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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

# CHINA MILITARY DIGEST

NOVEMBER 2024

- **PLA General Miao Hua has been suspended and is under investigation**
- **PLA General Zhang Youxia, Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission, visits Pakistan for Security Talks**
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## PLA General Miao Hua has been suspended and is under investigation

In late November, PLA General Miao Hua (苗华) was suspended and is [suspected](#) of serious violations of discipline. Miao Hua is a PLA Navy General and a member of the Central Military Commission heading the CMC Political Work Department that [ensure](#) CCP control over the PLA. The Party Central Committee decided to suspend Miao Hua for inspection. Miao Hua was last seen in public on October 7 at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps. Miao Hua held key post at the CMC, and was responsible for senior personnel promotions, and ensuring ideological conformity. Miao Hua's suspension is the third recent major shakeup in China's defence establishment. In June, China's then Defense Minister Li Shangfu and his predecessor General Wei Fenghe were expelled from the Party and the PLA on charges of corruption. Miao Hua is [regarded](#) as a close ally of Xi Jinping and is his appointee. He service in Fujian province during the 1990s and early 2000s overlaps with Xi Jinping's posting in the province. His career took off after Xi Jinping came to power in late 2012. In December 2014, Miao Hua was appointed Political Commissar of the PLA Navy. A few months later, he was promoted to the rank of PLA General making him the youngest serving PLA General. At the beginning of his second tenure in 2017, Xi Jinping appointed Miao Hua as CMC member and Director of the CMC Political Work Department. Xi Jinping's [campaign](#) against corruption has focused in the past year on the armed forces, with nearly 20 military and defense industry officials removed since 2023, as well as defense ministers. Also, Miao Hua is the second member of the CMC to be removed from

office since the current line-up took office in 2022.

## PLA General Zhang Youxia, Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission, visits Pakistan for Security Talks

In late November, amid joint counterterrorism drills in the wake of several attacks targeting Chinese interests and citizens in Pakistan, China's top military official PLA General Zhang Youxia (张又侠), Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission, visits Pakistan for the security talks. During his visit, General Zhang Youxia [held](#) a one-on-one meeting with Army Chief General Asim Munir on November 27, followed by the delegation-level discussions. The security talks between the two sides was [held](#) at the General Headquarters (GHQ), and the two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, and the enhancement of bilateral defense cooperation. On the issue of regional stability, the two sides exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan, and particularly the activities of militant organizations such as Tehreek-e-Taliban and Baloch Liberation Army (BLA). General Asim Munir expressed his gratitude to China for its unwavering support to Pakistan. In turn, General Zhang Youxia spoke about Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts, which has been the key subject of discussion between the two sides due to increasing frequency of terror attacks against the Chinese nationals in Pakistan. After the meeting, he paid tribute to Pakistan's martyr by laying a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada. The last meeting between the two Generals was [held](#) in April 2023 in Beijing. The ties between the two countries have come under strain due to increasing attacks

on the Chinese citizens in Pakistan. According to the reports of newspaper Dawn, Beijing is seeking for a more proactive role in ensuring the safety of its citizens in Pakistan, but the Pakistani government has emphasized that counter-terrorism cooperation between the two countries is based on mutual respect for each other's sovereignty.

### **The US and Chinese militaries hold annual conference of Military Maritime Consultative Agreement**

For the semi-annual working group and annual plenary session of the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement (MMCA), the representatives from the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Pacific Air Forces, and U.S. Coast Guard reached Qingdao, China to [meet](#) their counter-part from China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy and Air Force on November 6-8, 2024. The U.S. delegation was led by U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Jay Barger, director, Strategic Planning and Policy, USINDOPACOM, and the Chinese side was led by PLA Major General Wang Qiang (王强), Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the PLA Navy Headquarters. At the plenary meeting, the two sides reviews the proceedings of both 2024 MMCA working groups, assess the progress, and discuss the path forward for future meetings. The Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian (吴谦) [highlighted](#) that the two sides had a candid and pragmatic exchange on the current air and maritime security situations of the Sino-US. Both sides evaluated the annual implementation of the "China-US Maritime and Air Encounter Safety Code of Conduct", and discussed measures to improve Sino-US maritime military security issues, and exchanged views on the 2025 working group

meetings topics. The ministry said China believes that such communication will help the two militaries to interact more professionally and safely, and reduce the risk of misunderstanding and misjudgment.

