MARCHING UNDER THE BANNER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA

The People's Military Celebrating the Centenary of the Communist Party of China
PREFACE

In 1921, the great Communist Party of China (CPC) was born to assume the historic mission of China's national rejuvenation. Its 100-year journey surges forward with great momentum. Its original aspiration remains even firmer one hundred years later. In the past 100 years, the Party has insisted its original aspiration and mission for seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation. It united and led the people of all ethnic groups to make epic accomplishments through fighting bloody battles, working hard for prosperity, as well as reforming and opening up. Unprecedented transformation has taken place in China. The Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. The Chinese nation has made a great leap from standing up, growing prosperously to becoming stronger. The people's liberation army was established and led by the CPC. Since its creation, it has been closely linked to the Party and has always acted and fought under the absolute leadership of the Party. It has gone through wars and difficult times, making great sacrifices in exchange for more and more glorious victories, achieving great historical merit on behalf of the Party and people. History has proved that the Party's absolute leadership over the military is the root and soul of the people's liberation army. A hundred years on from its founding, the Communist Party of China is still in its prime, and remains as determined as ever to achieve lasting greatness for the Chinese nation. In the new journey of building a great modern socialist country in all respects, the people's liberation army will always follow the Party's lead, and will focus closely on realizing the Party's goal of building a strong military in the new era, namely building the people's military into world-class military that obeys the Party's command, by which it can fight and win, and maintain excellent conduct. The people's liberation army will always stay true to its original aspiration and founding mission with tireless efforts, resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, and boldly advance toward fulfilling the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation!
In July 1921, the Communist Party of China (CPC) was born amid domestic turmoil and foreign aggression. It started to unite and lead the Chinese people to fight tenaciously for national independence and the liberation of the people. In the face of strong enemies and lessons learnt at the cost of blood, the CPC built a people's liberation army and embarked on the right revolutionary path, using rural areas to encircle the cities and seizing state power with military force. The fundamental principle and system of absolute Party leadership over the military was initiated in the Nanchang Uprising (1927), established at Sanwan Reorganization (1927), confirmed at the Gutian Conference (1929), and kept enriching in revolutionary struggles. Under the leadership of the CPC, the people's liberation army fought in bloody battles to defeat exceptionally fierce enemies at home and abroad, and succeeded in the Agrarian Revolutionary War, the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the War of Liberation, thus laying a solid foundation for the establishment of the People’s Republic of China in which the people are the masters.

“Our tenent is that the Party commands the gun, and not vice versa.”

——Mao Zedong
Section 1  Military Exploration in Early Days

Since the CPC was founded in 1921, it had actively promoted cooperation with the Kuomintang (KMT) in establishing the Whampoa Military Academy, initiated and led political work in the National Revolutionary Army. It trained a group of its own military cadres, took direct control of some revolutionary armed forces, actively organized and established armed forces of the workers, peasants and the public, and later actually led the political work in the Northern Expedition (1926-1927). The CPC’s military exploration in early days provided essential preparations for the founding of people’s liberation army and the conduct of armed struggles.

On July 23, 1921, the First National Congress of the Communist Party of China opened in Shanghai, officially announcing the birth of the CPC. This was an epoch-changing moment. The site of the first CPC National Congress in Shanghai and the Red Boat on Nanhu Lake in Jiaxing are considered as the “birthplace” of the CPC, where the Party’s dream sets sail. The photo shows the site of the first CPC National Congress and the Red Boat on Nanhu Lake in Jiaxing.

In 1924, the CPC collaborated with the KMT in creating the Whampoa Military Academy (WMA) and helped the KMT establish a system of party representatives and political departments in the WMA and the National Revolutionary Army. The photo shows the former site of the WMA.
Section 2 Founding and Development of the People’s Military

After the failure of the Nationalist Revolution in China (1924-1927), the CPC independently raised the banner of revolution and led the Chinese people’s anti-imperialist and anti-feudal struggles into a period of the Agrarian Revolutionary War (1927-1937). The Party combined general principles of Marxism with the concrete practices of the Chinese revolution and established the new people’s military. It set up rural bases for the revolution and embarked on the right revolutionary path, using rural areas to encircle the cities and seizing state power with military force. During the arduous Agrarian Revolutionary War, the People’s military endured severe tests and continued to grow and develop, laying a solid foundation for the great victory of the Chinese revolution.

In September 1927, Mao Zedong led the troops of the Autumn Harvest Uprising in Yongxin County, Jiangxi Province, to carry out the Sanwan Reorganization, which established the CPC’s branches in the companies and soldiers’ committees at all levels; implemented a democratic system to ensure political equality between officers and soldiers; and established the Party’s leadership over the military in terms of institutional arrangements. The Sanwan Reorganization serves as an important start in building the new people’s military under the proletarian leadership. (The Sanwan Reorganization, by Xu Baozhong and Li Zehao, in 1977)
The Gutian Conference was successfully held in December 1929. It summarised the rich experience drawn from the battle against various erroneous ideas and tendencies in the Party since the founding of the Red Army in 1928. It unified understanding and thinking, unanimously adopted the resolution of the conference and elected the new Front Committee of the 4th Army of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army with Mao Zedong as its secretary. The Gutian Conference resolution is a guiding document for the building of both the CPC and the Red Army, and is an important milestone in the development of the Party and the People's military. Since then, political work has played a decisive role for the survival and development of the military. (The Gutian Conference, by He Kongde, 1972)

Mao Zedong put forward the concept of an armed independent regime of workers and peasants in light of the realities of the Chinese revolution when he led his troops to the Jinggang Mountain. This concept explained that the Chinese revolution must create rural bases for the revolution, and that the development of the Red Army and rural bases must be used to promote the national revolution to a climax. This marked the basic formation of the Chinese Communists' theory that the Chinese revolution must take the path of using rural areas to encircle the cities to win countrywide victory. (A Single Spark can Start a Prairie Fire, by Wu Ziqiang, Wu Shanming and Wu Guoting, 1977)
The Central Red Army began its long march due to the defeat of the fifth countercampaigns against "encirclement and suppression". In January 1935, the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee (CPCCC) held an enlarged meeting in Zunyi, which established Mao Zedong's leadership of the CPCCC and the Red Army. The Zunyi Conference saved the Party, the Red Army and the Chinese revolution at a critical moment in history. (The Zunyi Conference, by Shen Yao Yi, 1997)

In 1936, the three major forces of the Red Army joined forces with each other and the Long March came to a victorious end. Under the leadership of CPC, the Red Army was ready to go to the battlefield in the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, and take on the historical responsibility of saving the nation from peril. The photo shows the roadmap of the Red Army's Long March.
Section 3  Victory in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression by the Whole Nation

During the war of resistance, the CPC was an active advocate for the united national front based on CPC-KMT cooperation against Japanese aggression. It adhered to the general principles of nationwide war of resistance, the strategy of protracted war, and the principle of independence. It led the people's armed forces against Japanese aggression to carry out extensive guerrilla warfare in the enemy's rear area echoing the center stage battlefield to create a strategic situation of fighting the enemy together. In particular, when the war entered the stage of strategic stalemate, they fought the enemy head-on and became a mainstay in the national war of resistance, making great contributions to the final victory of the war of resistance against Japanese aggression.

