

China Reports on New Anti-Communication System Missile in the Event of Taiwan Conflict

By Cindy Hurst
OE Watch Commentary

Chinese state media appears to be turning up the heat in its rhetoric over its pursuit of reunification with Taiwan. In August, the state-controlled broadcast network China Central Television (CCTV) ran footage of a live-fire drill in which the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Rocket Force launched two “new-type” (no name given) conventional short-range missiles. These missiles are said to be capable of taking out an enemy's communication systems. Reporting on the CCTV broadcast *Global Times*, an English-language program sponsored by *People's Daily*—also a government news source—explained that the “new-type” missiles would be part of the arsenal used in a Taiwan conflict scenario. The article described the missiles as a possible upgraded variant of the DF-15 short-range ballistic missile family. While the body of the missile uses available, current technologies, the warhead reportedly uses new guidance systems and stronger anti-jamming functions. The report claimed that it is able to “paralyze entire hostile systems by pinpointing key hostile facilities.”

Also of interest, the article described the conflict's phases, saying that “analysts predict that a potential PLA reunification-by-force operation on the island would start with electromagnetic and cyber warfare, followed by intense missile attacks, and air and sea assaults, before amphibious landing begins.” The article did not identify the analysts or explain the use of the new anti-communication missiles in any particular phase.

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DF-15B short-range ballistic missile

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DF-15#/media/File:Dongfeng-15B.JPG>
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Source: Liu Xuanzun, “PLA Rocket Force Holds Live-Fire Drills, Testing New-Type Conventional Missiles,” *Global Times* (English-language publication sponsored by *People's Daily*), 21 August 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1232069.shtml>

...the new missiles can paralyze entire hostile systems by pinpointing key hostile facilities, and they could play a vital role in safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity including Taiwan, observers said on Saturday.

Under harsh natural environment and complex electromagnetic jamming, the 1st Conventional Missile Brigade attached to the PLA Rocket Force launched two new-type missiles in a rapid-reaction confrontational exercise, accurately hitting well-protected “enemy” defense positions hundreds of kilometers away, and effectively paralyzing the opponents’ key information nodes in their defense systems, China Central Television (CCTV) reported on Saturday.

The launches show that the PLA Rocket Force has expanded its arsenal with the new-type advanced warheads, and enhanced the capabilities of conventional missiles in striking with precision in different situations, paralyzing key hostile nodes and destroying “enemy” target, CCTV said.

Judging from the report footage and the narration, the new-type missiles seem to be of a new variant of the DF-15 short-range ballistic missile family, upgraded with two new advanced warheads, observers said.

By pinpointing key hostile facilities, the missile can paralyze entire hostile systems, providing an important tactic to the PLA, Song said, noting that the exercises proved the new missile is combat-ready.

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