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A Monthly Maritime Bulletin and Perspectives of the Maritime Security Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies



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Singapore's final Littoral Mission Vessel arrives at home port — p. 4

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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.

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#### **NAVAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY**



SINGAPORE | 06 NOV | JANE'S

#### Singapore's final Littoral Mission Vessel arrives at home port

The eighth and final Independence-class Littoral Mission Vessel (LMV) on order for the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) has been moved to its home base, a representative from Singapore's Ministry of Defence told Jane's on 6 November.

Full Report

NATO | 04 NOV | NAVAL RECOGNITION

Full report

## NATO ships test next generation of electronic warfare defences

Thirteen NATO countries are taking part in simulated air and missile defence drills of the United Kingdom's southern coast [...]. The 6-day Naval Electro Magnetic Operations – or "NEMO" – trials will test how allied navies can defend themselves against anti-ship cruise and hypersonic missiles using state-of-the-art electronic defences.

Full report

TURKEY | 05 NOV | NAVAL RECOGNITION

### Turkey successfully fires indigenous maritime missile ATMACA

Turkey for the first time has successfully test-fired its indigenous anti-ship missile, ATMACA, from a locally made ship, according to the Turkish Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB).

USA | 06 NOV | NAVAL RECOGNITION

## Lockheed nets \$40.3M contract for Trident II production and support

Lockheed Martin Space has been awarded a contract modification for work on submarine-launched intercontinental ballistic missiles, part of the nation's nuclear triad, for the U.S. Navy.

Full report

PHILIPPINES | 14 NOV | RAPPLER

## Preliminary contract for new PH Navy warships signed in South Korea

The Philippine Navy and the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA) on Wednesday, November 14, formalized a plan to build a naval detachment on Fuga Island in Cagayan province, where a Chinese company plans to build a "smart city."

Full report Continue on page 5

CHINA | 18 NOV | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

## Chinese aircraft carrier heads through Taiwan Strait on way to trials in South China Sea

China's first domestically made aircraft carrier headed to the South China Sea for trials on Monday, after passing through the strategically sensitive Taiwan Strait, according to the mainland's navy.

Full report

JAPAN | 20 NOV | FORBES

## Japan To Get First Aircraft Carriers Since World War II

Japan is set to deploy its first aircraft carriers since World War II. The Japanese Navy will modernize two helicopter destroyers into de facto aircraft carriers.

Full report

CHINA | 23 NOV | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

## Chinese ships and radar boost navies of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

China is reported to be boosting its arms links with South Asian nations, with further supply of an advanced anti-stealth radar to Pakistan as well as frigates to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Full report

AUSTRALIA | 25 NOV | JANE'S

## Royal Australian Navy trials deployable 3D printer technology

The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) has announced plans to invest USD1.01 million in a two-year Supersonic 3D deposition printer pilot.

Full report

SINGAPORE | 25 NOV | NAVAL NEWS

## Naval Group Opens New R&D Center In Singapore

On the 21st of November, Naval Group launched the new center of excellence for Research and Development in Singapore. This initiative will create a world-class expertise based in Singapore for strategic naval defense research topics.

Full report

RUSSIA | 26 NOV | NAVAL NEWS

## Russia's Pacific Fleet Commissions First Improved Kilo-Class / Project 636.3 Submarine

The Admiralty Shipyard handed over the first Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky submarine of project 636.3 to the Pacific fleet. The submarine hoisted St. Andrew' flag.

Full report

RUSSIA | 26 NOV | NAVAL NEWS

#### Russia Planning To Hold New Trials Of Tsirkon Hypersonic Missile Before Yearend

New trials of the advanced Tsirkon hypersonic antiship missile will take place at a Russian Northern Fleet sea range before the yearend, a source in uniformed agencies of the Northwestern Federal District told TASS.

Full report

CHINA – RUSSIA – SOUTH AFRICA | 27 NOV | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

## China, Russia and South Africa team up for first joint naval drill

The Chinese navy has joined its Russian and South African counterparts in a joint exercise near Cape Town, expanding its reach to the southern tip of Africa for the first time.

Full report

CHINA | 28 NOV | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

# Chinese navy set to build fourth aircraft carrier, but plans for a more advanced ship are put on hold

Military sources say that work on a second Type 002 ship – the most advanced homegrown vessel – could start within two years

Full report

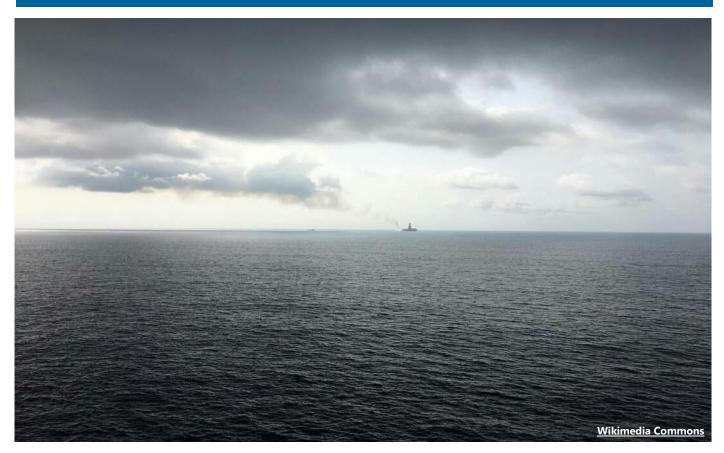
SOUTH KOREA-PHILIPPINES | 30 NOV | ABS-CBN

## South Korea's navy chief visits the Philippines, 'reaffirming' bilateral ties

Admiral Sim Seung-Seob was welcomed with arrival honors at the Navy headquarters in Manila before he paid a courtesy call to his Filipino counterpart, Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad, flagofficer in command.

