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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

CHINA MILITARY DIGEST

JULY 2024

- China appoints new Commander for the PLA Southern Theatre Command (STC)
- India and China held the 30th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on Border Affairs
- Canadian frigate passes through the Taiwan Strait
- China-Russia "Joint Sea-2024" joint exercise concludes
- China-Laos "Friendship Shield-2024" joint exercise concludes
- Central Military Commission (CMC) held a ceremony to award honorary titles

China appoints New Commander for the PLA Southern Theatre Command (STC)

On July 31, it was reported that PLA General [Wu Yanan \(吴亚男\)](#) has been appointed as the Commander of PLA Southern Theatre Command (STC). Wu Yanan is a senior military commander in the PLA, born in August 1962 in Shijiazhuang (石家庄), Hebei. Wu Yanan joined the [People's Liberation Army \(PLA\)](#) in 1980 soon after he graduated from Fuxing Senior High School, Shanghai. He joined the Communist Party of China (CPC) in September 1984. He holds a doctorate degree. Earlier, he has held the posts of Platoon Commander, Company Commander, Staff Officer, Battalion Commander, Chief of Staff of an Armoured Brigade, Brigade Commander, Commander of the Liaoyuan Military Sub-district of Jilin Province, Deputy Chief of Staff of a PLA Group Army, and Commander of the 4th Armored Division of the PLA 16th Group Army. In July 2013, he was appointed Deputy Commander of the PLA 16th Group Army. In March 2017, he was appointed Commander of the PLA 78th Group Army. In April 2020, he was promoted to Deputy Commander of the PLA Northern Theatre Command (NTC) and Commander of the NTC Army. In December 2020, he was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff of the CMC Joint Staff Department and Deputy Commander in Chief of the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters. In January 2022, he was promoted to Commander of the PLA Central Theatre Command (CTC). In January 2023, he was transferred to the Joint Operations Command Center of the Central Military Commission (CMC). In July 2014, he was promoted to the rank of

PLA Major General. In April 2020, he was promoted to the rank of PLA Lieutenant General. In January 2022, he was awarded to the rank of PLA General. In September 2015, he was selected to lead the Pingxingguan (平型关) Battle Assault Company Heroic Model Team at the 'V-Day' military parade commemorating the 70th anniversary of victory of China in the anti-Japanese War. He is a delegate to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

India and China held the 30th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on Border Affairs

On July 31, 2024, the [30th Meeting of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination \(WMCC\)](#) on India-China Border Affairs was co-chaired by Gourangalal Das, Joint Secretary of the East Asia Division of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India, and Hong Liang (洪亮), Director-General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), China, in New Delhi. The meeting was also attended by representatives of government agencies for foreign affairs, national defense and immigration affairs of the two countries. The Indian [Ministry of External Affairs \(MEA\)](#) released a statement that said: Following the discussions between the two Foreign Ministers in their recent meetings at Astana and Vientiane, the two sides reviewed the current situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with a view to finding an early resolution of the outstanding issues. Restoration of peace and tranquillity, and respect for the LAC are an essential basis for restoration of normalcy in bilateral relations. The two

sides agreed on the need to jointly uphold peace and tranquillity on the ground in the border areas in accordance with relevant bilateral agreements, protocols and understandings reached between the two governments. The MEA statement said the discussion at the meeting was in-depth, constructive and forward-looking, and the two sides agreed to maintain the momentum through the established diplomatic and military channels. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs underlines the key outcomes of the meeting as follows: First, both sides agreed to actively implement the important common understandings reached at the recent bilateral meeting between the two foreign ministers, focus on specific issues related to the China-India border, accommodate each other's legitimate concerns and reach a mutually acceptable solution at an early date. Second, the two sides agreed to maintain communication through diplomatic and military channels, strengthen negotiation mechanism building, speed up the negotiation process, and turn over a new leaf in the border situation at an early date so as to promote the sound and steady development of China-India relations. Third, the two sides agreed to strictly abide by the agreements already reached and continue to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas.

