



Overview of PLA Military Diplomacy in February 2025

Introduction

This is Exovera's second report that provides an overview of People's Liberation Army (PLA) military diplomacy during February 2025. Both English and Chinese articles from the following sources will be used as the base. Specific sources used in the five categories discussed below are withheld. Please [contact us](#) to obtain the source list and an appendix of articles with English translations.

- English websites:
 - http://english.chinamil.com.cn/china-military/node_87047.htm
 - http://eng.mod.gov.cn/xb/News_213114/TopStories/index.html
- Chinese websites:
 - <http://www.mod.gov.cn/gfbw/jswj/lf/index.html> (来访/visitors)
 - <http://www.mod.gov.cn/gfbw/jswj/cf/index.html> (出访/travel abroad)
 - <http://www.mod.gov.cn/gfbw/jswj/jl/index.html> (交流/exchanges)
 - <http://www.81.cn/?big=jian> (key stories on front page)

Based on the format for previous reports about PLA military diplomacy, the data is organized into the following six categories and two subcategories and each entry is in chronological order. Of note, the China Military website (eng.chinamil.com.cn) has a section labeled MOOTW, which has four subsections labeled Peacekeeping, Escort Missions, Disaster Relief, and Counterterrorism. The information provided in each entry is a gist summary, not necessarily word-for-word entries:

- Category 1: Senior-Level Meetings and Visits
- Category 2: International Bilateral and Joint Military Exercises and Interaction
- Category 3: Functional Exchanges
- Category 4: Academic Exchanges
- Category 5: Military Operations Other Than War (MOOTW) (aka Nontraditional Security Operations)
 - Subcategory 5-1: Escort Missions (which includes the Gulf of Aden escort task forces, port calls, and the "Peace Ark" hospital ship)
 - Subcategory 5-2: United Nations Peacekeeping

See Appendix A for a list of acronyms.

Overview

For comparison purposes, during January 2025, a total of 23 articles, including 14 English and 8 Chinese articles, were downloaded concerning PLA military diplomacy. During February 2025, a total of 21 articles, including 16 English and 5 Chinese articles, were downloaded concerning PLA military diplomacy. The following three articles were published in both Chinese and English but were written by different people with slightly different content:

- Chinese Peacekeepers to South Sudan (Wau) Start a Supply Line Construction
- All Mine-Clearing Officers and Soldiers of the 23rd Group of Chinese Peacekeeping Forces in Lebanon Passed the Assessment of the United Nations Mine Action Service
- PLA Military Band Participates in Military Tattoo Performances in France

Of the 21 articles, 12 of them (10 in English and 2 in Chinese) covered Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) and medical teams.

Category 1: Senior-Level Meetings and Visits

Only one article discussed senior-level meetings. The 23rd China-Australia Defense Strategic Dialogue was held on 17 February in Beijing. The dialogue was co-hosted by General XU Qiling, who is a Deputy Chief of the Central Military Commission's (CMC) Joint Staff Department, Air Marshal Robert Chipman AO CSC, Vice Chief of the Australian Defense Force, and Hugh Jeffrey, Australian Deputy Secretary of Defense Strategy, Policy and Industry Group. The two sides exchanged in-depth views on the relations between the two countries and two militaries, regional security, and other issues of common concern, and agreed to continue strengthening strategic communication in the defense field, properly handle disputes and differences, and carry out exchanges and cooperation.

Category 2: International Bilateral and Joint Military Exercises and Interaction

Only two English-language articles discussed any bilateral or joint military exercises, which was the Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-2025 (aka Peace Mission / 和平 2025) that was held in Karachi, Pakistan, from 7-12 February and involved military vessels from China, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, and the United States. In addition, observers sent by 32 other countries also participated in the exercise. Two ships from the PLA Navy's 47th Escort Task Force that arrived in the Gulf of Aden around 1 January participated. The two ships were the guided-missile destroyer Baotou (Hull 133) and the replenish (i.e., comprehensive supply ship) Gaoyouhu (Hull 904). The task force also included a ship-borne helicopter and dozens of Marine Corps special operations forces. The exercise involved subjects such as replenishment at sea, joint anti-piracy, search and

rescue, and air defense, aiming to enhance the participating navies' ability of jointly maintaining maritime security.

