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CMSI QUARTERLY REVIEW

● CHINA MARITIME STUDIES INSTITUTE ●

Winter 2026



中国海事研究所
China Maritime Studies Institute



Winter 2026

Notes From the CMSI Director

- **New Quarterly Review.** Last month, CMSI launched the *CMSI Quarterly Review*, a new publication series. Volume 1 opened with eight legacy translations focused on the maritime geopolitics of the Belt and Road Initiative. Going forward, CMSI will release special thematic editions each quarter, alongside regular issues showcasing CMSI’s latest scholarship, media engagement, and activities. Issues of the *CMSI Quarterly Review* are available for download on the CMSI website—visit <https://usnwc.edu/cmsi> to access them.
- **Congratulations to Professor Ryan Martinson.** CMSI Professor Martinson was promoted to Associate Professor this past fall – a long overdue promotion! In addition, he authored the [most viewed article](#) at the Center for International Maritime Security for 2025. His article, “[Exposed Undersea: PLA Navy Officer Reflections on China’s Not-So-Silent Service](#)” is well worth reading. Congratulations, Ryan!
- **The Commandant’s List (Again).** CMSI is proud to have our edited volume, “[Chinese Amphibious Warfare: Prospects for a Cross-Straits Invasion](#)” selected for the 2026 Commandant of the Marine Corps [Professional Reading Program](#). First included in 2025, the volume has gained significant traction, with nearly 13,000 downloads from the Naval War College website. Download your free copy today!

CMSI's Recent Publications

Erickson, Andrew, "[Rigging the Game, PRC's Oil Structures Encroach on Taiwan's Pratas Island](#)," Jamestown Foundation, 02 September 2025

Sharman, Christopher and Erickson, Andrew, "[China's Future World-Class Navy: Ends, Ways, Means](#)" in *The PLA's Long March Toward a World Class Military*. National Bureau of Asia Research, 27 October 2025.

Erickson, Andrew and Fong, Brian C. H. (2025) "[US-China Rivalry: Great Power Competition in the Indo-Pacific](#)," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 78: No. 2, Article 10.

Erickson, Andrew, "[China's DF-27 Missile: Threatening Pacific Ships and the U.S. Homeland](#)" *The Maritime Executive*, 26 December 2025.

Erickson, Andrew, "[The Pentagon's New China Report: 'Conventional' ICBMs, More Nuclear Weapons and New Aircraft Carriers on the Horizon](#)", *19FortyFive*, 28 December 2025.

Erickson, Andrew, "[China Maritime Studies Institute](#)" in *The Bridge*, Naval War College Foundation, 29 December 2025.

Martinson, Ryan, "[The PLAN Corruption Paradox: Insights from the 1st Destroyer Flotilla](#)" China Maritime Studies Institute Report # 49, 13 August 2025

Easton, Ian., "[Foggy With a Chance of Surprise Attack: PLA Amphibious Deception in a Taiwan Scenario](#)," China Maritime Report No. 50, 23 September 2025

Erickson, Andrew., "[Confirmed Yuan Huazhi Removed as the PLAN's Political Commissar](#)," China Maritime Studies Institute Note # 16, 04 September 2025

Erickson, Andrew and Sharman, Christopher., "[Replacement Removed: VADM/General Wang Houbin – Naval Star Turned Rocket Force Commander's Terminal Trajectory](#)," China Maritime Studies Institute Note # 17, 20 October 2025

CMSI Translations

China Maritime Studies Institute (2025) "[*Maritime Geopolitics of the Belt and Road Initiative: Volume One Full Issue*](#)," CMSI Quarterly Review: Vol. 1, Article 1.

[*"A New Pillar for Distant Oceans: Concepts for the Chinese Navy's New Generation of General-Purpose Destroyers"*](#), Shipborne Weapons, July 2025.

[*"Accelerating the Development of \(PLAN\) Marine Corps Combat Capabilities to Win High End Maritime Warfare"*](#), Military Art, no.1 2025

[*"The Elusive "Deep-Sea Beast": Analysis of the Performance of the Main Equipment of the U.S. Navy Virginia-Class Nuclear Attack Submarine,"*](#) Navy Today, 5 May 2025

[*"Implications of the U.S. Navy's "Sea Base" Construction for Equipment Support in Cross-Sea Landing Operations,"*](#) Traffic Engineering and Technology for National Defense, no.1 January 2025

CMSI's Research in the News

Author Michael Peck quotes Ryan Martinson in his Defense News article "[China's military wants to target US undersea sensor network: analysis](#)" [Defense News](#), 13 August 2025

Ryan Martinson was cited in an article appearing in the online publication Ssbcrack News entitled "[China Develops Strategies to Counter US Undersea Surveillance Network](#)," Ssbcrack News, 15 August 2025

Chris Sharman was quoted by Chris Panella in his article in the Business Insider "[China's catastrophic South China Sea crash shows how dangerous high-risk moves at sea can be](#)" Business Insider, 16 August 2025

In the August issue of the U.S. Naval Institute's *Proceedings* an article written by James Fanell entitled "[Scarborough Shoal Incident 2.0: The PLAN Inches Closer to War](#)," quotes Ryan Martinson, *Proceedings*, August 2025

