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CHINA MILITARY DIGEST

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- **China Disqualifies Nine PLA Deputies to the National People's Congress**
- **Philippines, the US, and Japan Hold Military Exercise in Bashi Channel**
- **China's Xi makes rare public reference to recent military purges**
- **China's hybrid unmanned cargo aircraft completes first flight**
- **Chinese peacekeepers to South Sudan conduct live-fire shooting training**

China Disqualifies Nine PLA Deputies to the National People's Congress

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress [announcement](#) on February 26 removing 19 deputies to the National People's Congress. Among them, nine are PLA deputies. The removed officers include two under the Central Military Commission, as well as others from the PLA Ground Force, PLA Navy, PLA Rocket Force, and the PLA Air Force. Among the disqualified nine PLA deputies, five were PLA Generals, one Lieutenant General, and three Major Generals. The five PLA Generals were [identified](#) as former PLA Ground Force Commander Li Qiaoming, former PLA Information Support Force Political Commissar Li Wei, former PLA Navy Commander Shen Jilong, former PLA Navy Political Commissar Qin Shengxiang, and former PLA Air Force Political Commissar Yu Zhongfu. The report did not specify the reasons for their removal, but such removals are generally tied to corruption investigations. The other [dismissed](#) deputies were regional representatives from several provinces. According to a report, 47 PLA Generals were appointed deputies to the NPC in 2022 and later, of which, 87% have been investigated or removed. The removal leaves the National People's Congress with 2,787 members. The announcement was made a week before the NPC's annual "Two Sessions" scheduled to be held from March 4 to March 11 in Beijing.

Philippines, the US, and Japan Hold Joint Military Exercise in Bashi Channel

A week-long joint military exercises organised by the Philippines, the United States, and Japan in Bashi Channel, in late February that mobilized a number of warships and aircrafts. The channel [separates](#) southern tip of Taiwan from the northern island of the Philippines, and is a key shipping lane from the South China Sea to the Pacific Ocean. This is the second such activity conducted by the Philippines this month. The statement issued by the U.S. Seventh Fleet Command on February 26 confirmed that this was their 15th multilateral maritime cooperation exercise in the Philippines Exclusive Economic Zone from February 20 to 26. It noted that the exercise demonstrated the parties' shared commitment to strengthening regional and international cooperation and supporting a free and open Indo-Pacific region. The statement issued by the Philippines military said the fighter jets from the three countries conducted patrol exercises over the Batanes Island, the northernmost island of the Philippines. The statement added that the joint exercise demonstrated "the ability to work seamlessly together in complex maritime environment." It confirmed that the air drill was conducted in Philippine airspace and territorial waters north of Luzon, while the naval drills were limited to the west of the Batanes Islands. The joint exercises saw deployments of warships, combat jets, and

patrol aircrafts. The Philippines deployed the BRO Antonio Luna-a coast guard patrol boat, FA-50 fighter jets, two military aircraft, and a helicopter. Japan sent a P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft, whereas the United States deployed the USS Dewey- an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, and a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft. In response, the PLA Southern Theatre Command's navy and air force were [surveilling](#) the joint exercises. China deployed guided-missile destroyer Hefei and guided-missile frigate Liuzhou. After the joint military exercise was ended on February 26, the PLA Southern Theatre Command organized naval and air forces to conduct combat readiness patrols in China's territorial waters, airspace and surrounding areas of Huangyan Island. China [criticized](#) the Philippines for rallying external countries to organize joint patrols, stirring up trouble in the South China Sea, and undermining regional peace and stability.

China's Xi makes rare public reference to recent military purges

On February 10, Xi Jinping [made](#) a rare public speech that refers to the graft probes linked to China's top generals. This is first time Xi Jinping spoke on anti-corruption since October 2022. In his virtual address to the military, he [said](#) the PLA has grown stronger in the past year in its fight against corruption. "The past year has been unusual and extraordinary, and the PLA has deepened its political education, effectively addressed various risks and challenges, and

undergone revolutionary forging in the fight against corruption," he remarked. He further added that, "officers and soldiers across the military, especially those at the grassroots level, has resolutely followed the party's leadership, loyally fulfilled their duties, focused on overcoming difficulties, and successfully completed all tasks. Days before this address in late January this year, two senior most leaders of the Chinese military General Zhang Youxia and General Liu Zhenli were sent for investigation on charges of serious violation of discipline. With their removal, the seven-members Central Military Commission is left with two members only, one being Xi Jinping himself. Since the 20th National Congress of the CPC in October 2022, 14 PLA generals has been [removed](#) or investigated.

China's hybrid unmanned cargo aircraft completes first flight

China [tested](#) world's first hybrid unmanned cargo aircraft YH-1000S on February 1 in Liangping, Chongqing. The aircraft was developed by China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics, a R&D institute of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation based in Beijing. The developer confirmed that the YH-1000s unmanned aircraft is an upgraded version of Rainbow YH-1000, which first flew in May, 2025. The aircraft is equipped with a high-performance hybrid power system. Compared to its predecessor YH-1000, the Rainbow YH-1000s enjoys shorter takeoff-landing

distances, increased payload capacity and extended flight ranges. The aircraft has successfully completed its airworthiness verification. The launch of unmanned aircraft also marks China's first major effort to integrate drone and vehicle technologies. The aircraft is an [outcome](#) of multiple factors including leveraging shared supply chains and modular production methods, collaboration reduced the research and production costs of drones and facilitates the fusion of technological and industrial innovation. Keeping in mind the rapidly evolving demands of global customers, the aircraft is designed to adapt to play important roles across multiple domains, including international logistics transport, emergency response and disaster relief, weather, modification, ocean surveillance, and maritime supervision. The key feature of the YH-1000S unmanned aircraft is its hybrid power-plant that [allows](#) it to operate on one or both power sources – a gas-powered engine and an electric motor. Hybrid energy sourced system rely on electric motor at slower speed and engines at higher speed. The hybrid-power plant equipped in the aircraft is jointly developed by the China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics and a “leading domestic new energy car maker.” This project of YH-1000S also marks the first technological collaboration between unmanned aircraft and automotive industries in China. The developer said, by sharing supply chain resources and adopting modular production between aero

industry and automotive industry has reduced the research and manufacturing costs for drones.

Chinese peacekeepers to South Sudan (Juba) conduct live-fire shooting training

In early February, the 12th Chinese Peacekeeping Infantry Battalion to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) [organized](#) its first live-fire shooting training in Juba. The two-day live-fire shooting training with light weapons aimed at inspecting the conditions of the weapons and ammunition, calibrating the weapon accuracy, and examining the Chinese peacekeepers combat readiness and emergency response capabilities. The drill [covered](#) various firearms, including pistols, rifles, and sniper rifles, and included prone and standing firing positions. In a simulated battlefield environment, the drill tested the troop's rapid response and continuous firing accuracy, and psychological resilience under high temperature and high-intensity conditions. The assessment team carried out data collection and analysis of the shooting drill to assess the shooting skills and weapon performance. “Being on the front lines of peacekeeping tests our combat capabilities,” Commander Wen Haiyuan [emphasized](#) before the training began. He remarked that the live ammunition drill will adhere to combat standards and comprehensively test the combat readiness of the officers and soldiers.