Full report

#### **MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY**



GULF OF GUINEA | 11 NOV | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

#### **ITF Calls for Action on Gulf of Guinea Piracy**

Following back-to-back attacks on two vessels in the Gulf of Guinea last week, the International Transport Worker' Federation has called for urgent global and regional cooperation to fight piracy off West Africa.

**Full Report** 

TOGO | 05 NOV | RIVERIA

#### Latest piracy attacks in Gulf of Guinea target tanker

European Navigation of Greece has confirmed 2003-built LR2 tanker Elka Aristotle was attacked by pirates in the Gulf of Guinea some 15 km off the West African port of Lomé, Togo

Full report

PHILIPPINES | 18 NOV | UNTV NEWS & RESCUE

#### strengthens border security with Indonesia, Malaysia

Backdoor entry through the Philippines southern border has made the country susceptible to threats from foreign terrorists. Thus, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has been working with its neighboring countries Indonesia and Malaysia to further strengthen its border security.

Full report

SOUTH CHINA SEA | 18 NOV | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

#### **US Navy sends littoral combat ships to 'bolster** attack strength in South China Sea'

The US Navy is strengthening its presence in the South China Sea by deploying two Independence -class ships specialising in nearshore operations.

Full report

SOUTH CHINA SEA | 18 NOV | ALJAZEERA

#### China calls on US to 'stop flexing muscles' in **South China Sea**

China on Monday called on the United States to stop flexing its muscles in the South China Sea and to avoid adding "new uncertainties" over Taiwan, during high-level talks that highlighted the tension between the world's two major powers.

Full report Continue on page 7

#### RED SEA | 19 NOV | STRAITS TIMES

## Saudi-led coalition says Yemen's Houthis seize vessels in Red Sea

The Saudi-led coalition fighting the Iran-aligned Houthi movement in Yemen said on Monday (Nov 18) the Houthis had seized a vessel towing a South Korean drilling rig at the southern end of the Red Sea.

Full report

RED SEA | 20 NOV | STRAITS TIMES

## Yemen's Houthis release captured South Korean, Saudi vessels

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi movement released three vessels and 16 people it had seized, South Korea's Foreign Ministry and a Houthi military source in Yemen said on Wednesday (Nov 20).

Full report

USA-IRAN | 20 NOV | ASSOCIATED PRESS

## **US Navy carrier transits Strait of Hormuz after deployment**

A U.S. aircraft carrier ordered by the White House to rapidly deploy to the Mideast over a perceived threat from Iran has transited the Strait of Hormuz for the first time since its deployment. The U.S. Navy says the USS Abraham Lincoln transited the strait on Tuesday, making its way to the Persian Gulf. The carrier left Norfolk, VA, in April and was diverted to the Middle East in May, but it had remained in the Arabian Sea, avoiding passage through the strait that borders Iran.

Full report

USA – VIETNAM | 20 NOV | STRAITS TIMES

## US to provide Vietnam with coast guard ship, with eye on South China Sea

The United States announced on Wednesday (Nov 20) it will provide Vietnam with another coast guard cutter for its growing fleet of ships, boosting Hanoi's ability to patrol the South China Sea amid tensions with China.

Full report

USA | 21 NOV | BUSINESS INSIDER SINGAPORE

# The Coast Guard seized 208 tons of cocaine last year and started this year with another narco sub bust

After several years of increases, Coast Guard seizures of cocaine at sea declined slightly during

fiscal year 2019, but that fiscal year ended and the 2020 fiscal year, which began on October 1 and runs to September 30, 2020, began with major busts.

Full report

SOUTH CHINA SEA | 22 NOV | ALJAZEERA

## US warships sail in disputed South China Sea amid tensions

Navy warships have sailed near islands claimed by China in the disputed South China Sea twice in the past few days, the United States military told Reuters on Thursday, at a time of tension between the world's two-largest economies.

Full report

FRANCE - USA | 24 NOV | TODAY ONLINE

## U.S. and France vie to bolster Gulf security after Saudi oil attack

The United States and France are boosting Saudi Arabia's radar systems following crippling drone and cruise missile attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure in September, which Washington blames on Iran. The chief of the U.S. Central Command and France's defense minister, whose countries have taken divergent approaches to Iran, also touted rival versions of maritime missions to protect Gulf waters at a Bahrain security forum on Saturday.

