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# CHINA MILITARY DIGEST

MAY 2025

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## Defense Minister Dong Jun visits France and Germany

According to the [statement](#) from Chinese Ministry of National Defense on May 29, from May 11 to 17, Defense Minister Dong Jun (董军) visited France and also attend the Sixth UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference held in Berlin, Germany. On May 12, Dong Jun [held](#) talks with his French counterpart Sebastien Lecornu in France. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations, international and regional situations, and issues of mutual concern, reaching a consensus on enhancing practical exchanges and cooperation between two militaries. According to the French defense ministry, the two sides discussed topics such as European security, the Middle East and the “Indo-Pacific.” This is the second meeting between Dong Jun and Sebastian Lecornu, and the last time they [met](#) at 21<sup>st</sup> Shangri-La Dialogue in June 2024. During his trip, on May 15, Dong Jun [met](#) with his German counterpart Boris Pistorius in Berlin to discuss bilateral relations and military cooperation. According to the Chinese Ministry of National Defense statement, the two sides exchanged views on international and regional developments, and reached a consensus on “strengthening practical exchanges and cooperation between the two militaries.” Dong Jun also met with UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix, and delivered a speech at the sixth UN peacekeeping Ministerial Conference in Berlin, emphasizing that China will work

with all parties to implement the Global Security Initiative (GSI), support the core position of the United Nations, increase investment in UN peacekeeping operations, support the training of peacekeeping professionals, adjust and optimize the configuration of the strength and capabilities of the peacekeeping standby force, promote continuous innovation in UN peacekeeping operations.

## China to establish three new military academies

On May 15, the PRC Ministry of National Defense [announced](#) that the Central Military Commission (CMC) has approved to adjust and establish three colleges, namely, the PLA Army Arms University, the PLA Information Support Force Engineering University, and the PLA Joint Logistics Support Force Engineering University. [Starting](#) from 2026, three new military academies will be open to high school graduates to cultivate intelligent warfare talents: The PLA Army Arms University will create multi-arms coordinated combat experts, the PLA Information Support Force Engineering University will focus on cyberspace security, and the PLA Joint Logistics Support Force Engineering University will focus on modern military logistics. This is the first time that China has opened a full-time military higher education channel to ordinary high school graduates of the country. It aims to cultivate new military talents that meet the needs of modern warfare. The first batch of enrolment will begin in 2026.

## China-Cambodia “Golden Dragon-2025” joint exercise was held

China – Cambodia “Golden Dragon-2025” joint exercise was [held](#) from mid-to-late May focusing on joint counter-terrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. Recently [established](#) China-Cambodia Joint Support and Training Center at Port Ream in Cambodia organised the launch of the joint exercise. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of this series of joint exercise between the Chinese and Cambodian militaries. China sent troops from the PLA Army, PLA Navy, PLA Air Force, and PLA Joint Logistic Support Force. China and Cambodia dispatched a total of 11 naval ships and 3 air force helicopters to participate in the exercise. For the naval exercises, China sent Chnagbaishan (长白山舰), Panzhihua (攀枝花舰), and Guangyuan (广元舰) warships, and 8 ships were from the Cambodian side. The 15-day joint exercise for the land and air troops were [held](#) on land and at sea, as well as in relevant air spaces. On May 26, the joint exercise was [held](#) in the sea and air near Sihanoukville, Cambodia. The participating troops of the two sides [were](#) uniformly grouped into a joint taskforce. The aerial and land live-fire drill highlighted urban counter-terrorism operations, and focused on hostage rescue and encirclement and suppression. This exercise [was](#) the first joint live-fire exercise in the China-Cambodia “Golden Dragon” series of joint exercises, and it was also the first live-fire exercise organised by the China-Cambodia Ream Port Joint Support and Training Center. On May 31, the chief directors of both sides [reported](#) on the

overall situation of the exercise, and presented awards to the participating troops with excellent performance at the closing ceremony at Ream Port.

## General Zhang Youxia urged to build a high-level training support system

Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), [called](#) for accelerating the construction of a high-level military training support system at a two-day event held on May 27-28. He urged on improving the quality and efficiency of military training. He emphasised on integrated joint training with IT applications. He added that priority should be given to building large-scale training bases. Officers from relevant departments of the CMC, various theatre commands, various military services, various directly affiliated units of the CMC and People’s Armed Police Force (PAPF) attended the meeting, and the combat units of the PLA above the brigade-level, relevant training institutions and colleges and universities also [participated](#) through video conference system. Earlier, in January 2021, Xi Jinping at the Military Training Conference of the Central Military Commission [emphasised](#) to accelerate the construction of a high-level training support system. He called for strengthening training support, optimise the layout of training support, improve the elements, innovate the methods, and create a realistic training environment. He said modern warfare is a confrontation between systems, and integrated joint operations have become the basic form of operations. He added that joint operations call for joint training and require the implementation of integrated

joint training support, and to this end, build an overall layout of training support in an integrated manner.

### **“China-Singapore Cooperation-2025” Joint Maritime Exercise was held**

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of “China-Singapore Cooperation-2025 (中新合作-2025)” joint maritime exercise was [held](#) in Changi Naval Base and in the waters and airspace to the east of Singapore from May 9 to 16. This series of joint maritime exercise was started in 2015 that aims to promote China - Singapore cooperation in maritime security. A total of four ships from both sides participated in the exercise. China sent guided-missile frigate Xuchang (许昌舰) ship and the mine countermeasure vessel Chishui (赤水舰) ship, and from the Singapore side, the RSS (the Republic of Singapore Ship) Steadfast-class frigate and the RSS Bedok-class mine countermeasure vessel, participated in the exercise. The exercise is [divided](#) into three stages: port-shore exchanges, maritime joint exercises and closing summary. On May 9, starting with a port exchange phase featured seminars on themes such as navigation through mine-threatened waters, naval gunfire exercises against maritime targets, joint search and rescue operations, and medical evacuation procedures. A two-day live-action maritime drill in the South China Sea was [held](#) on March 14 -15 in the southern reaches of the South China Sea. The exercise subjects included passing through the mine threat areas, naval gun firing at sea, joint search and rescue and medical evacuation, etc.

### **China, Egypt wrap up first joint air force training**

The 18-day China and Egypt first joint air force training “Eagles of Civilisation 2025” was [ended](#) on May 4. China sent 13 aircrafts including 1 KJ-500 early warning aircraft, 4 J-10C fighter jet, 2 J-10S fighters, 1 Z-20 helicopter and 5 Y-20 tanker aircraft. Five Y-20 large transport aircrafts [transported](#) personnel, materials and equipment from China to Egypt, of which at least one is an improved version of the Y-20 with aerial refuelling capability. The exercise subjects featured air superiority operations, suppression of enemy air defense system (SEAD), combat search and rescue (CSAR), mixed formation confrontation between Chinese and Egyptian fighters, and aerial refuelling. In addition, the Chinese and Egyptian air forces [have](#) two different flight formations. The former is led by Y-20 tanker, carrying 4 J-10Cs and 4 MiG-29 fighters, and the latter is led by a KJ-500 early warning aircraft, carrying 2 MiG-29 fighters. During the training, the Chinese Y-20 tanker aircraft conducted in-flight refuelling operation for the Egyptian Air Force’s MiG-29 fighter jets.