Canadian frigate "Montreal" passes through the Taiwan Strait

According to the information from a maritime traffic website that provides ship tracking services, the Canadian frigate "Montreal" sailed southward from the East China Sea through the [Taiwan Strait](#) on July 31. It was reported that the frigate recently concluded a joint exercise with the US

Navy in the East China Sea. It is said that the Canadian military previously stated that its frigate will cross the Taiwan Strait, but it did not disclose the specific time. On July 31, spokesperson of the PLA Eastern Theatre Command Colonel Li Xi (李熹) said that the Canadian frigate "[Montreal](#)" passed through the Taiwan Strait, and the PLA Eastern Theatre Command organized the troops of PLA Navy and PLA Air Force to monitor the frigate and its activities. He added that the Canadian side's behaviour disturbed the situation and undermined the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait. On August 1, the Canadian Defense Minister Bill Blare said that the navigation of the Canadian vessel in Taiwan Strait reaffirmed Canada's commitment to the free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

China-Russia "Joint Sea-2024" joint exercise concludes

On July 17, China-Russia "Joint Sea-2024" exercise concluded, with a fleet separation ceremony in waters near Zhanjiang City, Guangdong province of China. The theme of the exercise is "[Joint Response to Maritime Security Threats](#)," and seven naval ships participated in the exercise from both sides. The exercise began with the port planning activities such as, on-map simulation and ship tours. On July 15, the China-Russia "[Joint Sea-2024](#)" exercise entered the maritime exercise stage. The two navies carried out joint search and rescue, joint air defense and anti-missile and other multi-subject exercises. The Chinese missile destroyer CNS *Nanning* (南宁 162) and missile frigates, namely, CNS *Xianning* (咸宁 500) and CNS *Dali* (大理 553), and a fleet oiler CNS *Weishanhu* (微山湖 887) were part of the fleet. The Russian fleet started from the

home port of Vladivostok included two frigates Gromkiy (响亮号 335) and Rezkii (凛冽号 343). The naval fleets of the two countries organized a three-day maritime exercise, including anchorage defense, joint reconnaissance and early warning, joint search and rescue, joint air defense and anti-missile, etc. The “Joint Sea” series of naval exercise is a major naval exercise between the two navies since its inception in 2012, and it is aimed to enhance their ability to jointly address security threats and challenges.

China-Laos "Friendship Shield-2024" joint exercise concludes

The second China-Laos “[Friendship Shield-2024](#)” joint exercise was held at the training ground of the Kommandam Academy of the Lao People’s Armed Forces (LPAF) in Laos from July 5 to 18, involving around [900 Laotian and 300 Chinese](#) military personnel. On July 25, Colonel Zhang Xiaogang, Chinese Defense Ministry Spokesperson, pointed out main features of the exercise as follows: First, it underlines joint planning and command. Second, it highlights the coordination of multiple military services. In order to finalize the content of the joint exercise, the two sides have engaged in [multiple rounds of consultations](#) since the beginning of the year to reach a consensus. Chinese military officer [Wu Peiji](#) (吴培基) was given in charge of the airdrop assault course. Chinese military officer Wang Lilong (王礼龙) was instructor for the mine-clearing and explosive disposal equipment operation. Chinese military officer Chen Ruichao (陈瑞超) was in charge of teaching grappling and fighting. The joint exercise also included live-fire shooting of various firearms such as light and heavy machine

guns, sniper rifles, grenade launchers and vehicle-mounted mortars.

Central Military Commission (CMC) held a ceremony to award honorary titles

On July 9, the Central Military Commission (CMC) held the annual award ceremony marking the occasion of the 97th anniversary of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) which is on August 1. Xi Jinping awarded flags to units that won honorary titles. At the ceremony, [Zhang Youxia](#) (张又侠), Vice-Chairman of the CMC, read out the orders to grant the honorary titles signed by Xi Jinping, and He Weidong (何卫东), another Vice-Chairman of the CMC, presided over the ceremony. The [PLA Unit 92950](#) was awarded a first-class merit citation, and Liu Aijun (刘爱军) of the PLA Army Engineering University was awarded a third-class merit citation in defense-related science and technology. In the same ceremony, the Second Company of the First Battalion of a PLA Army Brigade was awarded the honorary title of “[Model Rocket Artillery Company](#).” This PLA Rocket Artillery Company had taken part in several historic battles, and in recent years, it has also fulfilled multiple important missions. The company was established in 1937 and has the experiences of battle fights including the [Blocking Battle at Tashan](#) (塔山阻击战), the Battle of Kumsong, also known as Jincheng Campaign (金城战役), and the shelling the islands of Kinmen (金门县). In the ceremony, PLA General [He Hongjun](#) (何宏军), Executive Deputy Director of the CMC Political Work Department, was promoted to the rank of PLA General, the highest rank for military officers in active service in China.