

Rick Fisher

And look, you have, the isolation, the, sort of political, neutralization of, of New Zealand underway. Sadly, New Zealanders are used to this. They kind of defected from the Western alliance because of Soviet active measures in the 80s. They'll never acknowledge that. But, you know, the, the, the history to prove that proposition is there.

00:56:08:03 - 00:56:31:11

Rick Fisher

The Chinese are working their tails off to neutralize New Zealand, make sure it doesn't become, an active military area. Substantive military. Yeah. They participate in exercises. They send their, one of their two frigates, up. I mean, they're with us in spirit, but they're not going so far. They're not committing to buy a Royal Air Force.

00:56:31:11 - 00:56:55:14

Rick Fisher

They're not committing to build a real navy. So, the bases in the South Pacific that thereafter put the squeeze on, on New Zealand, to neutralize, let's say, are using New Zealand as a, as a stop off to, counter, the Chinese in Antarctica. So, they're this is already underway. It's a, it's a bastard that that's underway.

00:56:55:14 - 00:56:57:04

Rick Fisher

Okay. Next question.

00:56:57:05 - 00:57:23:15

Peter Huessy

Okay. The final question, Rick, is U.S. response. What should it be and should it include deploying more nuclear weapons because there is a... those on the kind of on the left there abolitionist many of them that

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they call themselves armed controllers. But one thing I've noticed in their material that they've published is absolute opposition to any build up beyond the Newstart level, in nuclear weapons.

00:57:23:15 - 00:57:53:02

Peter Huessy

And in fact, they've recently proposed, well, Senator Markey and Senator Sanders have proposed that we unilaterally reduce to no more than a thousand warheads and basically 6 to 8 submarines. But, not the Sentinel ICBM, but only keeping 150 Minuteman, which eventually would have to go out of the system. So we'd be left with between 6 and 8 submarines, which is between half and a third less than what we are planning.

00:57:53:03 - 00:58:09:11

Peter Huessy

So, what's your sense as to giving the Chinese challenge in the nuclear business? What should we do and should, what would the other question we had is what about Japan and India? Can they help us deter the Chinese?

00:58:09:13 - 00:58:39:07

Rick Fisher

Absolutely. Peter, I gave a, a brief, to the Hudson Institute earlier this year on what to do with the PLA if the Communist Party should collapse. And part of that brief was, okay, what do we do if they don't collapse, if they continue on their current projection? And my, guesstimates are that we're going to need about 6000 nuclear warheads.

00:58:39:09 - 00:59:14:15

Rick Fisher

We're still going to need Golden Dome. We're going to have to be able to extend Golden Dome to our allies. We're, we. The door is open right now after the Pakistan Saudi deal, for a golden dome discussion with India. We should have been. We should be on that big time. We do require the ability to, deter tactically in terms of theater weapons at every level.

00:59:15:00 - 00:59:53:03

Rick Fisher

Look in. In 1957, 58, nuclear artillery shells and, Matador cruise missiles got Mao Zedong's attention. And he decided not to invade Taiwan. If we can somehow convince with short range tactical weapons, that XI Jinping will lose successive waves of 100,000 invasion troops coming across the street, that might get his attention, that might turn it, that might extend his timeline for his invasion well beyond 2027.

00:59:53:05 - 00:59:59:10

Rick Fisher

But, just to be short and so we can conclude. Peter, I'll leave it there.

00:59:59:11 - 01:00:22:01

Peter Huessy

All right. Well, thank you. I'm going to turn it back over to Kimberly. And for any logistical, scheduling, matters, she wants to talk about and thank our president, Jim Petrosky, who joined us. And, Rick, that was a that was fabulous. It was exactly what I wanted. And I hope our audience understands that this is a serious threat.

01:00:22:02 - 01:00:43:05

Peter Huessy

And the threat isn't just the beans that the Chinese are building, but what their ambitions are that these new military capabilities, particularly in the nuclear area, allow them to do, because that's the serious thing. And I'm glad for your remarks that were excellent. And I want to thank you. Kimberly, over to you.

01:00:43:06 - 01:01:17:12

Kimberly Cherington

Thanks, Peter. And a special thank you to Mr. Rick Fisher for helping us bring these topics to a broader audience here, NIDS. And if you're new to NIDS, we're 501 C3 nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing peace and promoting stability. Strong national security and nuclear deterrent. We do this by offering a wide range of deterrence education programs from live and virtual events like this to podcasts and publications, workshops and courses.

01:01:17:14 - 01:01:42:04

Kimberly Cherington

Looking ahead, we have a lot of seminars coming up, so we hope you can tune in to those. Please feel free to email me. Or if you want to get more people, your colleagues and friends on these important calls that we have coming up. This, recording should be on YouTube and a transcript will be ready in the next few days.

01:01:42:04 - 01:01:52:08

Kimberly Cherington

And I will be emailing that out to everyone who RSVP for this event. So, thanks to all of you and I hope you have a peaceful day.

01:01:52:09 - 01:01:55:00

Peter Huessy

Thank you.