



MEMORANDUM

Date: January 20, 2011

To: Representative Randy Forbes
Attention: Christy Grubbs

From: Shirley Kan, ext. 7-7606
Specialist in Asian Security Affairs
Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Subject: **China's Military and Security Developments**

This memorandum responds to your request of January 12 for a comprehensive chronological compilation of People's Republic of China (PRC)'s significant military and security developments from 1990 to the present. The scope covers the areas of conventional military modernization, missile buildup, cyber capability, space weapons, and demonstrations of influence (soft power from diplomacy or aid), as well as crises or confrontations. While the PRC has issued indicators in its official media or policy statements that threatened to use force and raised tension, especially against Taiwan, this memo focuses on actions and acquisitions. This memo succinctly summarized select developments and is not exhaustive. Other related developments include: (1) full coverage of China's numerous satellite and other space launches; (2) PRC arms sales and missile and other weapons proliferation to nations like Iran, for which the United States has imposed sanctions since 1991 on PRC state-owned entities but not the PRC government, as well as weapons nonproliferation cooperation (see CRS Report RL31555); (3) PRC acquisitions of U.S. restricted military and dual-use data or technology through espionage or other illegal means; and (4) exercises of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) internally and with foreign militaries. This memo used numerous sources, including media reports, official ones, and CRS Reports, which are available upon request. Please call me at 7-7606 for further support.

China has the world's most active land-based ballistic and cruise missile program, including development of the world's only anti-ship ballistic missile. The PLA Navy has an extensive submarine program, acquiring six new classes of submarines since 1995: Russian Kilo and the indigenous Song, Shang, Jin, Yuan, and Type 095. In January 2010, Assistant Secretary of Defense Wallace Gregson testified to the House Armed Services Committee that: "There are other capabilities China is developing that are destabilizing to regional military balances, that could restrict access to the maritime, air, space, and cyberspace domains, or that could enable China to exercise military aggression or coercion against its neighbors. China's growing capabilities also entail greater responsibility, and we remain concerned over the relative lack of transparency from China into the military capabilities it is acquiring, the intentions that motivate those acquisitions, and the resources dedicated to the task." Moreover, in March 2010, the Commander of the Pacific Command, Admiral Robert Willard, testified to the same committee about China's "rapid, comprehensive" military modernizing capabilities "that appear designed to challenge U.S. freedom of action in the region or exercise aggression or coercion of its neighbors, including U.S. treaty allies and partners." Willard added that, "over the past several years, China has begun a new phase of

military development by beginning to articulate roles and missions for the PLA that go beyond China's immediate territorial concerns..."

| Date | Significant Development, Crisis or Incident, or Influence |
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| 1990 | |
| 1990 | The PRC and the Soviet Union began negotiations for two dozen Su-27 fighters. |
| 1990 | China launched third and fourth of four Luda -class destroyers. |
| April 1990 | The China Great Wall Industry Corporation, using a LM-3 rocket, launched a foreign satellite, Asiasat (built by Hughes), for the first time. |
| 1991 | |
| 1991 | China reportedly started cooperation with Israel in the development of the J-10 fighter, based on the Lavi fighter project (with U.S. technology) that was canceled in 1987 and was comparable to the F-16 fighter. |
| 1991 | China received 24 Mi-17 transport helicopters, in the first military order from Moscow since the Sino-Soviet split ended with rapprochement in the late 1980s. |
| October 1991 | China launched the first of two Luhu -class (Type 052A) destroyers. |
| 1991 | China launched the first two Jiangwei 1-class (Type 053 H2G) frigates, for 4 in total. |
| 1992 | |
| 1992 | The PLA Air Force received 26 Su-27 fighters, in China's first order from the Soviet Union/Russia for fourth-generation fighters negotiated in 1990 and ordered in 1991. |
| 1993 | |
| 1993 | The PLA Air Force received 10 Il-76 transport aircraft by 1993 ordered from Moscow in 1990 and 1992. |
| 1993 | The PLA Air Force received S-300PMU surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems, in the first order of this SAM system from Russia in 1991. |
| July-August 1993 | The United States suspected that a PRC cargo ship, the Yinhe , was going to Iran with chemicals that could be used for chemical weapons and sought to inspect its cargo. In an unusual move, on August 9, China first disclosed that it protested U.S. "harassment" and finally allowed U.S. participation in a Saudi inspection of the ship's cargo on August 26, 1993. Then, the State Department said that the suspected chemicals were not found on the ship at that time. The PRC has raised this incident as a grievance against the United States and the credibility of U.S. intelligence. |

