

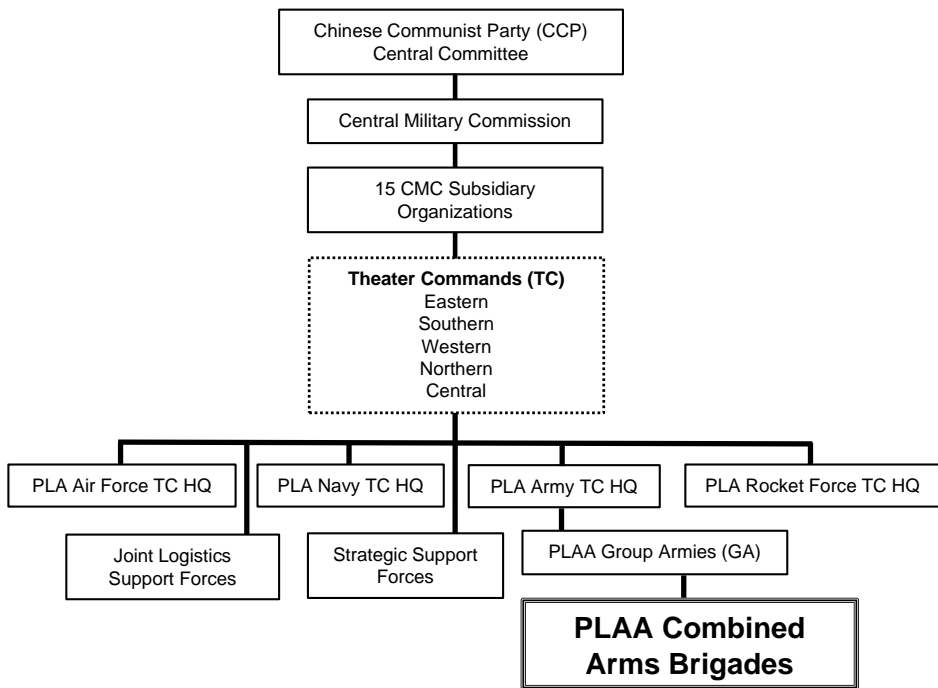


(U) CHINA: HOW THE PLA FIGHTS

(U) This infographic describes how the People's Liberation Army (PLA) fights. The PLA, through its Theater Commands, will employ all Service-level capabilities in their respective areas of responsibility to perform "active defense." An adversary seeking to penetrate China's territory or the PLA's area of operations will face the totality of their strategic capabilities. Ground forces will primarily face the PLA Army (PLAA), but will also likely be contested by the PLA Air Force, the PLAN Marine Corps, Strategic Support Forces, and the Rocket Force's long-range interdiction capabilities. The PLAA's primary fighting force, Combined Arms Brigades (CA-BDEs), receive Army and Service-level support for their operations, including cyber, electronic warfare (EW), and counter-space assets. CA-BDEs prepare to conduct Command and Control (C2), Offense, Defense, Reconnaissance, Fires, and Logistics.

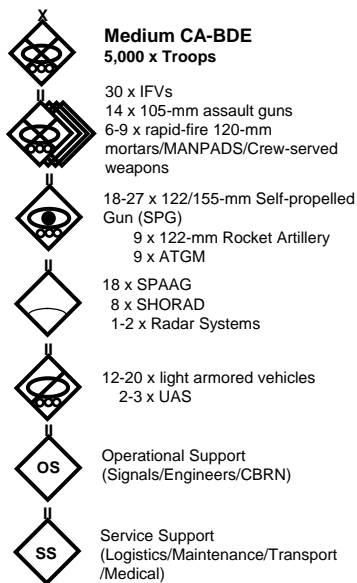
(U) PLA STRUCTURE

(U) The PLA supports the Central Military Commission, as an organ of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). PLA service-level activities are approved by the CCP.