In addition to exercises, the China Manned Space Engineering Office (CMSEO) and the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) signed a cooperation agreement on the spaceflight of Pakistani astronaut to the Chinese space station on 27 February 2025. Under the agreement, the Chinese government will select and train a group of Pakistani astronauts, and one of them will be the first foreign astronaut to enter the Chinese space station. The selection process will last about a year, and the Pakistani astronauts will join a comprehensive and systematic training camp in China. After that, Pakistani astronauts will carry out short-term flight missions in batches together with their Chinese counterparts in the space station in the next few years. In the presence of Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the agreement was signed by Lin Xiqiang, deputy director of the CMSEO and Muhammad Yousuf Khan, chairman of the SUPARCO at the Prime Minister's House.

Category 3: Functional Exchanges

In February 2025, Chinese arms makers were among world industry leaders who displayed cutting-edge technologies and products at the International Defense Exhibition and Conference 2025, or IDEX 2025, in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. Of note, the PLA is not involved in arms sales abroad; however, this article was posted on the MND website. The China pavilion was one of the largest national areas at the event. Hundreds of weapons and military systems made by Chinese defense contractors, from advanced stealth combat aircraft, drones, air defense missile systems, armored vehicles, and light weapons of all kinds, were being shown to global visitors. Due to the large size of the original exhibits, most were scaled models. The biennial IDEX is the Middle East's largest defense expo. In 2025, more than 150,000 visitors were expected to attend the five-day showcase, where 1,560 exhibitors from more than 65 countries will be in attendance. Featuring 41 country pavilions, the event was spread across more than 181,000 square meters of exhibition space. More than 3,300 products and technologies were displayed at the event. The exhibitions also hosted more than 156 startups, accounting for 10 percent of total exhibitors. Revenue from the sales of arms and military services by the 100 largest companies in the industry reached \$632 billion in 2023, an increase of 4.2 percent in 2022, according to a report released in December by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, or SIPRI. Six of the top 100 arms companies were based in the Middle East, with their combined arms revenue growing by 18 percent to \$19.6 billion, the data showed.

At the invitation of the French side, the PLA's military band sent a delegation of 49 members to Chalon-sur-Saône in France to perform at a Military Tattoo from 20-24 February. At the opening ceremony of the Military Tattoo, the Chinese PLA military band played three pieces of music

including the “Game of Thrones” and the “Schindler’s List” together with the military bands from the United States and France. The PLA military band also played six pieces of music representing the characteristics of China and France and the two militaries, including the March of the Steel Torrent and Carman Overture, winning high praise from the audience. During the whole Military Tattoo, the Chinese PLA military band completed two performances at the opening and closing ceremonies, two parade performances, three small-scale performances and two street parades. The PLA military band also carried out joint performance and friendly exchange activities with the performance teams from the United States, France, Mexico, and other countries. This was the second time that the PLA military band had been invited to France to participate in the Military Tattoo.

Category 4: Academic Exchanges

No articles.

Category 5: MOOTW

Subcategory 5-1: Escort Missions

On 5 February, the PLA Navy’s 47th Naval Escort Task Force (NETF) completed the Navy’s 1,658th escort task in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off of Somalia since December 2008. The 47th NETF received the escort request from the merchant ship “Tianqi” right before the Spring Festival. The task force decided to dispatch the guided-missile frigate Honghe (Hull 523) to escort the ship. Meanwhile, the guided-missile destroyer Baotou (Hull 133) attached to the taskforce escorted three other merchant ships “Tianle,” “Xiangruikou,” and “Ruyisong” through the Gulf of Aden. On the morning of 1 February, two suspected pirate dinghies suddenly appeared near the merchant ship “Ruyisong.” After a series of warning and deterrence actions, the suspected pirate dinghies were driven away by the destroyer Baotou.