| Date | Significant Development, Crisis or Incident, or Influence |
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| October 1993 | China launched second of two Luhu -class (Type 052A) destroyers. |
| 1994 | |
| October 1994 | In a confrontation in the Yellow Sea, the U.S. aircraft carrier battle group led by the USS Kitty Hawk discovered and tracked a Han-class nuclear attack submarine of the PLA Navy. In response, the PLA Air Force sent fighters toward the U.S. aircraft tracking the submarine. Although no shots were fired by either side, the PLA followed up the incident with a warning, issued to the U.S. Naval Attache over dinner in Beijing, that the PLA would open fire in a future incident. |
| 1995 | |
| February 1995 | The PLA Navy occupied Mischief Reef (west of the Filipino island of Palawan), asserting territorial claims in the South China Sea against a U.S. ally and a country other than Vietnam for the first time. This incident took place after the United States withdrew from its air and naval bases in the Philippines by December 1992. |
| February 1995 | The PLA Navy received the first of four Kilo -class diesel-electric submarines ordered from Russia in 1994. The Kilo was the older Type 877EKM model. |
| 1995 | China started sea trials of the first Song -class (Type 039) diesel-electric submarine. |
| July 1995 | The PLA conducted first “test-firings” of M-9 short-range ballistic missiles into the East China Sea, after Taiwan’s President Lee Teng-hui visited Cornell University. |
| July-August 1995 | The PLA detained in Fujian province two U.S. Air Force Attaches stationed in Hong Kong and then expelled them from the PRC back to Hong Kong. |
| October 1995 | The PLA Navy received the second of four Kilo -class diesel-electric submarines ordered from Russia in 1994. The Kilo was the older Type 877EKM model. |
| 1996 | |
| January 1996 | The PLA detained a U.S. Assistant Air Force Attaché stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing (along with an attaché from Japan) and expelled them from the PRC. |
| March 1996 | The PLA Second Artillery “test-fired” more M-9 short-range ballistic missiles (SRBM) into target areas in the sea near two of Taiwan’s port cities, Keelung and Kaohsiung, on the eve of Taiwan’s first direct democratic presidential election. Calling the missile launches “reckless” and “risky,” the United States deployed two aircraft carriers near Taiwan, the USS Nimitz and USS Independence . The PLA’s inventory of SRBM targeting Taiwan numbered 30-50 missiles. |
| 1996 | The PLA Air Force received 24 more Su-27SK fighters, in the second order made in 1995 of the fighters from Russia. The PLA had a total of 50 Su-27SK aircraft. |

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| 1997 | |
| 1997 | The PLA received 30 more Mi-17 transport helicopters ordered from Russia in 1995. |
| August 1997 | China launched the first two Jiangwei 2 -class (Type 053H3) frigates, for 10 in total. |
| October 1997 | China launched the one Luhai -class (Type 051B) destroyer. |
| 1998 | |
| January 1998 | The PLA Navy received the third of four Kilo -class diesel-electric submarines ordered from Russia in 1994. The sub was the newer Type 636 model that had been supplied only to the Russian navy as one of the quietest submarines in the world. |
| 1998 | China assembled the first two Su-27 (J-11) fighters as agreed by Russia in 1996 for co-production of 200 Su-27s with help of Russian engineers. The first aircraft failed tests. Co-production eventually ended in 2004 after assembly of 95 J-11 fighters. |
| 1998 | China acquired more S-300PMU surface-to-air missile systems ordered from Russia. |
| 1999 | |
| 1999 | The PLA received 5 more Mi-17 transport helicopters ordered from Russia in 1997. |
| February 1999 | The PLA Navy received the last of four Kilo -class diesel-electric submarines ordered from Russia in 1994. The sub was the newer Type 636 model that had been supplied only to the Russian navy as one of the quietest submarines in the world. |
| May 1999 | U.S.-led NATO forces bombed the PRC's embassy in Belgrade , Yugoslavia, having mistakenly targeted it as a military supply facility belonging to Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, whose Serbian forces attacked Kosovo. Despite President Clinton's apology, the PRC angrily suspended military contacts, allowed protesters to violently attack U.S. diplomatic facilities in China, and denied ship visits to Hong Kong by the U.S. Navy until September 1999. In July 1999, the United States agreed to pay \$4.5 million in compensation for PRC casualties. In FY2001 legislation, Congress appropriated \$28 million to compensate for damages to China's embassy. Many in the PRC have insisted that the U.S. bombing was a deliberate attack. |
| May 1999 | After the mistaken bombing of the PRC embassy in Belgrade, suspected PRC hackers launched cyber attacks against U.S. Government web sites. |
| July-September 1999 | After Taiwan's President called the cross-strait relationship "special state-to-state ties," the PLA raised tension with Taiwan. The PLA flew fighters across the "center" line of the strait and conducted exercises along the coast opposite Taiwan, including a joint landing exercise. An earthquake in Taiwan in September defused the tension. |

