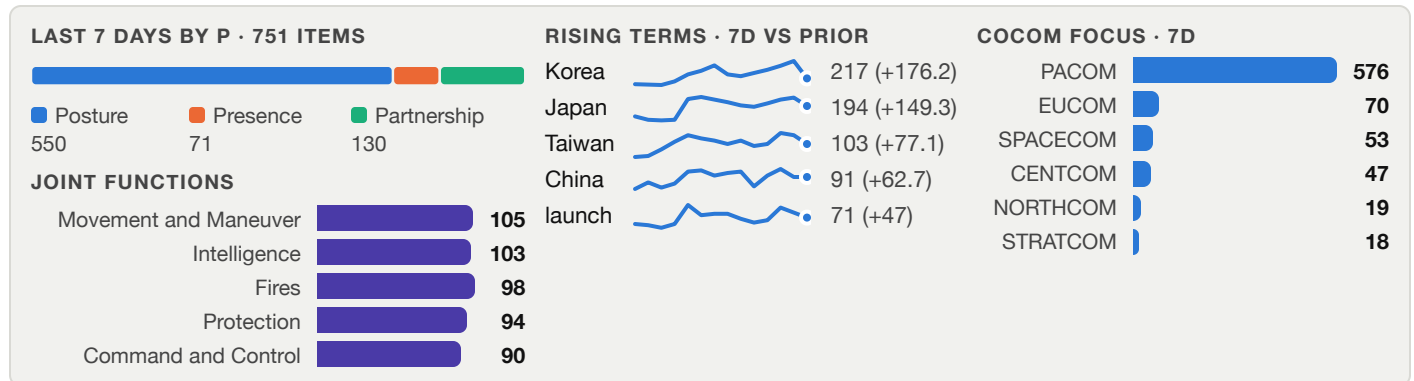


**BLUF** — Posture: SSC's Space Safari asked industry for an RPO- and docking-capable spacecraft on a 14-day tasking-to-launch line, and the PRC orbited its first Diting-01 radio-tracking satellites for space-based electronic warfare. Partnership: the RAF stood up its first counterspace unit. Attention: KCNA imagery identifies the 20 Sep DPRK test as the Hwasongpho-11Ma-1 glide vehicle as Xi arrives for Thursday's summit.



## Posture

Force · Capability · C2 &amp; authorities · Resilience

### Space Force Seeks Maneuverable Spacecraft for On-Demand Launch

Air & Space Forces Magazine · 2026-09-22 [Resilience](#) [SPACECOM](#) [Movement and Maneuver](#) [USSF](#)

SSC's Space Safari office issued an 18 Sep RFI for a commercial RPO- and docking-capable spacecraft, 14-day tasking-to-launch, need by FY29 (Air & Space Forces Magazine).

**So what:** Tactically responsive RPO gives the theater an on-call answer to on-orbit threats.

### China launches its first commercial radio-tracking satellites in electronic warfare leap

South China Morning Post (China) · 2026-09-22 [Resilience](#) [SPACECOM](#) [Intelligence](#) [China / PLA](#)

A Lijian-1 lifted three Diting-01 radio-tracking satellites from Jiuquan on 20 Sep, China's first commercial space-based signal-locating trio (South China Morning Post).

**So what:** PRC space-based emitter geolocation raises EMCON risk for theater forces.

### North Korea Tests New Hypersonic Missile

USNI News · 2026-09-23 [Capability](#) [PACOM](#) [Intelligence](#) [DPRK](#)

KCNA imagery identifies the 20 Sep test as the Hwasongpho-11Ma-1; ROK JCS tracked two missiles from Wonsan to 450 km and 600-plus km, apogees 60-70 km (USNI News).

**So what:** Depressed hypersonic profiles stress theater missile-warning timelines and cueing.

### Air Force, civilian staff dispute status of China Aerospace Studies Institute

Defense News · 2026-09-23 [Force](#) [PACOM](#) [Intelligence](#) [China / PLA](#)

The Air Force cuts all 10 China Aerospace Studies Institute civilian billets 1 Oct; its director says that ends CASI, the service says the mission goes on (Defense News).

**So what:** Losing CASI thins the unclassified PLA aerospace research the theater briefs from.

## ■ Presence

Planning · C2 · Execution · Exercises

### Space weather: WATCH: Geomagnetic Storm Category G1 Predicted

NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center · 2026-09-21 Execution SPACECOM Protection Space Weather

NOAA SWPC holds a G1 (minor) geomagnetic storm watch for 24 Sep, with no storming forecast 22-23 Sep.

**So what:** G1 effects stay poleward of 60 degrees; no AOR HF or GPS degradation expected.

### What's unique about Northcom's Falcon Peak 26.2 counter-drone exercise

DefenseScoop · 2026-09-23 Exercises NORTHCOM Command and Control Emerging Space Tech

Northern Command's Falcon Peak 26.2 counter-drone exercise adds Anduril's Lattice autonomous command-and-control software to the demonstration series (DefenseScoop).

**So what:** Counter-UAS C2 proven here is what theater space and air bases will inherit.

## ■ Partnership

Share → Plan → Train → Operate → Depend

### RAF launches first ever space squadron dedicated to defending Britain's satellites

UK Ministry of Defence · 2026-09-22 Plan SPACECOM Protection FVEY

The RAF stood up No. III Space Effects Squadron, its first unit dedicated to countering hostile threats to UK satellites, announced at the UK Space Power Conference.

**So what:** A CSpO partner adding counterspace force structure widens combined options.

### U.S, U.K. Launch Torpedo from Royal Navy Unmanned Submarine

USNI News · 2026-09-22 Operate PACOM Fires Allies & Partners

The Royal Navy XLUUV XV Excalibur launched a U.S. Mk 48 torpedo on 13 Sep, an AUKUS Pillar 2 proof of concept the U.S. Navy announced Tuesday (USNI News, Defense News).

**So what:** AUKUS Pillar 2 undersea autonomy will draw on theater SATCOM and PNT support.

### US, Japan fire rocket artillery on Hokkaido amid tensions with Russia

Stars and Stripes (Pacific) · 2026-09-22 Train PACOM Fires Allies & Partners

U.S. and Japanese forces fired mobile rocket artillery on Hokkaido during the annual Orient Shield exercise, amid Japan-Russia tension over the northern islands.

**So what:** Combined long-range fires rehearsals lean on theater space effects and PNT.

### Europe's push to reduce US reliance is reshaping the defense space market

Defense News · 2026-09-23 Depend EUCOM Intelligence Allies & Partners

European governments are accelerating sovereign satellite programs after U.S. restrictions on satellite data access during recent crises (Defense News, C4ISRNET).

**So what:** Allied sovereign ISR changes what partners can share in a theater fight.

#### WATCH LIST

- Trump-Xi summit Thursday in Washington; watch PRC gray-zone and counterspace activity in the AOR.
- Diting-01: confirm the space-based EW claim against official reporting before briefing it as fact.
- Long March 6A with an undisclosed payload is Go at Taiyuan for 24 Sep 0845Z.
- CASI closes 1 Oct: identify a replacement source for unclassified PLA aerospace research.