In 1931, the Japanese imperialists blatantly launched the September 18th Incident, which marked the beginning of regional war of resistance against Japanese aggression in China. The CPC took the lead in raising the banner of armed resistance against Japanese aggression and called for a national revolutionary war to expel Japanese imperialists from China. The photo shows soldiers of the Chinese Northeast People's Revolutionary Army in a tough fight against Japanese invaders.

On 7 July 1937, the Japanese aggressors launched the Lugou Bridge Incident (July 7th Incident), which led to the outbreak of war of resistance by the whole nation. From 22 to 25 August 1937, the CPC Central Committee convened an enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau in Fengjia Village, Luochuan, northern Shaanxi Province (known as the Luochuan Conference) and formally established the general policy of a total war approach and the strategy of protracted war. The conference decided to establish the Revolutionary Military Commission of the CPC Central Committee (CMC) to strengthen the Party's absolute leadership over the military. The conference also stressed the need to uphold proletarian leadership in the united front. It also started to launch independent guerrilla warfare in mountainous area behind enemy line. (Traditional Chinese painting, The Luochuan Conference, by Liu Shuyi, 2021)
From late August to late September 1937, divisions of the Eighth Route Army crossed the Yellow River to the anti-Japanese front. From August 1940 to January 1941, the Eighth Route Army headquarters launched the largest and longest strategic offensive campaigns in northern China since the start of the war of resistance, also known as the Hundred-Regiment Campaign. It dealt a heavy blow to Japan’s “prison cage” strategy, increased prestige of the CPC and the Eighth Route Army, and boosted the confidence of the entire nation. The photo shows one of the Eighth Route Army’s positions in the Lailing Campaign, part of the second phase of the Hundred-Regiment Campaign.

From February 17 to April 14, 1943, the Japanese troops carried out a “mopping-up” operation against the Chinese resistance base in northern Jiangsu province. No. 4 Company, No. 19 Regiment, No. 7 Brigade of the New Fourth Army was ordered to cover the transfer of party and government organs of the Huaihai District, and was besieged by the Japanese troops at Lulaozhuang, north of Huaiyin, where the whole company fought for one whole day and sacrificed their lives. Later, the No. 7 Brigade re-established its No. 4 Company and named it “Lulaozhuang Company”. In his article “The Heroism of the New Fourth Army and the Eighth Route Army”, Zhu De, commander-in-chief of the Eighth Route Army, praised the Lulaozhuang Company as “the highest embodiment of heroism by our officers and soldiers”. (The Bloody Battle of Lulaozhuang, by Chen yuming, 2005)
The Seventh National Congress of the CPC, convened from April to June 1945, established Mao Zedong Thought as the guiding ideology of the Party and enshrined it in the Party Constitution. The congress adopted reports on political, military and organisational matters, as well as political and military resolutions and a new Party Constitution. The congress summarised experiences of China’s New Democratic Revolution in the past 20 years; formulated political principles, programme and strategies for defeating Japanese invaders and building new China. It laid political, theoretical and organizational foundations for the Party to lead the people to victory in the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the New Democratic Revolution throughout the country. On August 15, 1945, the Japanese Emperor issued an imperial edict of surrender, declaring unconditional surrender. On September 2, a surrender ceremony took place aboard US battleship USS Missouri (BB-63) in Tokyo Bay, marking the victorious end of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. The photo shows Mao Zedong making a speech at the Seventh National Congress of the CPC.
Section 4 Great Victory in the War of Liberation (1945–1949)

After the victory in the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, China faced a serious struggle between two kinds of fate and future. Chinese people were eager for peace, democracy and a new China. The CPC, representing fundamental interests of the people, made great efforts to strive for peace and democracy. Following the outbreak of a full-scale civil war, the Party led the people’s military in active defense, took resolute actions to utterly defeat the KMT’s military attacks, and then shifted to strategic offensive in a timely and appropriate manner. Later, it launched several decisive battles and strategic pursuits to overthrow the reactionary KMT rule, and seized a national victory of the New Democratic Revolution.

Following the victory in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, the CPC made a decision that Mao Zedong would go to Chongqing to negotiate with the KMT for peace and democracy. The Minutes of Meeting Between the Representatives of the Kuomintang and the Communist Party of China was signed on October 10, 1945. Subsequently the two sides reached an agreement on the “cessation of military conflicts in China”. In the meantime, to prepare a civil war launched by the KMT, the CPCCC established a strategic guideline of “northward development and southward defense”, redistributed strategic areas, formed field corps capable of mobile operations and established a centralised and unified command structure. The photo shows Mao Zedong returning to Yan’an after the signing of the October 10th Agreement.

In June 1946, the KMT forces attacked the Central Plains Liberated Area and triggered a nation-wide civil war. In accordance with the strategic guideline of active defense approved by the CPCCC and the Central Military Commission, troops of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), taking into account realities in their own strategic areas, employed flexible strategies and tactics to thwart the attacks of the KTW forces. At the same time, the political work of the people’s military was also effective, with the Gao Shuxun movement, merit-winning and solidarity mutual-assistance campaigns being carried out to promote troops building and improve combat capabilities. The photo shows a unit of the East China Field Army advancing towards Menglianggou.
During this period, the system of Party committee was restored and improved in the people’s military; a strict system of reporting and requesting for instructions was established; the Three Main Rules of Discipline and Eight Points for Attention of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army was re-enacted; and a new-style theoretical education movement in the military and a movement for democracy were launched. All these further strengthened the absolute leadership of the Party over the military and raised political and discipline awareness of the troops. The photo shows the party branch of a company, No. 2 Column, Jinchaji (Shanxi-Chahaer-Hebei) Military Region being re-elected.