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|---------------|---|
| October 1999 | China and Russia held their first combined military exercise, a naval drill in the East China Sea near Shanghai. |
| 2000 | |
| February 2000 | The PLA Navy acquired the first of two Sovremenny -class destroyers ordered from Russia in 1996. |
| March 2000 | Admiral Dennis Blair, Commander of the Pacific Command, confirmed that the PLA deployed about 200 ballistic missiles against Taiwan and was adding 50 more a year. |
| 2000 | China started sea trials of a second, modified Song -class diesel-electric submarine, the first PRC submarine designed to carry the YJ-82 anti-ship cruise missile. |
| October 2000 | China's space program launched the first Beidou navigational satellite, the first in a planned network for a global positioning system. In 2010, the United States expected the PRC to have a full network for military and civilian use by 2015-2020. |
| December 2000 | The PLA Air Force acquired 8 of 28 Su-27UBK fighters ordered from Russia in 1999. |
| December 2000 | The PLA Air Force acquired 10 of 38 Su-30MKK multi-role fighters ordered from Russia in 1999. |
| 2001 | |
| January 2001 | The PLA Navy acquired the second Sovremenny -class destroyer ordered from Russia in 1996. The destroyers were armed with supersonic, low-flying Sunburn anti-ship cruise missiles (ASCM). |
| 2001 | China bought from the Ukraine one prototype for the Su-33 carrier-based fighter, without permission from Russia. |
| March 2001 | In the Yellow Sea near South Korea, a PLA Navy Jianghu III-class frigate passed as close as 100 yards to a U.S. surveillance ship, the USNS Bowditch , and a PLA reconnaissance plane shadowed it. The PLA's harassment of the USS Bowditch continued for months after March 2001. |
| April 2001 | A PLA Navy F-8 fighter collided with a U.S. Navy EP-3 reconnaissance plane over the South China Sea. Upon surviving the collision, the EP-3's crew made an emergency landing on China's Hainan island. The PLA detained the 24 U.S. Navy personnel for 11 days. Instead of acknowledging that the PLA had started aggressive interceptions of U.S. reconnaissance flights in December 2000 and apologizing for the accident, top PRC ruler Jiang Zemin demanded U.S. apology and compensation. The United States did not transport the damaged EP-3 out of China until July 3. |

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| April 2001 | In the wake of the F-8/EP-3 collision crisis, the PLA Navy challenged the passage of three Australian naval ships in the Taiwan Strait. As two Australian frigates and a supply ship sailed from South Korea to Hong Kong through the strait, a PLAN patrol ship demanded that the Australian ships return on their course and leave the area. The Australian ships refused to change course, stating they were in international waters. |
| April-May 2001 | After the EP-3 crisis, suspected PRC hackers renewed cyber attacks on U.S. web sites. |
| December 2001 | China acquired the last of the 38 Su-30MKK fighters ordered from Russia in 1999. |
| 2002 | |
| May 2002 | China ordered 8 more Kilo -class diesel-electric attack submarines from Russia. |
| 2002 | China launched two Luyang 1 -class (Type 052B) destroyers. |
| 2002 | The PLA Air Force completed acquisition of total of 28 Su-27UBK trainers/fighters from Russia. |
| June 2002 | Two Su-30 fighters of the PLA Air Force test-fired AA-12 medium-range air-to-air missiles acquired from Russia, similar to the U.S. AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAMs). |
| July 2002 | The PLA Air Force acquired from Israel a number of Harpy anti-radiation drones. |
| September 2002 | PLA patrol aircraft and ships harassed the unarmed USNS Bowditch in international water in the Yellow Sea. The PLA claimed the ship's surveys violated the PRC's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The two countries traded diplomatic protests. |
| December 2002 | China launched the hull of the first Type 093 (Shang -class) nuclear attack sub (SSN), based on the Russian Victor III, for the PLA Navy's anti-carrier warfare capability. |
| 2003 | |
| March 2003 | The Department of Homeland Security warned of cyber attacks against U.S. and U.K. web sites by suspected PRC hackers to protest the U.S.-led war in Iraq. |
| April 2003 | Photographs revealed China's construction of two Type 052B destroyers for the PLA Navy, equipped with the Russian Shtil-1 area air-defense missile system and phased array radar system (similar to the U.S. Aegis system). |
| 2003 | The PLA Air Force completed acquisition of 38 SU-30MKK multi-role fighters, in a second order of Su-30s from Russia signed in 2001, for a total of 76 Su-30MKKs. A follow-on order of more Su-30MKK fighters was discussed but not made. |
| 2003 | China launched two Luyang 2 -class (Type 052C) destroyers. |

