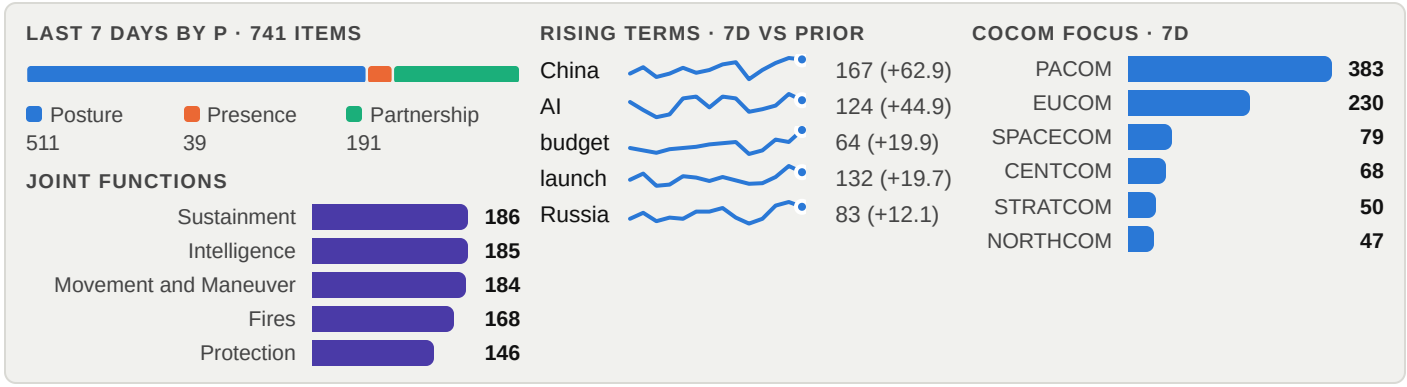
TJFSCC Daily

2026-11-18
Makani Lab · Theater Joint Force Space Component
Posture · Presence · Partnership

BLUF — Posture (capability): Vulcan is grounded again after a core-stage shortfall, leaving Falcon the only flying Lane 2 rocket, and GAO flags supply-chain risk to PWSA and MEO missile warning. Presence: U.S. and Japanese forces wargamed Kadena base defense as Russian Tu-95s landed in Vietnam. Partnership: NATO now buys commercial SDA through the USSF marketplace. Watch the 19 Nov Shenzhen trilateral.



Posture

Force · Capability · C2 & authorities · Resilience

ULA Vulcan Anomaly Has Pentagon Implications

Payload · 2026-11-17 **Capability** SPACECOM Sustainment Launch

ULA traced the 15 Nov Vulcan loss to low booster performance and the rocket is grounded again; the Space Force kept ULA in a $985M NSSL Lane 2 award (Inside Defense).

So what: Falcon is the only flying Lane 2 rocket, thinning assured launch for theater payloads.

Space industrial base stretched thin amid low-orbit satellite constellation shift, GAO says

DefenseScoop · 2026-11-17 **Capability** SPACECOM Sustainment USSF

GAO found supply-chain risk in PWSA, GPS IIIF and MEO missile warning as DOD shifts to proliferated LEO; DOD agreed to manage the space industrial base enterprise-wide.

So what: Parts shortages delay the PWSA and MEO warning layers the theater is counting on.

Senate Appropriators Release $1.072 Trillion Defense Bill

SpacePolicyOnline · 2026-11-17 **Capability** SPACECOM Sustainment USSF

Senate appropriators gave the Space Force $54.8B of $59.1B requested, adding $2B for space-based AMTI and $3.3B for the Space Data Network; $7.1B funds 54 launches.

So what: AMTI and Space Data Network funds speed the sensing and data transport theater C2 needs.

Russian Tu-95 Bombers Arrive In Vietnam After Flurry Of Northeast Asia Air Alerts

The War Zone · 2026-11-17 **Force** PACOM Intelligence Russia

Two Russian Tu-95MS bombers and two Il-76s landed at Da Nang, Vietnam on 17 Nov after flying past Japan and through Taiwan's ADIZ, The War Zone reports.

So what: Russian bombers now stage from the South China Sea, widening the theater warning picture.

Chinese state group developing automated attack tool for cyber espionage, Google says

The Record (Recorded Future) · 2026-11-17 **Resilience** CYBERCOM Protection Cyber Operations

Google reports a PRC state group building an automated attack tool; the FBI warns the ARTEX AI framework has hit defense, telecom and ROK financial targets.