Subcategory 5-2: United Nations Peacekeeping

In February 2025, all 60 members of the Chinese military engineering contingent from the 23rd Chinese Peacekeeping Force to Lebanon successfully passed the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) qualification assessment in a single attempt. They obtained dual certifications in mine clearance and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), securing their “minefield pass.” This marked the first UN assessment since the Chinese Peacekeeping Force’s deployment rotation in mid-December 2024. The 60 personnel included 43 mine-clearing engineers, five EOD specialists, and 12 medical staff, all of whom underwent rigorous qualification tests for both mine clearance and explosive ordnance disposal. During the evaluation, the examiners introduced complex scenarios, such as signal sources and unexploded ordnance (UXO). According to UN certification procedures, participants undergo five days of training followed by three days of testing. The

assessment covers more than 30 tasks across 10 core subjects, including detector calibration, signal source identification, mine excavation, battlefield casualty evacuation, mine destruction, and explosive ordnance inspection.

On 4 February 2025, peacekeepers assigned to the 15th Chinese Peacekeeping Horizontal Engineering Company to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) set off for a 21-day line construction task from Lunyaker Town to Warrap State. With a total length of 35 kilometers, the supply line will serve as a critical passage supporting the lives of people along the way. The Chinese Peacekeeping Horizontal Engineering Company dispatched 41 members to perform the construction task.

On 6 February 2025, after receiving an emergency task order issued by the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), the 5th Chinese Peacekeeping Military Utility Helicopter Unit to UNISFA dispatched troops to emergently transfer a Bangladeshi peacekeeper bitten by a venomous snake to Level II Hospital in Ghana for follow-up treatment.

On 7 February 2025, an inspection team dispatched by the Environment Department of the United Nations Mission in Wau, South Sudan (UNMISS) assessed the camp of the 15th Chinese peacekeeping force to UNMISS. The Green Camp assessment is a comprehensive assessment conducted annually by the UNMISS Mission Support Division on the environmental conditions of the peacekeeping camps of different troop-contributing countries. The UN camps are categorized into three levels, i.e. green, yellow and red, in the environmental inspection. The peacekeeping troops' camps meeting the Green Camp criteria will be entitled to a one-year exemption from the inspection. During the assessment, the inspection team formed by members of the UNMISS Environment Department carried out thorough checks on water and wastewater management, general solid waste treatment, hazardous waste management, energy utilization, natural resource management, environmental protection, and other aspects of the Chinese peacekeeping camp. Then, an onsite evaluation was made based on the actual situation. The Chinese peacekeeping force's camp met the Green Camp criteria in all assessment items.

A lengthy article on 8 February 2025 discussed the 10th Chinese Medical Expert Group assigned to Ethiopia. In May 2024, the military medical expert group led by the First Affiliated Hospital of the Army Medical University arrived in Ethiopia. The expert team members come from multiple departments such as hepatobiliary surgery, cardiovascular medicine, nephrology, and traditional Chinese medicine, and carried drugs for common diseases. So far, the military medical expert team has treated thousands of Ethiopian patients, completed more than 100 difficult operations, and trained a group of local medical staff. Shewaye Haier, director of the Ethiopian National Defense Force High-Tech Hospital, praised the Chinese military doctors for their superb skills and dedication to their work, and thanked them for their unremitting efforts to promote the development of the hospital and promote health cooperation.

On 10 February 2025, the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) awarded the Honorary Medal and Certificate of Honor to all members of the 22nd Chinese Medical Aid Team to the DRC in the capital Kinshasa to commend their outstanding contributions in medical assistance. On the same day, the 22nd and 23rd Chinese Medical Aid Teams to the DRC held a handover reception at the official residence of the Chinese Ambassador to the DRC. The Secretary-General of the Ministry of Health of the DRC and more than 70 representatives from all walks of life attended the ceremony.