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| 2003 | China launched two Jiangkai 1 -class (Type 054) frigates. |
| August 2003 | In 2002, Members of Congress and the Bush Administration had supported Boeing's bid, in competition with Airbus, to sell aircraft to Taiwan's China Airlines. In late 2002, China Airlines ordered 10 Boeing 747-400s for about \$2 billion, a deal that Boeing boasted as its largest order for that plane in 2002. In August 2003, Boeing's plant in Seattle invited Taiwan's Vice President Annette Lu to tour the plant during her "transit" in Seattle. However, Boeing rescinded the invitation to her, angering Taiwan, out of fear of offending Beijing and losing aircraft deals in the PRC. |
| September 2003 | U.S. investigators named a suspected PRC aggressive, extensive cyber attack " Titan Rain ," suspected as starting in September 2003 against Lockheed Martin. An analyst at Sandia National Laboratory traced the hackers' files through South Korea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan to three PRC routers. Other penetrated networks included those at the Army Aviation and Missile Command, NASA, U.S. Army Information Systems Engineering Command, Defense Information Systems Agency, Naval Ocean Systems Center, the U.S. Army Space and Strategic Defense Installation, and World Bank. |
| 2004 | |
| July 2004 | China launched the first Jin -class (Type 094) nuclear-power ballistic missile submarine (SSBN). Six are expected with each carrying 12 JL-2 submarine-launched ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads and a range of over 7,200 km. |
| July 2004 | Reports revealed China's new Yuan -class diesel-electric attack submarine, with Russian arms and air independent propulsion (AIP), in a surprise to U.S. intelligence. |
| 2004 | The PLA Navy received 24 Su-30MK2 multi-role fighters ordered from Russia in 2003. A second order was discussed but not made. |
| September 2004 | China conducted its first test, though unsuccessful, of a direct-ascent anti-satellite (ASAT) weapon. Later, the fourth test was successful in January 2007. |
| November 2004 | The PLA Navy sent a Han -class nuclear attack submarine to waters off Guam before intruding into Japan's territorial waters. |
| 2004 | The PLA Navy's amphibious ships surged from 106 in 2003 to 210 in 2004. |
| December 2004 | China launched the first of two Luzhou -class (Type 051C) destroyers. |
| 2005 | |
| 2005 | The PLA Navy acquired the third Sovremenny -class destroyer, one that was ordered from Russia in 2002. |
| 2005 | China painted in military colors the ex-Varyag and proceeded to work on this aircraft carrier that was formerly under construction in Russia and bought by China in 2002. |

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| 2005 | Reports started to contain concerns of China's development of anti-ship ballistic missiles (ASBMs) with maneuverable warheads to target carriers or other ships. |
| 2005 | PLA exercises started to incorporate offensive computer network operations for cyber attacks . |
| July 2005 | Though the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), including China, claimed to be a counterterrorism group, the SCO summit in July 2005 issued a declaration that called for a "deadline" for the U.S.-led counterterrorism coalition's "temporary" use of facilities and military presence in SCO countries in support of the war in Afghanistan . General Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that China and Russia were "trying to bully" the Central Asian countries. |
| September 2005 | The PLA Navy deployed five naval ships, including a Sovremenny-class destroyer, to an area in the East China Sea with disputes over oil and gas resources and the Senkaku/Diaoyu/Tiaoyutai islands, raising concerns in Japan. |
| September 2005 | After Yahoo's announcement about an investment in the PRC's e-commerce firm Alibaba, Reporters without Borders revealed that Yahoo helped the PRC to convict and jail (with a 10-year sentence) a PRC journalist, Shi Tao, for allegedly "leaking state secrets." Yahoo's co-founder, Jerry Yang, then admitted on September 10, 2005, that Yahoo gave PRC agents information tracing the journalist's Yahoo email account to a message warning PRC journalists about state censors. |
| 2006 | |
| 2006 | Representative Frank Wolf raised concern about a collision between a car connected to the PRC government and exiled Uighur leader Rebiya Kadeer's car, injuring her in 2006 in northern Virginia and about the PRC government's verbal harassment of his staff because of his invitations to Kadeer to speak on Capitol Hill. |
| June 2006 | Suspected hackers in China launched a cyber attack that broke into the State Department's computer system, targeting the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. PLA hackers also reportedly attacked the U.K. Foreign Office. |
| 2006 | China reportedly in development of its own J-11B air superiority fighter, suspected by Russia as an illegal copy of the Su-27/J-11A fighter with 95 out of 200 assembled. |
| 2006 | China launched the first two Jiangkai 2 -class (Type 054A) frigates, for 10-12 in total. |
| 2006 | The PLA Navy acquired the fourth Sovremenny -class destroyer, one that was ordered from Russia in 2002. |
| 2006 | Reports showed that the PLA Navy was expanding a naval base on Hainan Island , including underground facilities, to accommodate surface ships and submarines. |

