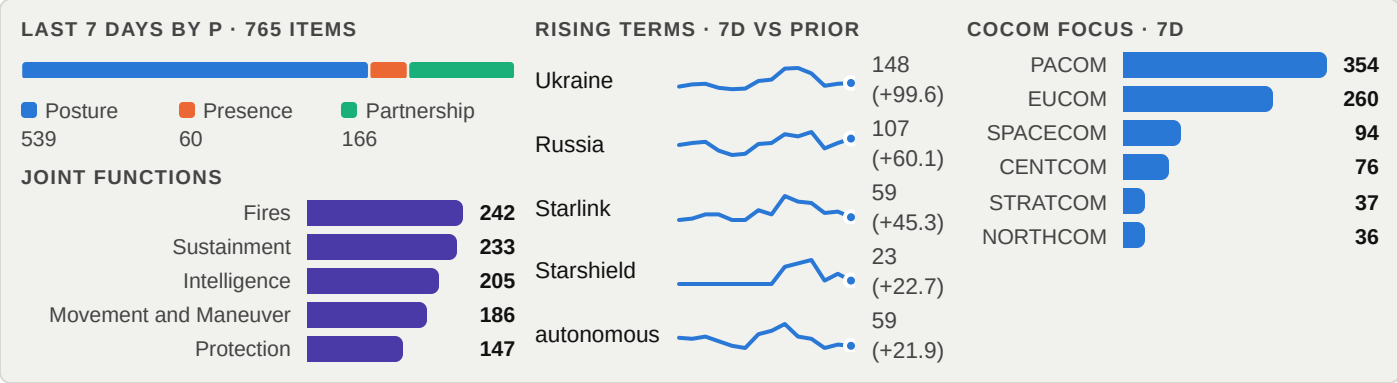
TJFSCC Daily

2026-10-19
Makani Lab · Theater Joint Force Space Component
Posture · Presence · Partnership

BLUF — Posture (resilience): Russia's Kosmos 2612 reportedly closed to 1-2 km of ICEYE X36, a U.S.-registered commercial SAR satellite (SpacePolicyOnline), and Xinhua disclosed a PRC nuclear sub test-fired a missile (Japan Times). Presence: Keen Sword runs to 29 Oct. Partnership held at Share. Attention: the Kosmos approach is unconfirmed; get USSF or SPACECOM tracking before briefing it as hostile RPO.



Posture

Force · Capability · C2 & authorities · Resilience

What's Happening in Space Policy October 18-24, 2026

SpacePolicyOnline · 2026-10-18 **Resilience** SPACECOM Intelligence On-Orbit Threats

Axios, citing LeoLabs, reports Russia's Kosmos 2612 came within 1-2 km of U.S.-registered ICEYE X36 SAR satellite; trackers await confirmation (SpacePolicyOnline).

So what: Russian RPO on a U.S. commercial ISR satellite tests how we protect the commercial layer.

China reveals advanced nuclear sub was used to test-fire missile

The Japan Times · 2026-10-18 **Capability** PACOM Intelligence China / PLA

Xinhua disclosed that an advanced PRC nuclear submarine test-fired a missile; China's two earlier known Pacific ICBM tests were land-based (Japan Times).

So what: A sea-based PRC strategic launch option widens the Pacific missile-warning search area.

Bessent: Zelensky 'should be careful' with 'reckless' comments that US slowed down Starlink

The Hill (Defense) · 2026-10-18 **C2 & authorities** EUCOM Command and Control SATCOM

Treasury Secretary Bessent called Zelensky's claim that the U.S. slowed Starlink reckless; Kyiv says it has evidence its terminals are throttled (The Hill, UPI).

So what: Who can throttle commercial SATCOM is still unsettled; theater plans need a fallback.

Exclusive: EraDrive Lands $13M DoD Award For Autonomy Module

Payload · 2026-10-19 **Capability** SPACECOM Command and Control USSF

EraDrive won a $13M APFIT award; the Space Force will buy its Era-Node vision-based autonomy modules for GPS-denied navigation, SDA and RPO (Payload).

So what: Onboard autonomy cuts satellite reliance on ground links and GPS in a contested fight.

GAO report flags risk of geostationary weather satellite data gap

SpaceNews · 2026-10-18 **Capability** PACOM Intelligence Space Weather

A GAO report warns of a possible gap in geostationary weather satellite coverage in the early 2030s as NOAA builds its next generation (SpaceNews).

