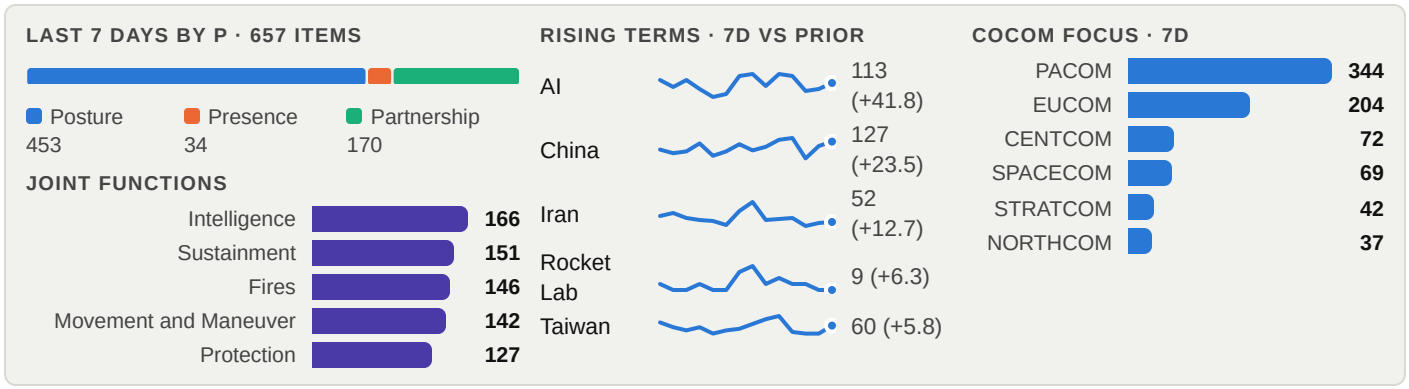
TJFSCC Daily

2026-11-16
Makani Lab · Theater Joint Force Space Component
Posture · Presence · Partnership

BLUF — Posture (resilience): ULA's Vulcan failed on its return to flight 15 Nov, again sidelining an NSSL heavy-lift provider (Spaceflight Now); Google reports the first fully AI-automated exploit chain. Presence (c2): the U.S., Japan, Australia and the Philippines plan a defense coordination center in the Philippines. Attention: get space liaison seats into that center's design and track the Vulcan impact on the NSSL manifest.



Posture

Force · Capability · C2 & authorities · Resilience

ULA suffers first outright failure with loss of Vulcan rocket carrying 40 Amazon Leo satellites

Spaceflight Now · 2026-11-15 **Resilience** SPACECOM Movement and Maneuver Launch

ULA's Vulcan failed on its return to flight 15 Nov; a Centaur-phase anomaly lost 40 Amazon Leo satellites. USSF had already paused NSSL missions on Vulcan.

So what: An NSSL heavy-lift provider is grounded again; assured access for theater payloads narrows.

Google says Russian speakers pulled off first-ever fully automated AI cyberattack

Politico Europe · 2026-11-16 **Resilience** CYBERCOM Protection Cyber Operations

Google reports Russian-speaking hackers used AI agents to find and exploit flaws with no human in the loop; a China-linked AI tool also hit a U.S. aerospace firm.

So what: Patch-to-exploit time is collapsing; ground segments and space vendors must patch faster.

Taiwan unveils 17% budget boost to upgrade new F-16V fighter fleet

South China Morning Post (China) · 2026-11-16 **Capability** PACOM Fires Taiwan

Taiwan added NT$42.8B (US$1.4B) for electronic warfare upgrades to all 66 new F-16V fighters, a 17% rise to NT$290B total, per SCMP.

So what: More partner EW in the Strait adds emitters the theater spectrum plan must deconflict.

Kadena Air Base gets is first permanent F-15EXs

Task & Purpose · 2026-11-15 **Force** PACOM Fires Japan / ROK

The first permanently based F-15EX, with new EW systems, arrived at Kadena 15 Nov for the 67th Fighter Squadron; Kadena is the first overseas base to get it.

So what: Forward fighters modernize; space support must be built into their training from the start.