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| 2006 | The PLA Navy completed acquisition of 8 Kilo -class diesel-electric submarines (SSG) ordered from Russia in 2002, bringing to a total of 12 Kilo-class submarines. The Kilos were armed with SS-N-27B Sizzler supersonic anti-ship cruise missiles (designed to attack ship-based self-defense systems). |
| 2006 | The PLA Navy commissioned the last of 13 Song -class (Type 039) diesel-electric submarines (SSG). |
| September 2006 | China reported to have used a ground-based laser to illuminate a U.S. satellite in several tests of an anti-satellite (ASAT) weapon to “blind” satellites. |
| October 2006 | A PLA Navy Song-class diesel-electric attack submarine approached undetected to within five miles of the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk near Okinawa. |
| November-December 2006 | The PLA Air Force made sudden changes in its air traffic control of the PRC’s airspace and flight routes near Shanghai, forcing a rare shutdown of the busy Pudong international airport. Some saw the PLA as signaling its concern about Taiwan. |
| November 2006 | A cyber attack suspected as originating in the PRC compromised the computer network at the Naval War College, which shut down its whole network in response. |
| December 2006 | A cyber attack suspected as committed by PRC hackers damaged computers at the National Defense University (NDU), leaving “trap doors” to allow for future access. NDU shut down its entire computer network in response to the cyber attack. |
| December 2006 | The PLA Navy commissioned first Shang -class (Type 093) nuclear attack sub (SSN). |
| December 2006 | The PRC reportedly suspended aid to Vietnam , after it refused to exclude Taiwan from the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum’s summit in Hanoi. |
| December 2006 | After construction for six months, China launched its first large (17,600-ton) Type 071-class amphibious assault ship (LPD), the Kunlunshan, the largest warship in Asia (aside from U.S. naval ships based in the western Pacific). It carries 2 Z-8 Super Frelon helicopters. |
| 2007 | |
| January 2007 | China said that the J-10 fighter was put into service with the PLA Air Force and that the J-10 was the first advanced fourth-generation fighter that China developed on its own. However, the J-10 was based on the U.S.-Israeli Lavi project of the 1980s. By 2010, the PLA Air Force was believed to have about 100 J-10 fighters. |
| January 2007 | The PRC conducted its first successful direct-ascent anti-satellite (ASAT) weapon test by launching a missile with a kinetic kill vehicle to destroy one of its satellites 530 miles up in space. The test created more space debris, threatening astronauts. |
| April 2007 | PLA Navy ship detained fishing boats from Vietnam in the South China Sea. |

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| April 2007 | The PRC protested a deal between Vietnam and British Petroleum (BP) to produce gas and build a gas pipeline in the South China Sea. BP backed out of the deal. ConocoPhillips also was involved. |
| June 2007 | Suspected PLA hackers reportedly conducted a cyber attack against a Pentagon computer network, affecting even the Office of the Secretary of Defense. |
| June 2007 | The PLA Navy commissioned the second Shang-class (Type 093) nuclear attack sub. |
| June 2007 | The Taliban used PRC-made HN-5 surface-to-air missiles in Afghanistan . Focusing on Iran, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns specifically said on June 13, 2007: “There’s irrefutable evidence the Iranians are now [transferring arms to the Taliban in Afghanistan], and it’s a pattern of activity.... It’s coming from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps command, which is a basic unit of the Iranian government.” Concerning China, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia acknowledged on July 12, that the United States “repeatedly asked China to stop its transfers to Iran of conventional weapons and technologies,” but Beijing’s response was “irresponsible.” He also warned, “partners do not provide weapons to people who support those who kill our troops and those of our allies.” While in Kabul on September 11, Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte acknowledged that he raised concerns with China about its arms sales to Iran and requested that China refrain from signing any new arms sales contracts with Iran. |
| July 2007 | The PLA Air Force first acquired from Russia four battalions of SA-20/S-300PMU2 long-range surface-to-air missiles (SAM), with a range of 200 km (125 mi) that extends over Taiwan’s airspace. By the end of 2009, the PLA Air Force acquired 16 battalions with 64 launchers. |
| July 2007 | PLA Navy ship fired at a fishing boat from Vietnam in the South China Sea near the disputed Paracel islands, killing one and injuring others. |
| August 2007 | Chancellor Angela Merkel complained to PRC Premier Wen Jiabao about cyber attacks by PRC hackers against Germany’s networks, including Merkel’s office. |
| 2007 | Cyber attacks originating from China penetrated the World Bank from the summer of 2007 to summer of 2008, called by the Bank its worst security breach and a crisis. |
| September 2007 | The PRC reportedly pressured Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines not to complain about the safety of PRC products, and after the countries banned PRC products if they were found to be dangerous, the PRC threatened to or did retaliate. |
| October 2007 | A cyber attack suspected as originating in China stole information at Oak Ridge National Laboratory from its database on visitors to the lab. |
| October 2007 | China’s space program launched its first lunar probe, called the Chang’e-1 . |