Over a year later, the CPCCC decided not to wait for the complete defeat of enemy’s strategic offensive but immediately shift to a nationwide counter-offensive by pushing the main force to the outer front to draw the war to the KMT’s areas. From June to September 1947, Liu (Bo Cheng) and Deng (Xiao Ping), Chen (Geng) and Xie (Fu Zhi), Chen (Yi) and Su (Yu) played a decisive strategic role by advancing three armies into the Central Plains. The PLA’s corps in the inner and outer fronts fought closely with each other. A general posture of strategic offensive began to take shape.
In September 1948, an enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPCCC was convened, namely “September Meeting”, to make important theoretical, political and organisational preparations for the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) to fight major annihilation wars, occupy major cities, wipe out heavy KMT forces and accelerate the final victory in the national War of Liberation. Jinan Campaign marked the beginning of the strategically decisive engagement. The three major campaigns, Liaoshen, Huaihai and Pingjin destroyed main military forces of the KMT and laid the foundation for the victory of the Chinese revolution throughout the country. (Painting: Striving for National Victory, by Yin Rongsheng, 1980)

In March 1949, the CPCCC convened the Second Plenary Session of the Seventh Central Committee to set out basic policies in politics, economics and foreign affairs after the Party’s national victory. Mao Zedong proposed on the conference three ways to settle remaining KMT forces. On December 30, 1948, Xinhua News Agency published an editorial written by Mao Zedong under the title, “To the End of the Revolution”. On April 21, 1949, Mao Zedong and Zhu De issued an order to “march across the country”. The PLA launched Crossing Yangtze River Campaign, captured Nanjing and declared the collapse of the reactionary rule of the KMT; it succeeded in capturing Shanghai, then marched to the south-central, northwestern and southwestern provinces and liberated most part of the country, ushering in the birth of the People’s Republic of China and the great victory of China’s New Democratic Revolution. The photo shows PLA soldiers on top of the KMT’s Office of the President in Nanjing on April 23, 1949.
Building a Combined Military to Defend China

With the founding of People's Republic of China (PRC), the CPC united and led the Chinese people to complete the socialist revolution, establish the basic socialist system and promote socialist construction. By establishing and improving the national military leadership system and formulating and improving laws and regulations governing the relationship between the Party, the nation and the armed forces, the tenet 'the Party commands the gun' became the state will, thus realising the Party's leadership over the military and the nation's leadership over the military. Under the leadership of the CPC, the people's military has promoted the building of a modern and standardized revolutionary military, which actively participated in the socialist revolution and construction, defended the motherland, the people and their activities, successfully fought US aggression and aided Korea, and conducted a number of self-defense operations on the borders. Those operations greatly boosted China's international prestige and power. The people's military, under the leadership of the CPC, provided a strong backing for the consolidation of the people's political power, China's status as a major power and dignity of the Chinese nation.

“We will have not only a strong army, but also a strong air force and a strong navy.”

——Mao Zedong
The CPC has integrated the people's military into national system and established a basic military system that is compatible with the national and political systems of China. The fundamental principle of the Party's absolute leadership over the military and related system, has been continuously enriched and developed in theory and strengthened in practice, so that the people's military maintains its character, purpose and essence, and is always subordinate to the Party's ruling mission as a faithful defender of the interests of the nation and the people.

In September 1949, the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and the Organic Law of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, were adopted by the First Plenary Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. The Conference established the People's Revolutionary Military Commission of the Central People's Government (the Central Military Commission) as the supreme administrative organ of China's military. On October 1, 1949, the first meeting of the Central People's Government appointed Mao Zedong as Chairman of the People's Revolutionary Military Commission and Zhu De as Commander-in-Chief of the People's Liberation Army. On October 19, the third meeting of the Central People's Government Commission announced the full list of members of the People's Revolutionary Military Commission. The photo shows the venue of the First Plenary Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

The First Session of the First National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China was held in Beijing from 15 to 28 September, 1954. The Conference made a decision to establish the National Defense Commission and the Ministry of National Defense of the People's Republic of China, and discontinue the establishment of the People's Revolutionary Military Commission of the Central People's Government. This conference reviewed and adopted the first Constitution of the PRC, specifying that the President of the People's Republic of China should be in charge of the national armed forces and also serve as the Chairman of the National Defense Commission. On September 28, 1954, the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee (CPCCC) made a Resolution on the Establishment of the Party's Military Commission, making it clear that the Party's Military Commission should be subordinate to the Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the CPCCC to lead the overall military work.

### Central Military Commission of the Communist Party of China

**Chairman**  
Mao Zedong

**Members**  
Zhu De  
Chen Yi  
Ye Jianying  
Peng Dehuai  
Deng Xiaoping  
Lin Biao  
Luo Ronghuan  
Liu Bocheng  
Xu Xiangqian  
He Long  
Nie Rongzhen

**Secretary General**  
Huang Kecheng

**Co-opted Members** (Nov. 1956)  
Huang Kecheng  
Wang Shusheng  
Su Yu  
Xu Guangda  
Chen Geng  
Xiao Hua  
Tan Zheng  
Liu Yalou  
Xiao Jinguang  
Hong Xuezhi
Section 2 Development towards a Modern and Regularized Revolutionary Military

The CPCCC and the CMC actively explored the path to build a modern national defense and military in peacetime, and put forward a series of guidelines and principles to guide national defense and military building. Building a modern and regularized revolutionary military had been approved and confirmed as the general policy and major mission. Proper balance between economic development and national defense building was emphasized. Active defense was adopted as the guiding principle of military strategy in defending the motherland. Comprehensive efforts were made in theoretical and political development in troops, military training for regularized armed forces, and vigorous development in science, technology, weaponry and equipment for national defense. The people's military made significant achievements in its development.

In March 1956, with the approval of Mao Zedong, an enlarged meeting of the CMC was held in Beijing, where Peng Dehuai delivered the Report on Strategic Principles of Defending our Motherland and the Building of National Defense, proposing a strategic approach of active defense for future war against aggression. The strategy of active defense provided a correct guiding principle and fundamental basis for national defense and military buildup. The photo shows a PLA cavalry unit patrolling on the Pamirs to guard the China's border.

