



National Defense University Symposium



China’s Naval Modernization: Cause for Storm Warnings?

June 16, 2010
National Defense University
Fort Lesley J. McNair

The rapid and continuing growth in economic and political power of modern China has been fueled primarily by its willingness and success at engaging the world as a manufacturing center. This overseas trade has exposed the nation to maritime opportunities and challenges that, while not unique, exist on a scale that places them in a special category. Defending China’s sea frontiers and protecting the maritime lifelines supporting China’s economic engine rests on the People’s Liberation Army – Navy (PLAN) which for decades has been considered the least important of China’s military branches. There are indications this is changing, but questions remain on the objectives of Chinese naval modernization, the underlying maritime strategy, and the consequence for other nations, especially the U.S.

This symposium seeks to illuminate and promote informed discussion on the issues of Chinese naval modernization, first discussed by this group at a joint international conference on PLA affairs in 2007. Featured speakers include government officials and a wide range of China and defense experts. This symposium will be of interest to specialists in national security affairs in and out of government, military officers, the diplomatic and attaché corps, and members of the media.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

- 0745 – 0815 Registration** Roosevelt Hall, Rotunda
- 0815 – 0825 Administrative Remarks** Roosevelt Hall, Arnold Auditorium
- 0825 – 0905 Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Vice Admiral Douglas Crowder, USN (Ret), President, Crowder Strategies and Solutions, LLC

0915-1045 Panel 1: Chinese Naval Modernization: Scope and Content

- Informatization of the Chinese Naval Force
- PLA Navy expanding capabilities
- Recent trends and developments in maritime modernization
- Personnel and manpower changes and challenges

Moderator: **Captain Mark Redden, USN, Senior Military Fellow, Institute for National Strategic Studies**

Panelists:

- **Mr. Ronald O’Rourke, Congressional Research Service**
- **Dr. Andrew Erickson, China Maritime Studies Institute, Naval War College**
- **Dr. Michael Chase, Associate Professor, Naval War College**

1100-1230 Panel 2: PLAN Modernization and Operations

- The PLA Navy role in out of area operations
- Modernization and the impact on operations
- The PLAN and the Taiwan contingency

Moderator: **Rear Admiral Eric McVadon, USN (Ret)**, *Senior Advisor, Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis*

Panelists:

- **Dr. Christopher Yung**, *Senior Research Fellow, Institute for National Strategic Studies*
- **Dr. Nan Li**, *Associate Professor, Strategic Research Department and member the China Maritime Studies Institute, U.S. Naval War College*
- **Dr. Thomas Bickford**, *Research Analyst, China Studies, The CNA Corporation*

1230-1345 Luncheon

Roosevelt Hall Rotunda & West Wing

Speaker: Mr. Derek J. Mitchell, *Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian & Pacific Security Affairs*

1400-1530 Panel 3: China's Maritime Strategies, Interests, & Implications for Naval Modernization

- China's maritime strategy, security, and the role of the PLAN
- Perspectives of China's maritime strategy – military and civilian
- Anti-access campaign strategy and the Taiwan Straits

Moderator: **Dr. Lyle Goldstein**, *Director, China Maritime Studies Institute, Naval War College*

Panelists:

- **Rear Admiral Michael McDevitt, USN (Ret)**, *Vice President, The CNA Corporation*
- **Dr. Bernard Cole**, *Professor, National War College, National Defense University*

1545-1715 Panel 4: Future Directions of Chinese Maritime Power

- Implications of and future trends in PLA Navy modernization
- Chinese Naval interests
- Chinese Naval nationalism

Moderator: **Ms. Kristen Gunness**, *Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (invited)*

Panelists:

- **Dr. Robert Ross**, *Professor of Political Science, Boston College*
- **Dr. Phillip Saunders**, *Interim Director of Research, Institute for National Strategic Studies*
- **Mr. Michael Glosny**, *China Security Fellow, Institute for National Strategic Studies*