



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

CHINA

MILITARY DIGEST

APRIL 2025

- First China-Egypt joint military exercise “Civilized Eagle-2025” was held
- China-Cambodia Ream Port Joint Support and Training Center is launched
- China and Indonesia held the first “2+2” dialogue mechanism
- China conducts large-scale military exercise in Taiwan Strait
- Dong Jun meets with Pakistan Air Force Chief of Staff
- China –Vietnam Joint patrol of the Beibu Gulf was concluded

First China-Egypt joint military exercise “Civilized Eagle-2025” held in Egypt

First China-Egypt joint military exercise “Civilized Eagle-2025” was [held](#) in Egypt. On April 24, the Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson Colonel Zhang Xiaogang stated that it is a joint training for the two air forces, and he also confirmed that the PLA Air Force’s J-10C/S fighter jets, a KJ-500 early warning aircraft and Y-20 aerial refueling tankers reached Egypt on April 19. Starting from April 19 the joint training will last until early May. The joint training is aimed to improve the technical and tactical level of the two air forces. Earlier this month, Egypt confirmed that it had purchased China’s HQ-9B long-range surface-to-air missile system with maximum range of 200 kilometers. The HQ-9B is equipped with H-200 phased array radar. The joint training will [include](#) the exercise themes such as air support, battlefield search and rescue, long-distance raid techniques and tactics, and other subjects. This is the first time that the PLA Air Force has [conducted](#) intercontinental maneuvers with a complete combat system. Military aircrafts sent by China forms a complete combat system of “fighter + early warning aircraft + refueling aircraft”. Egypt sent Russian-made MiG-29 fighters for the joint training. Earlier in late August 2024, the PLA Air Force [sent](#) August 1st Flying Team composed of seven J-10 fighters to participate in the first Egypt Air Show. According to the Egyptian military, the exercise [aims](#) to coordinate combat strategies, and joint air strikes and mission planning are the core themes.

China-Cambodia Ream Port Joint Support and Training Center is launched

China-Cambodia Ream Port Joint Support and Training Center was [launched](#) on April

5. Part of the upgrade and renovation project of Cambodia’s Ream Naval Base began in June 2022 was completed recently with China’s assistance. In media briefing, Cambodian Defense Minister Tea Banh said the upgraded base has two docks, a 5,000-ton dry dock, a 1,000-ton slide, 8 building, a conference center, and supporting facilities such as electricity, water supply, purification, fire protection, and information transmission. The center will facilitate Cambodian and Chinese militaries to carry out regional counter-terrorism, disaster prevention and mitigation, humanitarian rescue, joint training and other operations. The two sides will send their personnel to jointly maintain the normal operation of the center. China’s Ministry of National Defense (MND) [stated](#) that the center is conducive to further strengthening the practical cooperation between the two militaries. The new facility at Ream Port [came](#) after Cambodia demolished a US-built facility at the base of Sihanoukville in 2020, and it also declined Washington’s offer to repair it. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet attended the inaugural ceremony, and delivered a speech. In his speech he said, the center will be conducive to further strengthening the practical cooperation between the two militaries. A PLA delegation led by Cao Qingfeng, Deputy Chief of Staff of the CMC Joint Staff Department attended the ceremony. In his speech Hun Manet [clarified](#) that the Cambodian Constitution stipulates that foreign countries are not allowed to establish military bases in the country. He also added that the base will be open to the armies of all friendly countries. Cao Qingfeng [said](#) the port would “inject new momentum into regional security”. On the same day, the Cambodian and Chinese militaries conducted “Golden Dragon-2025”

joint exercise at the base on themes such as fleet maneuvers, maritime communications, equipment exercises and other subjects.

China and Indonesia held the first “2+2” dialogue mechanism

Beijing hosted the first ministerial meeting of the “2+2” dialogue mechanism between China and Indonesia on April 21. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Defense Minister Dong Jun [co-chaired](#) the meeting along with their Indonesian counterparts Foreign Minister Sugiono and Indonesian defense Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin. The “2+2” dialogue mechanism between the two sides was established in October 2023. Last year, Xi Jinping met with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto twice and agreed to hold the first ministerial meeting of the “2+2” dialogue. Lin Jian, spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, [said](#) that the two sides will exchange views on bilateral relations, political security and defense cooperation, international and regional cooperation and other issues. In August 2024, the first senior officials’ meeting of the “2+2” dialogue mechanism between the two sides was held in Jakarta. At the meeting Wang Yi [said](#), China and Indonesia have established the “2+2” dialogue mechanism for strategic cooperation. Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun noted that China is willing to work with Indonesia to build a new pattern of defense and security cooperation. Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono stated that Indonesia is willing to work with China to further strengthen political mutual trust, enhance exchanges at all levels, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, and strengthen communication and collaboration within multilateral frameworks. Indonesian Defense Minister

Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin pointed out that Indonesia is willing to enhance cooperation with China in defense and security to maintain regional peace and stability. At the meeting, the two sides signed a MoU on establishing a comprehensive strategic dialogue mechanism between the two governments, and documents on cooperation in maritime security and other areas were also signed. Following day on April 22, Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), [met](#) with Indonesian Defense Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin in Beijing. Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun also held talks with Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin on the same day.

China conducts large-scale military exercise in Taiwan Strait

On April 1-2, the PLA Eastern Theatre Command [conducted](#) joint combat exercise “Strait Thunder-2025A (海峽雷霆-2025A)” in the waters of the central and southern Taiwan Strait. The exercise aimed to test the PLA’s blockade and strike capabilities. The exercise also included long-range shooting and strikes on simulated targets such as important ports and energy facilities. PLA ships and aircrafts were seen within the 20 nautical miles of the coastline of Taiwan. This was the first large-scale PLA exercise of 2025 around Taiwan, and [followed](#) the “Joint Sword-2024” exercises conducted in May and October respectively. Besides, there was also a large-scale naval maneuvers in December 2024. On April 1, Taiwan’s Ministry of National Defense [said](#) that it had activated the response mechanism and “responded appropriately” and established a response center at 9 am on the same day. The Ministry also criticized China for “continuously increasing military threats in the Indo-Pacific. It has become

the biggest “troublemaker” in the international community.” On the same day, Anitta M. Hipper, spokeswoman for EU foreign affairs, said: “China’s large-scale military exercises around Taiwan are exacerbating cross-strait tensions.” “We call on all parties to exercise restraint and avoid any actions that may further escalate tensions. Issues should be resolved through cross-strait dialogue.”

Dong Jun meets with Pakistan Air Force Chief of Staff

Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun [met](#) with Pakistan Chief of Air Staff Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar in Beijing on April 8. During the meeting Dong Jun said, in recent years, the Chinese and Pakistan militaries have achieved results in strategic communication, joint exercises, and personnel exchanges. He noted that China is willing to further strengthen strategic communication and cooperation with Pakistan, deepen practical cooperation in various fields. He said the two sides’ air forces have benefitted from the “Shaheen” series of joint air force annual exercises. The joint air force exercise “Shaheen” was launched in 2011 that involves drills such as air combat, counter-air operations, and integrated air defense. Whereas the Pakistani Air Chief Marshal [said](#) that Pakistan Air Force is willing to strengthen communication and exchanges and institutional cooperation with China. The two sides are looking forward to deepen military cooperation, and to enhance dialogues, expand joint exercises, and face emerging security challenges together, [said](#) Dong Jun. This meeting reflects Pakistan’s ongoing push to modernize its air force, and earlier, Pakistan Air Force has purchased 20 J-10CE fighters from China. China has also

supplied HQ-9BE long-range and HQ-16FE medium-range surface-to-air missile systems to Pakistan. The meeting between the Pakistan Chief of Air Staff and China’s Defense Minister [comes](#) amid Pakistan’s increasing reliance on Chinese aerospace and defense technology for its modernization efforts.

China –Vietnam Joint patrol of the Beibu Gulf was concluded

Vietnam-China Coast Guard fleet [conducted](#) first joint patrol of the Beibu Gulf in 2025 on April 22-24. The fleet of ships from two sides patrolled south to north along the Beibu Gulf that lasted for 51.6 hours and covered a distance of 255.5 nautical miles. The two sides also conducted joint search and rescue exercise at sea on emergency response to a threat. The joint patrol of Beibu Gulf is part of the consensus reached between the two sides on maritime law enforcement cooperation. It was the 29th joint patrol [conducted](#) by the two coast guards since 2006. During the operation, the two coast guards monitored fishing activities, conducted public outreach with fishermen. The spokesperson for China’s Coast Guard stated that the exercise is to promote professional exchanges with the Vietnam Coast Guard, enhance maritime emergency management, and contribute to maintaining maritime peace and stability. The joint patrol of the Beibu Gulf by the two coast guards are [held](#) biannually, and these joint patrols have become a model of maritime law enforcement cooperation in the South China Sea, the spokesperson of the China’s Coast Guard noted.