So what: A GEO weather gap would thin the environmental data theater planners rely on.

A Chinese rocket deorbited over Minnesota and left this in a farmer's cornfield

Ars Technica (Space) · 2026-10-19 **Capability** SPACECOM Intelligence China / PLA

Debris in a Minnesota field is tied to a LandSpace Zhuque-2E that put up 10 satellites on 15 Sep, then relit and reentered within one orbit (Ars Technica).

So what: PRC commercial upper-stage maneuvers from Jiuquan are more objects SDA must track.

Presence

Planning · C2 · Execution · Exercises

Navy navigates, lands unmanned system on ship amid GPS-denial in test

Inside Defense · 2026-10-15 **Exercises** PACOM Movement and Maneuver PNT / GPS

A NAWCAD test landed an unmanned aircraft on a ship without GPS or a pilot, using cameras and motion sensors; the Navy plans to scale it (Inside Defense).

So what: Rehearses unmanned resupply through GPS jamming, the expected condition in the AOR.

Japan deploys long-range missiles for joint US military drill

The Straits Times (Asia) · 2026-10-18 **Exercises** PACOM Fires Exercises

Japan deployed long-range missiles for Keen Sword, which runs to 29 Oct; the Theodore Roosevelt CSG left Tokyo Bay to join (Straits Times, Stars and Stripes).

So what: Keen Sword is this week's venue to rehearse space-enabled targeting for long-range fires.

M1A2T tanks to roll into Taiwan's Lien Yung military drill next month

Focus Taiwan (CNA) · 2026-10-18 **Exercises** PACOM Movement and Maneuver Exercises

M1A2T Abrams tanks will join Taiwan's Lien Yung drill next month for the second time, a military source told CNA (Focus Taiwan).

So what: Lien Yung sets a window to watch PLA ISR and counterspace activity near Taiwan.

The Army's main long-range missile battery in Europe fires new weapon for the first time

Task & Purpose · 2026-10-19 **Execution** EUCOM Fires Electronic Warfare

A 2nd MDTF Typhon battery fired its first Tomahawk on 28 Sep at China Lake; MDTFs pair EW, cyber and long-range strike against enemy targeting (Task & Purpose).

So what: Thousand-mile land fires need space-enabled targeting synchronized in the joint fight.

Partnership

Share → Plan → Train → Operate → Depend

No new outsourcing at Fylingdales, minister says

UK Defence Journal · 2026-10-18 **Depend** SPACECOM Intelligence Missile Warning / Defense

UK MoD says Fylingdales radar support contracts are re-lets, not new outsourcing; the radar feeds U.S. missile early warning and space surveillance (UKDJ).

So what: U.S. missile warning depends on this UK radar, so its sustainment model is our concern.

Taiwan, Philippines kindle maritime cooperation in face of Chinese pressure

Nikkei Asia · 2026-10-18 **Share** PACOM Intelligence Taiwan

Nikkei Asia reports Taiwan and the Philippines are building maritime cooperation in the face of Chinese pressure.

So what: Taiwan-Philippine ties could widen shared maritime awareness on the Luzon Strait.

Australia gets the ball rolling on medium-range air defense

Defense News · 2026-10-19 **Share** PACOM Protection Allies & Partners

Australia opened Land 6504 on 13 Oct for a medium-range air defense able to hit ballistic missiles in terminal phase, citing China's July ICBM shot (Defense News).

So what: An Australian terminal BMD layer will need cueing from shared U.S. missile warning.

Japanese MMX mission set for launch to study Martian moons

NASASpaceflight · 2026-10-19 **Operate** PACOM Command and Control Launch

JAXA's MMX launches on an H3 at 1941Z 19 Oct with two NASA instruments; NASA and ESA provide deep-space communications (NASASpaceflight).

So what: Shows U.S.-Japan space operations at Operate, with shared ground networks in use.

WATCH LIST

- Kosmos 2612 / ICEYE X36: confirm the approach with USSF or LeoLabs tracking before briefing it as RPO.
- Keen Sword runs to 29 Oct: track space support to Japanese long-range missile and CSG events.
- SWPC G1 watch 19-20 Oct: minor satellite-operations impact possible, mainly at high latitudes.
- Ukraine Starlink curbs: watch for a DoD IG inquiry or a formal U.S. statement on who ordered them.