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# CHINA MILITARY DIGEST

DECEMBER 2025

- **China-Pakistan "Warrior-IX" joint anti-terrorist exercise wraps up**
- **Chinese and Russian Militaries Conduct joint Air Patrol in Western Pacific**
- **China appoints two new PLA Generals**
- **China-Singapore "Cooperation 2025" drills on urban counter-terrorism concluded**
- **China-UAE "Falcon Shield 2025" joint air force training concluded**

## China-Pakistan "Warrior-IX" joint anti-terrorist exercise concluded

The 10-plus-day long China-Pakistan "Warrior-9" counter-terrorism joint exercise was held at the National Counter-Terrorism Training Center in Pabbi, Pakistan from December 1 to 14. The joint exercise included mixed-unit joint training, live-fire exercises, individual counter-terrorism skills, group counter-terrorism skills, and a series of discussions and exchanges. The other drills conducted were drone reconnaissance and countermeasures, joint fire strikes, and airborne assault aimed at testing the real-combat effectiveness of joint counter-terrorism operations. Besides, the two sides also held sports matches, cultural exchanges, and other activities. The joint exercise was focused at improving and testing the coordinated command and joint counter-terrorism capabilities of the two armies. Besides the full-element live-fire exercise, the two sides jointly organized land and air operations and deployed medium-to-high altitude long-endurance drones, drone swarms, suicide drones, and explosive ordnance disposal robots, to complete combat tasks such as reconnaissance and surveillance, blockade and control, area clearing, and annihilation of hypothetical targets. Throughout the exercise, the two sides focused on the new situation and characteristics of terrorist activities and organized targeted joint training exercises. After the exercise, the Chinese troops returned to China by means of air transport, land transport as well as drone transfer.

## Chinese and Russian Militaries Conduct joint Air Patrol in Western Pacific

The Chinese and the Russian militaries conducted their 10th joint strategic air patrol in the Sea of Japan, East China Sea and the Western Pacific Ocean on December 9. For the joint patrol China deployed H-6K bombers, KJ-500A early warning aircraft, and J-16 fighter jets, while the Russian side sent Tu-95MS strategic bombers, A-50U early warning aircraft, and Su-30 fighter jets. The Russian early warning aircraft and fighter jets operated in the Sea of Japan area, and its Tu-95MS bombers passed through the Tsushima Strait to the East China Sea airspace, where they rendezvoused with the Chinese Air Force formation before passing through the Miyako Strait and conducting strategic patrols in the Western Pacific airspace beyond the first island chain. After entering the Western Pacific airspace, the joint air patrol formation flew northeast before turning back towards the East China Sea. The fighter jets were deployed for escorting the bombers conducting air patrols. The Chinese Ministry of National Defense stated that the joint air patrols demonstrated the two sides' determination and ability to "jointly address regional security challenges." The Japanese Ministry of Defense stated on December 9, "the two Russian Tu-95 nuclear strategic bombers, capable of carrying nuclear weapons, flew from the Sea of Japan to the East China Sea, where they rendezvoused with two Chinese H-6 bombers and conducted a "long-distance joint flight" in the Pacific Ocean." The Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi stated that the Sino-Russian joint action "is clearly a show of force against

our country and poses a significant threat to our national security.” Koizumi added that the Japanese fighter jets had “strictly implemented air defense identification measures.” Since 2019, China and Russia have conducted one or two joint air patrols annually in the region. Japan has paid close attention to these air patrols.

### China appoints two new PLA Generals

At a ceremony held at Bayi Building in Beijing on December 22 organized by China’s Central Military Commission (CMC), two senior PLA Officers Yang Zhibin (杨志斌), Commander of the Eastern Theater Command, and Han Shengyan (韩胜延), Commander of the Central Theatre Command, were promoted to the rank of PLA General. Analysts suggest that the intensified anti-corruption efforts within the military, coupled with major cases involving figures like Miao Hua and He Weidong, have made the CPC leadership extremely cautious in appointing senior generals. Both Yang Zhibin and Han Shengyan are from the Air Force, indicating that the Air Force is a branch of the military less affected by the corruption scandals. Xi Jinping attended the ceremony. Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the CMC read out the promotion order signed by Xi Jinping, while another Vice Chairman, Zhang Shengmin, presided over the ceremony. Xi Jinping presented the promotion certificates to Yang Zhibin and Han Shengyan. Members of the CMC, heads of various departments of the CMC, and main leaders of relevant military units stationed in Beijing attended the ceremony. According to public information, both Yang Zhibin and Han Shengyan are 62

