



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

CHINA MILITARY DIGEST

JUNE 2024

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China's two former Defense Ministers expelled from the Communist Party of China (CPC)

On 27 June, two former defense ministers [Li Shangfu \(李尚福\)](#) and [Wei Fenghe \(魏凤和\)](#) have been expelled from the CPC and stripped of their qualification as delegates to the 20th CPC National Congress. These decisions were reviewed and approved at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee held on June 27. Due to their serious violations of discipline and laws, Li Shangfu and Wei Fenghe were placed under investigation on 31 August and 21 September last year, respectively, following clues uncovered during cases handled by the CMC Discipline Inspection Commission. Investigations have found that Li Shangfu and his predecessor Wei Fenghe served as defense minister from March to October 2023 and from 2018 to March 2023, respectively, were found to have seriously breached political and organizational discipline. Furthermore, both the leaders have exploited their positions to benefit others, and is suspected of taking bribes. The CMC had already expelled them from military service and deprived them of their rank of the PLA General. The Political Bureau also decided to transfer their suspected criminal case to procuratorial organs for examination and prosecution. The disciplinary action to expel Li Shangfu from the Party will be confirmed by the CPC Central Committee when it convenes a plenary session in mid-July.

The second China-ASEAN Defense Think Tank Exchange event opened

On June 25, the [2nd China-ASEAN Defense Think Tank Exchange Activity](#) opened in Guangzhou hosted by the

Chinese Academy of Military Sciences (AMS) and co-organized by Jinan University, with the theme of "Peace, Cooperation, and Shared Destiny". More than 70 defense policy officials and experts from China, 10 ASEAN countries and Timor-Leste conducted in-depth discussions on deepening mutual trust and cooperation between China and ASEAN countries and solving international and regional security problems. The Chinese representative put forward three proposals to further deepen the cooperation between China and ASEAN defense think tanks:

First, to build a China-ASEAN Defense Think Tank Exchange platform with greater policy influence; second, to create a China-ASEAN defense think tank brand with greater international discourse power; third, to build a China-ASEAN defense think tank cooperation network that operates on a regular basis. This event is a concrete measure for China to implement the outcomes of the China-ASEAN Defense Ministers' Informal Meeting, aiming to continuously enhance mutual understanding and trust.

Xi Jinping stresses PLA's political loyalty at a meeting held in old revolutionary base

On June 17, 2024, Xi Jinping delivers a speech at the [Central Military Commission Political Work Conference](#) held from June 17-19 in Yan'an, an old revolutionary base northwest Shaanxi Province. The reinitiation of this conference is Xi Jinping's personal idea and decision for improving political conduct through rectification initiatives, and it took place 10 years after a similar meeting was held in Gutian, east China's Fujian Province. Also, it is likely that the CMC Political Work

Conference will be conducted annually. The participants discussed and made arrangements for promoting political work in the PLA. Xi Jinping demanded to ensure a solid political guarantee for building a strong military, to uphold the Party's absolute leadership over the military and to build a high-quality cadre team that is loyal, clean, responsible, and capable of fulfilling the mission of strengthening the military. He pointed out that the armed forces must always be led by the cadres reliable and loyal to the Party, and there must be no place for corruption within the military. He highlighted the deep-seated problems that need to be addressed in military political work, emphasizing that a root cause of these problems lies in the lack of ideals and beliefs. He pointed out key work to enhance political loyalty in the military, urging to arm the military with the Party's new theories and improve the leadership of Party organizations, as well as their capabilities of organization and implementation.

People's Liberation Army (PLA)'s 7th Military Modeling Competition Completed

The *PLA Daily* reported on June 16, recently, the [7th Military Modeling Competition](#) results exchange meeting of the military modeling competition was held that aims at serving the combat effectiveness of the PLA. Past competitions has provided more than 12,000 solutions to urgent problems in the PLA, more than 500 excellent results have been applied to the practice of the PLA, and many results have been approved for in-depth research. Director of the Military Education Bureau of the CMC Training Management Department confirms that since the

resumption of the competition in 2018, a total of 74,000 people have participated in the last 7 competitions. More than 17,000 PLA officers and soldiers in 4,500 teams competed in the 7th competition, and the contestants need to continuously complete the proposition hypothesis, modeling solution, test analysis, paper writing etc. After years of exploration and practice, the military modeling competition of the PLA has cultivated a large number of data analysis talents for the troops that plays a prominent role in exercises and training activities. Basically, the competition is an initiative for joint education between colleges and troops, precise connection between competition venues and battlefields, and effective combination of theory and practice.

Xi Jinping signed an order to issue the newly revised "Military Audit Regulations"

In early June, Xi Jinping signed an order to issue the newly revised "[Military Audit Regulations](#)", which will come into effect on July 1, 2024. The Regulations, which consist of 8 chapters and 75 articles, are the basic legal basis for conducting military audit work. The Regulations clearly state that military audit work focuses on building and improving the audit supervision task system, further refines audit-related matters, and optimizes the audit methods for major construction projects and other aspects. Second, the Regulation is aimed at improving audit quality and efficiency, improves the full-link procedural requirements from plan formulation to result application, establishes and improves institutional mechanisms such as coordination and copying and accountability with other supervisory

departments, and promotes the formation of a supervisory synergy. Third, the Regulation highlights strengthening self-construction, refines and establishes stricter audit discipline requirements, and promotes the construction of a high-quality and professional audit team with firm beliefs, proficient business, pragmatic style, and integrity.

PLA Air Force Unit conducts meeting at the Ganbala (甘巴拉) Radar Station in Tibet

On June 24, the PLA Western Theater Command Air Force Unit carried out a meeting at the [Ganbala Radar Station](#) and five representatives of the radar station took the stage to speak. "Ganbala" means "insurmountable mountains" in Tibetan. The Radar Station was established in 1965 and is located at an altitude of 5,374 meters. In recent years, the Radar Station is under process of upgrading of equipment and transformation of tasks in making it more equipped to support the front line air defense warning, and build an air bridge between Tibet and surrounding areas. The new jamming equipment has improved the early warning capabilities and have deployed mobile radars that goes deep into high-altitude areas all year round. Of late, the radar station and the ground-to-air missile unit conducted information and fire coordination training in a complex electromagnetic environment to accurately hit the target.

Live-fire shooting training of a certain Brigade of the Tibet Military Region (TMR)

The *Guangming Daily* reported on 13 June, in early June, a brigade of the Tibet Military Region (TMR) carried out [live-fire](#)

[shooting training](#), focusing on low-altitude penetration, air alert, fixed-point destruction and other subjects to hone the troops' actual combat capabilities. On the valley terrain, a team of soldiers with several helicopters were tasked to implement air fire support to assault the targeted air defense firepower and this exercise was assisted by the reconnaissance and early warning crew. The use of bomb jammers were seen during the exercise.