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| November 2007 | The PRC disapproved a number of port calls at Hong Kong by U.S. Navy ships, including two minesweepers in distress (USS Patriot and USS Guardian) seeking to refuel in face of an approaching storm, and the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk and accompanying vessels planning on a holiday and family reunions for Thanksgiving. In response, on November 28, President Bush raised the problem with the PRC's visiting Foreign Minister, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense lodged a demarche to the PLA. When the Kitty Hawk left Hong Kong, it transited the Taiwan Strait, raising PRC objections. In Beijing in January 2008, Admiral Keating asserted that the strait is international waters and PRC permission is not needed. |
| December 2007 | PRC officials were suspected to have copied and compromised the contents of a laptop left unattended during the visit in Beijing of Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez. Hackers then tried to penetrate the Commerce Department's computers. |
| 2007 | The first of six Jin -class (Type 094) ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) entered service, but the JL-2 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) failed flight tests. |
| 2008 | |
| 2008 | By 2008, the PLA Second Artillery deployed new solid-fuel, road-mobile DF-31 and DF-31A intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), with respective ranges of 7,200+ km and 11,200+ km. By 2010, the PLA had 20-25 DF-31 and DF-31A ICBMs. |
| 2008 | The PLA first deployed new DH-10 ground-launched land attack cruise missiles (LACMs), with 50-250 LACMs. By 2010, the PLA had 200-500 DH-10 LACMs with a range of 1,500+ km. |
| March 2008 | Days before Taiwan's presidential election and referendums, in a sign of U.S. anxiety about PRC threats to peace and stability, the Defense Department had two aircraft carriers (including the USS Kitty Hawk returning from its base in Japan for decommissioning) positioned east of Taiwan to respond to any PLA provocation. |
| April 2008 | China launched the fourth Yuan -class (Type 041) diesel-electric attack submarine, with 8-10 boats expected in the class. |
| July 2008 | Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England warned that "recent attacks from China on DOD networks and systems increase the urgency to construct cyber systems that are demonstrably free of both adversarial subversion and easily exploitable vulnerabilities." |
| July 2008 | The PRC pressured ExxonMobil not to proceed with a deal with Vietnam's PetroVietnam to explore for oil in the South China Sea. At the "Shangri-la Dialogue" of defense ministers in Singapore in June 2010, Defense Secretary Robert Gates spoke out against intimidation of U.S. and other foreign firms in the South China Sea. |
| September 2008 | China's PLA-run space program launched the Shenzhou-7 manned mission and one of the "Taikonauts" conducted China's first spacewalk. |

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| September 2008 | The PLA deployed by September 2008, 1,050 to 1,150 CSS-6 and CSS-7 short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) opposite Taiwan, a buildup of about 100 SRBMs per year. |
| 2008 | A cyber attack suspected as based in China and named “ Byzantine Candor ” by U.S. investigators got emails, user names, and passwords from a U.S. government agency. |
| 2008 | A “foreign entity” launched cyber attacks against the Obama and McCain presidential campaigns and stole computer files. Some suspected PRC hackers. |
| December 2008 | The PLA Navy began to deploy anti-piracy forces to the Gulf of Aden, the first PLA naval deployment for operations outside the western Pacific region. |
| 2009 | |
| 2009 | China tried to block a \$2.9 billion loan from the Asian Development Bank to India , due to possible support for water projects in Arunachal Pradesh, an area China claims as part of Tibet. This was the first time China sought influence on this territorial dispute through a multilateral institution. |
| January 2009 | China established its first base, called the Kunlun Research Station, on Antarctica . |
| February 2009 | China launched the Yaogan-6 satellite, the 6 th in a series of reconnaissance satellites orbited in space since 2006. |
| February 2009 | After Kyrgyzstan notified the United States in February 2009 of a closure of Manas Air Base, China reportedly offered \$3 billion in a financial package to Kyrgyzstan to close Manas, a critical transit base for supplying the U.S. military in Afghanistan. Kyrgyzstan in June 2009 backed off from its threat to evict U.S. forces from Manas. |
| March 2009 | China’s Y-12 maritime surveillance aircraft, a PLA Navy frigate, PRC patrol and intelligence collection ships, and trawlers coordinated in increasingly aggressive and dangerous harassment of unarmed U.S. surveillance ships, the USNS Victorious and USNS Impeccable , during routine operations in international waters in the Yellow Sea and South China Sea (75 miles south of Hainan island). Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Dennis Blair (retired admiral and former PACOM commander) testified to the Senate Armed Services Committee that this crisis was the most serious since the EP-3 crisis of 2001, China was being even more aggressive in the South China Sea in the past two years, and there was still a question as to whether China will use its increasingly powerful military “for good or for pushing people around.” |
| March 2009 | Researchers in Canada uncovered a cyber espionage network they called GhostNet , based in the PRC that infiltrated the governments of 103 countries. Ghostnet sought remote control of the computers of the Dalai Lama and other Tibetans. |