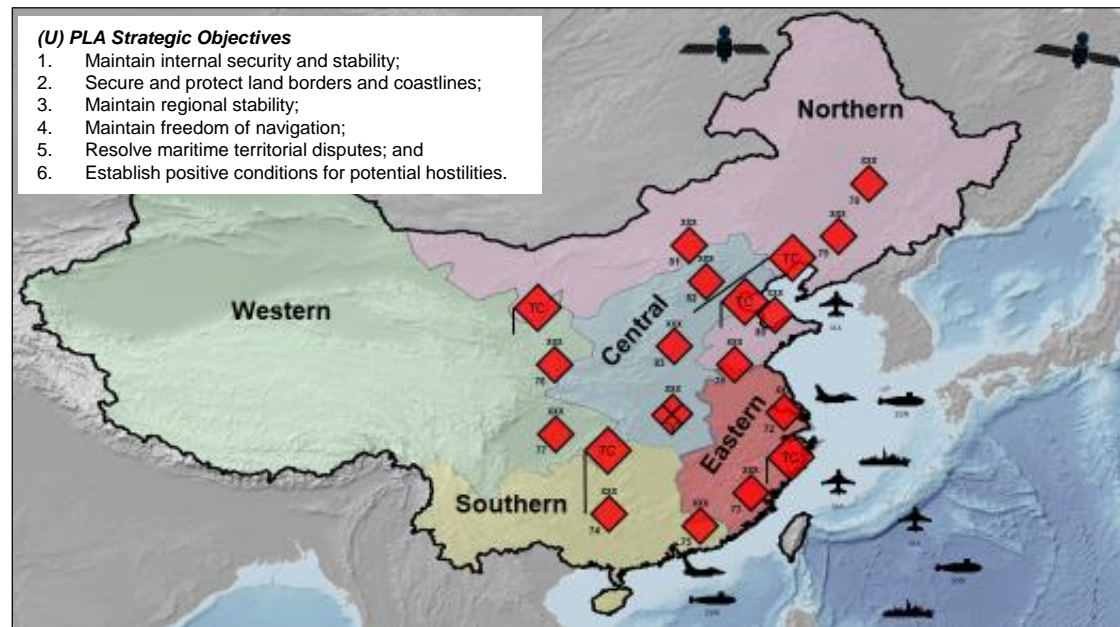


(U) PLAA COMBINED ARMS BRIGADE

(U) PLA Army's primary operational unit, Combined Arms Brigades (CA-BDEs). Below is one of three types of CA-BDES.



(U) PLAA WITHIN THEATER COMMANDS



- (U) PLA Strategic Objectives**
1. Maintain internal security and stability;
 2. Secure and protect land borders and coastlines;
 3. Maintain regional stability;
 4. Maintain freedom of navigation;
 5. Resolve maritime territorial disputes; and
 6. Establish positive conditions for potential hostilities.

- (U) Major Characteristics of the PLA**
- 5 Theater Commands to enable Joint Operations among PLA Services
 - Strategic Support Force supports all Services with cyber, information, EW
 - PLA Army is comprised of 13 Group Armies; with 6 x Combined Arms Brigades & 6 x Enabling BDEs per Group Army
 - CA-BDEs vary in capability and will be task organized for specific operations reinforced with Group Army capabilities (AD, FIRES, EW, cyber, counter-space)

(U) The PLA will attempt to **achieve victory without force-on-force operations** and will **employ stand-off capabilities** with advanced anti-access/area denial systems long-range missiles coupled with information warfare, cyber attacks, counter-space operations, EW, fires, naval, and air forces to prevent an adversary from reaching a threat environment. If the PLA is required to conduct maneuver warfare against a significant adversary, they will attempt to achieve quick and decisive victory with overwhelming force.

(U) The PLA views the information domain as the "high ground" in modern conflict and will use **information warfare** to sow doubt within its adversary and **cyber operations** to target their adversary's key infrastructure especially at aerial and naval points of debarkation. They will use both reversible and irreversible counter-space operations to **disrupt satellite communications** and may damage undersea telecommunications cables in order to challenge or deny their adversary's communications. The PLA will **create an 'exclusion zone'** around their area of operations with a mix of aircraft and surface to air systems, naval systems, submarines, mines, and surface to surface missiles. Should another adversary attempt to come to the original adversary's aid, the PLA will conduct standoff attacks, and interdict troop and supply movements in their area of influence.

(U) For maneuver warfare operations, the PLA will follow an **active-defense** strategic construct and employ **system warfare**, where they will attack their enemy force to destroy or neutralize its "nodes." The PLA will attack what it views as the high value targets including command, control, and communications systems and low earth orbit satellites to reduce notice of impending attacks. For offensive operations, PLAA combined arms brigades, with amphibious capabilities, can conduct forcible entry operations on adversarial coastlines - penetrating defenses, capturing strategic locations and establishing beachheads through which the PLA can bring thousands of soldiers to attempt to secure a decisive victory.