Full report

GULF OF GUINEA | 25 NOV | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

## Seven Kidnapped from Swire Anchor Handler in Gulf of Guinea

Singapore-based offshore vessel operator Swire Pacific Offshore (SPO) confirmed Sunday that pirates attacked the anchor handler Pacific Warden off the coast of Equatorial Guinea last week.

Full report

SOUTH KOREA | 27 NOV | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

#### South Korea fires warning shots towards North Korean merchant vessel

South Korea's military fired warning shots towards a North Korean merchant boat with engine trouble that violated their sea border on Wednesday (Nov 27), South Korean officials said.

Full report

#### SHIPPING, PORTS, AND THE MARITIME ECONOMY



SINGAPORE | 07 NOV | SEATRADE MARITIME NEWS

#### Singapore launching \$44m co-investment initiative for maritime tech start-ups

Singapore has launched a Call-For-Partnership (CFP) to make around SGD60m (\$44m) in joint investments for innovation in maritime technology.

Full Report

South Korea | 01 NOV | FISH INFORMATION AND SERVICES

# South Korea ratifies international agreement to prevent commercial fishing in high Arctic seas

South Korea has ratified an international moratorium on commercial fishing in the high Arctic seas, Seoul's foreign ministry said Wednesday, in a move to protect marine resources in one of world's rapidly-warming places.

Full report

USA | 04 NOV | SEATRADE MARITIME NEWS

Vard Marine completes design of large LNG bunker tanker

Vard Marine Inc., a Fincantieri company, announced the completion of a concept design of a new 5,400 cu m LNG bunker tanker for construction at its sister company Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding.

Full report

KENYA | 05 NOV | SEATRADE MARITIME NEWS

#### Kenya's Lamu port to launch in December'

Chinese-built Lamu port in Kenya is expected to be launched in December and will receive its first ship call from Maersk Line.

Full report

USA | 11 NOV | SEATRADE MARITIME NEWS

Jaxport gets \$20m in federal funds for improvements

The US federal government has awarded the Jacksonville Port Authority (Jaxport) a \$20m grant for the reconstruction of more than 100 acres of existing terminal pavement at the SSA Jacksonville Container Terminal at Blount Island Marine Terminal.

Full report

IRAQ | 11 NOV | OIL PRICE

## **OPEC's No.2 Seizes Market Share Following Saudi Oil Attacks**

Despite a marginal decline in overall crude oil exports, Iraq has boosted the sales of its crude to top Asian importers China and India since late September, as the confusion over the return of full Saudi capacity after the attacks made other Middle Eastern producers more popular in Asia.

Full report

UAE | 13 NOV | OIL PRICE

## **Exxon Doubles Down On The World's Second Largest Offshore Oilfield**

ExxonMobil plans to invest several million US dollars annually in the world's second-largest offshore oilfield, Upper Zakum offshore the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on top of the US\$6.5 billion it has already invested in the project since 2006 [...].

Full report

BRAZIL | 15 NOV | OIL PRICE

## Brazil Adds To Supply Glut With Major Deepwater Field

International oil majors and Brazil's state oil firm Petrobras have just announced first oil from a deepwater field in Brazil's pre-salt Santos basin, which will add 150,000 barrels of oil per day to the production of the second-biggest contributor to non-OPEC oil supply growth.

Full report

GLOBAL | 18 NOV | SHIPPING WATCH

#### Maersk sees major fluctuations on fuel prices

High-sulfur fuel prices have seen "unprecedented" fluctuations and have gone down in major ports Rotterdam and Singapore this year. The price spread to low-sulfur fuel could increase further next year, but Maersk CEO says the shipping company is well positioned.

Full report

GLOBAL | 18 NOV | SHIPPING WATCH

#### **IMO** shelves maritime speed limits

IMO member states agree to continue working toward a so-called goal-based approach to reducing the industry's short-term emissions. This means that the nautical speed limit proposal is shelved for the time being.

Full report

GLOBAL | 23 NOV | MODERN DIPLOMACY

#### World Bank and Credit Suisse Partner to Focus Attention on Sustainable Use of Oceans and Coastal Areas

The World Bank [...] issued a USD 28.6 million 5-year Sustainable Development Bond as part of ongoing efforts to raise awareness for the vital role fresh and saltwater resources play for people, livelihoods, and the planet. Credit Suisse Securities (Europe) Ltd., through its Impact Advisory and Finance Department, acted as the sole manager of the transaction.

Full report

CHINA | 27 NOV | NAVAL NEWS

## China Shipbuilding Group Is Now The World's Largest Shipbuilder

China's main two state-owned shipbuilding companies, CSIC and CSSC, were officially merged November 26, 2019, creating the largest shipbuilder in the world: China Shipbuilding Group.

Full report



CHINA-ABU DHABI | 27 NOV | SEATRADE MARITIME NEWS

## Qingdao Port buying 33% stake in Cosco Shipping Ports in Abu Dhabi

Qingdao Port International has entered into the share transfer agreement with Cosco Shipping Ports and Cosco Shipping Ports (Abu Dhabi) to a acquire 33.335% equity interest in Cosco Shipping Ports (Abu Dhabi).

Full report