### **Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun attended the 11th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus)**

On November 21, Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun (董军) [attended](#) the 11th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) and pointed out in his speech, "China and ASEAN should expand their shared maritime interests with a long-term perspective, engage in flexible and diverse maritime security cooperation, enhance their collective ability to safeguard maritime security, and contribute to maintaining regional and global peace and stability." Before the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting, Don Jun held talks with the leaders of the defense departments of New Zealand, India, and Malaysia and the Secretary-General of ASEAN. On the sidelines of the 11<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus, Indian Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh [met](#) the Chinese Defence Minister General Dong Jun in Vientiane, Laos PDR on November 20, 2024. The two defense ministers are [meeting](#) for the first time after disengagement of troops at Depsang plains and Demchok near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh. Rajnath Singh emphasized that "we need to focus on cooperation rather than conflict". He emphasized and looked forward to greater trust and confidence building between the two countries through de-escalation. The two sides agreed to work together a roadmap for rebuilding mutual trust and understanding. During the 11<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus in Vientiane, Laos, China [refused](#) to hold a US-China Defense Ministers' meeting because of the

US arms sales to Taiwan. On November 20, U.S. Defense Secretary Austin at a press conference said: “This is [regrettable](#). This decision affects the entire region because all parties in the region really want to see two important powers engage in dialogue to promote regional stability and cooperation.” Also, the 14<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Informal Meeting was held in Vientiane, Laos on November 21 [co-chaired](#) by Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun and Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Chansamone, the rotating chair of ASEAN.

### **China and Russia conduct joint air patrol over the Sea of Japan again**

Chinese and Russian air forces [conducted](#) an eight-hour patrol in the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea and the western Pacific Ocean. For the first time, China sent its domestically [produced](#) long-range strategic bomber H-6N to participate in the cruise mission. The Russian Ministry of Defense said that this was part of the military cooperation plan between the two countries this year, and this activity was not aimed at third countries. The Russian Aerospace Forces’ Su-30SM and MiG-31 aircraft and the Chinese Air Force’s J-16 aircraft escorted the Russian strategic bombers. Reuters reported that Russian military aircraft participating in the joint patrol took off and landed in China. The Chinese Ministry of Defense statement that the exercise is part of their annual cooperation plan since 2019, which includes regular joint air patrols of the two air forces. So far, such joint air patrols have been carried out nine times. This is also the second time that the Chinese and Russian militaries have organized a joint air patrol this year. South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said on November 29 that five Chinese and six

Russian military aircraft entered South Korea’s air defense identification zone (ADIZ) in the eastern and southern waters of the country. South Korea protested to both China and Russia for their fighter jets entering South Korea’s ADIZ without prior notification, but neither China nor Russia recognized Seoul’s self-established ADIZ. South Korean military had predicted the entry of Chinese and Russian military aircraft into its ADIZ before, so it deployed fighter jets to carry out strategic maneuvers.

### **China-Singapore “Cooperation-2024” Army Joint Training Ends**

The sixth edition of the China-Singapore bilateral exercise “Cooperation-2024” [came](#) to an end. Which was conducted between the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) from 17 to 28 November in Zhumadian City, Henan (河南), China. The theme of this joint training is “Urban Joint Counter-Terrorism Operations”, which aims to strengthen the joint command, coordination and unified action capabilities of the two armies. The [Participating](#) troops were from the SAF’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Singaporean Division and 1<sup>st</sup> Commando Battalion and the PLA’s Central Theatre Command Ground Force 81st Group Army. The exercise will feature a battalion-level Command Post and Field Training Exercise, as well as professional exchanges on Counter-Terrorism (CT) operations in support of rescue scenario. Other subjects of the exercise were tactical drills, small-arms live firing, and cohesion activities. Chinese and Singaporean commanders [underscored](#) the importance of the exercise in enhancing combat readiness, fostering traditional ties, and promoting bilateral military relations. Singapore, as a city-state, prioritizes urban defense and anti-terrorism strategies.