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| April 2009 | The Defense Department and Lockheed Martin confirmed that hackers launched cyber intrusions against the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program, attacks believed to have originated in China since 2007. The cyber penetration appeared to seek information about the F-35's design, performance data, and electronic systems. |
| April 2009 | Hackers from China (and Russia and other countries) reported to have penetrated the U.S. electrical power grid and left software for future cyber attacks to disrupt power. |
| April 2009 | At an international fleet review in Qingdao, the PLA Navy showed its two new Shang -class (Type 093) nuclear attack submarines. |
| April 2009 | China reportedly was developing another class (Type 095) of nuclear attack subs. Five boats in this class are expected. |
| May 2009 | Another incident occurred involving PRC fishing ships harassing the USNS Victorious in the Yellow Sea. |
| May 2009 | China's 10,000-ton " Peace Ark " hospital ship conducted its first operational training. |
| May 2009 | China decided to train in Brazil 50 PLA Navy pilots to fly carrier-based aircraft . |
| May 2009 | The PRC submitted to the U.N. Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf a document to claim indisputable sovereignty over the islands in the South China Sea and the adjacent waters, as well as sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the relevant waters, seabed, and subsoil of most of the South China Sea as shown by a map with a nine-dotted line drawn to cover most of that sea. |
| May-June 2009 | One of the PRC's armed patrol ships seized five tons of fish from a fishing boat from Vietnam off its coast, in exercising the PRC's claimed "enforcement" of a fishing ban in the South China Sea. Also, Vietnam's fishermen reported that the PRC fisheries patrol ships shot at, detained, and fined them (with fines of thousands of dollars) and sank at least one of their boats. Vietnam protested to the PRC and demanded that the PRC release three fishing boats and 37 detained fishermen. |
| June 2009 | The USS John S. McCain 's towed sonar array suffered a collision with a PLA Navy submarine off the coast of the Philippines, in what could have been an accident. |
| October 2009 | Vietnam protested to the PRC, after Vietnamese fishermen on 16 boats sought refuge from a storm on one of the Paracel islands in the South China Sea but were confronted by armed PRC personnel. The Vietnamese fishermen said that the PRC personnel shot at and beat them and confiscated their equipment. |

| Date | Significant Development, Crisis or Incident, or Influence |
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| November 2009 | Defense Secretary Gates said in July 2009 that by 2020, the United States will have about 1,100 most advanced fifth-generation fighters (F-35s and F-22s), but China is projected to have no fifth-generation fighters by 2020. By 2025, the gap widens even more. But PRC media reported in November 2009 that a PLA Air Force deputy commander acknowledged development of a fifth-generation fighter that will soon make its first flight, followed by test flights, and commissioning by 2017-2019. |
| December 2009 | China deployed 200-500 DH-10 ground-launched land-attack cruise missiles (LACM) by the end of 2009. |
| December 2009 | Raising questions about violations of the international legal principle of non-refoulement and the U.N. Convention Against Torture, Cambodia handed to China 20 out of 22 Uighurs who fled Xinjiang after ethnic unrest in July 2009 and sought asylum with the U.N. The day after Cambodia returned the Uighurs, PRC Vice President Xi Jinping visited Cambodia and signed economic agreements worth \$1.2 billion. China later also donated 257 military trucks and 50,000 military uniforms. |
| December 2009 | The PLA's CSS-6/M-9 and CSS-7/M-11 SRBMs deployed opposite Taiwan totaled between 1,050 to 1,150. The missiles had improved ranges, accuracies, and payloads. |
| 2010 | |
| January 2010 | China conducted the first successful test of a missile defense system that launched a ground-based missile to destroy another missile mid-course in space over China. |
| January 2010 | Secretary of State Hillary Clinton supported Google when it warned of sophisticated and targeted attacks, called Aurora by U.S. investigators, in December 2009 that originated from China and harmed Google and over 30 other large U.S. companies. |
| January 2010 | The PRC withdrew two films in retaliation after a private film festival in Palm Springs, CA, refused a PRC diplomat's demand to cancel a movie about Tibet. |
| February 2010 | After President Obama notified Congress in January 2010 of arms sales to Taiwan , the PRC Embassy in Washington called at least one U.S. defense firm's executive directly on a personal phone on a weekend in early February with an implied warning. The company countered that the PRC already had a "blacklist" against some U.S. firms, the embassy's contact was highly inappropriate, and the senior diplomat should direct the PRC's messages instead to the State Department. The firm then informed the State Department of the harassment against U.S. private executives. |
| March 2010 | Commander of the Pacific Command, Admiral Robert Willard, testified to House Armed Services Committee that China was developing as well as "testing" an anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM), based on the DF-21 medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM) and designed specifically to target aircraft carriers. |