So what: AI-driven intrusions shrink the patch window on command and partner networks.

North Korea completes external works on enrichment facility extension, says IAEA

France 24 (English) · 2026-11-18 **Capability** PACOM Intelligence DPRK

The IAEA says a new extension to North Korea's Yongbyon enrichment facility has been externally complete since mid-October, France 24 reports.

So what: More DPRK fissile material raises the stakes on theater missile warning.

Presence

Planning · C2 · Execution · Exercises

Bilateral Tabletop Exercise

USINDOPACOM · 2026-11-16 Planning PACOM Protection Allies & Partners

U.S. and Japanese forces at Kadena ran a bilateral tabletop exercise on installation defense, practicing how they communicate, coordinate and respond together.

So what: Opens a slot for missile warning and space injects in bilateral base-defense wargames.

Digital Targeting Web funding due by end of financial year

UK Defence Journal · 2026-11-18 Planning EUCOM Fires Allies & Partners

UK MOD says Digital Targeting Web funding is due by March 2027 and it is linking its Mission Information Platform to NATO's Maven Smart System.

So what: Allied targeting webs are forming now; space sensor data must plug in early.

DoE's Liberty Eclipse tests utility incident response, IT-OT coordination and power grid recovery under live conditions

Industrial Cyber · 2026-11-16 Exercises NORTHCOM Protection Cyber Operations

DOE's Liberty Eclipse exercise had utilities, agencies and labs attack, defend, shut down and restore a live, isolated power grid on Plum Island, New York.

So what: A template for space ground-site drills that run through grid loss and cyberattack.

Partnership

Share → Plan → Train → Operate → Depend

NATO aims to spur space industry, help militaries by joining data marketplace

Defense One · 2026-11-17 Share SPACECOM Intelligence Allies & Partners

NATO joined the Bluestaq Global Data Marketplace the Space Force has used since 2020; over 220 firms from 17 allies take part, and first orders are due by year end.

So what: Allies and USSF now buy commercial SDA through one channel, easing shared awareness.

OpenAI gives NATO access to most advanced cybersecurity AI

Defense One · 2026-11-17 Train EUCOM Protection Allies & Partners

OpenAI opened its top cyber models to NATO; in the Crossed Swords exercise in Tallinn, allied operators built and ran AI agents alongside OpenAI Daybreak.

So what: Moves commercial AI cyber defense into allied training; a model for Pacific partners.

Finland's Iceye bids €2 billion for Italian rocket maker Avio

Defense News · 2026-11-17 Share EUCOM Sustainment Allies & Partners

Finnish SAR operator Iceye bid €2B for Italian launcher Avio, which also builds missile rocket motors with Raytheon and Lockheed Martin in the U.S.

So what: Ties allied SAR, launch and U.S. missile motors in one firm; U.S. approval is required.

Xi Jinping urges South Korea to cooperate with China on AI and supply chains

South China Morning Post (China) · 2026-11-17 Share PACOM Intelligence China / PLA

Xi urged ROK President Lee in Shenzhen on 18 Nov to cooperate with China on AI, emerging tech and supply chains, SCMP reports.

So what: PRC courting of a treaty ally on tech could slow U.S.-ROK sharing on space and AI.

Dutch resist 'unacceptable' US bid to tighten semiconductor export controls

Politico Europe · 2026-11-17 Share EUCOM Intelligence Allies & Partners

The Netherlands called the U.S. MATCH Act, which would tighten limits on ASML chip-tool sales to China, unacceptable, Politico Europe reports.

So what: Ally pushback on chip controls shows the limits of shared tech denial against the PLA.

WATCH LIST

- Xi-Trump-Putin trilateral in Shenzhen 19 Nov; watch for space, nuclear, Taiwan or arms-control language.
- Launches: Long March 2D 18 Nov 2250Z; USSF-317 slipped to 20 Nov 0246Z; NROL-136 21 Nov 1230Z.
- COSMOS 1171 debris conjunction Pc 4.5e-3, TCA 18 Nov 1905Z; STARLINK-4422 South Pacific reentry ~21 Nov.
- FY27 Senate defense appropriations bill is out; the CR expires 11 Dec. SonicWall SSLVPN KEV patch due 20 Nov.