

Weekly Intelligence Brief

A Chanticleer Intelligence Brief Project



China Benefits from the Conflict in Iran

Preston Martz

**Head of Desk
China Desk**

China stands to gain from the current American and Israeli conflict in Iran. The USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier was operating in the South China Sea before being called to the Middle East in JAN 2026, decreasing the United States (U.S.) military presence in East Asia. Alongside the departure of American military assets, there is a shift in attention from Chinese activities in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait towards the Middle East conflict, permitting China to demonstrate its military capacity around Taiwan with less global scrutiny.

Although China is normally dependent on the Strait of Hormuz for 5.4 million barrels per day (BPD), it is still receiving oil from the Gulf region. This is possible through China's diplomacy and use of its Cross-Border International Payment System, which is not reliant on Western systems for internationalization of currency. China has also increased its oil imports from Russia in 2026, with around 300,000 extra BPD of Russian oil, resulting in a total of 2.1 million BPD.

It is estimated that the increased quantity of cheaper Russian oil and strategic planning have created 4 to 7 months of oil reserves in China. In contrast, American allies in East Asia may struggle

economically, including Japan and South Korea.

We can assess with moderate confidence that it is likely China will emerge from the Israeli-American conflict in Iran economically secure, despite some lower oil imports. Further, we can assess with high confidence that it is likely China will take advantage of the departure of U.S. military assets from the Indo-Pacific region to the Middle East, with potential increases in drills in the South China Sea and naval activity around Taiwan. Finally, we can assess with moderate confidence that it is likely China will not be inclined to assist the U.S. in a task force to keep oil shipments flowing.

Multinational Logistics Company Expands Network in Mexico

Ramon Morales
Senior Analyst
Americas Desk

On 02 APR, Dubai Ports (DP) World, a leading provider of smart logistics solutions, introduced an end-to-end logistics model in Mexico, integrating ports, terminals, and multimodal transports into a single platform. This strategic shift addresses supply chain complexities driven by nearshoring and an unpredictable global trade environment influenced by United States (U.S.) tariffs and geopolitical disruptions.

This integrated approach is designed to manage supply chain complexity as nearshoring continues to shift

trade patterns across North America. Francia Paramo, country manager of DP World Freight Forwarding in Mexico, a service that organizes shipments and acts as an agent between the shipper and carriers, stated that the company's focus is on providing operational certainty by connecting every stage of the supply chain. According to Paramo, the international transport market is influenced by geopolitical factors and shifting demands, making infrastructure and scale essential for delivering consistent and resilient logistics services.

Despite the current fluctuating global trade environment and

geopolitical factors, DP World remains hopeful by expanding its infrastructure and warehousing across key industrial hubs like Monterrey and Queretaro. The company also aims to provide operational resilience for stakeholders navigating the restructuring of North American trade flows. DP World continues its efforts to expand its infrastructure and provide resilience for stakeholders in the currently unpredictable global trade environment.

We can assess with high confidence that it is highly likely that DP World will remain at the forefront of global trade and that Mexico will continue to be a key player in global trade.

Ukrainian Military Launches Strikes From Bases in Libya

Brendan Minett
Senior Analyst
Europe Desk

On 03 APR, the French news outlet Radio France Internationale (RFI) reported that Ukrainian forces have been using bases in northwestern Libya to target Russian military and economic targets in the Mediterranean Sea. This comes after the Kremlin accused both Ukrainian and British intelligence services on 04 MAR of coordinating strikes on one of Russia's liquefied natural gas carriers, the Arctic Metagaz, in the Mediterranean Sea. The Arctic Metagaz, a part of Russia's shadow tanker fleet, was reportedly

transferring gas from Egypt before being struck by a Ukrainian Magura V5 surface naval drone.

Since as early as OCT 2025, over 200 Ukrainian officers have used bases in Libya to launch aerial and naval drones to target Russian assets in the region, as well as coordinate meetings between Libyan and Ukrainian forces. Some officers are reportedly based at the Air Force Academy in the city of Misrata, where both British intelligence and United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM) have a presence.

Ukrainian forces have continuously used countries, such as Sudan, to

covertly target Russian military assets operating abroad. The Wagner Group, a Russian private military company (PMC) that previously operated in Sudan, was reportedly targeted by Ukrainian special forces using First-Person View (FPV) drones from late 2023 to early 2024.

We can assess with high confidence that Ukrainian forces will continue to conduct military operations in Northern Africa to target Russian assets abroad. We also assess with moderate confidence that Ukraine will continue to target Russia's shadow tanker fleet to weaken Russia's economy.

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Editor-in-Chief

Brandon Macallair

Associate Editors

Connor Ellinghaus

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