| Date | Significant Development, Crisis or Incident, or Influence |
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| March 2010 | PRC fisheries patrol boats detained 12 fishermen from Vietnam , when they sought refuge from a storm near an island in the Paracels in the South China Sea. One fisherman's family said that his release would cost a "fine" equal to \$9,500. |
| April 2010 | Cyber attacks originating from the PRC reported to have stolen sensitive information on the movements and operational security of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, including compromising the computers of India's government. |
| April 2010 | China's state-owned China Telecom reportedly hijacked massive volumes of U.S. and other foreign Internet traffic by re-routing the traffic through PRC servers. |
| April 2010 | Japan said that China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) deployed ships and submarines near Japan's southern islands of Okinawa and Miyakojima and dangerously confronted Japan's surveillance forces, including pointing guns from a PLAN destroyer at Japan's maritime patrol plane and flying a helicopter in close approach to Japan's destroyer in at least two incidents. |
| May 2010 | China's maritime survey ship approached and chased away Japan's Coast Guard survey ship in the East China Sea, demanding that Japan's ship stop its surveys. |
| May 2010 | China tested a prototype of a carrier-based version of its J-11B fighter, suspected as China's copy of Russia's Su-33 and based on a prototype bought from the Ukraine. |
| May-June 2010 | PRC ex-PLA Navy armed patrol ships threatened Indonesia's navy near the Natuna islands in the South China Sea. |
| June-August 2010 | China's space program reportedly conducted the first rendezvous, or close encounter, in space, showing a capability useful for a space station or to interfere with foreign satellites. Two satellites , SJ-06F and SJ-12, maneuvered together, possibly touching. |
| 2010 | China deployed 60 new Houbei-class (Type 022) wave-piercing missile patrol boats, armed with YJ-83 anti-ship cruise missiles. |
| 2010 | China completed construction of the new PLA naval base on Hainan island, near the South China Sea, for ships, attack submarines, and ballistic missile submarines. |
| 2010 | China was "developing" an anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM) based on the CSS-5 medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM) with a range of over 1,500 km and expected to be armed with a maneuverable warhead and integrated with command and control to attack aircraft carriers and other ships in the Western Pacific. |
| 2010 | In addition to mobile, solid-fuel DF-31 and DF-31A intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), China was developing a new road-mobile ICBM that could carry multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicles (MIRV). |
| August 2010 | China used a small, manned submarine to plant its national flag on the bottom of the South China Sea , diving as deep as 12,330 ft below sea level. |

| Date | Significant Development, Crisis or Incident, or Influence |
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| September 2010 | China escalated tension with Japan in wake of a PRC fishing boat's collision with Japan's Coast Guard patrol boats in the East China Sea, and Japan's detention of the boat captain. Later in the month, the PRC detained in Hebei province four Japanese businessmen working for Fujita Corporation, claiming they entered a restricted military area. |
| September 2010 | PRC patrol boats detained nine fishermen from Vietnam in the South China Sea. Vietnam protested to the PRC and demanded the release of the men and their boat. |
| September 2010 | The PLA Air Force conducted the first air exercise with Turkey , a member of NATO, and flew and refueled its aircraft, including Su-27 fighters, through the airspace of Iran . At U.S. request, Turkey did not fly F-16 fighters in the drill, using F-4s instead. |
| October 2010 | China's space program launched a second unmanned lunar probe, called Chang'e-2 . |
| October-December 2010 | After the Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in October to PRC dissident Liu Xiaobo, the PRC protested to Norway which did not award the prize and canceled official meetings in China, including for Norway's Fisheries Minister. The PRC also warned countries not to attend the award ceremony in December in Oslo. 19 invited countries declined to send envoys: China, Afghanistan, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sudan, Tunisia, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Vietnam. |
| November 2010 | China launched its second Type 071 -class large amphibious assault ship. |
| December 2010 | China started construction of an indigenous aircraft carrier by the end of 2010. |
| December 2010 | Images posted on Internet of China's high-speed taxi test of a J-20 fifth-generation stealth aircraft. On his way to China in early January 2011, Defense Secretary Gates said that the United States knew that China was working on a stealth aircraft and added that China might be "somewhat further ahead in the development of that aircraft than our intelligence had earlier predicted." Gates also said that he stood by his statement in 2009 that by 2020 or 2025, there would be a vast disparity in fifth generation fighters between U.S. fighters and that of any other country. |
| December 2010 | Commander of the Pacific Command (PACOM), Admiral Robert Willard, said that China's anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM), the DF-21D , reached initial operational capability (IOC), while China continues to develop and test it for several more years. In January 2011, on his way to China, Defense Secretary Gates said he did not know whether the ASBM reached IOC, though development has proceeded fairly far along. |
| 2011 | |
| January | China conducted first test-flight of the J-20 stealth fighter, during Defense Secretary Gates' visit in Beijing. Gates asked top leader Hu Jintao about the test and said that Hu seemed surprised by the test while assuring Gates that it was unrelated to his visit. |