From December 7, 1953 to January 26, 1954, the National Conference of Senior Party Cadres of the Military System was held to comprehensively summarise the military work since the founding of the PRC; to study in depth a number of major issues that must be resolved in military buildup; to identify the general policy and mission of the PLA's buildup; and to make general planning and arrangements for the development of the military. The conference made it clear that strengthening the leadership of the Party and political work was the fundamental guarantee for building a modern revolutionary military. The photo shows Zhu De delivering the opening speech at the conference.
In February 1955, the Sixth and Seventh Sessions of the 1st Standing Committee of the First National People’s Congress discussed and enacted the Regulations on Service of Officers in the Chinese People’s Liberation Army and the Regulations of the People’s Republic of China on Awarding of Medals and Awards to the People’s Liberation Army Personnel for Meritorious Service during the Chinese People’s Revolutionary War. According to the regulations, the PLA enacted a system of military ranks from September 1955 and decided to issue the August 1st Medal and Decoration, the Independence and Freedom Medal and Decoration, and the Liberation Medal and Decoration to reward the meritorious personnel of the PLA during different periods of the revolutionary war. The photo shows the awarding ceremony of the rank of Marshal and other meritorious medals in Beijing on September 27, 1955. Mao Zedong awarded the rank of Marshal, as well as the August 1st Medal (Class I), the Independence and Freedom Medal (Class I) and the Liberation Medal (Class I) to Zhu De and others.

In November 1955, the PLA held an operational exercise against landing forces on the Liaodong Peninsula. Front troops from the PLA Army, Navy and Air Force participated in the livefire exercise under nuclear and chemical conditions, which was the first combined large-scale exercise participated by services and arms in the history of the PLA.
In 1969, in accordance with Mao Zedong's instruction to "prepare for the eventuality of war", the PLA strengthened its combat readiness training, focusing on the "three fights and three defenses" (fight against tanks, fight against aircrafts and fight against airborne, atomic, chemical and bacteriological forces) to improve the troops' combat capabilities and effectiveness under sophisticated conditions.

From the 1950s, in order to resist the saber-rattling of imperialists and break the nuclear blackmail and monopoly of the great powers, the CPCCC and Mao Zedong made a foresighted and resolute decision to develop "Two Bombs and One Satellite", i.e. atomic and hydrogen bombs and man-made satellites. On October 16, 1964, China succeeded in its first atomic bomb trial, which greatly enhanced China's defense capacity and international influence.
Section 3 Consolidation of the New People's Power to Defend China's National Sovereignty and Security

As the People's Republic of China was founded and the War of Liberation was over, the fundamental mission of the PLA changed from seizing national power to consolidating the people's democratic dictatorship, defending national security and nation-building. The PLA troops met the expectations of the Party and the people and fulfilled the lofty mission of a people's military by consolidating the new people's power, successfully resisting US aggression and aiding North Korea, conducting a number of self-defense operations on the borders, and actively carrying out economic construction and disaster relief operations.

From the second half of 1949 to the end of 1953, the PLA launched a massive campaign against bandits in East China, South China, Southwest China, Northwest China and North China, eliminating more than 2.7 million bandits and putting an end to the long history of severe banditry. The photo shows the people welcoming the PLA's anti-bandit forces.

The PLA effectively cracked down on and stopped the KMT air force's harassment and reconnaissance activities and safeguarded coastal and inland airspace. From September 1962 to September 1967, the PLA Air Force shot down five American U-2 high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft. Shown here are the wreckage of four U-2s on display at the Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution.
On June 25, 1950, the Korean Civil War broke out. The US government interfered in the Korean Civil War and sent the 7th Fleet to intrude into the Taiwan Straits, bringing the war to the border between China and North Korea. At the request of the Korean Workers’ Party (KWP) and the Korean government, the Chinese People’s Volunteers (CPV) entered the war on the side of North Korea on October 19, 1950. The CPV and the Korean People’s Army (KPA) joint-handedly defeated the so-called “UN Forces” led by the US and won a great victory after two years and nine months’ bloody battles. The photo shows the CPVs chasing after the enemy in the second battle at Ryongwonri.

In July 1958, in light of the changing international situation and the situation of the Taiwan Straits, the CPCCC and the CMC decided to bombard Kinmen. On August 23, the front-line troops in Fujian began cannonry attacks.
Chapter III

Building a Modern and Standardized Revolutionary Military to Ensure the Cause of Reform and Opening up Well–served

After the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee was held, the Party started to unite and lead the Chinese people to embark on a great journey of reform and opening up and socialist modernisation. The Party has upheld absolute leadership over the military, theoretically developed and repositioned this basic principle of military building, further improved the fundamental military system and strengthened the Party's status in the leadership system of the military. Led by the CPC, the people's military has actively participated in the new great revolution of reform and opening up, effectively served and supported national reform, development and stability. It fulfilled its defense duties in Hong Kong and Macao according to law, tackled threats to national security in a timely and effective manner, resolutely combated all forms of separatist and destructive activities and took part in international military exchanges and cooperation and UN peacekeeping operations. It provided strong support to safeguarding the CPC leadership, China's socialist system, national sovereignty, security and development interests, the important period of strategic opportunity as well as regional and global peace.

“Our military must always be loyal to the Party, to the people, to the country and to socialism.”

—— Deng Xiaoping
Section 1 Fresh Progress in Military Building

After the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee, Chinese Communists, with comrade Deng Xiaoping as the core of their leadership, united and led the entire Party and the people of all nationalities to successfully create the socialism with Chinese characteristics. The CPCCC and the CMC proposed to build a strong, modern and standardized revolutionary military and emphasized that the revolutionary nature of the people’s military must be consistently upheld. With the guidance of Deng Xiaoping’s thinking on military building in the new historical period, the people’s military has upheld the Party’s absolute leadership and strived to coordinate and contribute to the development of economy. It has implemented the strategy of active defense, strategically transformed military building theories, adhered to the path of fewer but better troops with Chinese characteristics, resolutely safeguarded national sovereignty and social stability and opened a new chapter in building a strong, modern and standardized revolutionary military.

On September 19, 1981, at a military exercise parade in northern China Deng Xiaoping made an important speech in which he pointed out that the PLA was “a pillar of the people’s democratic dictatorship with a glorious mission of defending our socialist country and the Four Modernisations and we must make it strong, modern and standardized”. This explicitly put forward the overall goal of military development. Shown here is the scene of the exercise.

The Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPCCC, held in December 1978, re-established the ideological, political and organisational line of Marxism. It served as a profound and significant transition in the history of the Party since the founding of the PRC and ushered in a new period of reform, opening up and socialist modernisation. Keeping in alignment with the situation, the CMC made a major decision to shift the focus of military work to modernisation, and thus embarked on the modernisation-centred construction of the PLA. The photo shows Deng Xiaoping at the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee.
From May 23 to June 6, 1985, an enlarged meeting of the CMC was held in Beijing to discuss the implementation of Deng Xiaoping's strategic decision of reducing the PLA by one million men. The meeting adopted the Program of Reforming, Streamlining and Reorganizing the Military System. By early 1987, the troop reduction was basically completed. On June 4, 1985, Deng Xiaoping announced that the Chinese government had decided to reduce the PLA by one million men.

On January 27, 1987, the CMC issued the Decision on the Political Work of the Military in the New Period, which was approved by the CPCCC on 15 February and transmitted to the whole Party. This decision set out the basic tasks of the military political work in the new period as "two serves and four guarantees and played an profound guiding role in supporting the modernization and standardization of the revolutionary military and ensuring the fulfillment of its glorious missions of defending and developing the country. The photo shows education of socialist ideals and beliefs in a navy unit.
Bearing in mind the purpose of serving the people wholeheartedly, military officers and men were anxious to help the people in their urgent needs and made outstanding contributions to saving the lives and property of the country and the people to minimize the losses. In May 1987, an extra serious forest fire broke out in Daxinganling in northeast China. Officers and soldiers of the Shenyang Military Region and the PLA Air Force fought together with the people for 28 days and nights to extinguish the fire. The photo shows soldiers of a unit fighting to extinguish the fire.
Section 2 Active Efforts for Revolution in Military Affairs with Chinese Characteristics

Since the Fourth Plenary Session of the 13th CPCCC, Chinese Communists, with comrade Jiang Zemin as one of their chief representatives, united and led the entire Party and the people of all nationalities to successfully push socialism with Chinese characteristics into the 21st century. The CPCCC and CMC enriched and developed the fundamental principles of military building, elevated the absolute leadership of the Party over the military to the level of the "soul of the military", and clearly stated that the absolute leadership of the Party over the military was the everlasting soul of our military. Guided by Jiang Zemin's thinking on strengthening our national defense and armed forces, the people's military connected closely with the two historic objectives of being capable of winning battles and never degenerating, implemented the military strategy in the new period, comprehensively strengthened the building of the military in accordance with the general requirements of "five sentences", and actively promoted revolution in military affairs with Chinese characteristics. The military had been making new strides in its reform.

"The Party's absolute leadership over the military is the eternal soul of our military."

——Jiang Zemin
In November 1989, the Fifth Plenary Session of the 13th CPCCC decided to appoint Jiang Zemin as Chairman of the CMC. In September 1993, when meeting with the above-division level officers of the Guangzhou Military Region, Jiang Zemin pointed out that “the very soul of our military is the Party’s absolute leadership.” Since then, Jiang Zemin had emphasised it repeatedly. The photo shows Jiang Zemin delivering an important speech at the Fifth Plenary Session of the 13th CPCCC.
In January 1993, the CMC convened an enlarged meeting to formulate a strategic military policy for the new period, making it clear that the focus of military preparedness should be winning local wars under the conditions of modern technologies, especially high-tech conditions. The military strategy in the new period captured the main contradictions in the development of armed forces and provided a scientific foundation and direction for the development of national defense and armed forces. The photo shows a lecture on military theories for senior officers held by general headquarters.

In July 1999, a military political work conference was held in Beijing. With a focus on the major questions facing the theoretical and political development of the military under the conditions of reform and opening up and the development of a socialist market economy, it stressed the necessity to ensure the absolute leadership of the Party over the army, the necessity to put theoretical and political buildup at the forefront of all efforts of the military development, and setting out the mission of the theoretical and political construction of the army in the new era. The photo shows Jiang Zemin delivering an important speech at the conference.
In December 1990, Jiang Zemin put forward general requirements for military development in the new period “five sentences” at a military work conference, i.e. all units of the military should be qualified politically, competent militarily, having a fine style of work, strict discipline and adequate logistic support. The photo shows a college carrying out education on the revolutionary outlook of life in accordance with the general requirements of the “five sentences”.

In order to demonstrate its determination to defend national sovereignty, realize the reunification of the motherland, deter separatist forces seeking “Taiwan Independence”, and prepare for the military struggle, the people’s military conducted a series of military exercises in coastal areas of southeast China from July 1995 to March 1996 in accordance with the instructions of the CPCCC and the CMC.
The people's military resolutely implemented the instructions of the CPCCC, the State Council and the CMC, and played an important role in rescue and disaster relief efforts. In the summer of 1998, the Yangtze River, the Nenjiang River and the Songhua River in northeast China were hit by major floods. The PLA and the Armed Police Force deployed more than 300,000 troops, 12,500 vehicles, 1,170 boats and 2,200 aircraft sorties for the disaster relief. The photo shows officers and soldiers fighting against the floods with determination.

On July 1, 1997, the Chinese PLA was ordered to station in Hong Kong. It was an important symbol of the Chinese government’s resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong. At 12:00 PM, December 20, 1999, the Chinese PLA troops were ordered to station in Macao. The photo shows soldiers of the PLA Garrison in Hong Kong on duty.
Section 3 Sound and Rapid Development of National Defense and Armed Forces

Since the 16th National Congress, Chinese Communists, with comrade Hu Jintao as one of their chief representatives, united and led the entire Party and the people of all nationalities to successfully uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics under new conditions. The CPCCC and the CMC clearly stated that the absolute leadership of the Party over the military was an important part of our basic military system and of the socialist political system with Chinese characteristics, and an important political advantage of the Party and the country. The people’s military followed the guidance of Hu Jintao’s thinking on strengthening the national defense and armed forces under new conditions, thoroughly implemented the Scientific Outlook on Development, focused on developing national defense and armed forces, and strived to enhance its ability to accomplish diversified military tasks with the core capability to win local wars under information-based conditions, effectively fulfilling its historic missions in the new stage and in the new century.

“Adhering to the absolute leadership of the Party over the military is essential to the development of our military.”