years old and are from the Air Force. Earlier, Yang Zhibin has served as Deputy Commander of the PLA Southern Theatre Command and the PLA Western Theatre Command, before appointed Commander of the Eastern Theatre Command. He also served in former Nanjing Military Region and former Lanzhou Military Region. Han Yansheng was the commander of the 2025 Victory Day parade on September 3 in Beijing. Earlier, he held the posts of Deputy Commander of the Western Theatre Command and Commander of the PLA Central Theater Command Air Force. Prior to PLA reform in 2015, he has served in the former Chengdu Military Region and former Lanzhou Military Region.

### China-Singapore “Cooperation 2025” drills on urban counter-terrorism concluded

The seventh iteration of the China-Singapore “Cooperation 2025” joint army training was held in Singapore from December 10 to 17. The joint training aimed at further improving the joint counter-terrorism capabilities. Both armies sent their elite forces to participate in the joint training. The joint training included subjects such as sniper control, rapid entry, and battlefield medical treatment, and the training was divided into four stages namely skill training, phased training, continuous training, and live-fire exercises. After the opening ceremony, the exercise venue was moved from Jurong Camp to SAFTI City, Singapore’s first high-rise urban training facility, launched in March 2025 and equipped with smart instruments for real-time feedback. The mixed China-Singapore units conducted coordinated

operations that fully leveraged the synergy between manned and unmanned forces. Reconnaissance robots and drones supported the tasks such as simulated encirclement, sniper control, rapid entry, firepower strikes and hostage rescue. The two sides [followed](#) in door close-quarters combat tactics, also known as “CQB tactics” specifically designed for confined combat spaces such as buildings and alleys. Troops from two sides were mixed to form tactical teams to perform multi-dimensional search, building entry, and rescue. Since its inception in 2009, the training topics have gradually progressed from initial conventional security cooperation to more complex theme such as counter-terrorism operations. After the completion of joint training, the delegations from both sides evaluated the performances of the joint training units and presented certificates to outstanding trainees. A farewell party was arranged for the participating troops on December 16.

### **China-UAE "Falcon Shield 2025" joint air force training concluded**

The air forces of China and the UAE [held](#) the ‘Falcon Shield 2025’ joint training in UAE from December 9 to 22. This is the third edition of ‘Falcon Shield’ series of joint air force training between China and the UAE. Chinese and Emirati forces operated in mixed formations and [carried out](#) a range of training activities including command and control simulations, air superiority operations, night air operations, unmanned combat, and battlefield search and rescue. This iteration of joint training marked the deployment of several frontline aircraft models by China including J-10

fighter jets, KJ-500 airborne early warning aircraft, and Y-20A aerial refueling tankers in UAE. The UAE air force operated Mirage 2000 fighter jets. Since its inception in 2019, the ‘Falcon Shield’ joint air force training has gradually [evolved](#) from modest confidence-building measures into a flagship bilateral defense engagement reflecting deepening military and strategic ties between Beijing and Abu Dhabi. Last iteration of ‘Falcon Shield’ joint training was held in 2023 in Xinjiang, China, focused primarily on aerial manoeuvres and cultural exchanges, however, the 2025 edition represents a qualitative leap by deploying advanced Chinese military aircrafts. The 2025 edition of joint training provided the Emirati pilots firsthand exposure to the aircraft’s agility, situational awareness, and network-centric operating concepts by flying Mirage 2000 alongside J-10C aircraft in mixed formations and simulated air combat scenarios. During the exercise, the KJ-500 early warning aircraft acted as the central command node for integrated Sino-Emirates air operations, relaying target data, coordinating aircraft maneuvers, and testing interoperability with Emirati command networks in a simulated complex combat scenario. The Y-20A oil tankers carried out aerial refueling for J-10C aircraft that extended sortie duration and long-range missions. The exercise used drones for reconnaissance and strike simulations. Other exchanges included maintenance workshops and cyber-defense discussions. The exercise [focused](#) at improving and testing joint tactical effectiveness of the deployed military aircrafts in complex airspace environments.