Ryan Martinson is cited by The Times of India in an article entitled "[China's undersea network: Beijing to unveil giant drone submarines in September aims to challenge US Pacific surveillance](#)," The Times of India, 20 August 25

Ian Easton is cited in an article published by Christina Lin of the Taipei Times in an article entitled "[Japan's stake in Taiwan's defense](#)," Taipei Times, 02 September 2025

Ryan Martinson was quoted in an online article by Cheyenne Ubiera entitled "[China could turn Paracel Islands into submarine trap for US Navy](#)," Daily Express US 03 September 2025

The Singaporean newspaper The Straits Times referenced Andrew Erickson's Jamestown Foundation report "[Rigging the Game, PRC's Oil Structures Encroach on Taiwan's Pratas Island](#)," The Straits Times, 03 September 2025

CMSI's Research in the News (Continued)

The online news outlet Australian Broadcasting Corporation referenced Michael Dahm and Thomas Shugart's CMSI Note # 14 "*Bridges Over Troubled Waters: Shuiquiao-Class Landing Barges in PLA Navy Amphibious Operations*" in an article by Henry Zwartz entitled "[*Classified US Intelligence warns of China's preparations for Taiwan Invasion*](#)," ABC News 28 September 2025

Mick Ryan references Ian Easton's CMR # 50 "*Foggy With a Chance of Surprise Attack: PLA Amphibious Deception in a Taiwan Scenario*" in a substack article "[*Tomahawk, NATO's War on Russia and Russian Gas Shortages- 28 September Update*](#)," Futura Doctrina, 28 September 2025

The Indian online journal The Tribune referenced Ian Easton's CMR #50 in an article entitled "[*Could China conduct a surprise invasion of Taiwan*](#)," The Tribune, 01 October 2025

Gabriel Honrada referenced Cristina Garafala's CMR #19 "*The PLA Airborne Corps in a Joint Island Landing Campaign*" in his article "[*Russia quietly arming China's paratroopers for Taiwan fight*](#)," Asia Times, 01 October 2025

Gabriel Honrada referenced David Logan's CMR #33 "*China's Sea Based Strategic Deterrent: Organizational, Operational, and Strategic Implications*" in his article "[*China's AI sea grid aims to render US subs transparent*](#)," Asia Times, 20 October 2025

CMSI's edited volume *Chinese Amphibious Warfare Vol. 8* was referenced in an article by Gabriel Honrada entitled "[*China's Type 076 blurs line between carrier and assault ship*](#)," Asia Times, 24 October 2025

CMSI's Research in the News (Continued)

Daniel Rice's CMSI Note #6 "*Sharpening the Sword: Chinese Navy Aircraft Carrier Battle Group Defense Zones*" was referenced in an article by Gabriel Honrada entitled "[*Japan's next gen missile crafted to crack China's Pacific push*](#)," Asia Times, 15 November 2025

Ian Easton was quoted in an online article entitled "[*China's shadow navy trains to take Taiwan*](#)" by Allison Martell, David Lague, Clare Farley, and Minami Funakoshi for Reuters, 20 November 2025

Dr. Sarah Kirchberger's CMR #31 "*China's Submarine Industrial Base: State-Led Innovation with Chinese Characteristics*" was cited by Gabriel Honrada in the article "[*Japan's Yonaguni arming up for a Taiwan war with China*](#)", Asia Times, 24 November 25

Ian Easton was quoted in an article entitled "[*See How a Chinese Invasion of Taiwan Could Unfold*](#)" by Niharika Mandhana, Daniel Kiss, and Carl Churchill writing for the Wall Street Journal, 06 December 2025

CMSI Translation #7 "*Guarantee of Strategic Security: Expert Discusses China's Strategic Nuclear Submarines Achieving Continuous Duty*" was referenced in an article by Gabriel Honrada entitled, "[*China Builds an Electromagnetic Kill Zone in the South China Sea*](#)" Asia Times, 11 December 2025

Ryan Martinson was quoted in an article entitled, "[*China's Push to Master the Arctic Opens an Alarming Shortcut to U.S.*](#)" by Daniel Michaels writing for The Wall Street Journal, 29 December 2025.

Taiwan's CommonWealth Magazine quoted CMSI Director, Christopher Sharman in an article titled, "[*中共正義軍演，這次哪裡不同？範圍更大、更靠近，測試日本「台灣有事」論*](#)" [The PLA's Justice military exercises—what's different this time? Larger in scale, closer in proximity, testing Japan's "Taiwan contingency" theory." 29 December 2025.

CMSI's Research in the News (Continued)

The New York Times quoted Joshua Arostegui's research published in China Maritime Report #32 in an article entitled, "[China Fires Rockets Near Taiwan in Display of Military Power](#)" 30 December 2025.

Andrew Erickson was quoted in an article published by Bill Gertz in the Washington Times entitled, "[PLA: War games practice for a Taiwan takeover](#)" 31 December 2025.

Education & Engagement

Joint Enabling Capabilities Command	National Taiwan University SCS Conference
Naval War College Foundation	Navy Munitions Command Pacific
U.S Army 167th Theater Sustainment Command	SENEDIA Defense Innovation Days Conference
National Bureau of Asia Research	Kings College
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