

The People's Liberation Army (PLA)



PLA is the unified military organization of all land, sea, strategic missile and air forces of the People's Republic of China. The PLA was established on August 1, 1927 — celebrated annually as “PLA Day” — as the military arm of the Communist Party of China (CCP). The People's Liberation Army's insignia consists of a roundel with a red star bearing the Chinese characters for “Eight One” referring to August 1, the date of the 1927 Nanchang Uprising. The PLA is the world's largest military force, with approximately 3 million members and has the world's largest (active) standing army, with approximately 2.25 million members. The PLA comprises five main service branches consisting of the PLA Ground Force, PLA Navy (PLAN), PLA Air Force (PLAAF), Second Artillery Corps (strategic nuclear or missile force), and the PLA Reserve Force.

The PLA is formally under the command of the Central Military Commission of the CCP. The Ministry of National Defense, which operates under the State Council, does not exercise any authority over the PLA and is far less powerful than the Central Military Commission (CMC). The ministry assures continuing CCP control over the armed forces, and its primary role is that of a liaison office with foreign militaries. Troops around the country are stationed in seven military regions and more than 20 military districts.

Chairman Hu Jintao has defined the missions of the PLA as:-

- Consolidate the ruling status of the Communist Party
- Help ensure China's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and domestic security in order to continue national development.
- Safeguard China's expanding national interests
- Help maintain world peace

The PLA General Headquarters are composed of the following departments:

- General Staff Department (GSD)
- General Political Department (GPD)
- General Logistics Department (GLD)
- General Armaments Department (GAD) (sometimes translated as General Equipment Department).

The People's Liberation Army uses a system of military regions. The military regions (MR) are divided into military districts, usually contiguous with provinces, and military sub-districts. MR handle day-to-day peacetime management of the PLA. In time of war, a WarZone Operational Command is setup to take control of all aspects of the military operation in that area. Each MR is commanded by a Lieutenant General, though some are commanded by full Generals. MR commanders (Siling Yuan) are assisted by several deputy commanders (Fu Siling Yuan), including the regional air force commander and naval commander, if naval forces are present within the MR; a political commissar (Zhengzhi Weiyuan or Zhengwei); and a number of deputy political commissars (Fu Zhengwei).

The MR are:

- Shenyang Military Region
- Beijing Military Region
- Lanzhou Military Region
- Jinan Military Region
- Nanjing Military Region
- Guangzhou Military Region
- Chengdu Military Region

PLA Order of Battle

Beijing Military Region

27th Group Army	38th Group Army	65th Group Army
80th Infantry Brigade 82nd Infantry Brigade 188th Mechanised Brigade 235th Mechanised Brigade Armoured Brigade Artillery Brigade AAA Brigade Engineer Regiment Signal Regiment	112th Mechanised Division 113th Mechanised Division 6th Armoured Division Artillery Brigade Air Defence Brigade 8th Helicopter Regiment Special Operations Group 4th Engineer Regiment Chemical Defence Regiment Signal Regiment Electronic Warfare Regiment	80th Infantry Brigade 82nd Infantry Brigade 188th Infantry Brigade 235th Infantry Brigade Armoured Brigade Artillery Brigade AAA Brigade Engineer Regiment Signal Regiment

Shenyang Military Region

16th Group Army	39th Group Army	40th Group Army
46th Infantry Division 69th Infantry Division 4th Armoured Division 48th Infantry Brigade 68th Infantry Brigade Artillery Brigade AAA Brigade Signal Regiment Engineer Regiment	115th Infantry Division 116th Mechanised Division 3rd Armoured Division 190th Mechanised Brigade Artillery Brigade Air Defence Brigade 9th Helicopter Regiment Special Operations Group Engineer Regiment Chemical Defence Regiment Signal Regiment Electronic Warfare Regiment	118th Infantry Brigade 119th Infantry Brigade 191st Infantry Brigade Armoured Brigade Artillery Brigade AAA Brigade Engineer Regiment Signal Regiment

Lanzhou Military Region

21st Group Army	47th Group Army	Xinjiang Military District
61st Infantry Division 12th Armoured Division 19th Artillery Brigade AAA Brigade Special Operations Group Signal Regiment Electronic Warfare Regiment Engineer Regiment Chemical Defence Regiment Pontoon Bridge Regiment	55th Infantry Brigade 56th Infantry Brigade 139th Mechanised Brigade Armoured Brigade Artillery Brigade AAA Brigade Signal Regiment Engineer Regiment	4th Infantry Division 6th Infantry Division 8th Infantry Division 11th Infantry Division 1st Independent Regiment 2nd Independent Regiment 2nd Artillery Brigade AAA Brigade 3rd Helicopter Regiment 9th Engineer Regiment Nanjiang Military District

Jinan Military Region

20th Group Army	26th Group Army	54th Group Army
58th Mechanised Brigade 60th Infantry Brigade Armoured Brigade Artillery Brigade AAA Brigade Engineer Regiment Signal Regiment 91st Pontoon Bridge Regiment	8th Armoured Division 77th Infantry Brigade 138th Infantry Brigade 199th Infantry Brigade 8th Artillery Brigade Air Defence Brigade 7th Helicopter Regiment Signal Regiment Electronic Warfare Regiment Special Operations Group Chemical Defence Regiment	127th Mechanised Division 162nd Infantry Division 11th Armoured Division Artillery Brigade Air Defence Brigade 1st Helicopter Regiment Signal Regiment

SCHOLAR WARRIOR

Nanjing Military Region		
1st Group Army	12th Group Army	31st Group Army
1st Mechanised Division 10th Armoured Division 3rd Infantry Brigade Artillery Brigade Air Defence Brigade Signal Regiment Engineer Regiment Chemical Defence Regiment	2nd Armoured Division 34th Infantry Brigade 36th Infantry Brigade 179th Infantry Brigade Artillery Brigade AAA Brigade Engineer Regiment Chemical Defence Regiment Pontoon Bridge Regiment	86th Infantry Division 91st Infantry Division 92nd Infantry Brigade Armoured Brigade Artillery Brigade Air Defence Brigade Signal Regiment Pontoon Bridge Regiment
Guangzhou Military Region		
41st Group Army	42nd Group Army	
121st Infantry Division 123rd Mechanised Division Armoured Brigade Artillery Brigade Air Defence Brigade Signal Regiment Engineer Regiment Pontoon Bridge Regiment	124th Mechanised Division 163rd Infantry Division 9th Armoured Brigade 1st Artillery Division Air Defence Brigade 6th Helicopter Regiment Special Operations Group Signal Regiment Electronic Warfare Regiment Engineer Regiment Chemical Defence Regiment	
Chengdu Military Region		
13th Group Army	14th Group Army	Tibet Military District
37th Infantry Division 149th Infantry Division Armoured Brigade Artillery Brigade Air Defence Brigade 2nd Helicopter Regiment Special Operations Group Engineer Regiment Signal Regiment Electronic Warfare Regiment	31st Infantry Division 40th Infantry Division Armoured Brigade Artillery Brigade Air Defence Brigade Signal Regiment Engineer Regiment Chemical Defence Regiment Pontoon Bridge Regiment	52nd Infantry Brigade 53rd Infantry Brigade 54th Infantry Regiment Signals Regiment Shannan Military Sub-District Xigaze Military Sub-District Nyingchi Military Sub District