On 14 February 2025, the 23rd Chinese Peacekeeping Construction Engineering Company to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) passed the first UN military capabilities assessment during its mission period. The joint assessment team formed by members from the UNIFIL Headquarters conducted an overall assessment of the Chinese peacekeeping contingent's military capabilities incorporating 538 items in 28 groups of eight categories through debriefing, field inspection, and other methods. After inspection and evaluation, the contingent passed the UN military capabilities assessment with all indicators meeting the UN standards.

On 19 February 2025, the 15th Chinese Peacekeeping Horizontal Engineering Company to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) completed the construction of a new refugee camp, giving strong support to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in its refugee resettlement efforts. Since the beginning of this year, South Sudan has experienced continued political instability, with escalating ethnic tensions fueling ongoing armed conflicts and leaving a large number of refugees displaced. The newly-built refugee camp will serve as a shelter to provide essential humanitarian assistance to the displaced and homeless people from the Naivasha Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp. The Chinese peacekeeping engineer contingent has deployed more than 240 vehicles and machines, along with over 500 personnel in this task. They cleared more than 20,000 tree roots and transported 1,500 cubic meters of soil in 22 workdays, successfully completing the refugee camp construction to a high standard.

On 22 February 2025, Zambia has held a ceremony in Lusaka to award the 27th Chinese Military Medical Team the International Friendly Cooperation Medal. Wang Sheng, minister counselor at the Chinese Embassy in Zambia, and Douglas Siakalima, Zambia's acting defense minister, attended the event. Since 1984, 332 Chinese military doctors have served in Zambia, making invaluable contributions to healthcare.

On 24 February 2025, the 15th Chinese Peacekeeping Horizontal Engineering Company to the United Nations Mission in Wau, South Sudan (UNMISS) visited St. Mary's Primary School in the town of Kuajok, near the camp of the Chinese peacekeeping engineer contingent. The ongoing instability in the region has led to a long-term shortage of all kinds of teaching materials in the school. During the visit, the Chinese peacekeepers donated more than 800 pieces of school supplies

and sports equipment in six categories, including school bags, footballs, and marker pens, in a bid to help the school improve its teaching conditions.

On 25 February 2025, Lieutenant General Mohan Subramanian, Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and Brigadier General Gulam Mahiuddin Ahmed, Sector Juba Commander for UNMISS, inspected the 11th Chinese Peacekeeping Infantry Battalion to South Sudan (Juba). They listened to the report of the Chinese battalion, visited the combat duty room, psychological counseling room and other facilities, and observed the tabletop exercise on the UN House key targets. They also learned in detail about the daily combat readiness, medical rescue, and logistics management of the Chinese peacekeeping infantry battalion. The battalion has actively engaged in various activities including authorized tasks, emergency response, and civilian protection, and has shown a high level of responsibility and professionalism. Since its deployment to mission area in December 2024, the Chinese peacekeeping infantry battalion has undertaken a range of tasks, including security guard, armed escorts, long- and short-distance patrols.

In February 2025, the 23rd Chinese peacekeeping multi-role engineering company to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) passed the combat-readiness and military mission-performing capability assessment organized by the UNIFIL through debriefing, material reviewing, field inspection, and random inquiry with excellent performance, including outstanding equipment performance, sufficient supply stock, and all-round personnel quality.

Appendix A: Acronyms

Acronym	Full Term
AO	appointed an officer
CMC	Central Military Commission
CMSEO	China Manned Space Engineering Office
CSC	Conspicuous Service Cross
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EOD	explosive ordnance disposal
IDEX	International Defense Exhibition
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
MND	Ministry of National Defense
MOD	Ministry of Defense
MOOTW	Military Operations Other Than War
NETF	Naval Escort Task Force
PKO	Peacekeeping Operations
PLA	People's Liberation Army
SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
SUPARCO	Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations

UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNISFA	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UXO	unexploded ordnance
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan