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CHINA MILITARY DIGEST

OCTOBER 2025

- **23rd round of India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting was held**
- **Nine PLA Generals Expelled from the Communist Party of China (CPC)**
- **Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun meets U.S. counterpart in Malaysia**
- **Dong Jun participates in Defense Ministers' Meeting in Malaysia**
- **China-Saudi Arabia "Blue Sword" Joint Training was held**
- **China-Malaysia "Peace and Friendship 2025" joint exercise wraps up**

23rd round of India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting was held

On October 25, 2025, the Indian and Chinese militaries [held](#) the 23rd round of general-talks on the western section of the border at the Moldo/Chushul meeting point on the Indian side. This was the first [meeting](#) of the General Level Mechanism in the Western Sector since the 24th round of Special Representatives Talks held on 19 August 2025. According to the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, the talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, and the two sides noted the progress since the 22nd round of Corps Commander Level Meeting held in October 2024 and shared the view that peace and tranquillity has been maintained in the India-China border areas. The MEA statement also said that both sides agreed to continue to use existing mechanisms to resolve any ground issues along the border to maintain stability. Chinese Ministry of National Defense [issued](#) a statement that said the two sides conducted positive and in-depth communication on the management of the western sector of the China-India border and agreed to continue to maintain communication and dialogue through military and diplomatic channels, guided by the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, to jointly safeguard peace and tranquillity in the China-India border area.

Nine PLA Generals Expelled from the Communist Party of China (CPC)

On October 17, China's Ministry of National Defense [announced](#) that nine PLA Generals, including He Weidong, Vice

Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), and Miao Hua, former Director of the CMC Political Work Department, have been expelled from the Party and the Military for “suspected serious job-related crimes.” The cases involving these nine individuals will be transferred to military prosecutors for review and prosecution, meaning they are likely to face imprisonment. This is the first official announcement of He Weidong’s downfall after seven months of disappearance, making him the first member of the 20th CPC Politburo to be dismissed. This time the largest number of high-ranking generals expelled from the Party and the military since China’s Reform and Opening Up in 1978, and also the first time a Vice Chairman of the CMC has been expelled from the Party and the military while in office. Nine [expelled](#) PLA Generals include: He Weidong, member of the Politburo and Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission; Miao Hua, member of the Central Military Commission and former Director of the Political Work Department; He Hongjun, former Executive Deputy Director of the CMC Political Work Department; Wang Xiubin, former Executive Deputy Director of the CMC Joint Operations Command Center; Lin Xiangyang, former Commander of the PLA Eastern Theatre Command; Qin Shutong, former Political Commissar of the PLA Army; Yuan Huazhi, former Political Commissar of the PLA Navy; Wang Houbin, former Commander of the PLA Rocket Force; and Wang Chunming, former Commander of the People’s Armed Police Force (PAPF). The

announcement stated that the above nine individuals “seriously violated Party discipline, are suspected of serious job-related crimes, involving particularly large sum of money, extremely serious nature, and extremely adverse impact.” Among the nine, only Wang Houbin is not a member of the CPC Central Committee. Later on, at the Fourth Plenary Session of the CPC Central Committee on October 20, the decision of expulsion of eight fallen PLA Generals was ratified.

Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun meets U.S. counterpart in Malaysia

Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun met with U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth on October 31 on the sidelines of the 12th ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. At the meeting, Dong Jun said that defense departments of both countries should take concrete actions to implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state, and work toward building a military-to-military relationship based in equality and respect, peaceful coexistence, and stable, positive development. He added that “China’s reunification with Taiwan is an inevitable historical trend.” He hoped that the US would not attempt to contain China or seek conflict, and take a clear stance against “Taiwan independence,” and work with China to inject positive energy into regional and global peace and security. On November 1, the U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth stated that both sides agreed to restore the communication mechanism between the US and Chinese militaries to “de-escalate conflict and ease tensions.”

Hegseth described his meeting with Dong Jun as “good and constructive,” adding that he “emphasized the importance of maintaining a balance of power in the Indo-Pacific” while expressing U.S. concerns about China’s actions in the South China Sea, around Taiwan, and towards U.S. allies.

Dong Jun participates in Defense Ministers' Meeting in Malaysia

Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun attended the 12th ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) and the 15th China-ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Informal Meeting in Kuala Lumpur from October 30 to November 2. The 15th China-ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting was co-chaired by Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun and Malaysian Defense Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin on October 31 in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. The meeting discussed ASEAN defense cooperation achievements and successful experiences, shared issues of common concern, and offered suggestions for promoting future-oriented defense cooperation. At the China-ASEAN Informal Defense Ministers’ Meeting, Dong Jun delivered a speech on theme “China-ASEAN Defense Cooperation for the Future”. In his speech, Dong Jun suggested that it is necessary for China and ASEAN to work together to reinforce the shield of common security. He said that China will take practical actions to safeguard the long-term peace and stability of the South China Sea. He further said that China remains committed to enhance collective resilience in addressing security challenges. Mohamed Khaled and defense

leaders from other ASEAN countries expressed willingness to strengthen defense and security cooperation with China to jointly safeguard regional peace and stability. The participating countries also agreed to hold the second China-ASEAN maritime exercise in 2027. On November 1, at the 12th ASEAN Defense Minister's Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), in his speech, Dong Jun [said](#) that Xi Jinping's Global Governance Initiative (GGI) offers Chinese solutions to address global changes and solve global problems, which are highly consistent with the core principles of the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. On the same day after the meeting, Dong Jun [held](#) talks with defense leaders from the United States, New Zealand, and Thailand, who attended the 12th ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus).

China-Saudi Arabia "Blue Sword" Joint Training was held

China and Saudi Arabia [held](#) the "Blue Sword-2025" joint naval special operations training from October 12 to 23 in Jubail, Saudi Arabia. This time, the exercise was divided into two phases: individual and team coordination training, and comprehensive exercises. The exercise focused on counter-terrorism, escort, and maritime search and rescue operations. Besides, the exercise also included training in anti-hijacking, sniping, and tactical shooting. The exercise was carried out at King Abdulaziz Naval Base in Jubail, Saudi Arabia. Both navies [using](#) the drills to exchange tactics, test joint operational capabilities and prepare for coordinated

responses to maritime security challenges in the region. The participating Saudi troops were from the naval infantry brigades of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) and the Chinese troops were from the PLA Marine Corps. The joint exercise is [aimed](#) at promoting tactical and technical exchanges between the participating troops and deepen the practical cooperation between the two militaries. So far, three times this series of joint exercise has been held. The last exercise of this series was [carried](#) out over two weeks in 2023 in Zhanjiang, Guangdong Province.

China-Malaysia "Peace and Friendship 2025" joint exercise wraps up

China-Malaysia "Peace and Friendship 2025" joint exercise was [concluded](#) at Malaysia's national disaster assistance and rescue camp in Puchong on October 23, 2025. Major themes of the nine-day joint exercises include humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), maritime security, and cybersecurity. This time cybersecurity was introduced in the joint exercise for the first time. The venue of the exercises were Malaysia's national disaster assistance and rescue camp in Puchong, Port Klang, National Hydrographic Centre, Subang Air Base, and the waters of the Strait of Malacca. Besides, the two militaries also conducted activities such as deck receptions, open ship day activities, cultural and sports exchanges. The joint exercise is [aimed](#) at joint responses to threats such as piracy and smuggling in the waters of Strait of Malacca. Observers from ASEAN countries were [invited](#). For the joint exercise, Chinese side [sent](#) their naval

vessels including Type 052 destroyer Yinchuan, Type 071 amphibious landing ship Jinggangshan and Type 056 corvette Jingmen to Port Klang, Malaysia on October 13, 2025. Besides, more than 700 Chinese troops from the Army, Navy, Air Force of the PLA Southern Theatre Command, the PLA Hong Kong Garrison, and the PLA Joint Logistics Support Force participated in the joint exercise. In total, the two sides mobilised over 1,000 personnel and more than 500 pieces of equipment, including wheeled vehicles, surface ships, helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicles, and various types of ordnance. The “Peace and Friendship” series of joint exercises began in 2014. In the past, ASEAN countries such as Thailand (2018, the fourth session), Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam (2023, the fifth session) have been invited to participate.