Japan’s fighter jet scrambles near 5-year high as China ramps up Pacific patrols

South China Morning Post (China) · 2026-11-15 **Capability** PACOM Intelligence China / PLA

Japan scrambled fighters against Chinese aircraft 94 times in October, the most in nearly five years, amid a PLA carrier operation in the western Pacific, per SCMP.

So what: Rising PLA air and carrier tempo near Japan raises demand for theater SDA and ISR cueing.

Presence

Planning · C2 · Execution · Exercises

Can a new 4-country defence hub counter Beijing in the South China Sea?

South China Morning Post (China) · 2026-11-15 C2 PACOM Command and Control Allies & Partners

The U.S., Japan, Australia and the Philippines agreed 28 Oct to build a defense coordination center in the Philippines for shared intelligence and surveillance, per SCMP.

So what: A new combined C2 node in the AOR; space liaisons must sit there to shape decisions.

Air Force Maps Path for Connectivity Upgrades to Tanker and Airlift Fleets

Air & Space Forces Magazine · 2026-11-15 Execution PACOM Command and Control SATCOM

AMC fitted 31 KC-46s with ATOMS Lite beyond-line-of-sight kits used on combat deployments; MAF NEXUS becomes a program of record in FY28.

So what: SATCOM now carries mobility C2; theater allocation must cover tanker and airlift tasks.

Over the Ocean and Into the Fight: 25th Infantry Division Executes Long-Range Maritime Air Assault

USINDOPACOM · 2026-11-09 Exercises PACOM Movement and Maneuver Exercises

25th Infantry Division ran a long-range maritime air assault into contested island terrain at JPMRC 27-01, with 8th TSC heavy-drop resupply.

So what: JPMRC rotations are the venue to make units fight through degraded GPS and SATCOM.

Partnership

Share → Plan → Train → Operate → Depend

Zelensky urges US and Musk to lift Starlink restrictions and be on 'right side of history'

BBC News (World) · 2026-11-15 Depend EUCOM Command and Control SATCOM

Zelensky says limits on Ukraine's Starlink and Starshield use helped Russian strikes on energy and rail this weekend and urged the U.S. and Musk to lift them.

So what: Shows combat dependence on commercial SATCOM; settle access terms before a crisis.

Washington turns to Tokyo to boost missile reserves, triggering talk over Taiwan

The Straits Times (Asia) · 2026-11-15 Plan PACOM Sustainment Japan / ROK

Washington is pursuing a plan to assemble AMRAAM missiles in Japan to ease U.S. backlogs; China has objected, per The Straits Times.

So what: Co-production moves Japan from sharing to planning theater munitions supply.

Albanese treads tightrope in upcoming Trump meeting, wanting Indo-Pacific engagement and end to Iran and Ukraine wars

The Guardian (World) · 2026-11-15 Share PACOM Information Allies & Partners

Trump attends his first Quad leaders' summit in the Philippines this week; Australia joins the U.S. and Japan to protect AI technologies, per The Guardian.

So what: The Quad sets the political frame for space and tech sharing with key AOR partners.

Japan planning to build network to share disaster information across Asia

The Japan Times · 2026-11-15 Share PACOM Information Allies & Partners

Japan plans a network to share disaster information across Asia and will urge partners to adopt early-warning systems that alert before disasters strike.

So what: Opens a regional channel for sharing space-derived environmental data.

(LEAD) S. Korea's Lee, Philippines' Marcos agree to deepen cooperation in defense industry, AI

Yonhap News (English) · 2026-11-16 Share PACOM Sustainment Allies & Partners

ROK President Lee and Philippine President Marcos agreed in Manila 16 Nov to deepen defense-industry and AI cooperation, per Yonhap.

So what: Partner-to-partner ties widen the base for future combined space work.

WATCH LIST

- Xi-Trump-Putin trilateral in Shenzhen Thu 19 Nov at APEC; Trump says he may also meet Kim Jong Un.
- Adm. Paparo speaks at Brookings Mon 16 Nov; watch for PACOM posture and space remarks.
- USSF-317 on Falcon 9 from Vandenberg 19 Nov 0300Z; Long March 2D from Taiyuan 18 Nov 2250Z.
- SWPC G1 storm watch 17-18 Nov; FY27 defense appropriations may move before the 11 Dec CR expiry.