——Hu Jintao
In September 2004, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 16th CPCCC decided to appoint Hu Jintao as Chairman of the CMC. In December 2009, Hu Jintao made it clear at an enlarged meeting of the CMC that the absolute leadership of the Party over the military was the fundamental principle of our military and its eternal soul. It was an important part of China’s basic military system and the socialist political system with Chinese characteristics; an important political advantage of the Party and the country. The photo shows Hu Jintao delivering an important speech at the Fourth Plenary Session of the 16th CPCCC.
In December 2005, an enlarged meeting of the CMC proposed that the Scientific Outlook on Development was an important guideline for the development of national defense and armed forces. In March 2006, Hu Jintao attended the plenary meeting of the PLA delegation at the Fourth Session of the 10th National People's Congress and stressed that the Scientific Outlook on Development should be implemented in the development of national defense and armed forces. Members of the military at all levels comprehensively grasped the profound connotation and basic requirements of the concept and consciously implemented it into all areas and aspects of development of the military. The photo shows Hu Jintao delivering an important speech at the ceremony in celebration of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the PLA and the conference of heroic and exemplary representatives of the military on August 1, 2007.

In December 2004, Hu Jintao proposed at an enlarged meeting of the CMC the historic missions of the military in the new stage and in the new century, i.e. the military should provide an important guarantee of strength for the Party to consolidate its ruling position; provide strong security guarantees to safeguard the important period of strategic opportunity for national development; provide strong strategic support to safeguard national interests; and play an important role in maintaining world peace and promoting common development. The photo shows a unit of the PLA Army holding a public speaking gathering on the theme of faithfully fulfilling historic missions of the military.
The CMC proposed to make the defense of national unity and territorial integrity the most realistic and urgent strategic task. Winning local wars under the information-based conditions was deemed as a move for military preparedness and a driver for our weaponry and equipment, innovation in military theory, training of military personnel and other fields. The photo shows a unit of the PLA Army conducting a live drill.

Placing theoretical and political buildup at the top of the agenda of the armed forces. It is encouraged to carry forward revolutionary spirit and traditions of the people's military, and develop theoretical and political work under new conditions. The photo shows a unit of the PLA Air Force holding a group study on revolutionary spirit.
On May 12, 2008, a massive earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale struck Wenchuan, Sichuan Province in China. The PLA and the Armed Police Force resolutely implemented the decision and instructions of the CPCCC, the State Council and the CMC with rapid response and disaster relief efforts. 146,000 rescue providers saved 3,338 people. More than 1.47 million were rescued and transferred, and over 84,000 were rescued from debris. Officers and soldiers did not abandon anyone nor give up. Some sacrificed their lives, while some tried so hard to save others. They were the commando and main force among all rescue forces, and significant contributors to the victory of the relief campaign. It added a new chapter of the people’s soldiers serving the people. The photo shows military officers and soldiers successful rescuing a child named Lang Zheng, the “salute boy” at Beichuan Kindergarten.

In December 2008, the Chinese PLA Navy, for the first time, sent an ocean-going Escort Task Group to the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somali. It marks the first employment of the Chinese armed forces safeguarding national strategic interests overseas and the first deployment of the Chinese maritime operational forces for international humanitarian obligations.
Establishing the Party's Goal of Strengthening the Military in the New Era

Following the Party’s 18th National Congress, the CPCCC with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core, united and led the entire Party, the military and people of all nationalities to focus on realising the Two Centenary Goals and the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation. It has upheld and developed socialism with Chinese characteristics, promoted the five-sphere integrated plan and the four-pronged comprehensive strategy. The Party and the country have made historic achievements and changes. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. The Chinese nation has achieved the tremendous transformation from standing up and growing prosperous to becoming strong. The Party has elevated the absolute leadership of the Party over the military to a basic strategy for upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, making it clear that the Party's absolute leadership over the military is an essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics, an important political advantage of the Party and the country, and the foundation of the people's military and the soul of a strong military. The military is following the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, thoroughly implements Xi Jinping Thought on Strengthening the Military, thoroughly delivers on military strategy for the new era. It must be deeply conscious of the need to maintain political integrity, think in big-picture terms, follow the leadership core, and keep in alignment with the central Party leadership; stay confident in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics; uphold the core position of the General Secretary on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole, and uphold the Central Committee’s authority and its centralized, unified leadership; implement the system of responsibility of the Chairman of the Military Commission; and continue to enhance the political loyalty of the armed forces strengthen them through reform and technology, run them in accordance with the law, and focus on the capabilities to fight and win.

“The Party's absolute leadership over the military is an essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics, an important political advantage of the Party and the country, and the foundation of the people's military and the soul of a strong military.”

——Xi Jinping
Section 1  The Party's Goal of Strengthening the Military in the New Era

Following the Party's 18th National Congress, the CPCCC with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core, focused on realising the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, made a series of new major judgments, new theoretical overviews and new strategic arrangements on what kind of and how to build a strong people's military in the new era. It led the entire military in in-depth theoretical exploration and practical efforts and developed Xi Jinping Thought on Strengthening the Military, opening up a new dimension for the development of modern Chinese Marxist-military theory and practice, and serving as a guidance in the building of the Chinese national defense and armed forces from a new historical starting point.
In the new era, in accordance with the requirements of national security and development strategies, the people's military has resolutely fulfilled the role entrusted to it by the Party and the people to provide strategic support for consolidating the leadership of the Party and the socialist system, defending national sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, safeguarding overseas interests of China, and promoting world peace and development. The photo shows Xi Jinping addressing during a fleet review organized by the CMC in the South China Sea, April 12, 2018.

For the Party's goal of strengthening the military in the new era, the 19th National Congress of the CPC made new strategic arrangements to ensure the alignment between the modernization of national defense and the military and that of the country; to ensure military capabilities are in line with national strategic requirements. When drafting the 14th Five-Year Plan and the 2035 Vision at the Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPCCC, it had been made clear that the centenary goal of the military would be achieved in 2027.
From October 30 to November 2, 2014, the first political work conference in the new century was held in Gutian Town, Shanghang County, Fujian Province. Xi Jinping made the decision to hold the meeting and delivered an important speech, from the height of the development of the times and the overall strategic situation, profoundly clarifying a series of major questions of the Party's theoretical and political building, clearly proposing the theme of the times for the political work of the military, establishing the political strategy for building the military in the new era, and was decisive in solving problems at a critical moment to embark on a new journey of theoretical and political building of the military.

