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CHINA MILITARY DIGEST

JULY 2025

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34th Meeting of the WMCC on India-China Border Affairs held in New Delhi

The 34th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) was [held](#) on 23 July 2025 in New Delhi. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement on July 23, the Indian delegation was led by Shri Gourangalal Das, Joint Secretary (East Asia), and the Chinese delegation was led by Mr. Hong Liang, Director General of the Boundary & Oceanic Affairs Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The statement said that the two sides reviewed the situation in the India-China border areas. They expressed satisfaction with the general prevalence of peace and tranquility in the border areas, leading to gradual normalization of bilateral relations. They agreed to maintain regular exchanges and contacts on issues related to the boundary affairs at the diplomatic and military levels through established mechanisms. With a view to advancing effective border management and sustaining peace & tranquility, the two sides deliberated on various measures as explored during the previous (23rd) round of Special Representatives' Talks and the 33rd meeting of WMCC. The two sides also prepared for the next round of the SR Talks on the India-China Boundary Question to be held in India later this year. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC [said](#) in its press release that at the 34th meeting of WMCC in New Delhi representatives from the two countries' foreign affairs, defense, and immigration departments attended. The statement said that in accordance with the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, and the two sides focused on in-depth communication on implementing the outcomes of the 23rd meeting of the Special Representatives on the China-India

Boundary Question and agreed to jointly prepare for the 24th meeting of the SR Talks. The statement added that both sides positively evaluated the progress made in border control since last year and had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on issues such as boundary demarcation negotiations, border control, mechanism building, and cross-border exchanges and cooperation, reaching preliminary consensus. Both sides agreed to maintain communication through diplomatic and military channels and jointly maintain peace and tranquility in the border area. The leader of the Chinese delegation Hong Liang called on the Foreign Secretary.

Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff visits Beijing

Asim Munir [held](#) separate meetings with Vice President Han Zheng, CMC Vice Chairman General Zhang Youxia, and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing. Talks [focused](#) on regional security, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and broader geopolitical cooperation. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in a [meeting](#) with Munir on July 24 said that China and Pakistan have always firmly supported each other on issues concerning their core interests. He said, China supports Pakistan in combating all forms of terrorism and calls on the Pakistani military to continue to make every effort to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, projects, and institutions in Pakistan. Asim Munir meeting with Zhang Youxia on July 25 focused on strengthening counterterrorism efforts, joint training, and defense modernization. The two sides had in-depth [discussions](#) on three core topics "China-Pakistan relations", "Security Commitment," and "Counter-terrorism Cooperation." Zhang Youxia [expressed](#) hope that Pakistan will continue to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, projects, and institutions

in Pakistan. On the same day, Asim Munir [met](#) Han Zheng, Vice President of the PRC, in Beijing. Han Zheng stated during his meeting with Munir that Xi Jinping maintains close communication with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, providing strategic guidance for the development of China-Pakistan relations. He underscored that China is willing to work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries. On the other hand, Asim Munir confirmed that Pakistan supports the three major global initiatives proposed by Xi Jinping, stands firmly with China, and expresses gratitude for China's long-term and valuable support. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) [said](#) in a statement on July 25 that the military engagement between the two sides included "comprehensive exchanges on defense and security cooperation, including counterterrorism collaboration, joint training, defense modernization, and enhanced institutional linkages", the ISPR said. "Emphasis was placed on improving operational interoperability and strategic coordination to confront hybrid and transnational threats," it added. A day earlier, the Pakistani National Shipping Corporation signed a memorandum of understanding with Chinese shipping giant, Shandong Xinxu Group, is a move that is set to bring about a "major transformation" in the shipping sector.

PLA Southern Theater Command patrols Scarborough Shoal

PLA Southern Theatre Command's naval and air forces have increased the frequency of [conducting](#) patrols and surveillance in the waters and airspace surrounding Scarborough Shoal, a disputed territory between China and the Philippines. Throughout June, the PLA command has

continued to [intensify](#) patrols in the region, reinforcing its control over the airspace and waters in the South China Sea. On July 2, the China Coast Guard (CCG) [conducted](#) law enforcement patrols in the territorial waters off Scarborough Shoal. In a statement, the CCG said it has been steadily intensifying patrols that include tracking and monitoring, verbal warnings, interceptions, and expulsions. On July 3, the PLA Southern Theatre Command conducted combat readiness patrol around the waters and airspace of Scarborough Shoal. Similarly, on July 29, the PLA Southern Theater Command [organized](#) its naval and air forces to conduct combat readiness patrols around Scarborough Shoal. According to a video released by the PLA Southern Theatre Command, the patrols featured several types of advanced warships and warplanes, including the Type 052D destroyer, Type 054A frigate, Type 903A replenishment ship, Z-9 shipborne helicopter, J-16 fighter jet, Su-30 fighter jet and H-6K bomber. The bomber H-6K was equipped with YJ-12 supersonic anti-ship missile.

China-Vietnam "Hand-in-Hand 2025" Joint Military Exercise

China-Vietnam "Hand-in-Hand 2025" joint army training was [concluded](#) on July 30, in Gunagxi, China. The joint exercise [marked](#) the first time in 75 years that the Chinese and Vietnamese armies had publicly conducted large-scale joint exercise. The joint exercise, [running](#) from July 21-30, mobilized 140 officers and soldiers from both sides, together with more than 20 vehicles and over 170 pieces of equipment. The participating soldiers from both sides are [conducting](#) simultaneous training across eight training courses as planned at multiple training sites. The joint exercise [focused](#) on themes such as reconnaissance, camouflage, and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operations, marksmanship, medical aid, chemical

defense field logistics, and coordinated tactical operations. A joint exercise [themed](#) “Joint Duty Training in Border Areas,” was held to strengthen mutual learning and exchanges of border duty experience and further deepen practical cooperation between two militaries. The land border between China and Vietnam is over 1,000 kilometers long and has complex terrain. At the live-fire exercises, Chinese and Vietnamese participants [discussed](#) and exchanged views on their respective shooting techniques and procedures, conducting joint training focused on basic shooting techniques. In particular, the UAV exercises involved six practical combat scenarios in mountainous terrain, enhancing reconnaissance, strike, and rescue capabilities while improving coordination between the two forces. At the closing ceremony, Major General Nguyen Van Lich, Deputy Commander of Vietnam’s Military Region 1, affirmed that the successful conclusion of the exercise marked a significant step forward in enhancing practical coordination between the two sides for regional peace, stability, and border security. Major General Chen Liang, Deputy Commander of the PLA Southern Theatre Command’s Ground Force, said that the training is a concrete step implementing shared commitments to strengthen military cooperation.

Xi Jinping signs order to unveil flag patterns of four PLA branches

Xi Jinping has [signed](#) an order to unveil the flag patterns of four branches of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), namely the PLA Aerospace Force, PLA Cyberspace Force, PLA Information Support Force and PLA Joint Logistics Support Force. The branch flag will be [put into](#) official use starting from August 1. The CMC has issued a decision to adjust the current trial regulations on the

administration of military flags, revising provisions on the types and usage of military flags to standardize their management and safeguard their dignity through legal measures, according to the statement. To [adapt](#) to the development needs of the military flag system, the Central Military Commission (CMC) also issued a decision to amend the “Military Flag Management Regulation (Trial)”, making corrections to the type and composition of military flags, the times and occasions for their use, etc., to provide legal guarantees for standardizing military flag management and maintaining the dignity of military flags.

PLA Xinjiang Military Region implemented new "Military Physical Training Outline"

Khunjareb Border Defense Company of a PLA Regiment under Xinjiang Military Region [held](#) a military exercise that introduced alternative exercises such as hexagonal jumps and stepping. The report said the hexagonal jump training is helpful for practical tactical maneuvers such as quick evasion and climbing obstacles. New training content is added such as hypoxia acclimatization and anti-vertigo training in accordance with the outline. Professional smart devices are introduced to monitor soldiers’ heart rate and blood oxygen levels in real time, and adjust training intensity and difficulty based on the feedback. The new edition of the “Military Physical Training Outline” innovatively adds alternative exercises for high altitude regions such as hexagonal jumps and stepping. In the past, military physical training for soldiers at high-altitude was based on training courses in plains that often resulted in poor performance and a high incidence of training injuries. Prolonged and intense exercise in cold and hypoxic conditions potentially harms soldiers’ health.