Section 2  The Party’s Absolute Leadership over the People's Military to be a Basic Strategy for Upholding and Developing Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era

The 19th National Congress of the CPC elevated the adherence to the Party's absolute leadership over the people's military to one of the basic strategies for upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. The military has resolutely implemented the spirit of the 19th National Congress, comprehensively carried out a series of fundamental principles and systems for the Party to lead the military, strengthened political discipline and rules. It must be deeply conscious of the need to maintain political integrity, think in big-picture terms, follow the leadership core, and keep in alignment with the central Party leadership; stay confident in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics; uphold the core position of the General Secretary on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole, and uphold the Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership; implement the system of responsibility of the Chairman of the Military Commission. Make ensure absolute loyalty, purity and reliability, and that the barrel of the gun will always be under the command of the Party.
The full and thorough implementation of the system of responsibility of the Chairman of the Military Commission bears the fundamental direction of the building of the people’s military, the development of the cause of a strong country and a strong military in the new era, the long-term stability of the Party and the country, as well as the future destiny of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The 19th National Congress of the CPC established “adhering to the Party’s absolute leadership over the people’s military” as an important element of the basic strategy for adhering to and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, and adopted a resolution specifying the status of General Secretary Xi Jinping as the core of the CPC and the core of the entire Party in the Party Constitution. The Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CPCCC, with a view to upholding the supreme leadership and command of the people’s military belongs to the CPC Central Committee, made new arrangements and requirements for implementing the system of responsibility of the Chairman of the CMC, stressing the need to improve the institutional mechanism for implementing the system of responsibility of the Chairman of the Military Commission and to strictly implement the institutional provisions of the system of responsibility of the Chairman of the Military Commission.

From 17 to 19 August 2018, the Party Building Conference of the CMC was held in Beijing. Xi Jinping attended the conference and delivered an important speech, emphasising the need to comprehensively strengthen the Party’s leadership and Party building work of the military in the new era, and to provide strong political assurance to create a new situation for the cause of a strong military. After the meeting, the CMC issued the Decision on Strengthening the Party Building of the Military in the New Era, making strategic arrangements to comprehensively strengthen the Party’s leadership and Party building of the military in the new era. The photo shows a unit of the PLA Rocket Force conducting a Party history and knowledge learning competition.

It is important to research on revolutionary history and traditions. We train the revolutionary officers and soldiers of a new era with faith, ability, courage, and integrity, and see that our forces forever preserve their nature, purpose, and character as the forces of the people. The photo shows that a unit of the PLA Army organizing officers and soldiers to have a discussion on “what a new generation of revolutionary servicemen looks like”.
Section 3 Improving War Preparedness and Combat Capabilities for the New Era

The CPCCC and the CMC have taken stock of the situation and taken the overall picture, leading the entire military to forge ahead and overcome difficulties, strengthening military work in the struggle and developing it through innovation, and making many landmark, groundbreaking and historic achievements. The military has strengthened its combat team mentality, focused on war preparedness and combat capabilities, directed all its efforts towards war preparedness and combat capabilities, and comprehensively improved its ability to war preparedness for the new era.

On 3 January 2018, the CMC organised the first unified mobilisation of the entire army for training, with Xi Jinping issuing a training order to the entire army, calling for the comprehensive strengthening of combat-oriented military training and the comprehensive improvement of win-win capabilities. For four consecutive years, Xi Jinping has issued a training mobilisation order to the entire army on the occasion of the New Year, setting a clear direction to focus on military training. The picture shows Xi Jinping issuing a training mobilization order to the entire army at the 2018 All-Army Training Mobilization Conference.

In March 2014, the whole army started to carry out a large discussion on the standard of combat effectiveness, resolutely breaking down the ideology that is not in line with the standard of combat effectiveness, and deeply looking for solutions to the deep-seated contradictions that affect and limit combat effectiveness, so that the standard of combat effectiveness can be firmly established and carried out. The picture shows a department of the rocket army organizing a big discussion on the "combat power standard."
The chain of command and capabilities building have been strengthened with a spirit of opening mind for innovative practice. Therefore, the TC-level joint warfare command institutions have been established. The photo shows the staff on duty conducting emergency response drills at the Joint Warfare Command Centre of the PLA Northern Theater Command in accordance with the command process.

Combat readiness has been improved with strict systems to ensure all-time preparedness. In 2018, the CMC launched surprise combat readiness inspections and a whole-unit pull-out, covering 31 provinces, autonomous regions and cities and parts of the East China Sea and South China Sea. The photo shows naval ships of the PLA Navy conducting combat readiness patrols.

Strict, challenging and reality-based training has been conducted in the military for troops to sharpen their willpower, forge their fighting spirit, courage and tenacity to fight and win. The photo shows a unit of the People's Armed Police conducting the Devil's Week extreme training.
Section 4  Deepening Defense and Military Reform

The CPCCC and the CMC have included the deepening of national defense and military reform in the overall deepening of reform, as a key move to strengthen the army and raise it, and have made efforts to solve the institutional obstacles, structural contradictions and policy problems that restrict national defense and military construction, so as to create a strong momentum to promote reform and strengthen the army, modernise the organisation of the army, improve and develop the socialist military system with Chinese characteristics, and accelerate the construction of a modern military force system with Chinese characteristics. The reshaping and restructuring of the People's Army has resulted in a new system, a new structure, a new pattern and a new look, adding a powerful impetus to the cause of strengthening the army in the new era and laying a profound foundation for the modernisation of national defense and the army.

Since the 19th National Congress of the CPC, Xi Jinping has taken the lead in the three major battles in deepening the reform of national defense and armed forces, namely in reforming the leadership and chain of command, size, structure and organization, and the military policy system in a successive and back-to-back way, taking solid steps on the path to a strong military with Chinese characteristics. The photo shows Xi Jinping attending the CMC reform work conference and delivering an important speech on November 25, 2015.
The long-established systems of general departments, military area commands (MAC) and the force composition with a dominating land force have been dismantled. The multi-department system of the military commission organs has been implemented, the theaters have been redrawn, the leadership and management system of services and arms has been improved. It has established the operational command system of "CMC-TCs-troops" and the leadership and management system of "CMC-Services-troops". It has established a new structure with the CMC exercising overall leadership, the theater commands responsible for military operations, and the services focusing on developing their capabilities.

Reorganizing the troops and rebuilding new-type combat forces. Reform measures have been taken to reinforce the combat capacity of the arms, reduce the command hierarchies and combine the troops at lower levels to make the force composition complete, combined, multi-functional and flexible. The photo shows the newly restructured PLAN Marine Corps conducting beach landing training.
As of March 2021, the reform of the military policy system has achieved important milestones, with the National Defense Law of the People’s Republic of China, the CPC Regulations on the Party Building in the Military, the People’s Armed Police Law of the People’s Republic of China, the Coast Guard Law of the People’s Republic of China, the Provisional Regulations on the Administration of Officers in Active Service and related supporting regulations having been issued, and the main policies in the areas of joint warfare, military training, political work and logistics, and equipment having been introduced and implemented one after another, gradually building up a basic framework of a socialist military policy system with Chinese characteristics. The basic framework of the socialist military policy system has been gradually built up.
Section 5 Promoting Quality Military Development

The CPCCC and the CMC are focusing on improving the quality and efficiency of national defense and military modernisation, insisting on warfare-led building and development, strengthening the integration of warfare and building, vigorously promoting scientific and technological innovation and progress, making every effort to promote the modern drive of military personnel, striving to build a modern logistics system, speeding up the construction of a weaponry and equipment system that meets the requirements of information-based warfare and missions, transforming the way the military is governed in accordance with law, and continuously promoting quality development of the military.

Science and technology constitute the core combat capability, we must make great efforts to promote science and technology for a strong military, put S & T innovation in the defense sector in a more prominent position. The photo shows the Tianhe II supercomputer.

Greater importance should be attached to the development of a new type of military education, the improvement of a new ‘three-in-one’ military personnel training system, the innovation of military human resources management, the cultivation of a new type of high-caliber military personnel and professionalism, and the recruitment of talented people from all walks of life to join the cause of building a strong military. The photo shows the scene of an oral examination at the training session for the heads of military educational institutions.

Focusing on victory, efforts have been made to accelerate the transformation and reshaping, and strive to build a powerful modern logistics. It build a joint, lean and efficient logistics force system with strategic battle force as the mainstay, team logistics force as a supplement and social security as the backbone. The photo shows a heavy equipment transport detachment carrying out a strategic delivery mission.
To realize the dream of a strong military, measures have been taken for adhering to information-led, system-building, independent innovation and sustainable development, and by taking a balanced approach and highlighting priorities to speed up the construction of an equipment system that meets the requirements of the mission, promoting the systematic, informational, autonomous and combat-oriented development of weapons and equipment. The photo shows officers and soldiers of a unit of the PLA Army on new all-terrain vehicles for a mountain assault exercise.

Military training monitoring activities have been carried out to thoroughly improve the style of training and performance and examination, gradually forming a good situation of monitoring to promote training, monitoring to promote construction and monitoring to promote combat. The photo shows a unit of the PLA Army using drones to monitor the dynamics of the military training in a full time and strict manner.
Section 6 Faithfully Fulfilling Missions of the Military in a New Era

The needs of the Party and the people are the mission and tasks of the military. The People's military has always obeyed and served the Party's historical mission, heeded to the needs of national security strategy in the new era, resolutely safeguard the leadership of the CPC and China's socialist system, resolutely safeguarded state sovereignty, security and development interests, resolutely safeguarded regional and world peace, and provided strategic support for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

On the morning of July 30, 2017, a military parade to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army was held at the Zhu Rihe Training Base. The Photo shows Xi Jinping reviewing troops on a vehicle.

The People's Military is a steel Great Wall of the motherland and a staunch force for safeguarding peace. All the officers and men of the military listen to the command of the Party, resolutely safeguard territorial sovereignty, maritime rights and interests and national unity, resolutely maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas, and effectively curb all kinds of attempts and acts that infringe on the security of our territory. The picture shows officers and soldiers of the “East Pole Post” patrolling the border on motorbike sleds.
After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CPCCC, with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, united and led the entire Party, military and people of all ethnic groups to swiftly launch an all-out people's war against the pandemic, achieving major strategic outcomes in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and creating another heroic feat in the history of mankind's fight against diseases. Upon the order of the Commander in Chief, the people's military immediately took actions and rushed to Wuhan to provide assistance, with over 4000 medical personnel dispatched by February 17, 2020. On March 16, 2020, the COVID-19 vaccine, developed by the team of Chen Wei, a military scientist of the Institute of Military Medicine under the Academy of Military Sciences, was approved for clinical trials, providing strong scientific and technological support for the prevention and control of the pandemic. The picture shows Chen Wei (right) examining the serum separation in the laboratory of the negative pressure tent.

On 23 November 2013, the Chinese government announced the establishment of an Air Defense Identification Zone in the East China Sea and the Chinese Air Force conducted its first air patrol. This is a necessary measure for China to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial airspace security, and is conducive to maintaining flight safety in international airspace, with is in line with international law and practice.
China has faithfully fulfilled its international obligations, carried out escort operations in the Gulf of Aden and other waters, strengthened exchanges and cooperation with the escort forces of many countries, and jointly maintained the safety of international sea lanes. As of May 2021, China has organised 38 naval convoys to escort ships in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia. The picture shows the 19th PLA Navy Escort Group ordered to evacuating Chinese nationals in Yemen.

The “Peace Ark” hospital ship has gone abroad 9 times, sailed more than 240,000 nautical miles, and provided medical service in 43 countries and regions and for more than 230,000 people, making important contributions to the overall political and diplomatic efforts of the country. The picture shows Damian Maing, a boy from Papua New Guinea, expressing his gratitude with a kiss to the medical staff of the “Peace Ark” hospital ship on July 16, 2018.
Conclusion

Today, a hundred years on from its founding, the Communist Party of China is still in its prime, and remains as determined as ever to achieve lasting greatness for the Chinese nation.

The epoch–making changes brought about by the founding of the CPC, the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the reform and opening up, and the historic achievements and changes in the Party and the state since the 18th Party Congress are fundamentally attributed to the fact that the CPC has always been committed to its original aspiration and mission of seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation.

The Party must command the gun is an irrefutable truth that our Party has learned during the violent struggle, and is the fundamental guarantee for maintaining the nature and purpose of the people's military. The Communist Party of China and its strong leadership provide guidance and strength for the people's military to march forward.

Standing at a new historical starting point, the People's military has sounded the clarion call for building a strong military in the new era and started its new journey. On the way forward, the People's military will firmly follow the absolute leadership of the Party, treating this as the soul and lifeblood of the military that can never be changed or discarded, and listen to the Party and firmly follow the Party’s leadership under all circumstances. We will continue our endeavors to achieve the Party’s goal of strengthening the military in the new era and building it into a world–class military, build a modern socialist country in all respects, secure the success of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era, and fulfill the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation!