

Current Overview of the PLA Air Force's Organizational Structure

Kenneth W. Allen

This report provides an overview of the People's Republic of China's (PRC/中华人民共和国) People's Liberation Army (PLA/人民解放军) Air Force's (PLAAF/人民解放军空军) organizational structure reforms from 2016 through 2022. The report is based on the following key sources:¹

1. *Air Force News (AFN)*² 2016-2022
2. *Ongoing Organizational Reforms of the People's Liberation Army Air Force*³
3. *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*⁴

The author would like to thank Exovera for access to their extensive collection of the *AFN* newspapers, among others in their data holdings. Additionally, the assistance of Cayleigh Jackson from Exovera is also appreciated. She helped write the Air Station, Maintenance Group, and Billet appendices.

The report is organized into the following 14 sections. It also has 17 appendices, including sources, acronyms, key terms, and details about the organizational structure for each level. The report also briefly discusses personnel issues.⁵

1. Brief Overview of the Reforms Starting in 2016
2. PLAAF Force Size
3. PLA Officer Grade and Rank Structure
4. PLA Enlisted Force Grade and Rank Structure
5. PLAAF Leaders Outside PLAAF Headquarters
6. PLAAF Party Congress and Party Standing Committee Structure
7. Political Work System
8. PLAAF Headquarters Organizational Structure
9. From 7 Military Region Air Forces to 5 Theater Command Air Forces
10. The Shift from Air Corps to Bases and Command Posts
11. PLAAF Branches and Specialty Units^a
12. PLAAF Academic Institutions
13. PLAAF Research Academy
14. Conclusions

Section 1: Brief Overview of the Reforms Starting in 2016

In 2016, the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP/中国共产党) Central Military Commission (CMC/中央军事委员会/中央军委) implemented major reforms to the People's Liberation Army (PLA/人民解放军), including: 1) replacing the Four General Departments, including the General Staff Department (GSD/总参谋部), General Political Department (GPD/总政治部), General Logistics Department (GLD/总后勤部), and General Armament Department (GAD/总装备部), which served first as the PLA Army (PLAA/人民解放军陆军) Headquarters (HQ) and second as the joint HQ, with 15 organizations, including the Joint Staff Department (JSD/联合参谋部) and Political Work Department (PWD/政治工作部), and made it the joint HQ; 2) creating an Army

^a The branches are listed in the following protocol order: Aviation, Airborne, Ground-to-Air Missile, Radar, ECM, and Communications.

HQ; 3) reducing the size of the PLA Navy (PLAN/中国人民解放军海军) and PLA Air Force (PLAAF/中国人民解放军空军) HQ by one half; 4) upgrading the Second Artillery Force (PLASAF/中国人民解放军第二炮兵) to a full service as the PLA Rocket Force (PLARF/中国人民解放军火箭军); creating the Strategic Support Force (PLASSF/中国人民解放军战略支援部队), which is a force, not a service; creating the Joint Logistics Support Force (JLSD/联合保障部队)⁶; reducing the seven Military Regions (MR/军区), which serve as regional Army HQ, to five and renaming them as Theater Commands (TC/战区) and making them truly joint organizations; reducing the number of MR Air Forces (MRAF/军区空军) from seven to five TC Air Forces (TCAF/战区空军); and reducing the size of the PLA from 2.3 million to 2.0 million, of which one-half of the force reduction included officers and one-half enlisted personnel; and downgrading the National Defense University (NDU/国防大学) and Academy of Military Science (AMS/军事科学院) from MR/TC leader-grade to MR/TC deputy leader-grade organizations.

Three years before the 17th Party Congress in 2007, the CMC added the commanders of the Navy, Air Force, and Second Artillery Force as CMC Members for a total of eight Members, including the Minister of Defense and the Directors of the Four General Departments. During the 19th Party Congress in 2017, however, the Directors of the Logistic Support Department (LSD/后勤保障部) and Equipment Development Department (EDD/装备发展部) and the Commanders of the Navy, Air Force, and Rocket Force were omitted, leaving only four Members, including the Minister of Defense, the Chief of the JSD, the Director of the PWD, and the newly added Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission (DIC/纪律检查委员会/纪委). The Chairman and two Vice Chairmen positions remained constant, rounding out the current full CMC at seven persons.

Since the force reduction began in early 2016, the PLAAF has undergone reforms at all levels. In February 2016, the PLAAF implemented ‘above-the-neck’^a reforms at PLAAF Headquarters (HQ) and reduced the number of its operational-level Military Region Air Force (MRAF) HQ from seven to five, renaming them Theater Command Air Forces (TCAF). The size of PLAAF HQ and each TCAF HQ was reduced by one-half.

As part of the initial phase of the reforms, the PLAAF HQ lost most of its operational command and became responsible for “force building” functions (such as organizing, manning, and equipping units) whereas the theater command HQ (TCAFs) were tasked with combat operations planning and command functions.

Changes in 2017 focused on ‘below-the-neck’^b reforms, creating a ‘base-brigade’ structure by reforming several command posts into bases; abolishing fighter, fighter-bomber, and ground attack aircraft air divisions and replacing the air regiments with brigades; and changing the name of its former 15th Airborne Corps to Airborne Corps. It retained nine air divisions (bomber, special mission, and transport).

In 2017, the PLAAF also reduced the number of its officer and non-commissioned officer (NCO/士官/军士) academic institutions as well as completely restructured the basic training structure for its new enlisted members, which now includes multiple new-soldier training brigades under a two-cycle structure per year. As discussed later, in 2015, the PLAAF began creating a Master

^a Above the corps level (脖子以上).

^b Corps and below (脖子以下).

Chief (士官长) system for NCOs at the company to brigade levels. In addition, it also renamed its former Air Force Equipment Research Academy as the Air Force Research Academy.

Since 2016, several PLAAF officers have filled various key joint leadership billets in the CMC and TC HQs.

Section 2: PLAAF Force Size⁷

By law, the Chinese Armed Forces (武装力量) are composed of the following three components: 1) the PLA, which currently consists of two million personnel and is composed of active-duty officers, civilian cadres, non-commissioned officers (NCOs), and two-year conscripts,^a 2) the People's Armed Police Force (PAP/PAPF), and 3) the People's Militia.⁸

Since 1949, the PLA has had 11 force reductions, of which only seven included changes to the PLAAF.^{b,9} Early programs were aimed primarily at cutting the size of HQ staff from 15 to 20 percent. In December 1975, the PLAAF reduced its entire force by 100,000 people, and in August 1985, it further downsized 20 percent by eliminating some organizations, reforming the unit organization structure, and eliminating old equipment. In October 1992, it carried out yet another 20-percent reduction. According to the IISS's annual *Military Balance*, the PLAAF had 330,000 personnel in 2010 and 2011.¹⁰ According to *The Diversified Employment of China's Armed Forces* (2013), the PLAAF in 2012 consisted of 398,000 personnel.¹¹

On 3 September 2015, Xi Jinping announced that the Chinese military would implement a 300,000-man force reduction, of which one half were officers. As the 11th force reduction and reorganization of the PLA since 1952,¹² the focus in 2016 was on "above-the-neck" organizations, whereas 2017 focused on "below-the-neck" organizations. Based on available information, it appears that, even though the number of personnel at PLAAF HQ and TCAF HQ levels has been reduced, the overall number of PLAAF personnel has actually increased since 2012. Five years later in August 2017, that figure had reportedly risen to 420,000¹³; however, no specific details were reported and IISS retained the number of 398,000 until 2020, when it reduced that number to 395,000 for the end of 2019 and remains the same in 2023.^{c,14}

Although the PLA has not provided a breakdown, Clay and Blasko estimate that officers and civilian cadres now number approximately 450,000 personnel (23%), NCOs 850,000 (42%), and two-year conscripts approximately 700,000 (35%), which has been reduced from 800,000. Although the PLA has about 700,000 conscripts, they are not evenly divided among the services, forces, and branches. Although the percentage of NCOs and conscripts within the PLA's overall enlisted force are about equal (50-50), the *Air Force Enlisted Force Handbook* states that about 60% of the PLAAF's enlisted force are NCOs.¹⁵ The primary reason for this discrepancy is that the PLAAF has a higher percentage of billets that require enlisted personnel with technical skills than does the ground forces. However, not all PLAAF branches have the same ratio of conscripts and NCOs. For example, the airborne corps appears to have a higher percentage of conscripts to

^a The PLA calls all new two-year enlisted personnel "conscripts" (义务兵), even though the percentage of personnel who voluntarily join has risen to about 70 percent.

^b The overall PLA force reductions occurred in 1950, 1952, 1953, 1957, 1975, 1980, 1982, 1985, 1997, 2004, and 2016. Of these, the PLAAF implemented force reductions in only seven of them (1960, 1970, 1975, 1985, 1992, 2004, and 2016).

^c The numbers for 2010 to 2023 reported in the annual IISS *Military Balance* report are: 2010-2011 (330,000), 2012-2018 (398,000), and 2019-2023 (395,000).

NCOs than does the aviation branch, where NCOs have been replacing junior officers in several technical billets, including aircraft maintenance.

Based on analysis of the available data, it appears that the PLAAF force size of 395,000 personnel is broken down into the following components:

- Officers and civilian cadres (23% = 90,850); however, the civilian cadre system is apparently disappearing and being replaced by non-active-duty civilian personnel
- Enlisted force (77% = 304,150)
 - NCOs (60% of enlisted force = 182,000)
 - Conscripts/recruits (40% of enlisted force = 121,650), which has been divided into a two-cycle per year system starting in 2021, so each cycle includes about 61,000 personnel.

Of note, all two-year conscripts who have completed their two years of service are either demobilized and sent home on the same day, are promoted as an NCO, or attend an officer military academy. Meanwhile, all new conscripts are assigned to a training base and/or brigade for 3-4 months of basic training before they are assigned to their operational unit. As such, the PLAAF is short about 61,000 personnel twice a year from mid-March through June and from mid-August through November. In addition, all NCOs who are not promoted to their next grade and have not reached retirement eligibility (serving a full 30 years or to age 55) are demobilized on the same day the conscripts are demobilized, creating an even greater loss of experience during those periods.

Section 3: PLA Officer Grade and Rank Structure

The PLA’s current officer corps structure is based on a combination of 10 ranks and 15 grades, but, unlike the US military, every organization, not just officers, is assigned one of the grades.¹⁶ The current officer 10 rank and 15 grade system shown in Table 1 below was implemented in 1988.

Under the current system since 1988, every PLA organization and officer is assigned a grade from platoon level to CMC to designate their position in the military hierarchy. As part of the PLA’s 11th force reduction, the Military Region (MR) leader and MR deputy leader grades were renamed Theater Command (TC) leader and deputy leader grades, respectively. As a general rule, rank and grade promotions rarely occur at the same time, so each grade up to CMC Vice Chairman has a primary and secondary rank and some ranks, such as major general (MG) can be assigned to four different grades. The PLA is currently trying to shift to a rank-centric system, where rank and grade promotions occur simultaneously, but it is a very slow process. Of note, the PLA does not have any 4-star flag officer ranks. In addition, unlike the US military, the PLA does not assign an alpha-numeric Military Operational Specialty (MOS) or Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSC) to its officers or enlisted personnel.

Table 1: PLA’s 15-grade and 10-rank Structure, 1988-Present

Grade	Primary Rank
CMC Chairman (军委主席)	N/A
Vice Chairmen (军委副主席)	GEN (上将)
CMC Member (军委委员)	GEN(上将)
TC Leader (正战区职) Former MR Leader (正大军区职)	GEN (上将)
TC Deputy Leader (副战区职) Former MR Deputy Leader (副大军区职)	LTG (中将)

Corps Leader (正军职)	MG (少将)
Corps Deputy Leader (副军职)	MG (少将)
Division Leader (正师职)	SCOL (大校)
Division Deputy Leader (副师职) / (Brigade Leader)	COL (上校)
Regiment Leader (正团职) / (Brigade Deputy Leader)	COL (上校)
Regiment Deputy Leader (副团职)	LTC (中校)
Battalion Leader (正营职)	MAJ (少校)
Battalion Deputy Leader (副营职)	CPT (上尉)
Company Leader (正连职)	CPT (上尉)
Company Deputy Leader (副连职)	1LT (中尉)
Platoon (排职)	2LT (少尉)

See Appendix K for a list of the ranks and their full name.

As noted above, every organization is also assigned a grade. Table 2 below shows the grade structure and which PLAAF organizations are associated with each grade. As a general rule, a headquarters can only command another headquarters that has a lower grade and can only coordinate with another headquarters that has the same grade.

Table 2: PLAAF Organizations and Associated Grades¹⁷

Grade	PLAAF Organizations
TC leader	PLAAF HQ
TC deputy leader	TCAF HQ
Corps leader	Airborne Corps; Air Force Research Academy; some PLAAF academic institutions
Corps deputy leader	Bases; some PLAAF academic institutions
Division leader	Aviation and surface-to-air missile (SAM) divisions; pilot transition training Bases; Command Posts; some PLAAF academic institutions and research institutes
Division deputy leader (Brigade leader)	Aviation, SAM, airborne, radar, and communications brigades
Regiment leader (Brigade deputy leader)	Aviation, SAM, radar, and communications regiments; airfield stations; composite depots; training groups
Battalion leader	Flight and maintenance groups; SAM, airborne, radar, and communications battalions; some depots; elements
Company leader	Flight and maintenance squadrons; SAM, airborne, radar, and communications companies; radar and communications stations; elements

How To Identify Personnel

As a general rule, officers are rarely identified by their rank in any media articles nor do they address each other by their rank. Normally, they are identified by their billet and name, such as Commander CHANG Dingqiu (空军司令员常丁求), Political Commissar (PC/政治委员/政委) GUO Puxiao (空军政委郭普校), and technician MENG Shuangyue (技师孟双月). However,

almost all enlisted personnel are identified by their rank and/or their billet. For example, remote control technician, Master Sergeant Class 4 ZHANG Lianjun (遥控技师、四级军士长张连军).

Section 4: PLA Enlisted Force Grade and Rank Structure

In 1999, the PLA created a 30-year enlisted force program that included two-years of conscription followed by 28 years of voluntary service as a non-commissioned officer (NCO/士官). The program has changed a few times. For example, Table 3 below shows the grade levels, service periods, and ranks implemented in 2009.¹⁸ Unlike the officer corps, which has 15 grades and 10 ranks, the enlisted force has only three NCO grade levels and a total of eight NCO ranks as shown in the Table 3 below. In 2022, the PLA made further adjustments to the NCO rank structure by changing the name for two ranks as shown in yellow in Table 3 below. In addition, in 2022, the PLA began using *junshi* (军士), a more traditional Chinese term for NCO, rather than *shiguan* (士官), but it is still translated as NCO.

Table 3: New Conscript and NCO Rank Structure as of 2009 and 2022¹⁹

Grade Level	Service Period	Rank (2009)	Rank (2022)	Time in Rank
Conscript (义务兵)	1st year	Private 2nd Class (列兵)	Private 2nd Class (列兵)	About 9 months
	2nd year	Private 1st Class (上等兵)	Private 1st Class (上等兵)	1 year
Junior Grade NCO (初级士官) (6 years)	3rd to 8th years	Corporal (下士)	Corporal (下士)	3 Years
		Sergeant (中士)	Sergeant (中士)	3 Years
Intermediate Grade NCO (中级士官) (8 years)	9th to 16th years	Sergeant First Class (上士)	Sergeant Second Class (二级上士)	4 Years
		Master Sergeant Class-4 (四级军士长)	Sergeant First Class (一级上士)	4 Years
Senior Grade NCO (高级士官) (14 years)	17th to 30th years	Master Sergeant Class-3 (三级军士长)	Master Sergeant Class-3 (三级军士长)	4 Years
		Master Sergeant Class-2 (二级军士长)	Master Sergeant Class-2 (二级军士长)	4 Years
		Master Sergeant Class-1 (一级军士长)	Master Sergeant Class-1 (一级军士长)	6 Years

PLA “Master Chief “System

This subsection addresses the PLA’s “master chief system” (士官长制度), which officially began as a pilot program in late 2014.²⁰ Of note, the PLA has different English translations for the term *shiguanzhang* (士官长), including master chief, master sergeant, master-sergeant-in-chief, chief non-commissioned officer, and Chief NCO. For purposes of this report, master chief is used.

In 2015, the basic job of a master chief was identified as assisting officers, acting as a spokesman for enlisted soldiers, serving as a chief trainer during basic training, and being an administrator for the grassroots (e.g., battalion and below) troops. They will focus on front-line combat rather than their previous job of managing technical issues. As such, they will now allow officers to be relieved of trivial management issues so that they can focus more on improving their command, skills, and abilities. As a result, officers in one brigade had 34 percent more time to devote to unit training.²¹

By the end of 2014, a total of 36 outstanding NCOs in a pilot Army infantry brigade were appointed as battalion master chiefs, marking the official appointment of the first group of master chiefs in the PLA. Once the program moved through the test phase and was approved, the PLA began

training and assigning master chiefs at the company, battalion, regiment, and brigade levels in each of the services. For example, one brigade in the 42nd Group Army chose 13 out of about 1,000 NCOs as master chiefs. The assessment for their selection covers military theory, basic skills, and physical ability, etc. Master chiefs at the brigade level are selected from NCOs who have already served as squad leaders for at least four years, have at least a post-secondary educational program/diploma, and are Communist Party members.

In April 2015, the PLAAF began training its first group of master chiefs that included 262 personnel from 15 brigade, regiment, battalion, and company test points.²² The training lasted for six weeks at the Air Force Dalian Communications NCO Academy, which indicates a possible standard training period for all master chiefs throughout the PLA.

When trying to figure out what their role would be, the PLA noted in early 2014 that it needed to address the following issues:

- How to define the role of a master chief.
- How to clarify their responsibilities and their relations with the unit officers. For example, the relationship between a unit officer and a master chief is like that between a chief physician and a head nurse in the hospital.
- How to reasonably determine the benefits of a master chief. At present, the basic salaries for NCOs consist of the level salary and service salary. The highest-level NCO is paid as much as that for a regiment level officer.

In addition, one article noted that, prior to the new program, sergeant retention was low. Only a few halfheartedly opted to remain in service as an NCO after their first two years, while most chose to be demobilized. A poll showed that sergeants resented having their rank capped at acting platoon chief no matter how long they served, with no pay raises and only mediocre benefits. The lack of advancement opportunities was the main cause for not being promoted and being demobilized early. However, even after the pilot program began, some of the master chiefs complained about the program. Specifically, they pointed out that, in spite of having clear job descriptions, they ran into consistent obstacles such as lack of administrative authority. Some of them complained that they were treated more like secretaries who merely passed on instructions from the battalion commander. Several of them were also given the cold shoulder by new platoon- and company-level officers who had no experience and did not listen to their advice. The PLA has apparently tried to address these issues, such as identifying the issues in the media. It is not clear, however, if the retention rate has increased as a result of this program or if the PLA has solved any or all of the issues noted above.

Unfortunately, although the PLA has published multiple articles since 2015 mentioning master chiefs, no articles were found since 2015 concerning the success or failure of the system.

Section 5: PLAAF Leaders Outside PLAAF Headquarters

This section briefly discusses PLAAF leaders with the Central Military Commission (CMC), the 5 Theater Command HQ, the PLA National Defense University (NDU), and the PLA Academy of Military Science (AMS).

PLAAF Leaders in the CMC

Prior to 2004, only two PLAAF commanders (Liu Yalou, 1956-1965) and ZHANG Tingfa (1977-1985)) and one PC (Xiao Hua (1956-1967)) had served as a CMC Member.²³ In 2004, the CMC added the commanders of the PLAN, PLAAF, and PLASAF, which became the PLARF in 2016,

as CMC Members. From 2004 to 2017, three PLAAF commanders (QIAO Qingchen, XU Qiliang, and MA Xiaotian) served as CMC Members; however, at the 19th CCP Party Congress in October 2017, the service commanders were not included.

At the 18th Party Congress in 2012, XU Qiliang became the first ever PLAAF officer to serve as one of the two CMC Vice Chairmen and remained in that billet until the 20th Party Congress in 2022 when he met his mandatory retirement age.

Prior to the 2016 reorganization, the CMC's Four General Departments (General Staff, General Political, General Logistics, and General Armament) served first as the Army HQ and second as the Joint HQ. As such, Army officers served as the director for each department. In 2004, the PLA began adding a PLAAF officer as one of the Deputy Chiefs of the General Staff, so that they could serve for a couple of years in that grade and be promoted as the PLAAF commander or another equivalent billet, such as the Commandant of the National Defense University (NDU) or the Commandant of the Academy of Military Science (AMS), based on their grade. As such, XU Qiliang and MA Xiaotian both served in that billet. However, following the 19th Party Congress in 2017, the deputy chief of Joint Staff billet was reduced in grade and no PLAAF officer filled the billet until July 2018 when CHANG Dingqiu was appointed. However, no PLAAF officer has filled that billet since CHANG became the PLAAF commander in September 2021.

Since the 2016 reforms, the following two PLAAF officers have held leadership billets within the CMC's 15 organizations: LIU Dewei (Deputy Director, CMC Political Work Department (PWD); 2018-present) and LIU Faqing (Director, CMC National Defense Mobilization Department; January 2022-present).

PLAAF Leaders in the 5 Theater Command HQ

Prior to the 2016 reorganization, the commander of each of the seven MRAFs served as a concurrent MR deputy commander, and some, but not all, MRAF PCs served as a concurrent MR deputy PC. However, under the reorganization, all five of the TC HQ have one permanent PLAAF deputy commander and each of the five TCAF commanders serve as a concurrent TC deputy commander. In addition, each TCAF PC serves as a concurrent TC deputy PC.

Since 2016, two PLAAF officers have served as a TC commander. YI Xiaoguang served as the Central TC commander from October 2017 to December 2021, and WANG Qiang became the Northern TC commander in September 2022.

PLAAF Leaders in the PLA NDU and AMS²⁴

Of note, four PLAAF flag officers have served as the leaders of the PLA NDU and AMS. Specifically, Lieutenant General MA Xiaotian served as the Commandant of the PLA National Defense University from August 2006 to September 2007.²⁵ After serving as a Deputy Chief of the General Staff until 2012, he then became the PLAAF Commander through 2017. General LIU Yazhou served as the NDU PC from 2009 to 2017. General ZHENG Shenxia served as the Commandant of the PLA AMS from 2003 to 2007, at which time he was replaced by General LIU Chengjun.

Section 6: PLAAF Party Congress and Party Committee Structure²⁶

The PLAAF has had 13 Party Congresses since 1956, which since 1997 occurs about 18 months after the CCP Party Congress. The 13th PLAAF Party Congress was held from 17-19 June 2019 in Beijing. The PLAAF's Party Committee, which has a plenary session about every six months, and

the Party Standing Committee, which meets on a regular basis and oversees everything the PLAAF does, are the key components of the PLAAF's decision-making system. The PLAAF Standing Committee is ultimately responsible to the CCP CMC.

Party Committees in the PLA exist in every HQ, including operational, support, academic, and research organizations, at every level down to the company level, which are identified generically as "unit Party Committees". Various types of Party Committees also exist in every 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-level functional and administrative department down to the regiment level, which are identified generically as "department Party Committees".

As a general rule, the PC normally serves as the secretary of the Unit Party Committee and the commander serves as the deputy secretary; however, if the commander ever served as a political officer, then he is the secretary. Concerning department Party Committees, the department director serves as the secretary and one of the deputy directors serves as the deputy secretary.

According to the *China Air Force Encyclopedia*, every PLAAF organization at the regiment level or regiment-level equivalent organizations and above holds a Party Congress every five years.²⁷

PLAAF Party Congress Plenary Sessions and Party Standing Committee Meetings

Whereas the PLAAF Party Congresses since 1978 have met only once every five years, the PLAAF HQ Party Committee holds an average of two Plenary Sessions per year to oversee the PLAAF's work, such as reviewing the training plan for the previous six months and setting goals for the next six months. Each session lasts about two days.

Party Congress Members

The key leaders of the Party Congress are the PLAAF's Party Standing Committee, which consists of the following personnel, who meet on a regular basis. The following bullets also show their grade.

- Political Commissar (Party Secretary), TC leader grade
- Commander (Party Deputy Secretary), TC leader grade
- 3-4 deputy commanders, TC deputy leader grade
- Deputy PC, TC deputy leader grade
- Secretary, Discipline Inspection Commission, who was added in 2016, TC deputy leader grade.
- Chief of Staff (Director, Staff Department; former Headquarters Department), TC deputy leader grade
- Director, Political Work Department (former Political Department), TC deputy leader grade
- Director, Logistics Department, corps leader grade²⁸
- Director, Equipment Department, corps leader grade.

Of note, the PLAAF leaders are not elected during the PLAAF Party Congress but are determined at one of the plenums (probably the mid-congress fifth plenum) to allow for a shadowing period with their predecessor. As a general rule, they assume their billets during the next CCP Party Congress, which is held every five years.²⁹ Table 4 below shows personnel on the PLAAF's Standing Committee in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2021, and 2022. As can be seen in the Table 4, two of the Chiefs of Staff, Ma Zhenjun and Yu Qingjiang, became a Deputy Commander; however, both billets are the same grade (TC deputy leader), so it is not a promotion.

Table 4: PLAAF Standing Committee (2016-2022)

Billet	Feb 2016 ³⁰	Feb 2017 ³¹	Oct 2018 ³²	Mar 2021 ³³	Dec 2022 ³⁴
PC; Party Secretary	YU Zhongfu (于忠福)				GUO Puxiao (郭普校)
Commander; Party Deputy Secretary	MA Xiaotian (马晓天)		DING Laihang (丁来杭)	CHANG Dingqiu (常丁求)	
Deputy Commanders	CHEN Dong (陈东); ZHANG Jianping (张建平); ZHENG Qunliang (郑群良); ZHANG Honghe (张洪贺);	CHEN Dong; ZHANG Jianping; ZHANG Honghe	CHEN Dong; MA Zhenjun (麻振军); XU Anxiang (徐安祥)	MA Zhenjun; XU Anxiang; ZHENG Yuanlin (郑元林)	YU Qingjiang (俞庆江); JIA Zhigang (贾志刚); DONG Li (董立)
Deputy PC	ZHAO Yiliang (赵以良)		CHEN Xuebin (陈学斌)	JI Duo (纪多)	
Secretary, DIC	SONG Kun (宋琨)			CHEN Hui (陈辉)	YU Yonghong (余永洪)
Chief of Staff	MA Zhenjun (麻振军)		YU Qingjiang (俞庆江)		WANG Gang (王刚)
Director, PWD	FAN Xiaojun (范骁骏)	DU Yuanfang (堵远放)			JIANG Ping (姜平)
Director, LD	ZHENG Xuexiang (郑学祥)			WU Hong (吴鸿)	JIANG Peng (姜鹏)
Director, ED	LI Fan (李凡)		ZHU Cheng (朱程)		LIU Qiang (刘强)

Section 7: Political Work System

According to PLA writings, the PLA's political work (政治工作)^a system is the means through which the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is guaranteed absolute control over the military, which is a Party military and not a State military.³⁵ Structurally, the CCP's absolute leadership over the military is achieved through the Party Committee system.³⁶

Familiarity with the political work system is essential to understanding how decisions are made at every level in the PLA. The Party committee for each organization involves all of the organization's leaders and is the main decision-making body.

The PLA has two categories of Party committees:

- Unit Party committees (部队党委)
- Functional and administrative department Party committees (机关党委).

Party Committees in the PLA exist in every HQ, including operational, support, academic, and research organizations, at every level down to the company level, which are identified generically

^a The political work system consists of the following six main elements, which are integrated into every organization in the PLA: Party Committee system, Party Congress system, political officer system, political functional and administrative system, discipline inspection system, and judicial system.

as “unit Party Committees” (部队党委). Various types of Party Committees also exist in every 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-level functional and administrative “department” (部门) down to the regiment level, which are identified generically as “department Party Committees” (机关党委). Permeating throughout every level in the PLA, the Party Committee system consists of several types of Party organizations:³⁷

- Party Committees (党委) are established at the regiment level and above. Each of these Party committees has a standing committee consisting of the commander, PC, deputy commanders, deputy PC, and directors of the 1st-level administrative “departments” (Staff, Political Work, Logistics, Equipment, and Support). Under the current reorganization, the Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission/Committee (DIC/纪律检查委员会/纪委) has also been added.^a Grassroots Party Committees (基层党委) are established at the element (分队) battalion level.³⁸ Although these committees are formally identified as grassroots Party committees, the PLA often omits the term “grassroots” and identifies them just as Party committees. Grassroots Party committees do not have standing committees; however, as with unit Party committees at the regiment level and above, grassroots Party committees at the battalion level elect a secretary (the political instructor) and deputy secretary (commander), selected from within the Party committee and approved by the Party committee at the regiment level. Grassroots Party committee members are elected at Party member congresses, and the number of members in the committee depends on the number of Party members in the unit. The Party committee at the regiment level is notified of the member election results. Membership consists of the unit commander and political instructor, key officers in the battalion-level units, and key officers in the company-level units. The term of membership for all grassroots Party committee members is three years, which usually links up with their grade promotions.
- Party General Branches (总支部) are established in functional and administrative “departments” at the regiment level and above, when the number of Party members is too small for a directly-subordinate Party Committee, but too large for a Party branch.
- Party Branches (党支部) are established at the element company level or in some 2nd- and 3rd-level PLA functional and administrative “departments” based on their size. Party branches do not establish standing committees; however, they do elect a secretary, who normally is the political instructor (指导员) and a deputy secretary, who is normally the commander; therefore the branch committee, which includes the deputy commanders and other key leaders, carries out many of the responsibilities that a standing committee carries out in higher-level Party committees.^{b,39}
- Party small groups (党小组) are generally established at the platoon level and for ad hoc organizations at any level that are created for specific purposes and have three or more Party members.

^a Of note, the term *weiyuanhui* (委员会) can be translated as “commission” or “committee” depending on its level.

^b Party branches with a small number of members do not always establish branch committees. According to the *Chinese Military Encyclopedia* and the *Handbook for Military Party Branch Work*, Party branches with “few” Party members can either establish a three-person branch committee or may forgo having a branch committee and simply have a secretary and deputy secretary.

Of particular note, Master chiefs at the brigade level are Party members and are apparently members of their unit's Party Committee; however, no information was found indicating that any master chiefs are a member of any Standing Committee at any level.⁴⁰

As a general rule, the PC (政委) normally serves as the Secretary (党委书记) of the Unit Party Committee and the commander (司令员/长) serves as the Deputy Secretary (党委副书记). Concerning department Party Committees, the department director serves as the Secretary and one of the deputy directors serves as the Deputy Secretary. However, there are two exceptions. The first exception is if the commander has ever served as a political officer, then he or she becomes the Secretary. For example, QIAO Qingchen served as the PLAAF PC from February 1999 to May 2002 and then as the commander until he retired in October 2007. He was the Party Secretary for the entire time.⁴¹ While he was the Commander, the PC, DENG Changyou, served as the Deputy Secretary. However, when QIAO retired as the Commander, DENG became the Secretary and the new Commander, XU Qiliang, became the Deputy Secretary.⁴² The second exception concerns the PLAAF's Logistics Department and Equipment Department, each of which has a director and a PC. As such, the PC serves as the Secretary and the director serves as the deputy Secretary even though the PC does not serve on PLAAF HQ's Party Standing Committee.

Although each type has a different name, they are identified generically as Party committees. Each Party organization is responsible to the next higher-level Party organization and, ultimately, to the CCP's Central Committee through the CMC.

The type of Party committee established by each organization depends on three factors:

- The level at which the organization resides
- The organization's responsibilities
- The number of Party members in a unit or department.
- Table 5 below provides an example of how the unit and department Party Committees are organized from PLAAF HQ down to the company level.

Table 5: PLAAF Party Committee Structure

Organization	Type of Committee	Secretary	Deputy Secretary
PLAAF HQ	Party Committee	Political Commissar	Commander
1 st -level Staff Dept	Party Committee	Chief of Staff	A Deputy Chief of Staff
1 st -level Logistics Dept	Party Committee	Political Commissar	Director
2 nd -level Bur	Party General Branch	Director	A Deputy Director
3 rd -level Div	Party Branch	Director	A Deputy Director
Corps, Division, Brigade, Regiment HQ	Party Committee	Political Commissar	Commander
Battalion HQ	Grassroots Party Committee	Political Instructor	Commander
Company HQ	Party Branch	Political Instructor	Commander

Political Officer System

The political officer system consists of two categories of political officers. The first category consists of political commissars (政委) at the regiment level and above, and the political officers

at the battalion level, who are identified as *jiaodaoyuan* (教导员), and at the company level, who are identified as *zhidaoyuan* (指导员). Unfortunately, the PLA is not consistent in how it translates *jiaodaoyuan* and *zhidaoyuan*. For example, the 2002 *Defense White Paper* translates *jiaodaoyuan* as political director and *zhidaoyuan* as political instructor. However, various PLA and non-PLA dictionaries translate both terms as political instructor.⁴³ For purposes of this report, political instructor will be used each time, but the Chinese term will also be added to clarify whether it is the battalion or company level. Platoons and squads do not have political officers.

A high percentage of these political officers are selected from company-grade officers who are already serving in one of the other four career tracks (military/command, logistics, equipment, and technical), and thus already have some operational experience at the platoon and company level. Very few of this category of political officers majored in political work while attending a military academy as a cadet. They continue to build on this experience as members of the unit's Party committee and standing committee throughout the rest of their careers.

The second category consists of political officers who attended a military academy with a focus on political work and then tend to work their way up their chain of command as political staff officers or the director or deputy director of a Political Work Department/Division or subordinate functional and administrative "departments".

As a general rule, all political officers have basically the same key responsibilities:

- Serving as the secretary of the Party committee
- Implementing decisions made by the Party committee
- Instilling Party discipline among Party members
- Providing political education to the troops within their organization
- Interviewing personnel for promotions and writing their efficiency reports and promotion recommendations, which are sent to the next level for promotions to be approved
- Working with other components of the political work system
- In aviation units, the commander provides a daily list of pilots to fly sorties, and the PC approves each name based on their current mental and physical state.

Section 8: PLAAF Headquarters Organizational Structure

This section discusses the organizational structure for the PLAAF's Headquarters (HQ) since the reorganization was implemented in 2016.⁴⁴ Of note, the PLAAF does not have a term for headquarters. The PLAAF merely uses "*kongjun*" (空军) and the meaning is clear from the context of the article as to whether it refers to the PLAAF in general or to the headquarters.

PLAAF Headquarters Structure

Prior to the reorganization, PLAAF HQ had four 1st-level "departments" (一级部), each of which had several 2nd-level "departments" (二级部) that were a combination of departments (部) and bureaus (局), as well as 3rd-level "departments" (三级部) comprised of bureaus and divisions (处).^a The four 1st-level departments were the Headquarters Department (HD/司令部/空司),

^a The PLA uses the term *jiguan* (机关) or *bumen* (部门) for the four functional and administrative departments, which are often merely translated as "organs". Even though the PLA uses 2nd- and 3rd-level "departments," this is a generic term because some of them are technically bureaus (at the second level) and divisions (at the third level). Therefore,

Political Department (PD/政治部/空政), Logistics Department (LD/后勤部/空后), and Equipment Department (ED/装备部/空装). Of note, the LD and ED are both one grade below the SD and PWD.

Following the latest reforms, it still has four 1st-level “departments”, although two of these have been renamed.⁴⁵ Specifically, the Headquarters Department was renamed the Staff Department (SD/参谋部/空参) and the Political Department was renamed the Political Work Department (PWD/政治工作部/空政).

Concerning the size of each organization, the number of personnel in each for the four 1st-level departments in the PLAAF HQ was cut in half, and included some 2nd-level “departments” that were either renamed, merged or abolished. Also, it appears that some new 2nd-level “departments” have been established. Lower down the hierarchy, many 3rd-level “departments” also appear to have been merged or abolished. Due to the changes in size, the status of some of these “departments” have changed from that of a department (部) to a bureau (局) at the second level, or to a division (处) at the third level. In all, these changes mirror those across the PLA as part of the overall reorganization. Table 6 below shows the “departments,” personnel, and their grades.

Table 6: PLAAF Headquarters Grade and Rank Structure

Grade	Leaders	Staff Department	Political Work Department	Logistics Department	Equipment Department
TC Leader	Commander and PC (GEN/LTG)				
TC Deputy Leader	Deputy Commanders; Deputy PCs; Secretary of Discipline Inspection Commission (LTG/MG);	Chief of Staff (LTG/MG)	Director (LTG/MG)		
Corps Leader		Deputy Chiefs of Staff (MG/LTG)	Deputy Directors (MG/LTG)	Director/PC (MG/LTG)	Director/PC (MG/LTG)
Corps Deputy Leader				Deputy Directors (MG/SCOL)	Deputy Directors (MG/SCOL)

Note: Each grade has a primary and secondary rank (e.g., GEN/LTG) associated with the billet.

the “department” in parens is used as the generic term for all of them. For major changes between 2000 and 2012, see “PLA Air Force Organizational Reforms: 2000–2012.”

Each “department” is assigned a grade at every level down to regiment HQ. For example: Table 7 represents the 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-level “departments” from PLAAF HQ down to the regiment level.⁴⁶ Of note, at the regiment level, the Staff Department has remained as a department, while the Political Department has been downsized to a division, but they still both have the same grade. Also, as with the PLAAF LD and ED, which are one grade below the SD and PWD, the Support Department/Division are one grade below the Staff Department and Political Work Department/Division at each level.

Table 7: “Department” Grades

Grade	PLAAF HQ	TCAF HQ	Base	Division	Brigade	Regiment
TC Ldr						
TC Dep Ldr	Staff/PW Dept					
Corps Ldr	Log & Equip Dept	Staff/PW Dept				
Corps Dep Ldr		Spt Dept	Staff/PW Dept			
Division Ldr	2 nd -level		Spt Dept			
Division Dep Ldr		2 nd -level		Staff/PW Dept		
Regiment Ldr	3 rd -level		2 nd -level	Spt Dept	Staff/PW Dept	
Regiment Dep Ldr		3 rd -level			Spt Dept	Staff Dept PW Div
Battalion Ldr			3 rd -level	2 nd -level		Spt Div
Battalion Dep Ldr					2 nd -level	
Company Ldr						2 nd -level

Creating a Support Department

Although the PLAAF retained the LD and ED as 1st-level departments within PLAAF HQ, it merged them into a single Support Department (保障部) at the TCAF level down to the brigade level and as a single Support Division (保障处) at the regiment level.⁴⁷ Table 8 below shows which organizations have each of the five 1st-level departments from PLAAF HQ down to the regiment level. Although the SD remains a department at the regiment level, the Political Work and Support organizations were downgraded to a division (处). No examples were found for any Support Departments at the division level, but they most likely exist. Information was found in 2021-2022 for a Support Department in three ground-to-air missile brigades, two radar brigades, and one aviation brigade. However, it is not clear how the aviation units’ air stations and maintenance groups fit into the Support Department structure, which is discussed in Appendices H and L.

Table 8: PLAAF Five 1st-level Departments by Level

	Staff	Political Work	Logistics	Equipment	Support
PLAAF HQ	Dept	Dept	Dept	Dept	No
TCAF HQ	Dept	Dept	No	No	Dept
Base	Dept	Dept	No	No	Dept
Division	Dept	Dept	No	No	Dept
Brigade	Dept	Dept	No	No	Dept
Regiment	Dept	Div	No	No	Div

Discipline Inspection Commission

The former 2nd-level PLAAF Discipline Inspection Commission (DIC) has now become an independent organization with its secretary having since gained membership on the PLAAF Standing Committee. The PLAAF DIC was previously a division leader-grade 2nd-level department under the service's former Political Department until it was elevated to a 1st-level organization with the grade of TC deputy leader in 2016. Given that the position is listed ahead of the four 1st-level departments (Staff, Political Work, Logistics, and Equipment) leaders, it is therefore likely ranked higher than those four departments in protocol order. As the primary body responsible for party discipline and overseeing micro-corruption, the PLAAF DIC is primarily responsible for keeping malfeasance within the Air Force in check, and coordinates closely with the CMC Discipline Inspection Commission (CMC DIC).

Of note, while the PLAAF previously had two deputy PCs of which one of them had the discipline inspection portfolio, it appears now that there is now only one deputy PC at each level.

Staff Department

The PLAAF's former Headquarters Department (空军司令部/空司), now called the Staff Department (SD, 空军参谋部/空参), is the highest-level functional and administrative organization within the PLAAF HQ that oversees the PLAAF's 'military' (军事) or 'command' (指挥) work on behalf of the Air Force's Party Committee and leadership.⁴⁸ Prior to the recent reforms, its primary responsibilities included managing air force unit deployments, battlefield development, and combat command. Despite that it has since been stripped of this authority,⁴⁹ the SD is still responsible for the PLAAF's organizational structure, personnel management, intelligence, communications, radar, air traffic control, and weather support, as well as researching air force military theory, and managing education and safety.⁵⁰

Leading the PLAAF's SD is the Chief of Staff (参谋长) who is the department director and holds the same grade (TC deputy leader) as the PLAAF deputy commanders. He also serves as the secretary of the SD's Party Standing Committee. As the lynchpin of the command process entailing various PLA units, the chief of staff is the "principal organizer and coordinator of military operations" and is "responsible for implementing the commander's decisions."⁵¹ The SD also has several deputy chiefs of staff (副参谋长) each of whom is responsible for different portfolios within the SD. One of them also serves as the deputy secretary of the department's Party Standing Committee. It also has multiple staff officers (参谋) assigned to each level's "departments". The same structure applies to each level of the SD down to the regiment level.

Appendix D provides a list of all the 2nd- and 3rd-level "departments" that were identified in the PLAAF HQ's SD as well as the 2nd-level "departments" at the TCAF, Base, Command Post, division, brigade, and regiment levels. Unfortunately, little information was found for the levels below PLAAF HQ to include any 3rd-level "departments", which most likely do not exist below the Base level; however, there are some apparent patterns shown below:

- The 1st-level department remained as the SD down to the regiment level and is one grade below the commander.
- Not every 2nd-level "department" in the PLAAF HQ's SD exists at lower levels and very few 3rd-level "departments" exist below the TCAF HQ level.

- Prior to the 2016 reorganization, 2nd-level “departments” in the PLAAF HQ were actually departments (部), but when the PLAAF HQ was cut in half, 2nd-level “departments” were downsized and renamed bureaus (局) and 3rd-level bureaus were downsized and renamed divisions (处).
- Each TCAF HQ, which were also cut in half, downsized their 2nd-level bureaus and renamed them as divisions, and 3rd-level divisions were downsized and renamed offices (科).
- Concerning the Base level, the 2nd-level “departments” are divisions.
- Concerning the command post, division, brigade, and regiment levels, the 2nd-level “departments” are offices.
- While the PLAAF HQ’s SD has a separate Training Bureau and Operations Bureau, they have remained as separate divisions (训练处 and 作战处) at the TCAF and Base levels,⁵² but they have been merged as Operations and Training Offices (作训科) at the aviation branch’s division, brigade, and regiment levels.⁵³ There are still separate Training Offices in the radar and ground-to-air missile branches’ brigades.

Political Work Department

The PLAAF Political Work Department (PWD/空军政治工作部/空政), which was formerly known as the PLAAF Political Department (空军政治部/空政), is the highest-level, functional and administrative organization within the PLAAF HQ for the conduct of political work.⁵⁴ It is responsible for maintaining personnel records, propaganda, security, education, cultural activities (e.g., song and dance troupe, and public events), civilian–military relations, party discipline, and party organizations within the PLAAF.⁵⁵

The leadership of the PLAAF’s PWD includes the director (主任), who holds the same grade as the PLAAF deputy PC(s) (TC deputy leader) and two or more deputy directors (副主任), each of whom has divided responsibilities for the 2nd- and 3rd-level “departments”.⁵⁶ The director serves as a member on the PLAAF Standing Committee and is the secretary of the PWD Standing Committee. Each deputy director is responsible for guiding and monitoring activities in one or more 2nd-level “departments” and one of them serves as the deputy secretary of the PWD Standing Committee. Each “department” has multiple staff officers (干事). The same structure applies to each level of the SD down to the regiment level.

Before the reorganization, all matters concerning enlisted personnel came under the PLAAF’s former Headquarters Department’s Military Affairs Bureau; however, the PLAAF now has an Enlisted Soldier and Civilian Personnel Bureau (兵员与文职人员局) under its new PWD that manages all enlisted personnel and civilian personnel.⁵⁷

Appendix E provides a list of all the 2nd- and 3rd-level “departments” that were identified in the PLAAF HQ’s PWD as well as the 2nd-level “departments” at the TCAF, Base, Command Post, division, brigade, and regiment levels. Unfortunately, little information was found for the levels below PLAAF HQ to include any 3rd-level “departments”, which most likely do not exist below the Base level.

Logistics Department

The PLAAF Logistics Department (LD/空后/空军后勤部) is the leading functional and administrative organization within the PLAAF HQ overseeing logistics work, including transportation, finances, materials and supplies, and POL (petroleum, oil, and lubricant), as well as medical care.⁵⁸ Although the Logistics Department has not been renamed under the reorganization; each of its former 2nd-level “departments” (except perhaps the SD and the PWD) has since become a bureau. Of these bureaus, they have either been merged or abolished. The leadership of the PLAAF LD includes the director, PC, deputy directors, deputy PC, chief of staff, and director of its PWD.⁵⁹ Appendix F provides a list of the current 2nd-level “departments” that have been identified.⁶⁰

Equipment Department

When the PLAAF was founded in November 1949, it set up an Air Force Engineering Department (空军工程部) to oversee aircraft maintenance. Since then, the organization has been revamped multiple times,⁶¹ with the current iteration known as the PLAAF Equipment Department (ED/空军装备部/空装), the highest-level organization within the PLAAF HQ responsible for equipment work, including the cradle-to-death life-cycle management, repair, and maintenance of all air force weapon systems and instruments.⁶² While its name has not changed under this reorganization, each of its former 2nd-level “departments” (apart from its PWD, which is now a bureau) has either been merged or abolished. Similar to its PLAAF Logistics Department counterpart, the PLAAF Equipment Department is led by a director and a PC.⁶³ Appendix G provides a list of the current 2nd-level “departments” that have been identified.

Section 9: From 7 Military Region Air Forces to 5 Theater Command Air Forces⁶⁴

As shown in the two photos below, on 5 February 2016, the PLAAF held an official ceremony in Beijing, where its then commander, General MA Xiaotian, and PC, General YU Zhongfu, inaugurated all five TCAF HQs, granting each of them the grade of TC deputy leader.⁶⁵ Thus, the new TCAF HQs, in protocol order, replaced five of the former MRAF HQs: Eastern TCAF in Nanjing (formerly Nanjing MRAF HQ), Southern TCAF in Guangzhou (formerly Guangzhou MRAF HQ), Western TCAF in Chengdu (formerly Chengdu MRAF HQ), Northern TCAF in Shenyang (formerly Shenyang MRAF HQ) and Central TCAF in Beijing (formerly Beijing MRAF HQ). While the former Jinan and Lanzhou MRAF HQs were downsized and became corps deputy leader-grade Bases in mid-2017, their commanders nevertheless became permanent deputy commanders of the Central and Western TCs, respectively.^a

^a They were most likely retained in those positions due to their overall experience and probably also to allow them to reach their mandatory retirement age based on their grade – rather than be demobilized.



As with the former MRAFs, all 2nd-level organizations under the 1st-level “departments” remain as divisions (处) and have retained the corresponding division deputy leader grade, although they have apparently been reduced in size. Also, some 3rd-level branches (股) or offices (科) may still exist as battalion leader-grade organizations, but it appears that most of these have either been abolished or merged with other organizations.

As an additional measure to reduce personnel, each TCAF HQ now has only one or two deputy commanders and one deputy PC as compared to the previous MRAFs, which had two to five deputy commanders and two deputy PCs. As with the TC HQ, it is probable that one of the deputy commanders in each TCAF HQ may also concurrently serve as chief of staff (aka Director of the SD), whilst each TCAF HQ deputy PC likely serves concurrently as director of the respective PWDs. Under the new reorganization, the only remaining Logistics Department and Equipment Department in the PLAAF are in the PLAAF HQ. These two departments have been merged into a Support Department at all other lower levels beginning with the five TCAF HQs. However, air brigades and air regiments do not have logistics or equipment or support departments; these functions are instead managed by the air station (logistics) and maintenance group. It also appears that some, if not all, TCAF HQs have their own discipline inspection secretary who sits on the respective Standing Committees.

Theater Command Air Force HQ Structure

In addition to transforming its seven MRAF HQ into five TCAF HQ to mirror the new PLA structure, in early 2016 the PLAAF went further by changing its structure to better align with the PLA’s overall shift toward ‘brigadization’ (旅化), which seems to differentiate deployable force structure from “base” or support organizations. These changes first focused on the TC-level and above in 2016, before then being implemented at the corps-level and below in 2017. Given that the PLAAF HQ is responsible for “force building” functions, it has consequently been removed from the operational chain of command and control, such that it now only oversees the organizing, manning, and equipping of units.^{a66}

However, there are always exceptions to the rule. The PLAAF HQ still exercises command over a few directly subordinate units, including special mission (intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance) aviation units, one transport division, and one transport search and rescue brigade, as well as the airborne corps. In terms of responsibilities, it follows that the PLAAF HQ is now

^a Although the *China’s Military Strategy (2015)* uses the term “force building”, the term is sometimes also translated as “development” or “construction”.

solely responsible for “pursuing the Air Force’s force building, while command responsibilities have been transferred to the five TCAFs.”^a This is unlike prior to the reorganization where the PLAAF HQ shared operational responsibility with the former MR HQs. Such a development also demonstrates the PLA’s attempt to shift its organizations and relationships away from its traditional configuration towards a more advanced model. As the PLA has not been involved in armed conflict for nearly four decades, it has thus had to glean from the lessons learned by other defense forces with more recent operational experience. Of those armed forces to have incorporated those lessons, the U.S. military stands out first and foremost.

Each TCAF HQ has the following personnel and 1st-level departments.⁶⁷ See Appendices D, E, and H for a list of 2nd- and 3rd-level TCAF HQ Staff Department, Political Work Department, and Support Department “departments,” respectively. Needless to say, there are a lot of holes.

- Key personnel
 - Commander who serves as a concurrent TC deputy commander (TC deputy leader grade)
 - Political Commissar who serves as a concurrent TC deputy PC (TC deputy leader grade)
 - As an additional personnel reduction measure, each TCAF HQ now has only one to two deputy commanders and one deputy PC compared to the previous MRAFs, which had two to five deputy commanders and two deputy PCs.⁶⁸
 - As with the TC HQs, it is probable that one of the deputy commanders in each TCAF HQ may also concurrently serve as the TCAF Chief of Staff
 - As with the TC HQs, each TCAF HQ deputy PC likely serves concurrently as the director of the Political Work Department.
 - It also appears that each TCAF HQs has its own Discipline Inspection Secretary who serves on the Standing Committee.
- 1st-Level Departments
 - Staff Department whose director is the Chief of Staff (corps leader grade) and may serve concurrently as one of the deputy commanders. The Staff Department can also have two or more deputy Chiefs of Staff (corps deputy leader grade), each of whom has their own portfolio, as well as several staff officers.
 - Political Work Department whose director (corps leader grade) may also serve concurrently as a deputy PC. The PWD can also have two or more deputy directors, each of whom have their own portfolio.
 - Support Department whose director (corps deputy leader grade) is responsible for all logistics and equipment issues. Like the PLAAF HQ Logistics Department and Equipment Department, the Support Department most likely has a Political Commissar as well.

Section 10: The Shift from Air Corps to Bases and Command Posts⁶⁹

This section discusses the history of the PLAAF’s corps leader-grade Air Corps (空军军), which have been abolished or reorganized into corps deputy leader-grade Bases (基地) and division leader-grade Command Posts (指挥所).⁷⁰

During the 1950s and 1960s, the PLAAF created 13 Air Corps and several Command Posts to control aviation and air defense units within geographical areas that may or may not have been

^a The *IJSS Military Balance 2018*.

aligned with an existing MRAF. With the exception of the Airborne Corps (former 15th Airborne Corps), which is directly subordinate to PLAAF HQ, the corps leader-grade Air Corps tier was downgraded in 2004 during the PLA's 10th force reduction.⁷¹ Prior to the force reduction, the PLAAF had five corps-leader-grade Air Corps, six corps-leader-grade Bases (基地), and three division-leader-grade Command Posts (指挥所), which were subordinate to their respective MRAF headquarters. These organizations were responsible for commanding the PLAAF aviation, air defense, radar, and communications organizations in their area of responsibility on behalf of the MRAF headquarters.^a During the 10th force reduction, the PLAAF reduced the grade for most, if not all, of the Air Corps and Bases to division leader grade, re-designated them as Command Posts, and consolidated leadership for all aviation and air defense organizations in each MRAF directly under the respective MRAF headquarters.

In late 2011 and throughout 2012, the PLAAF abolished at least four air-division headquarters, established four corps deputy leader-grade Bases from existing Command Posts in Nanning, Urumqi, Shanghai, and Dalian, and upgraded about 15 regiments to brigades before subordinating them under the four Bases. Following an almost five-year delay, the PLAAF reinvigorated this process in early 2017 by creating seven new corps deputy leader-grade Bases in Fuzhou, Kunming, Lanzhou, Jinan, Datong, Wuhan, as well as one in a yet publicly unidentified location in Inner Mongolia. These Bases were formed from former division leader- and corps deputy leader-grade Command Posts as well as from the former Lanzhou Military Region Air Force (MRAF/军区空军) HQ and Jinan MRAF HQ.^b Also in 2017, some of these Bases were renamed 'Air Defense Bases' (空防基地).⁷² Each Base is responsible for command and control of fighter, fighter-bomber, and ground attack air brigades, surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), anti-aircraft artillery (AAA), and radar units in their AOR. As such, it appears that no fighter, fighter-bomber, and ground attack air units remain directly subordinate to a TCAF HQ – as was the case prior to the reorganization for units in the same province as the MRAF/TCAF HQ.

Each Base is responsible for command and control (C2) of the air brigades, surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) units, and radar units in their area of responsibility (AOR).⁷³ They also coordinate with units from the Army and Navy in their AOR for joint training. It appears that the PLAAF currently has at least 12 Bases^c and 3 command posts.^d Figure 1 below shows the key PLAAF and Naval Aviation units.

^a Units located in the same province as the MRAF HQ were directly subordinate to it. Liaoning Province is an exception, because it contained both the Shenyang MRAF and the Dalian Command Post. It appears, however, that under the current structure, no fighter and ground attack air brigades are directly subordinate to any TCAF HQ. They are all directly subordinate to a Base or Command Post.

^b "Brigadization" of the PLA Air Force.

^c The current bases are located in Fuzhou, Fujian; Shanghai; Kunming, Yunnan; Nanning, Guangxi; Urumqi, Xinjiang; Lanzhou, Gansu; Lhasa, Tibet; Dalian, Liaoning; Jinan, Shandong; Unknown, Inner Mongolia; Datong, Shanxi; and Wuhan, Hunan.

^d The current command posts are located in Zhangzhou, Fujian; Hetian, Xinjiang; and Changchun, Jilin.

Figure 1: Key PLAAF and Naval Aviation Units



Source: U.S. Department of Defense, *Annual Report to Congress: Military and Security Developments Involving the People’s Republic of China 2022*, p. 63.

Each Base and Command Post has a commander, PC, at least 2 deputy commanders, at least 1 deputy PC, a secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission/Committee, and a Staff Department (chief of staff and deputy chiefs of staff), Political Work Department (director and deputy director(s)), and Support Department (director and probable PC as well as deputy director(s)), as well as directly subordinate battalions, companies, and elements. See Appendices D, E, and H for information about the Staff Department, Political Work Department, and Support Department.

Bases also include an Operations Command Center (作战指挥中心) and/or a Command and Control Center (指挥控制中心),⁷⁴ training brigade(s),⁷⁵ a clinic (门诊部),⁷⁶ a vehicle company (汽车连),⁷⁷ a communications station (通信站),⁷⁸ radar stations on mountains (高山雷达站)⁷⁹ and/or on islands (海岛雷达站),⁸⁰ security battalion (警勒营/警卫勒务营),⁸¹ security company (警卫连),⁸² and a measurement/survey station (测量站)^a that is large enough to have a command office (指挥大厅).⁸³

One command post has a Command Center (指挥中心)⁸⁴ and subordinate battalions, companies, and platoons,⁸⁵ including a subordinate communications battalion,⁸⁶ a communications company,⁸⁷ and a mobile communications element.⁸⁸

^a According to the article, this station is located in the Gobi Desert and is used to assess the parameters of weapons and equipment.

Section 11: PLAAF Branches and Specialty Units

This section identifies the PLAAF's branches and specialty units and elements. As a service (军中), the PLAAF is comprised of several branches (兵种),⁸⁹ which are also translated as arms⁹⁰ and forces,⁹¹ as well as specialty units and elements (专业部(分)队). For purposes of this report, the term branch is used.

Since the early 1990s and until 2012, the PLAAF was organized into five branches (in protocol order), including aviation (航空兵), ground-to-air missile (地空导弹兵) aka surface-to-air missile (SAM),⁹² anti-aircraft artillery (AAA/高射炮兵), radar (雷达兵),^a and airborne troops (空降兵), as well as five specialty units and elements, including communications (通信), radar (雷达), electronic countermeasures (ECM/电子对抗), chemical defense (nuclear, biological, and chemical) (防化), and technical reconnaissance (技术侦察) units and other specialized elements (专业部[分]队).⁹³ In 2007, the PLAAF merged its SAM and AAA branches into a single ground-to-air defense branch (地空防空兵) because almost all AAA units have been abolished, and added an ECM branch (电子对抗兵) for a total of five branches: including aviation, radar, and airborne.

According to *China's National Defense in the New Era (2019)*, besides the aviation, airborne, and ground-to-air missile / air defense branches, the PLAAF also has a radar branch and ECM branch, which were upgraded from specialty units to branches, as well as communications forces, which are considered specialty units.⁹⁴

The current PRC Ministry of National Defense website in English identifies six "forces" in protocol order as aviation, airborne, ground-to-air missile, radar, ECM, and communications. The following six subsections discuss each branch.

Subsection 11-1: Aviation Branch: Air Divisions, Brigades, and Regiments⁹⁵

From October 1950 to early 1954, the PLAAF purchased about 3,000 aircraft from the Soviet Union and deployed them in 28 air divisions composed of 70 air regiments and five independent regiments. From January 1954 to 1971, the PLAAF created an additional 22 air divisions throughout China for a total of 50 air divisions.⁹⁶ As a general rule, each air division had two operational regiments and one training regiment. The number remained at 50 until the end of the 1980s. During the 2000s, the number of air divisions was gradually reduced to 29 and was further reduced to 9 in the 2010s.⁹⁷ As of 2017, the PLAAF had only nine air divisions with subordinate regiments left, which were composed of bomber, transport, and special mission aircraft.⁹⁸ These air divisions are directly subordinate to either PLAAF HQ or a TCAF HQ, instead of Bases. The most likely reason for this is that these aircraft have larger missions that span across Theater Commands and/or provincial borders and as such, require an organization at a higher level to command their actions. It remains unclear if any changes to these air divisions will happen in the future.

Historically, all of the aircraft were organized into a division-regiment-flight group (battalion)-flight squadron (company) structure; however, that changed in the early 2010s, when the PLAAF began to create air brigades by abolishing all fighter and fighter-bomber air divisions and upgrading regiments to brigades and subordinating them to Bases. Prior to the shift to a base-

^a Radar units are divided into branches and specialty units based on their responsibilities. Specifically, radar branch units are responsible for long-range radar, including over-the-horizon (OTH) radars, while specialty units are responsible for short-range radar activities around airfields.

brigade structure, some air divisions that were located in the same province as the MRAF HQ were directly subordinate to the MRAF HQ, but that changed under the base-brigade structure, such that all combat aircraft brigades are now directly subordinate to a Base.

As noted above, the bomber, transport, and special mission aircraft have remained in a division-regiment structure that are directly subordinate to PLAAF HQ or a TCAF HQ. The exception is that four of the TCAFs (Eastern, Southern, Northern, and Central) each has a subordinate transport aircraft search and rescue brigade (空军运搜航空兵旅), while the Western TCAF has a transport aircraft search and rescue regiment, which are directly subordinate to the TCAF HQ. As a general rule, brigades for any branch/arm are not subordinate to divisions, and regiments are not subordinate to brigades. For example, an air brigade is not subordinate to an air division and it does not have subordinate air regiments. However, a logistics or communications regiment can be subordinate to an operational brigade composed of weapon systems. In addition, whereas an air division can be located at the same airfield as a subordinate regiment, rarely are two regiments or two brigades located at the same airfield.

Command Structure

A typical air division, brigade, and regiment have the following leaders: a commander, PC, 2 or more deputy commanders, 1 or more deputy PCs, a secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission/Committee, a chief of staff (director of the Staff Department), 2 or more deputy chiefs of staff, director and 2 or more deputy directors of the Political Work Department (division and brigade) and Political Work Division (regiment), and a director and possible PC of the Support Department (division and brigade) and Support Division (regiment), as well as 2 or more deputy directors. See Appendices D, E, and H for information about the three departments.

Of particular importance, each air division has a subordinate regiment leader-grade air station (场站) that is co-located with each air regiment and is responsible for all logistics-related tasks. Each brigade has a subordinate air station that is also responsible for all logistics-related tasks. In addition, each regiment and brigade has a battalion leader-grade maintenance group (机务大队) that is responsible for all aircraft maintenance. See Appendices D, E, and H for information concerning the organizational structure, including detailed information about the air stations and maintenance groups.

Subsection 11-2: Airborne Force Branch⁹⁹

The Airborne Force (空降兵), which is also identified as the Airborne Corps (空降兵军) and Airborne Troop, was created under the PLAAF in 1950 but it did not become a formal branch until around 1992.¹⁰⁰ Prior to 2017, it was identified as the 15th Airborne Corps (空降兵第 15 军); however, in 2017 the number 15 was dropped, such that it is now only identified as the Airborne Corps (空降兵军). Although it was listed as second in protocol order in 2019, it has historically been listed as fourth or fifth.¹⁰¹ It has always been directly subordinate to PLAAF HQ, even though the corps headquarters is in Xiaogan, Hubei Province, which was previously located within the Guangzhou MRAF and is now in the Central TCAF. Today, it remains as one of the few PLAAF corps leader-grade organizations.

According to the *China Air Force Encyclopedia*, the basic missions for the Airborne Force include: conducting sudden attacks against enemy political, military, and economic strategic key points; seizing and holding important operational and strategic targets or areas deep in enemy territory; deploying rapidly in response to sudden changes in the situation; and conducting special operations

in enemy rear areas.¹⁰² The PLAAF deployed airborne units to Wuhan in 1967 during the Cultural Revolution to subdue a regional uprising.¹⁰³ and Beijing in June 1989 during the Tiananmen crisis, which indicates the Airborne Force also has had the mission of dealing with domestic issues, including internal unrest.¹⁰⁴ They also deployed to Sichuan during the 2008 earthquake to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR).

As part of the latest reforms starting in 2017, the three former airborne division headquarters were abolished and their six subordinate regiments were upgraded to brigades. The revised Airborne Corps has, at a minimum, the following units: six airborne brigades (空降兵旅), a transport air brigade (运输航空兵旅),¹⁰⁵ an air assault brigade (空中突击旅),¹⁰⁶ a special operations brigade (特种作战旅),¹⁰⁷ a helicopter regiment (直升机团) subordinate to an unidentified brigade,^{a,108} and a Training Base (训练基地).¹⁰⁹ Prior to the reorganization, the 15th Airborne Corps had a single helicopter regiment that is apparently still operational, but is now directly subordinated to the transport air brigade.¹¹⁰ Each brigade has relevant subordinate battalions, companies, platoons, squads, and elements identified in Appendix M.

The Airborne Corps HQ and each brigade has a commander, PC, at least two deputy commanders, one deputy PC, a Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission/Committee, a Staff Department (Chief of Staff), Political Work Department (Director), and a Support Department (Director and probable PC), as well as various second- and possible third-level functional and administrative departments. Each battalion and company have a commander, two deputy commanders, and a political officer, all of whom sit on the decision-making body, known as the Party Branch. Of note, each *AFN* during 2021 and 2022 averaged 1-2 articles on the Airborne Corps. See Appendices D, E, and H for information concerning the organizational structure.

Of particular note, the PLAAF's Airborne Troop College (空降兵学院) began in the 1950s as an antiaircraft artillery school and later became the Guilin Air Force College.¹¹¹ Until 1999, the PLAAF's airborne troops received their cadet education and training in ground forces colleges; however, in 1999 the Guilin Air Force College took over those responsibilities. In 2001, the college changed its name to the Air Force Airborne Troop College. However, in 2017, when the PLA reduced the number of officer academic institutions from 63 to 34, it abolished the Airborne Troop College and replaced it with a training base. All new airborne officers are now selected as PLAAF airborne force cadets and receive their cadet education and training while wearing an Air Force uniform at the Army's Special Operations Academy, located in Guilin City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Upon graduation, they receive some training at the new training base along with the enlisted force.

Concerning females, it is not clear when the first females became part of the Airborne Corps; however, there is some information from various PLAAF sources about their current status. It does appear that, like communications units, there are few mixed male-female organizations. Females were found in the following airborne components:¹¹²

- In 2011, the PLAAF created its first female reconnaissance and guidance team, which is composed of squads (女子侦察引导队班) and is considered a combat team (战斗队).^{b,113} Its predecessor was a female parachute performance team (女子跳伞表演队). Their

^a This is an anomaly since regiments are not subordinate to brigades.

^b A team (队) is most likely a platoon-level element.

current airdrop guidance missions (空降引导任务) include being responsible for dropping cargo from aircraft via parachutes (投放).

- The Airborne Corps HQ also has its own communications regiment (通信团), which is also responsible for training females assigned to the regiment.¹¹⁴
- In 2016 before the Airborne Force shifted to a brigade structure in 2017, four female medical service specialists (卫勤专业) were identified as belonging to a support element (保障分队) of an airborne division’s hospital.¹¹⁵ Also in 2016, a female political instructor for a 3rd Battalion (三营) subordinate to an Airborne mechanized regiment (机械化团) was identified.¹¹⁶ This indicates that the battalion was an all-female battalion.

Subsection 11-3: Ground-to-Air Missile Branch¹¹⁷

This is one of the most complicated branches, which is composed of the former Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM/地空导弹兵) Branch and Antiaircraft Artillery (AAA/高射炮兵) Branch.^{a,118} In approximately 2007, the PLAAF merged the SAM and AAA Branches into a single branch, which it has identified in English as the Ground-to-Air Missile Branch (地面防空兵), even though the Chinese characters are best translated as “Ground Air Defense Branch.”¹¹⁹ Although *China’s National Defense in 2008* listed it as second in protocol order behind the aviation branch, *China’s National Defense in the New Era (2019)* and the current PRC MND website identify it as third behind the aviation and airborne branches. For all practical purposes, the former AAA branch has disappeared and some former AAA units have been replaced with shoulder-fired SAMs.

Although the branch is identified as the ground-to-air missile branch, the subordinate units are identified as surface-to-air missile (地空导弹/地导) divisions, brigades, and regiments. Based on available information, all SAM units are now subordinate to one of the Bases, not to a TCAF HQ. Table 9 below shows the SAM divisions, brigades, and regiments that have been identified since 2017. Of note, the only SAM division(s) and regiments that appear to remain are in the Central TCAF.^{b,120} It is not clear if there is more than one division. Other than the Central TCAF division(s), all other previous divisions and regiments in the remaining TCAFs were reorganized as brigades over the past decade.

Table 9: PLA Surface-to-Air Missile Units (2016-2022)

TCAF	Division	Brigade	Regiment
Eastern		X	
Southern		X	
Western		X	
Northern		X	

^a The PLAAF sometimes refers to its former SAM forces as “second artillery” (二炮) to distinguish it from the AAA troops or “first artillery” (一炮). However, this often causes confusion because the term can be mistaken for the PLA’s ballistic missile force, which was also called Second Artillery and is now the Rocket Force.

^b One air defense composite division (防空混成师) was created in the 1980s near Beijing with separate SAM and AAA regiments, battalions, and launch/firing companies. The primary reason for this is that the SAM assets in this region have always been the primary defense force for Beijing and do not move around as often as those in other SAM units. It appears that all of the AAA units have been abolished and this may remain as the only SAM division left in the PLAAF.

Central	X	X	X
---------	---	---	---

Within the ground-to-air missile branch, each division, brigade, and regiment has a commander, PC, at least two deputy commanders, at least one deputy PC, a Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission/Committee, a Staff Department (Chief of Staff), Political Work Department (director), and a Support Department (director and probable PC), as well as various second- and possible third-level functional and administrative departments. Each battalion and company has a commander, two deputy commanders, and a political officer, all of whom sit on the decision-making body, known as the Party Branch. See Appendices D, E, and H for information concerning the organizational structure.

Subsection 11-4: Radar Branch and Specialized Units¹²¹

The first independent radar troop (雷达兵) units were established in 1949.¹²² Once the General Staff Department's Air Defense Department was established in December 1950, radar units were divided into two types: 1) those subordinate to the Air Defense Department were responsible for early warning, and 2) those subordinate to the PLAAF were responsible for directly supporting aviation units. The Radar (雷达兵) Branch was first created in 1955 under the PLA Air Defense Force (PLAADF). In 1957, the PLAAF and PLAADF merged and the radar troops became a formal branch of the PLAAF.

Since then, the organization of the PLAAF's radar component has been somewhat complicated. During the early 2000s, the PLAAF downgraded radar troops from a branch to the status of a specialized unit (专业部(分)队). In 2007 and 2009, it was identified as both a branch and a specialized unit.¹²³ It appears that it was in both categories because the branch includes long-range radars, such as over-the-horizon radars (OTHR/超视距雷达) located along the coast, while the specialized unit category refers to short-range radars, such as those assigned to airfields and SAM units. However, since the early 2010s, it has only been identified as a branch.¹²⁴

Today, the PLAAF has three basic types of radar sites. The first type is located at airfields and is used primarily for air traffic control (ATC) and for senior officers in the control tower to use to vector pilots towards their targets. The second type consists of radars located in key areas for long- and medium-range detection along China's borders. Most of these radars are located on mountain tops (高山).¹²⁵ The third type consists of OTHR near China's coastline or on islands (在海岛雷达站)¹²⁶ that are used for early warning. Overall, the PLAAF has three basic categories of radars, including long range, medium range, and short range, which are further categorized into low, medium, and high altitude. Besides OTHR, the PLAAF's aviation and SAM units have radars that are indigenous to those units and are considered specialized units.

Today, each TCAF has subordinate radar brigades with subordinate battalions, elements, and stations. The brigade, which is also identified as an intelligence station (情报站), is responsible for collecting, managing, and disseminating radar intelligence.¹²⁷ It appears that all radar brigades are now directly subordinate to corps-level Bases; however, some Bases have directly subordinate company-level radar stations that are apparently not subordinate to a brigade.¹²⁸

The PLAAF HQ and TCAF HQ command structure collects and manages radar intelligence and organizes the structure for radar unit combat activities.

Within the radar branch and specialty units, each brigade has a commander, PC, at least two deputy commanders, at least one deputy PC, a Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission/Committee, a Staff Department (Chief of Staff), Political Work Department (director), and a Support Department (director and probable PC), as well as various second- and possible third-level functional and administrative departments. Each radar battalion, company, station, and element has a commander, two deputy commanders, and a political officer, all of whom sit on the Party's decision-making body. See Appendices D, E and H for information concerning the organizational structure.

As the number and type of radars have increased and the communications capabilities have improved since the late 1990s, the PLAAF has made some significant changes to its radar organizational structure. Specifically, the number of radar brigades has increased, while it appears that all former radar regiments have been either upgraded to brigades, or two regiments have been merged into a single brigade structure. As a result of these changes, no regiments exist today and these brigades now have control over a larger number of radar stations covering a wider geographical area.

During the 2000s, the PLAAF began to conduct more mobile operations for its aviation, SAM, communications, and radar forces to avoid being struck and immobilized by enemy air and missile strikes. See Appendices D, E, and H for information concerning the current organizations subordinate to radar brigades.

Subsection 11-5: Electronic Countermeasures Branch¹²⁹

The PLAAF has usually officially translated the term *dianzi duikang* (电子对抗) as electronic countermeasures (ECM), but it has also translated it as electronic warfare.¹³⁰ The PLAAF provides little public information about its electronic countermeasures specialty troops (电子对抗专业兵).¹³¹ Specifically, no information was found from *Air Force News* for this report concerning the ECM branch. According to *China's National Defense in 2008*, it is organized into brigades or regiments, each of which has subordinate battalions.¹³² The PLAAF formed its first ground-based ECM units in the early 1970s and aviation ECM units in the 1980s. These units were re-designated as specialized technical units in the 1990s.¹³³ It appears that it was upgraded to a full branch around 2009.¹³⁴

Prior to 2016, the PLAAF's former Department previously had a subordinate Electronic Countermeasures and Radar Department (电子对抗雷达部) that was responsible for providing guidance to all PLAAF radar and ECM units. In 2016, it was downgraded to a bureau under the Staff Department.¹³⁵ No information was found concerning equivalent organizations in the TCAF or Base HQ. As such, the PLAAF HQ most likely manages all ECM activities throughout the PLAAF.

Subsection 11-6: Communications Branch and Specialized Units¹³⁶

The PLAAF has officially translated the term *tongxin* (通信) as both communications and as signal.¹³⁷ For the purposes of this report, communications is used. It appears that this component was identified only as specialized units and elements (专业技术部(分)队) until 2008, at which time it became a branch (通信兵).¹³⁸ Today, the Communications Branch appears to be responsible for providing communications, navigation, and automated command support to the entire PLAAF.¹³⁹

Prior to 2010, the PLAAF's Headquarters Department had a subordinate 2nd-level Communications Department (通信部), which appears to have been renamed the Informatization Department (信息化部) in the early 2010s and was responsible for providing guidance to all PLAAF communications units. Under the current reorganization in 2016, the Informatization Department was downgraded to a 2nd-level bureau under the Staff Department and renamed the Information and Communications Bureau (信息通信局).¹⁴⁰ It still apparently oversees all PLAAF communications.

It appears that every headquarters in the PLAAF, including PLAAF HQ, TCAF HQ, and Base HQ, as well as every division, brigade, regiment, and air station HQ has communications troops assigned to it. A high percentage of communications personnel are females. The PLAAF does not appear to have mixed-gender communications elements, companies, platoons, or squads.

Historically, PLAAF HQ and each MRAF HQ had a regiment-level general communications station (通信总站) assigned to them.¹⁴¹ Each general communications station had subordinate battalions, companies, platoons, elements, and squads assigned to them.¹⁴² However, the only reference found to a communications station under the current reorganization was about an unidentified Base in 2017.¹⁴³ Although no information was found concerning any general communications stations assigned to the PLAAF HQ or new TCAF HQ, they most likely still exist. However, one reason no information was found is because it appears that they might have been renamed. Specifically, the PLAAF HQ's Staff Department has a Central Station Center (总站某中心主任,政委) with a director (主人) and a PC and has subordinate 1st, 2nd, and 3rd offices (一室,二室,三室).¹⁴⁴ Each office has a director (主任) and a Political Branch (党支部), which means each office is a company-level organization. It is not clear what the center's responsibility is, but it is most likely a regiment-level main communications station and also serves as a radar intelligence central station (雷达情报总站). Unfortunately, no information was found about a similar organization in any TCAF HQ, but they most likely exist.

Communications regiments (通信团) are assigned to various organizations, such as the PLAAF HQ's Staff Department and the Airborne Corps HQ.

General communications stations and communications regiments are organized like all PLAAF regiment-level organizations, with a commander, PC, a Staff Department and a Political Work Division and Support Division. battalion- and company-level communications units have commanders, deputy commanders, and political officers, but they do not have any functional or administrative organizations.^a

Today, it appears that PLAAF HQ has a subordinate communications brigade,¹⁴⁵ which has a special technical support group (技术保障大队)¹⁴⁶ assigned to it. Each TCAF HQ also apparently has several subordinate communications brigades distributed throughout the TCAF. It is not clear if there is a direct command link between the TCAF HQ and the brigades or whether the chain of command goes through the relevant Bases and Command Posts. For example, each Base Staff Department has a subordinate Communications Station (通信站),¹⁴⁷ and each Command Post has subordinate communications battalions¹⁴⁸ and communications companies.¹⁴⁹ Each brigade, in

^a While communications regiments have a Commander (团长), communications central stations have a director (主任). In addition, communications companies have a Commander (连长), but company-level communications stations have a director (主任). The directors serve the same functions as a Commander.

turn, has subordinate battalions, elements, groups, companies, and stations depending on their location and responsibilities. While most brigades are identified as communications brigades (通信旅), some are identified as an information and communications brigade (信息通信旅),¹⁵⁰ which has subordinate squads,¹⁵¹ which, in turn, are subordinate to a battalion, company, station, and/or platoon. Like the ground-to-air missile and radar branches, the Communications Branch also has mobile communications battalions and elements. See Appendices D, E, and H for information concerning the organizational structure.

Finally, the PLAAF HQ has at least one subordinate communications training base (通信训练基地), which appears to be located in Baoding, Hebei Province.¹⁵²

Section 12: PLAAF Academic Institutions¹⁵³

This section identifies the PLAAF’s current nine office and one NCO academic institutions. It also discusses the PLA’s National Defense Student Program. Table 10 below shows the number of PLA academic institutions since 1950. See *The People’s Liberation Army’s 37 Academic Institutions* for detailed information about each period.

Table 10: PLA Academic Institutions: 1950-2017¹⁵⁴

Year	Number
1950	57
1956	246
1965	116
1968	125
1969	43
1977	115
1998	67
2017	37

In June 2017, the number of PLA academic institutions was reduced from 67 to 37 by abolishing, merging, or downgrading existing institutions or creating new ones.¹⁵⁵ As of 2017, the PLAAF has the following 10 key academic institutions (listed below in protocol order) and their subordinate academic institutions.¹⁵⁶ See Appendix C for key terminology. The first two organizations are *corps leader-grade*, the middle six are *corps deputy leader-grade*, and the last two are *division leader-grade*:

1. Air Force Command College (AFCC/空军指挥学院) in Beijing
2. Air Force Engineering University (AFEU/空军工程大学) in Xi’an, Shaanxi Province
 - a. Air and Missile Defense College (防空反导学院)
 - b. Air Traffic Control (ATC) and Navigation College (空管领航学院)
 - c. Aviation Engineering College (航空工程学院)
 - d. Aviation Maintenance NCO School (航空机务士官学校)
 - e. Equipment Management and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Engineering College (装备管理与无人机工程学院)
 - f. Graduate School (研究生院)¹⁵⁷
 - g. Information and Navigation College (信息与导航学院)

- h. Natural Science College (理学院)
- 3. Air Force Aviation University (AUAF/空军航空大学) in Changchun, Jilin Province
- 4. Air Force Early Warning Academy (空军预警学院) in Wuhan, Hubei Province
 - a. Huangpi NCO School (黄陂士官学校)
- 5. Air Force Harbin Flight Academy (空军哈尔滨飞行学院) in Heilongjiang Province
- 6. Air Force Shijiazhuang Flight Academy (空军石家庄飞行学院) in Hebei Province
- 7. Air Force Xi'an Flight Academy (空军西安飞行学院) in Shaanxi Province
- 8. Air Force Medical University (空军军医大学) in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province
- 9. Air Force Logistics College (空军勤务学院) in Xuzhou,^a Jiangsu Province
- 10. Air Force Communications NCO Academy (空军通信士官学校) in Dalian^b

In 2008, the PLAAF also created the Air Force Military Professional University (空军军事职业大学), which is also identified as the Military Vocational University. It provides online courses and distant learning focused at the regiment level and above for both officer and enlisted personnel.

Of note, in 2017 the PLAAF abolished its Airborne Troop College, which was responsible for training both airborne and AAA cadets, and replaced it with a training base, which has consolidated training for all new enlisted airborne personnel. As noted earlier, it appears that all new airborne force and Marine Corps officers receive their cadet education and training at the Army's Special Operations Academy.^c

Based on interviews with officers from the Air Force Command College and an official PLAAF publication, the organizational structure of the PLAAF's academic institutions has changed considerably since early-2016.^d Some key explanations for the reorganization include the need to facilitate consistency across the entire PLA and to reduce the number of personnel at each level. With the exception of the Aviation University and flight academies already discussed, the overall administrative organizational structure for the remaining academic institutions has changed radically. Before the reorganization, a typical structure consisted of a training department (训练部) that served as the headquarters department; a political department (政治部); a college affairs department (院务部) that managed all facilities; a military science research department (军事科学部); as well as a general office (办公室). At that time, each of these organizations was a division

^a Based on multiple China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) articles, it appears that the official English name is Air Force Logistics College even though the name best translates as Air Force Service College. See Xiong Liping, et al., "Tribological study of N-containing borate derivatives and their synergistic antioxidation effects with T531," *Friction* 7(5), 2019, p. 417–431. In addition, an entry for Air Force Duty College was found in the PLA's *Dictionary of Modern Military Education*, although this does not appear to be correct. "Air Force Duty College" [空军勤务学院] in DONG Huiyu and MOU Xianming, eds., *Dictionary of Modern Military Education* (sic) [现代军校教育辞典], Second edition, 2011, p. 480. Of note, the PLAA and PLAN use the same Chinese terms, but their institutions appear to be translated as Army Logistic University and Naval Service Academy.

^b Although the PLA in general translates *xuexiao* as 'school', it has made an exception for this institution and translated it as a 'academy'. See Feng Danqing et al., "ERP: An Elastic Resource Provisioning Approach for Cloud Applications" in *PloS One*, 14(4), 26 April 2019. Accessed at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31026264>. A photo with the official English name on a building was found at <https://www.weibo.com/ttarticle/p/show?id=2309351000774080801477171249>.

^c Correspondence with several China military analysts.

^d Interview with PLAAF officers in Washington DC in April 2018. See also, LI Chunzhao, ed., *The Introduction on Air Force Academies Education* [空军院校教育概论], 2017, p. 149-150.

leader-grade organization. Following the recent reforms, the current structure now comprises of a general office (办公室); a political work division (政治工作处); a teaching and support division (教育保障处/教保处); a teaching affairs division (教务处), management/administration division (管理处), a supply support division (供应保障处), a discipline inspection and supervision division (纪检监察处) and a scientific research division (科研学术处).^a Further, each of these academic institutions also has several subordinate academic departments (系) and teaching and research offices (教育研究室).

Of note, the PLA's first bachelor's degree programs began in 1982, the first master's degree programs began in 1985, and the first doctoral degree programs began in 1989; however, the year fluctuated depending on the service (Army, Navy, and Air Force), Second Artillery Force, and specialty. The only remaining schools were enlisted schools, which the CMC officially approved in August 1985 but did not open until June 1986.¹⁵⁸ NCO schools provided only two-year secondary professional programs/diplomas (中专学历) and three-year post-secondary educational programs/diplomas (大专学历). NCO schools have not had and most likely will not have any bachelor's degree programs.

National Defense Student Program¹⁵⁹

Under then-CMC Chairman Jiang Zemin, the PLA reduced the number of PLA academic institutions in 1998 from 115 to 67¹⁶⁰ and implemented the National Defense Student (NDS/国防生) Program, which was also called the Reserve Officer Program, to educate undergraduates as officers at 118 civilian engineering, science, and technology universities, which included 20 PLAAF programs shown in Appendix Q.¹⁶¹

The program also included a 5% quota for females. Upon graduation, NDS students were assigned to an operational unit, PLA academic institution, or training unit, where they received a couple months of specialty training. All NDS officer candidates underwent 450 hours of "military-political training" (军政训练) prior to assuming their billets.¹⁶² Alternatively, about 40% of NDS students moved directly to graduate school. Almost all NDS graduates were assigned to technical, rather than command, billets, often serving in engineering, research, or teaching roles.¹⁶³

Although the PLA's goal in 2010 was to have 40% of its new officers come from the NDS program, that goal was not met.¹⁶⁴ After 19 years, the program apparently did not meet its goals and, as a result, the PLA did not recruit any new students starting in 2017.¹⁶⁵ As such, the entire program ceased to exist when the last class recruited in 2016 graduated in 2020.

Section 13: PLAAF Research Academy¹⁶⁶

On 2 February 2004, PLAAF HQ held a ceremony to formally establish the new Air Force Equipment Research Academy (空军装备研究院) as a corps leader-grade organization.¹⁶⁷ The research academy was created in order to be responsible for consolidating the strengths of the PLAAF's scientific research, implementing science and technology (S&T) strategy for a strong military, and speeding up the informatization of the PLAAF's equipment and weapons. The new research academy consolidated the administrative functions of more than 20 PLAAF division- and regiment-level scientific research organizations, most of which are located around Beijing. This

^a Based on the authors' analysis, each of these will most likely remain as division leader-grade organizations.

further allowed the PLAAF to downsize the administrative staff and to have a single organization that was responsible for consolidating requirements.

It was given the grade of corps leader so that it would be able to coordinate better with other PLA-managed and Chinese state-owned enterprises in the country's defense industry on a daily basis. For example, it works closely with the CMC's Science and Technology Commission (科学技术委员会), which was created under the former General Armament Department, as the "leading technical and intellectual brain trust" for defense S&T and serves as a nexus between military units, the CMC, and the defense industry.¹⁶⁸ The Commission has always been a MR/ TC leader-grade organization. It is responsible for determining strategies for developing defense-related science and technology and advising the PLA leadership on weapons and equipment selection, military modernization, arms control, and nonproliferation.¹⁶⁹ In this capacity, the S&T Committee has direct access to the CMC leadership and coordinates closely with all of the PLA services and defense industry components.¹⁷⁰

As of 2005, about 1,500 officers were assigned to the PLAAF Equipment Research Academy, which had the following subordinate institutes:¹⁷¹

- Equipment General Demonstration Research Institute (装备总体论证研究所), which was also identified as the General Research Institute (总体研究所) in a 13 January 2005 internet article.¹⁷² The term "zongti" (总体) is difficult to translate correctly here, because it can be translated as "overall" and "global".¹⁷³
- Aviation Equipment Research Institute (航空装备研究所).
- Air Force Ground Air Defense Equipment Research Institute (空军地面防空装备研究所).
- Air Force Radar and Electronic Countermeasures Research Institute (空军雷达与电子对抗研究所).
- Air Force Communications Navigation and Command Automation Research Institute (空军通信导航与指挥自动化研究所).
- Air Force Reconnaissance and Intelligence Equipment Research (空军侦察情报装备研究所).
- Air Force Weather and Chemical Defense Research Institute (空军气象防化研究所).
- SAM Technical/Technology Services Research Institute (导弹技术勤务研究所).
- Air Force Equipment Software Testing and Evaluation Center (空军装备软件测评中心).

With the "below-the-neck" reforms that started in 2017 as part of the 11th PLA force reduction, the PLAAF reorganized the academy and renamed it the Air Force Research Academy (空军研究院) in July 2017.¹⁷⁴ Although its overall organizational structure remains unclear, in November 2017 multiple PLAAF specialized-research institutions were gradually set up and integrated into the new academy-institute mechanism (院所体制).¹⁷⁵ As such, the Air Force Research Academy is becoming the PLAAF's main scientific research powerhouse (科研主体力量). The bullets below show some of the new institutes under this academy that have been identified, but the other ones noted above also most likely still exist:¹⁷⁶

- Air Defense Anti-Missile Institute (防空反导所)¹⁷⁷
- Aviation Branch Research Institute (航空兵研究所)¹⁷⁸

- Building and Construction Research Institute (建设发展研究所)¹⁷⁹
- Communications and Missile Institute (通信与导弹所)¹⁸⁰
- Construction and Development Research Institute (建设发展研究所)¹⁸¹
- Meteorology and Hydrology-related Research Institute (气象水文研究所).¹⁸²
- Special Services Research Institute (特种勤务研究所)^{a,183}
- Strategic Early Warning Research Institute (战略预警研究所)¹⁸⁴
- Systems Engineering Research Institute (系统工程研究所).¹⁸⁵

Section 14: Conclusions

As a result of the PLA's 11th force reduction that began in January 2016, the PLAAF has had several major changes to its organizational structure, including cutting PLAAF HQ in half and removing it from the operational chain of command, changing the Headquarters Department and Political Department into a Staff Department and Political Work Department, respectively, not adding the PLAAF Commander to the CMC, having two PLAAF officers serve as a TC Commander, having a PLAAF officer serve as a permanent Deputy Commander in each of the five TCs, reducing the seven MRAFs to five TCAFs, merging the Logistics Department and Equipment Department into a single Support Department at the TCAF level and below, creating several corps leader-grade Bases and Command Posts with command over subordinate operational units in their area of responsibility, abolishing all fighter and ground attack air divisions and upgrading or merging their subordinate regiments into brigades, and abolishing the Airborne Troop College and the National Defense Student Program.

Although this report provides some very down-in-the weeds data, there are still a lot of black holes at just about every level.

¹ Other key sources that the lead author of this report has written about the PLAAF's organizational structure back to the 1980s include: Kenneth W. Allen, *People's Republic of China People's Liberation Air Force*, 1991; Kenneth W. Allen, Glenn Krumel, and Jonathan D. Pollack, *China's Air Force Enters the 21st Century*, 1995; Kenneth W. Allen, "PLA Air Force Organization" in James C. Mulvenon and Andrew N.D. Yang, eds., *The People's Liberation Army as Organization*, 2002; National Air and Space Intelligence Agency, *People's Liberation Army Air Force 2010*, 2010; Kenneth W. Allen, "The Organizational Structure of the PLAAF" in Richard P. Halloran, Roger Cliff, and Phillip C. Saunders, eds., *The Chinese Air Force: Evolving Concepts, Roles, and Capabilities*, 2012; Kenneth W. Allen, "Introduction to the PLA's Organizational Reforms: 2000-2012" in Kevin Pollpeter and Kenneth W. Allen, eds., *The PLA as Organization v2.0*, 2015; and Kenneth W. Allen, "PLA Air Force Organizational Reforms: 2000-2012" in Kevin Pollpeter and Kenneth W. Allen, eds. *The PLA as Organization v2.0*, 2015.

² *Air Force News (AFN/空军报)*, published five times per week by the PLAAF's Political Work Department. 1,800 data points were downloaded from the 2021-2022 *AFN*.

³ Kenneth W. Allen and Brendan S. Mulvaney, "Ongoing Organizational Reforms of the People's Liberation Army Air Force" in *Journal of Strategic Studies*, forthcoming.

⁴ Kenneth W. Allen and Christina L. Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*, 2021.

⁵ Information concerning PLAAF personnel issues can be found at Kenneth W. Allen, Thomas Corbett, Tylor A. Lee, and Xiu Ma, *Personnel of the People's Liberation Army*, 2022.

⁶ PLAAF officer LI Yong served as the commander of the JLSD from March 2018 to December 2021.

^a It is not clear what this research institute does, but each service has the same organization.

-
- ⁷ Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*; Allen, Corbett, Lee, and Ma, *Personnel of the People's Liberation Army*; Allen and Mulvaney, "Ongoing Organizational Reforms of the People's Liberation Army Air Force".
- ⁸ State Council Information Office of the PRC, *The Diversified Employment of China's Armed Forces* [中国武装力量的多样化运用], 2013; *Military Service Law of the People's Republic of China*, 1998; *Military Service Law of the People's Republic of China* [中华人民共和国兵役法], 2021.
- ⁹ ZHU Rongchang, ed., [*Air Force Dictionary*] [空军大辞典], 1996, p. 973, 977, 980, and 982.
- ¹⁰ Discussion in June 2020 with Henry Boyd who is the Director of Military Forces and Equipment for IISS. See International Institute for Strategic Studies, *The Military Balance 2010*, 2010. and *The Military Balance, 2011*, 2011.
- ¹¹ State Council Information Office of the PRC, *The Diversified Employment of China's Armed Forces*.
- ¹² Kenneth W. Allen, Dennis J. Blasko, and John F. Corbett, Jr., "The PLA's New Organizational Structure: What is Known, Unknown and Speculation (Part One)" in *China Brief*, No. 3 (4 February 2016); and Allen, Blasko, and Corbett, Jr., "The PLA's New Organizational Structure: What is Known, Unknown and Speculation (Part Two)" in *China Brief*, No. 4 (23 February 2016).
- ¹³ Chi-yuk Choi and Catherine Wong Jun Mai, "China to Appoint New Air Force Commander, Sources Say" in *South China Morning Post*, 23 August 2017.
- ¹⁴ Discussion in June 2020 with Henry Boyd from IISS. See IISS, *The Military Balance 2020*, 2020, p. 264.
- ¹⁵ Editorial Committee, [*People's Liberation Army Air Force Enlisted Force Handbook*] [中国人民解放军空军士兵手册], 2006, p. 252.
- ¹⁶ The information in this section comes from Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*; Kenneth W. Allen, "Introduction to the PLA's Administrative and Operational Structure" in Mulvenon and Yang, eds., *The People's Liberation Army as Organization*, 2002; Allen, "Introduction to the PLA's Organizational Reforms: 2000-2012"; and Kenneth W. Allen, "China Announces Reform of Military Ranks" in *China Brief*, No. 2 (30 January 2017).
- ¹⁷ Given the complexity of the system, see also Allen, "Introduction to the PLA's Organizational Reforms: 2000-2012".
- ¹⁸ *Xinhua*, "China Reveals Plan to Restructure PLA's Non-Commissioned Ranks," 14 July 2009. Accessed at <https://web.archive.org/web/20180630014444/en.people.cn/90001/90776/90785/6700509.html>.
- ¹⁹ *Xinhua*, "Chinese lawmakers deliberate draft decision on ranks for active-duty soldiers," 27 February 2022. Accessed at http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-02/27/content_10135635.htm; LIU Shuo, "[The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress plans to make a decision to clearly stipulate the rank system for active soldiers] [全国人大常委会拟作出决定，对现役士兵衔级制度作出明确规定]" in *Xinhua*, 27 February 2022. Accessed at http://www.81.cn/yw/2022-02/27/content_10135632.htm.
- ²⁰ "Beijing MAC Organizes Sergeants to Conduct Assembly Training" in *China Military Online*, 20 November 2014. Accessed at http://english.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/photo-reports/2014-11/20/content_6233881.htm; "Master Chief System Optimizes China's Structure of Military Strength" in *China Military Online*, 21 January 2015. Accessed at https://web.archive.org/web/20200812011325/english.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2015-01/21/content_6317519.htm; "Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference on 26 Mar 2015" in *China Military Online*, 26 March 2015.
- ²¹ XIANG Yong, "PLA Experiments with Chief Non-Commissioned Officer System" in *China Armed Forces*, No. 1 (2015); SU Yincheng, "Chief NCOs Debut in PLA" in *China Armed Forces*, No. 1 (2015), p. 22-27.
- ²² *AFN*, 23 April 2015, p. 1. The August 2015 issue of *China Air Force* magazine had 22 pages of articles concerning the test case program for the PLA's master chief program. One article noted that this was the first time a senior NCO had ever had his own office. The final 4-page article gave an overview of similar programs in five countries – United States, Russia, Japan, France, and Germany. See "Air Force Master Chief" [空军士官长] in *China Air Force* No. 8 (2015).
- ²³ The primary sources for the material in this section are *Directory of PRC Military Personalities* (various years); Kenneth W. Allen, *Commanders of the People's Liberation Army Air Force: An Overview*, 2021; Kenneth W. Allen, *Political Commissars of the People's Liberation Army Air Force*, 2021.
- ²⁴ Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*.
- ²⁵ Allen, *Commanders of the PLA Air Force: An Overview*.
- ²⁶ See Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*, Section 3 and Appendix 3-1, for detailed information on the Party Congresses, Party Committees, and Standing Committees.
- ²⁷ YAO Wei, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*] [中国空军百科全书], Volume 1, 2005, p. 361.

- ²⁸ Of note, the Logistics Department and Equipment Department also have a PC, but they are not part of the PLAAF HQ Party Standing Committee; however, they are the secretary for their department's Standing Committee.
- ²⁹ See Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*, Section 3, Tables 3-23 to 3-25, p. 153-155, for a list of the Party Congresses and key leaders.
- ³⁰ *AFN*, 29 February 2016, p. 1.
- ³¹ *AFN*, 24 January 2017, p. 1; *AFN* 13 February 2017, p. 1; *AFN* 20 February 2017, p. 1.
- ³² *AFN*, 1 October 2018, p. 1.
- ³³ *AFN*, 4 March 2021, p. 1.
- ³⁴ *AFN*, 18 November 2022, p. 1; *AFN* 16 December 2022, p. 1.
- ³⁵ Information on the PLA's and PLAAF's political work system comes from MA Leqi, ed., [*Political Instructor's Handbook*] [指导员手册], 2001, p. 9; SONG Shilun and XIAO Ke, eds., [*China Military Encyclopedia*] [中国军事百科全书], Volume 4, 1997, p. 3. See also Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*, Section 3.
- ³⁶ SONG and XIAO, eds., [*China Military Encyclopedia*], p. 131-132.
- ³⁷ *Ibid.*; CHENG Baoshan, ed., "The Fundamental Laws and Regulations of Military Political Work in the New Century and New Era—Studying the Newly Revised and Promulgated 'Regulations of the Chinese People's Liberation Army on Political Work'" [新世纪新阶段军队政治工作的根本法规—学习新修订颁布的“中国人民解放军政治工作条例”], p. 184-201.
- ³⁸ CHENG, ed., "The Fundamental Laws and Regulations of Military Political Work in the New Century and New Era—Studying the Newly Revised and Promulgated 'Regulations of the Chinese People's Liberation Army on Political Work,'" p. 184-201.
- ³⁹ For information on military Party branches see SONG and XIAO, eds., [*China Military Encyclopedia*], p. 237. See also GAO Peng, FU Guanghua, and ZHANG Ligu, [*Handbook for Military Party Branch Work*] [军队党支部工作手册], 2004, p. 59-60.
- ⁴⁰ LIU Hang, ["The Military's First 36 Master Chiefs Assume Their Billet and Become New Grassroots Forces"] [全军首任 36 名士官长上岗履职 成基层新力量], 9 December 2014. Accessed at <http://military.people.com.cn/n/2014/1209/c1011-26175846.html>.
- ⁴¹ HE Guoqiang, ed., [*Dictionary of China's Communist Party Central Committee Members for 1921-2003*] [中国共产党历届中央委员大辞典], 2004, p. 587-588.
- ⁴² "DENG Changyou" [邓昌友], undated. Accessed at <https://baike.baidu.com/item/邓昌友>.
- ⁴³ Here are various translations from official PRC military dictionaries: 1) "battalion political instructor" (教导员). Found in PAN Xiangting, ed., *A New English-Chinese Chinese-English Dictionary of Military Terms* [新编英汉汉英军事词典], 1999, p. 337; 2) "battalion political instructor" (教导员) and 3) "political instructor" (指导员). Found in *The Chinese-English English-Chinese Military Dictionary* [英汉汉英军事大辞典], 2011, p. 309 and p. 642; 4) "battalion political instructor" (教导员) and "company political instructor" (指导员). Found in *A Chinese-English Dictionary of Military Terms* [汉英军事词典], 2001, p. 427 and p. 1008; 5) "Political Instructor" (指导员). Found in *Chinese-English Dictionary* (汉英辞典), 1997, p. 2059; Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People's Liberation Army Military Terminology*] [中国人民解放军军语], Second Edition, 2011, aka the *Junyü*, does not have an entry for either term.
- ⁴⁴ Unless noted, the information in this section comes from Allen and Mulvaney, "Ongoing organizational reforms of the People's Liberation Army Air Force" forthcoming; *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2022.
- ⁴⁵ Under the PLAAF, the former Headquarters Department is now the Staff Department, whereas the former Political Department is now the Political Work Department.
- ⁴⁶ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2022.
- ⁴⁷ See Kenneth W. Allen, "Overview of the Organizational Structure of PLA Logistics, Equipment, and Support" in George R. Shatzer and Roger D. Cliff, eds., *PLA Logistics and Sustainment: PLA Conference 2022*, 2023.
- ⁴⁸ See Allen, "PLA Air Force Organizational Reforms: 2000–2012" for detailed information about the role of the former Headquarters Department.
- ⁴⁹ *Xinhua*, "Xi Urges Breakthroughs in Military Structural Reform," 26 November 2015. Accessed at https://web.archive.org/web/20151130102938/news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-11/26/c_134859089.htm.
- ⁵⁰ Also see Allen, "PLA Air Force Organizational Reforms: 2000-2012".
- ⁵¹ JIANG Fangran, ed., [*An Introduction to Headquarters Department Work*] [司令部工作概论], 2000, p. 98-99.
- ⁵² *AFN*, 14 October 2022, p. 2; *AFN* 10 February 2021, p. 3.
- ⁵³ *AFN*, 18 November 2021, p. 1.

-
- ⁵⁴ Allen, “The Organizational Structure of the PLA Air Force”; National Air and Space Intelligence Agency, *People’s Liberation Army Air Force 2010*.
- ⁵⁵ YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 1, p. 217. Previously, it was also responsible for Party discipline, although that responsibility has most likely been transferred to the PLAAF DIC.
- ⁵⁶ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2022.
- ⁵⁷ *AFN*, 12 January 2018, p. 1. Reference to the PLAAF Political Work Department’s [Enlisted] Soldier and Civilian Personnel Bureau (政治工作部兵文局) first emerged in 2017. See “[The Leaders of the Air Force Political Work Department’s [Enlisted] Soldier and Civilian Personnel Bureau Visited Our School to Study the Training of Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs)]” [空军政治工作部兵文局领导莅临我校调研士官生培养工作], 21 September 2017. Accessed at <http://www.hamc.edu.cn/info/1092/4492.htm>. See also *Directory of PRC Military Personalities 2022*.
- ⁵⁸ YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 1, p. 217; Allen, “The Organizational Structure of the PLA Air Force”; National Air and Space Intelligence Agency, *People’s Liberation Army Air Force 2010*. See also, “Service” [勤务], in Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People’s Liberation Army Military Terminology*], p. 67.
- ⁵⁹ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2022.
- ⁶⁰ Section 2 (“Organizational Structure”), in National Air and Space Intelligence Agency, *People’s Liberation Army Air Force 2010*; *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2022.
- ⁶¹ Allen, *People’s Republic of China People’s Liberation Army Air Force*.
- ⁶² With the exception of transportation vehicles, which are managed by the Logistics Department. See YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 1, p. 218.
- ⁶³ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2022.
- ⁶⁴ The base for this section is Allen and Mulvaney, “Ongoing organizational reforms of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force”; Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*.
- ⁶⁵ “[Five Theater Command Air Force’s Created]” [5个战区空军成立], 06 February 2016. Accessed at https://web.archive.org/web/20160226104516/http://kj.81.cn/content/2016-02/06/content_6899277.htm.
- ⁶⁶ *China’s Military Strategy* [中国的军事战略], 2015.
- ⁶⁷ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2022.
- ⁶⁸ Allen, “Introduction to the PLA’s Organizational Reforms: 2000-2012”.
- ⁶⁹ See Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force* for detailed information on the history of the bases and command posts.
- ⁷⁰ The information for this section is consolidated from the following reports: Kenneth W. Allen, Brendan S. Mulvaney, and James Char, “Ongoing Organizational Reforms of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force” in *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 2021; Allen, “Introduction to the PLA’s Administrative and Operational Structure”; Allen, “Introduction to the PLA’s Organizational Reforms: 2000-2012”; Kenneth W. Allen, “PLA Air Force: Lessons Learned 1949-2002” in Laurie Burkitt, Andrew Scobell, and Larry Wortzel, eds., *The Lessons of History: The Chinese People’s Liberation Army at 75*, 2003; Allen, “The Organizational Structure of the PLAAF”; Section 1, in National Air and Space Intelligence Agency, *People’s Liberation Army Air Force 2010*.
- ⁷¹ HU Guangzheng, ed., [*Contemporary Military Organizational Reform Research*] [当代军事体制变革研究], 2007, p. 94.
- ⁷² WANG Jun [王俊], “[The PLAAF’s Newly Organized Air Defense Base Made Its Debut on the Training Ground - In the Future it Will Be the Main Body of PLAAF Operations]” [空军新组建的空防基地亮相演兵场, 未来将成为空军作战主体], 13 December 2017. Accessed at https://www.thepaper.cn/newsDetail_forward_1903253.
- ⁷³ *AFN*, 25 November 2022, p. 1.
- ⁷⁴ *AFN*, 23 November 2022, p. 1.
- ⁷⁵ *AFN*, 22 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁷⁶ *AFN*, 12 December 2022, p. 4.
- ⁷⁷ *AFN*, 12 December 2022, p. 4.
- ⁷⁸ *AFN*, 9 October 2022, p. 3.
- ⁷⁹ *AFN*, 17 May 2022, p. 1.
- ⁸⁰ *AFN*, 4 November 2022, p. 1.
- ⁸¹ *AFN*, 14 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁸² *AFN*, 12 December 2022, p. 4.
- ⁸³ *AFN*, 29 November 2022, p. 1.
- ⁸⁴ *AFN*, 15 March 2021, p. 1.

-
- ⁸⁵ *AFN*, 18 November 2022, p. 1.
- ⁸⁶ *AFN*, 13 September 2022, p. 2.
- ⁸⁷ *AFN*, 29 July 2022, p. 4.
- ⁸⁸ *AFN*, 28 January 2021, p. 4.
- ⁸⁹ “Air Force branches” [空军兵种], in ZHU, ed., [*Air Force Dictionary*], p. 154.
- ⁹⁰ State Council Information Office of the PRC, *The Diversified Employment of China’s Armed Forces*; LU, ed., *The PLA Air Force*, Section 4. There is a Chinese version of this book.
- ⁹¹ “Military Services,” undated. Accessed at <https://web.archive.org/web/20230306002650/eng.mod.gov.cn/xb/MilitaryServices/index.html>.
- ⁹² LU, ed., *The PLA Air Force*, Section 4.
- ⁹³ Academy of Military Science (AMS), *World Military Yearbook 1991* [世界军事年鉴 1991], p. 65. Since the early 1980s, AMS has published this annually, although there have been occasional publications that cover two years, such as 1993-1994 and 1995-1996. On the other hand, China’s *Defense White Paper* was published biennially from 1998 to 2010 by the PRC State Council’s Information Office, while the 2002 version also did not include a radar branch.
- ⁹⁴ *China’s National Defense in the New Era (2019)* [新时代的中国国防 (2019)].
- ⁹⁵ Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force* is the base for this Section.
- ⁹⁶ WANG Dinglie, ed., *China Today: Air Force* [当代中国空军], 1989; LIN Hu, ed., [*History of the Air Force*] [空军史], 1989; YAO Jun, ed., [*A History of China’s Aviation*] [中国航空史], 1998.
- ⁹⁷ *Annual Report to Congress: Military Power of the People’s Republic of China*, 2008, p. 53. The PLAAF also has the 4th Transport Division (MUCD 95616) in the Chengdu MRAF that is not noted in the *Military Power* report.
- ⁹⁸ Allen, Mulvaney, and Char, “Ongoing Organizational Reforms of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force”.
- ⁹⁹ Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force* is the base for this Section.
- ¹⁰⁰ YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 1, p. 223-233. The three terms used are Airborne Force, Airborne Corps, and Airborne Troop. “Airborne Force” [空降兵] and “Airborne Corps” [空降兵军] in Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People’s Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 959. “Airborne force” [空降兵] in ZHU, ed., [*Air Force Dictionary*], p. 160. “Airborne Troop” in LU, ed., *The PLA Air Force*, p. 102-104.
- ¹⁰¹ *China’s National Defense in 2002; China’s National Defense in 2008; China’s National Defense in the New Era*; “Air Force Branches” [空军兵种] in ZHU, ed., [*Air Force Dictionary*], p. 154; “Airborne Force” in ZHU, ed., [*Air Force Dictionary*], p. 160; “Arms” [兵种] in Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People’s Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 332.
- ¹⁰² YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 1, p. 231.
- ¹⁰³ A 1995 RAND report described the airborne forces as “organized primarily for internal control.” Allen, Krumel, and Pollack, *China’s Air Force Enters the 21st Century*, xiv. For more on the 1967 incident, see Thomas W. Robinson, “The Wuhan Incident: Local Strife and Provincial Rebellion during the Cultural Revolution” in *The China Quarterly*, No. 47 (July – September 1971), p. 413-438. Accessed at <https://www.jstor.org/stable/652320>. See also Harlan Jencks, *From Muskets to Missiles: Politics and Professionalism in the Chinese Army, 1945-1981*, 1982.
- ¹⁰⁴ Jencks, *From Muskets to Missiles*, p. 56-57, p. 95-97.
- ¹⁰⁵ *AFN*, 26 April 2017, p. 2.
- ¹⁰⁶ *AFN*, 12 October 2022, p. 3.
- ¹⁰⁷ *AFN*, 16 June 2017, p. 1.
- ¹⁰⁸ *AFN*, 16 June 2017, p. 1.
- ¹⁰⁹ *AFN*, 13 September 2018, p. 1; *AFN* 29 September 2022, p. 3.
- ¹¹⁰ *AFN*, 8 March 2018, p. 1. This is an anomaly since regiments are usually not subordinate to brigades.
- ¹¹¹ See Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*.
- ¹¹² *AFN*, 6 March 2017, p. 4; *AFN*, 27 March 2017, p. 4. Kenneth W. Allen, *Females in the PLA Air Force*, 2021.
- ¹¹³ *AFN*, 6 March 2017, p. 4; *AFN* 27 March 2017, p. 4. Allen, *Females in the PLA Air Force*.
- ¹¹⁴ *AFN*, 10 March 2017, p. 1.
- ¹¹⁵ *AFN*, 4 January 2016, p. 3.
- ¹¹⁶ *AFN*, 12 October 2016, p. 4.
- ¹¹⁷ Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*; and Allen and Mulvaney, “Ongoing Organizational Reforms of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force” are the base for this Section.
- ¹¹⁸ *China’s National Defense in 1998, China’s National Defense in 2002; China’s National Defense in 2008; China’s National Defense in the New Era; World Military Yearbook*, multiple years; “Arms” [兵种] in Academy of

Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People's Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 332. "Air Force Branches" [空军兵种] in ZHU, ed., [*Air Force Dictionary*], p. 154; People's Liberation Army Air Force Committee, [*PLA Air Force Officer Handbook*] [中国人民解放军空军军官手册], First edition, 2006, p. 28. [*People's Liberation Army Air Force Enlisted Force Handbook*], p. 13; Allen, Mulvaney, and Char, "Ongoing Organizational Reforms of the People's Liberation Army Air Force"; National Air and Space Intelligence Agency, *People's Liberation Army Air Force 2010*, Sections 9 and 10.

¹¹⁹ *China's National Defense in 2008*.

¹²⁰ For example, *AFN*, 28 December 2022, p. 2; *AFN* 8 November 2022, p. 2.

¹²¹ This section is based on Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*, Section 3, and information from *Air Force News* from 2016 through 2022.

¹²² YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 1, p. 230.

¹²³ People's Liberation Army Air Force Committee, [*PLA Air Force Officer Handbook*], First edition, p. 28; *World Military Yearbook 2007*, p. 148; LU, ed., *The PLA Air Force*, p. 89-111.

¹²⁴ *China's National Defense in the New Era; World Military Yearbook*, 2013, 2014, and 2015.

¹²⁵ *AFN*, 5 February 2021, p. 1.

¹²⁶ *AFN*, 4 November 2022, p. 1.

¹²⁷ GUO Xilin, ed., [*Science of Air Force Radar Troop Tactics*] [空军雷达兵战术学], 2002, p. 98-99.

¹²⁸ *AFN*, 13 December 2022, p. 1; *AFN*, 4 November 2022, p. 1.

¹²⁹ National Air and Space Intelligence Agency, *People's Liberation Army Air Force 2010*, Section 12; Allen, Mulvaney, and Char, "Ongoing Organizational Reforms of the People's Liberation Army Air Force"; Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*, Section 3.

¹³⁰ "Air Force Electronic Warfare Units" [空军电子对抗兵] in YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 1, p. 232. "Air Force Electronic Countermeasures Regiment" [空军电子对抗团] in ZHU, ed., [*Air Force Dictionary*], p. 162.

¹³¹ *World Military Yearbook 2013*, p. 48. The protocol order is: aviation, ground-air defense, radar, airborne, and electronic counter-measures.

¹³² *China's National Defense in 2008*.

¹³³ YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 1, p. 232.

¹³⁴ People's Liberation Army Air Force Committee, [*PLA Air Force Officer Handbook*], First edition, p. 28. *China's National Defense in 2002*; *China's National Defense in 2008*; *World Military Yearbook 2013*; LU, ed., *The PLA Air Force*, p. 89-111.

¹³⁵ Allen, Mulvaney, and Char, "Ongoing Organizational Reforms of the People's Liberation Army Air Force."

¹³⁶ Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force* is the base for this Section.

¹³⁷ The term *tongxin* (通信) is translated as "communications" in the following sources: 1) "Military Services," undated. Accessed at <http://eng.mod.gov.cn/xb/MilitaryServices/index.html>; 2) *China's National Defense in 2002*; *China's National Defense in the New Era*; 3) Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People's Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 230; 4) YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 1, p. 149; and 5) Lu, ed., *The PLA Air Force*, p. 99-102; The same term is translated as "signal" and "signal corps" in the following sources: 1) ZHU, ed., [*Air Force Dictionary*], p. 162; 2) YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 1, p. 149; 3) Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People's Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 230; and 4) *China's National Defense in 2008*.

¹³⁸ *China's National Defense in 2008*. Of note, the Academy of Military Science's *World Military Yearbook* that was published from 1985 through 2015 never identified communications as a branch.

¹³⁹ YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 1, p. 232-233.

¹⁴⁰ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2022.

¹⁴¹ SONG and XIAO, eds., [*China Military Encyclopedia*], Vol. 4, p. 609.

¹⁴² This information on communications organizations is derived from analysis of multiple articles in *Air Force News*.

¹⁴³ *AFN*, 2 August 2017, p. 2.

¹⁴⁴ *AFN*, 29 June 2018, p. 3.

¹⁴⁵ *AFN*, 3 October 2021, p. 3; *AFN* 8 February 2021, p. 2.

¹⁴⁶ *AFN*, 8 February 2021, p. 2.

¹⁴⁷ *AFN*, 10 November 2022, p. 2; *AFN* 9 August 2022, p. 3.

¹⁴⁸ *AFN*, 13 September 2022, p. 2.

-
- ¹⁴⁹ *AFN*, 29 July 2022, p. 4.
- ¹⁵⁰ *AFN*, 2 August 2022, p. 3; *AFN* 16 November 2022, p. 4.
- ¹⁵¹ *AFN*, 16 November 2022, p. 4.
- ¹⁵² *AFN*, 16 August 2022, p. 1; “[Baoding Air Force Communication Training Base] [保定空军通信训练基地], undated. Accessed at <https://www.sgss8.net/tpdq/16442174/4.htm>.
- ¹⁵³ The primary sources for this Section are Allen and Mulvaney, “Ongoing Organizational Reforms of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force”; Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*, Section 5; and Kenneth Allen and Mingzhi Chen, *The People’s Liberation Army’s 37 Academic Institutions*, 2020.
- ¹⁵⁴ HU, ed., [*Contemporary Military Organizational Reform Research*]; JIN Peng and DONG Ming, eds., [*An Overview of Chinese Military Academic Institutions*] [中国军事院校通览], 2002; YUAN Wei and ZHANG Zhuo, eds., *History of the Development of China’s Military Academic Institutions* [中国军校发展史], 2001; LI Cheng’an, ed., [*Education Reform in Military Academies in the New Situation*] [新形势下军队院校教育改革], 2015.
- ¹⁵⁵ Ministry of National Defense, “Military of National Defense Announces Names of Military Academies after Reform” [国防部公布调整改革后军队院校名称], 29 June 2017. Accessed at <https://web.archive.org/web/20230627212602/http://edu.people.com.cn/n1/2017/0630/c1053-29373203.html>.
- ¹⁵⁶ “[List of 43 military academies and distribution areas announced after the military reform]” [军改后 43 所军队院校名单及分布区公布], 30 December 2017. Accessed at <https://web.archive.org/web/20221103150046/https://www.toutiao.com/article/6505153224301871629/>. See also *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2018.
- ¹⁵⁷ Air Force Engineering University, “Academic Departments” [院系设置]. Accessed at <http://www.afeu.cn/web/afeu/yxsx/>.
- ¹⁵⁸ SUN Yougui, ed. [*A Brief History of China People’s Liberation Army Academic Institutions*] [中国人民解放军院校发展简史], 1996, p. 377.
- ¹⁵⁹ Allen, Corbett, Lee, and Ma, *Personnel of the People’s Liberation Army*.
- ¹⁶⁰ YUAN and ZHANG, eds., *History of the Development of China’s Military Academic Institutions*.
- ¹⁶¹ Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*.
- ¹⁶² “[The Four General Departments of the PLA regulate work of accepting and cultivating local university student cadres]” [解放军四总部规范接收和培养地方大学生干部工作], 13 July 2012. Accessed at <https://web.archive.org/web/20211208005518/www.zhengbing.cc/Article/junguan/20872.html>
- ¹⁶³ *PLA Daily*, “[Interpretation of Recruitment Policies in 2010 for Military Academic Institutions and National Defense Student Program]” [2010 年军队院校和普通高校国防生招生政策解读], 11 June 2010. Accessed at https://web.archive.org/web/20130203101324/www.csust.edu.cn/pub/kjxpb/notice/t20100611_126804.htm.
- ¹⁶⁴ *Beijing Examination News*, “[Air Force One-Half of New Cadres Come from National Defense Student Program]” [空军一半新干部来自国防生], 1 September 2006. Accessed at <http://edu.sina.com.cn/exam/2006-09-01/111652631.html>; LI Xuanqing and HU Chunhua, “[Whole Military Sees Good Trend of Development in Relying on Ordinary Colleges, Universities to Cultivate National Defense Students]” in *PLA Daily*, 14 December 2007.
- ¹⁶⁵ LI, ed., [*The Introduction on Air Force Academies Education*], p. 122.
- ¹⁶⁶ Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force* is the base for this Section.
- ¹⁶⁷ The information in this section comes from LÜ Gang, “Equipment Academy of Air Force” [空空装备研究院] in YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 2, p. 1252; Allen, “Introduction to the PLA’s Organizational Reform: 2000-2012”; National Air and Space Intelligence Agency. *People’s Liberation Army Air Force 2010*, Section 15; Allen, Mulvaney, and Char, “Ongoing Organizational Reforms of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force.”
- ¹⁶⁸ Tai Ming Cheung, Eric Hagt, Susan Puska, Debra Geary, and Joe McReynolds, “Evolving Push-Pull Relationship Between the Research, Development, and Acquisition Communities” p. 16.
- ¹⁶⁹ SONG and XIAO, eds., [*China Military Encyclopedia*], Vol. 2, p. 398. “[RAND Corporation Comment on China’s National Defense: Shipbuilding Progresses Significantly, Aviation Development Lags Behind]” [兰德公司评中国国防:造船进展显著航空发展滞后], 23 August 2006. Accessed at http://news.fznews.com.cn/jszx/2006-8-23/2006823ke8re+kyba103427_2.shtml.
- ¹⁷⁰ LU Xicheng, “[GAD S&T Committee Director LU Xicheng: National Defense S&T Battleline Brilliant Model]” [总装备部科技委副主任卢锡城:国防科技战线的光辉典范] in *Xinhua*, 11 November 2011.
- ¹⁷¹ WANG Kang, “Equipment Academy of Air Force” in YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 2, p. 1252.

¹⁷² “[AVIC 1 Convenes a Coordination Meeting for a Certain New Engine, Which Can Be Used for Export]” [中国一航召开某新发动机协调会 可用于出口], 13 January 2005. Accessed at <https://web.archive.org/web/20050211232335/www.sszg.com/2005/1-13/18472449574.html>; *China's National Defense in the New Era* translates *zongti* (总体) as “generally,” as in “generally stable”.

¹⁷³ *The Chinese-English English-Chinese Military Dictionary*, p. 678.

¹⁷⁴ *AFN*, 24 July 2017, 1; *AFN* 25 September 2005, p. 1.

¹⁷⁵ *AFN*, 15 November 2017, p. 1.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁸ Wikipedia, [“Chinese People’s Liberation Army Air Force Research Academy”] [中国人民解放军空军研究院]. Accessed at <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/中国人民解放军空军研究院>.

¹⁷⁹ *AFN*, 15 November 2017, p. 1.

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁸¹ Wikipedia, [“Chinese People’s Liberation Army Air Force Research Academy”] [中国人民解放军空军研究院]. Accessed at <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/中国人民解放军空军研究院>.

¹⁸² *AFN*, 15 November 2017, p. 1; *AFN* 14 February 2018, p. 1.

¹⁸³ Wikipedia, [“Chinese People’s Liberation Army Air Force Research Academy”] [中国人民解放军空军研究院]. Accessed at <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/中国人民解放军空军研究院>.

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

Appendix A: Sources

This appendix provides a list of the key sources organized into English sources, Chinese sources, and websites and media outlets. Given that most of the citations for Chinese sources in this report do not have an official English translation, the report uses the following formatting for the list of books in this appendix:

- All titles that have an official English title are italicized followed by the Chinese title in brackets, such as *The Introduction on Air Force Academies Education* [空军院校教育概论].
- If there is no official English title, then the translated title is italicized and placed in parenthesis followed by the Chinese title in brackets, such as [*PLA Military Terminology*] [中国人民解放军军语]. The reason that the English title is in brackets is because not everyone necessarily translates the title the same, so it is not an official English translation.

English Sources

Allen, Kenneth W. “Overview of the Organizational Structure of PLA Logistics, Equipment, and Support.” In Shatzer and Cliff.

———. *Females in the PLA Air Force*. Montgomery, AL: Air University China Aerospace Studies Institute (CASI), 15 November 2021. Accessed at <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/CASI/Display/Article/2841996/females-in-the-pla-air-force/>.

———. *Political Commissars of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force*. Montgomery, AL: Air University China Aerospace Studies Institute (CASI), 22 March 2021. Accessed at <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/CASI/Display/Article/2541427/political-commissars-of-the-peoples-liberation-army-air-force/>.

———. *Commanders of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force: An Overview*. Montgomery, AL: Air University China Aerospace Studies Institute (CASI), 11 February 2021. Accessed at <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/CASI/Display/Article/2501047/commanders-of-the-pla-air-force/>.

———. “China Announces Reform of Military Ranks.” *China Brief*, Volume 17, Issue 2 (30 January 2017). Accessed at <https://jamestown.org/program/china-announces-reform-military-ranks/>.

———. “Introduction to the PLA’s Organizational Reforms: 2000-2012.” In Pollpeter and Allen.

———. “PLA Air Force Organizational Reforms: 2000-2012.” In Pollpeter and Allen.

———. “The Organizational Structure of the PLAAF.” In Halloran, Cliff, and Saunders.

———. “PLA Air Force: Lessons Learned 1949-2002”. In Burkitt, Scobell, and Wortzel.

———. “Introduction to the PLA’s Administrative and Operational Structure.” In Mulvenon and Yang.

———. “PLA Air Force Organization.” In Mulvenon and Yang.

———. *People’s Republic of China People’s Liberation Air Force*. Washington, D.C.: Defense Intelligence Agency, May 1991. Accessed at <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/1991/plaaf-index.html>.

Allen, Kenneth W., Dennis J. Blasko, and John F. Corbett, Jr. “The PLA’s New Organizational Structure: What is Known, Unknown and Speculation (Part One)” *China Brief*, Volume 16, Issue 3, 4 February 2016. Accessed at <https://jamestown.org/program/the-plas-new-organizational-structure-what-is-known-unknown-and-speculation-part-1/>.

———. “The PLA’s New Organizational Structure: What is Known, Unknown and Speculation (Part Two)” *China Brief*, Volume 16, Issue 4, 23 February 2016. Accessed at <https://jamestown.org/program/the-plas-new-organizational-structure-what-is-known-unknown-and-speculation-part-2/>.

Allen, Kenneth W. and Mingzhi Chen. *The People’s Liberation Army’s 37 Academic Institutions*. Montgomery, AL: Air University China Aerospace Studies Institute (CASI), 11 June 2020. Accessed at https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/CASI/documents/Research/Other-Topics/2020-06-11%20PLA%20Academic_Institutions.pdf.

Allen, Kenneth W., Thomas Corbett, Tylor A. Lee, and Xiu Ma. *Personnel of the People’s Liberation Army*. Washington DC: BluePath Labs for the US China Commission, 3 November 2022. Accessed at <https://www.uscc.gov/research/personnel-peoples-liberation-army>.

Allen, Kenneth W. and Christina L. Garafola. *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*. Montgomery, AL: Air University China Aerospace Studies Institute (CASI), 21 April 2021. Accessed at <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/CASI/Display/Article/2564684/70-years-of-the-peoples-liberation-army-air-force/>.

Allen, Kenneth W., Glenn Krumel, and Jonathan D. Pollack. *China’s Air Force Enters the 21st Century*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 1995. Accessed at https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monograph_reports/2005/MR580.pdf.

Allen, Kenneth W. and Brendan S. Mulvaney. “Ongoing Organizational Reforms of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force.” forthcoming.

Allen, Kenneth W., Brendan S. Mulvaney, and James Char. “Ongoing Organizational Reforms of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force.” *Journal of Strategic Studies*. London: Taylor and Francis Group, Volume 44, No. 2 (2021). DOI: 10.1080/01402390.2020.1730818.

Annual Report to Congress: Military and Security Developments Involving the People’s Republic of China 2022. Washington, D.C.: Office of the Secretary of Defense. Accessed at <https://navyleaguehonolulu.org/maritime-security/ewExternalFiles/2022-military-and-security-developments-involving-the-peoples-republic-of-china.pdf>.

Annual Report to Congress: Military Power of the People’s Republic of China 2008. Washington, D.C.: Office of the Secretary of Defense, March 2008. Accessed at <https://nuke.fas.org/guide/china/dod-2008.pdf>.

Burkitt, Laurie, Andrew Scobell, and Larry Wortzel, eds., *The Lessons of History: The Chinese People’s Liberation Army at 75*. Carlisle, PA: Strategic Studies Institute, 2003. Accessed at <https://press.armywarcollege.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1088&context=monographs>.

Cheung, Tai Ming, Eric Hagt, Susan Puska, Debra Geary, and Joe McReynolds. “Evolving Push-Pull Relationship Between the Research, Development, and Acquisition Communities.” Paper presented at Second Annual Conference on China’s Defense and Dual-Use Science, Technology, and Industrial Base. La Jolla, CA: University of California, San Diego, 30 June – 1 July 2011.

Choi, Chi-yuk and Catherine Wong Jun Mai, “China to Appoint New Air Force Commander, Sources Say.” *South China Morning Post*. August 23, 2017. Accessed at www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy-defence/article/2108010/china-appoint-new-air-force-commander-sources-say.

Directory of PRC Military Personalities. Washington, D.C.: Defense Intelligence Agency, various years. This is an annual report published since 1986.

Halloran, Richard P., Roger Cliff, and Phillip C. Saunders, eds., *The Chinese Air Force: Evolving Concepts, Roles, and Capabilities*. Washington, D.C.: Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs, Institute for National Defense Studies, National Defense University, 2012. Accessed at <https://inss.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/Books/chinese-air-force.pdf>.

International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). *The Military Balance*. London: The International Institute for Strategic Studies, published annually.

Jencks, Harlan W. *From Muskets to Missiles: Politics and Professionalism in the Chinese Army 1945-1981*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1 January 1982.

LU Xiaoping, ed. *The PLA Air Force*. Beijing: China Intercontinental Press, 2012.

Military Service Law of the People’s Republic of China, 1998. Accessed at http://eng.mod.gov.cn/publications/2021-06/29/content_4888367.htm.

Mulvaney, Brendan S., ed. *PLA Aerospace Power: A Primer on Trends in China’s Military Air, Space, and Missile Forces*, 2nd Edition. Montgomery, AL: China Aerospace Studies Institute (CASI), 29 July 2019. Accessed at https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/CASI/documents/Research/PLAAF/2019-07-30%20Primer_2nd_Edition.pdf.

Mulvenon, James, and Andrew Yang, eds. *The People’s Liberation Army as Organization*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2002. Accessed at https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/conf_proceedings/2008/CF182part1.pdf.

National Air and Space Intelligence Agency. *People’s Liberation Army Air Force 2010*. Dayton, OH: National Air and Space Intelligence Agency, August 2010.

Pollpeter, Kevin, and Kenneth W. Allen, eds. *The PLA as Organization v2.0*. Vienna, VA: Defense Group Inc., 2015. Accessed at <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/AD1082742.pdf>.

Shatzer, George R., and Roger D. Cliff, eds. *PLA Logistics and Sustainment: PLA Conference 2022*. Carlisle, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, February 2023. Accessed at <https://press.armywarcollege.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1954&context=monographs>.

Chinese Sources

A Chinese-English Dictionary of Military Terms [汉英军事词典]. Beijing: Naval Press, December 2001.

Academy of Military Science (AMS). *World Military Yearbook* (世界军事年鉴). Beijing: PLA Press. Since the early 1980s until 2015, AMS published this annually, although there have been occasional publications that cover two years, such as 1993-1994 and 1995-1996.

Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee. [*People's Liberation Army Military Terminology*] [中国人民解放军军语], Second Edition. Beijing: Academy of Military Science Press, December 2011.

Air Force News [空军报]. Beijing: People's Liberation Army Air Force Political Work Department, various issues.

CHENG Baoshan, ed. [*The Fundamental Laws and Regulations of Military Political Work in the New Century and New Era—Studying the Newly Revised and Promulgated 'Regulations of the Chinese People's Liberation Army on Political Work'*] [新世纪新阶段军队政治工作的根本法规—学习新修订颁布的“中国人民解放军政治工作条例”]. Beijing: Military Science Press, 2004.

China Air Force. Beijing: People's Liberation Army Air Force Political Work Department, various issues.

China Armed Forces [中国军队]. Beijing: Military Department of Xinhua News Agency, various issues.

China's Military Strategy [中国的军事战略]. Beijing: PRC State Council Information Office, 2015. Accessed at http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2015-05/26/c_1115408217.htm (Chinese Text); and at http://www.china.org.cn/china/2015-05/26/content_35661433.htm (English text).

China's National Defense in the New Era [新时代的中国国防]. Beijing: PRC State Council Information Office, 2019. Accessed at http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2019-07/24/c_1124792450.htm (Chinese text); and at http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-07/24/c_138253389.htm (English text).

China's National Defense in 1998 [1998年中国的国防]. Beijing: PRC State Council Information Office, 1998. Accessed at <http://www.lawinfochina.com/display.aspx?lib=dbref&id=18&EncodingName=gb2312>

China's National Defense in 2002 [2002年中国的国防]. Beijing: PRC State Council Information Office, 2002. Accessed at <http://www.lawinfochina.com/display.aspx?lib=dbref&id=33>.

China's National Defense in 2008 [2008年中国的国防]. Beijing: PRC State Council Information Office, 2008. Accessed at http://www.andrewerickson.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/China-Defense-White-Paper_2008_English-Chinese.pdf

DONG Huiyu and MOU Xianming, eds. *Dictionary of Modern Military Education (sic)* [现代军校教育辞典], Second Edition. Beijing: National Defense University Press, August 2011.

Editorial Committee. [*People's Liberation Army Air Force Enlisted Force Handbook*] [中国人民解放军空军士兵手册]. Beijing: Lantian Press, 2006.

GAO Peng, FU Guanghua, and ZHANG Ligu. [*Handbook for Military Party Branch Work*] [军队党支部工作手册]. Beijing: National Defense University Press, 2004.

GUO Xilin, ed. [*Science of Air Force Radar Troop Tactics*] [空军雷达兵战术学]. Beijing: Academy of Military Science Press, August 2002.

HE Guoqiang, ed. [*Dictionary of China's Communist Party Central Committee Members for 1921-2003*] [中国共产党历届中央委员大辞典 1921-2003]. Beijing: Chinese Communist Party History Press, 2004.

HU Guangzheng, ed. [*Contemporary Military Organizational Reform Research*] [当代军事体制变革研究]. Beijing: Academy of Military Sciences Press, October 2007.

JIANG Fangran, ed. [*An Introduction to Headquarters Department Work*] [司令部工作概论]. Beijing: Academy of Military Science, 2000.

JIN Peng and DONG Ming, eds. [*An Overview of Chinese Military Academic Institutions*] [中国军事院校通览]. Beijing: Academy of Military Science Press, 2002.

LI Cheng'an, ed. [*Education Reform in Military Academies in the New Situation*] [新形势下军队院校教育改革]. Beijing: National Defense University Press, 2015.

LI Chunzhao, ed. [*The Introduction on Air Force Academies Education*] [空军院校教育概论], Military Science Publishing House, September 2017.

LIN Hu, ed. [*History of the Air Force*] [空军史]. Beijing: PLAAF Headquarters Education and Research Office, PLA Press, November 1989.

LIU Daoqin, ed. [*The Science of Air Force Tactical Logistics*] [空军战术后勤学]. Beijing: Air Force Command College, September 2002.

MA Leqi, ed. [*Political Instructor's Handbook*] [指导员手册]. Jinan: Huanghe Press, September 2001.

Military Service Law of the People's Republic of China [中华人民共和国兵役法], 2021. Accessed at http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-08/21/content_5632513.htm.

PAN Xiangting, ed. *A New English-Chinese Chinese-English Dictionary of Military Terms* [新编英汉汉英军事词典]. Beijing: National Defense Industry Press, October 1999.

People's Liberation Army Air Force Committee. [*People's Liberation Army Air Force Officer's Handbook*] [中国人民解放军空军军官手册]. Beijing: Lantian Press, November 2006.

SONG Shilun and XIAO Ke, eds. [*China Military Encyclopedia*] (中国军事百科全书), vol. 4. Beijing: Military Science Press, July 1997.

SU Shubo, YANG Qi, YU Zhiyong, and LIN Cheng, eds. [*Military Cadre Work Handbook*] [军队干部工作手册]. Beijing: National Defense University Press, May 2011.

SUN Yougui, ed. [*A Brief History of China People's Liberation Army Academic Institutions*] [中国人民解放军院校发展简史]. Beijing: Lantian Press, March 1996.

The Chinese-English English-Chinese Military Dictionary [英汉汉英军事大辞典]. Beijing: Xuewan Press, November 2011.

The Diversified Employment of China's Armed Forces [中国武装力量的多样化运用]. Beijing: PRC State Council Information Office, 2013. Accessed at https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2013-04/16/content_2618550.htm (Chinese text); and at <http://en.people.cn/90786/8209362.html> (English text).

WANG Dinglie, ed. *China Today: Air Force* [当代中国空军]. Beijing: China Social Sciences Press, 1989.

XU Yaoyuan, LIN Xianghai, and MU Song, eds. [*Military Cadre Work*] [军队干部工作], Second Edition, Volume 39. Beijing: Encyclopedia of China Publishing House, 2006.

YAO Jun, ed. [*A History of China's Aviation*] [中国航空史]. Zhengzhou: Dajia Publishers, September 1998.

YAO Wei, ed. [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*] [中国空军百科全书], volumes 1 and 2. Beijing: Aviation Industry Press, November 2005. Each term has an English translation.

ZHAO Yiping et al., eds. [*PLA Military History*] [中国人民解放军军史], Second Edition, Volume 3. Beijing: Encyclopedia of China Publishing House, December 2007. Each term has an English translation.

ZHU Rongchang, ed. [*Air Force Dictionary*] [空军大辞典]. Shanghai: Shanghai Dictionary Press, September 1996. Each term has an English translation.

Websites and Media Outlets

China Military Online

kj.81.cn

PLA Daily

Xinhua

Appendix B: Acronyms and Abbreviations

This appendix includes all of the English acronyms such as PLAAF and abbreviations such as Bur for bureau found in this report. The second column has the full English term. The third column has the Chinese characters that are relevant to the entries that are based on Chinese military terms. No Chinese characters are listed for non-military entries or entries that are based on English acronyms, abbreviations, and terms, such as NASIC.

Acronym	English Term	Chinese
1LT	1 st Lieutenant	中尉
2LT	2 nd Lieutenant	少尉
AAA	Antiaircraft artillery	高射炮/高炮
AFCC	Air Force Command College	空军指挥学院
AFEU	Air Force Engineering University	空军工程大学
AFN	Air Force News	空军报
AMS	Academy of Military Science	军事科学院
ATC	Air Traffic Control	空中交通控制/航空管制
AUAF	Air Force Aviation University	空军航空大学
Bur	Bureau	局
C2	Command and Control	指挥控制
CCP aka CPC	Chinese Communist Party	中国共产党
CMC	Central Military Commission	中央军事委员会/中央军委
COL	Colonel	大校
CP	Command Post	指挥所
CPT	Captain	上尉; 海军上校
Dep Ldr	Deputy leader grade	副 X 职
Dept	Department	部
DIC	Discipline Inspection Commission / Committee	纪律检查委员会
Div	Division	处
ECM	Electronic countermeasures	电子对抗
ED	Equipment Department	装备部
EDD	Equipment Development Department	装备发展部
GEN	General	上将
GLD	General Logistics Department	总后勤部
GPD	General Political Department	总政治部
GSD	General Staff Department	总参谋部
HA/DR	Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief	人道主义救援与减灾
HD	Headquarters Department	司令部
HQ	Headquarters	No term ^a
JLSD	Joint Logistics Support Force	联合保障部队
JSD	Joint Staff Department	联合参谋部
LD	Logistics Department	后勤部

^a The PLA does not have a formal term for “headquarters” as in PLAAF Headquarters; it just uses “Air Force” (空军) and the meaning is taken from the context of whether it relates to PLAAF HQ or the PLAAF in general. The PLA does use the term “*zhihuibu*” (指挥部) for command headquarters, but it only applies to certain types of organizations such as an engineering unit.

LSD	Logistic Support Department	后勤保障部
Ldr	Leader grade	正 X 职
LTC	Lieutenant Colonel	中校
LTG	Lieutenant general	中将
MAJ	Major	少校
MG	Major general	少将
MND	Ministry of National Defense	国防部
MR	Military Region	军区
MRAF	Military Region Air Force	军区空军
MUCD	Military unit cover designator	部队代号
N/A	Not applicable; Not available	N/A
NASIC	National Air & Space Intelligence Center	N/A
NCO	Non-commissioned officer	士官; 军士
NDU	National Defense University	国防大学
OTHR	Over-the-horizon radar	超视距雷达
PC	Political commissar	政治委员/政委
PD	Political Department	政治部
PLA	People's Liberation Army	人民解放军
PLAA	PLA Army	人民解放军陆军
PLAADF	PLA Air Defense Force	人民解放军防空军
PLAAF	PLA Air Force	人民解放军空军
PLAN	PLA Navy	人民解放军海军
PLARF	PLA Rocket Force	人民解放军火箭军
PLASAF	PLA Second Artillery Force	人民解放军第二炮兵
PLASSF	PLA Strategic Support Force	人民解放军战略支援部队
POL	Petroleum, oil, and lubricant	油料
PRC	People's Republic of China	中华人民共和国
PWD	Political Work Department	政治工作部
PWD	Political Work Department	政治工作部
S&T	Science and technology	科学技术
SAM	Surface-to-air missile	地空导弹
SCOL	Senior colonel	大校
SD	Staff Department	参谋部
TC	Theater Command	战区
TCAF	Theater Command Air Force	战区空军
TUD	True unit designator	部队番号
UAV	Unmanned aerial vehicle	无人机

Appendix C: Key Terms and Concepts

This appendix provides the translation and concepts for several key terms.

***Zuozhan* (作战) and *zhandou* (战斗)**

Depending on the context, the term *zuozhan* (作战) is normally translated as “operations” but is occasionally translated as “combat.”¹⁸⁶ The most used term translated as “combat” is *zhandou* (战斗).¹⁸⁷

Leadership and Functional and Administrative Department Terms

This subsection provides the specific PLA terminology for leadership concepts as well as functional and administrative department terms.

Lingdao (领导), *Shouzhang* (首长), and *Zhuguan* (主官): For all practical purposes these three terms are synonymous, and the report uses leaders or leadership. Various Chinese dictionaries translate these three terms as follows: *lingdao* is translated as leader(s), leadership, or leading; *shouzhang* is translated as leading cadre or leading officer; and *zhuguan* is translated as principal officer. Based on interviews, the PLA’s leaders include the commander, PC, deputy commanders, deputy PCs, and directors of the Staff, Political Work, Logistics, Equipment, and Support Departments.^a

Jiguan (机关): The report uses administrative departments and refer to the PLAAF’s four administrative departments in the headquarters—Staff Department (参谋部), Political Work Department (政治工作部), Logistics Department (后勤部), Equipment Department (装备部), and Support Department (保障部).^b

Canmou bu (参谋部) and *Canmouzhang* (参谋长): The PLA translates *canmou bu* as Staff Department, and *canmouzhang* as chief of staff. Note that the PLA does not have a term that translates as headquarters, such as a PLAAF HQ or TCAF HQ. For example, the term *kongjun* (空军) refers to the PLAAF in general or to PLAAF Headquarters, and the exact meaning is usually clear from the context. In the PLA, the chief of staff is the director of the Staff Department. He is not equivalent to the chief of staff in a U.S. military organization.

Yiji bu (一级部): The report translates this as 1st-level departments, refers to the Staff, Political Work, Logistics, Equipment, and Support Departments. Depending on the level in the chain-of-command, these can be departments (部) or divisions (处).

Erji bu (二级部): The report translates this as 2nd-level “department(s),” which refers to the next level of organizations subordinate to the 1st-level departments. Depending on the level in the chain-of-command, these can be departments (部), bureaus (局), divisions (处), offices (科), or branches (股). For all practical purposes, almost all former second level departments in the PLAAF HQ and TCAF HQ were downsized and became bureaus as a result of the downsizing that began in early 2016.

^a Based on interviews, the only real difference among *lingdao*, *shouzhang*, and *zhuguan*, is that *zhuguan* (principal officers) do not include the deputy commanders and deputy political commissars.

^b Some dictionaries and Chinese English translations of PLA materials translate *jiguan* as organ.

Sanji bu (三级部): The report translates this as 3rd-level “department(s),” which refers to the next level of organizations subordinate to the second-level departments. Depending on the level in the chain-of-command, these can be divisions (处), offices (科), or branches (股).

Bumen (部门): This is the generic term for “department(s)”. This term is difficult to translate properly because it refers collectively to a 1st-level department and all of its subordinate 2nd- and 3rd-level organizations. This can refer to the organizations in a single level in the chain-of-command, or include the entire stovepiped chain-of-function down to the regiment level. For example, the finance *bumen* in a theater command headquarters includes the 2nd-level Finance Bureau and each of its subordinate 3rd-level organizations. It may also refer to all of the finance organizations at each subordinate level from a group army down to, and including, the regiments.

Yewu bumen (业务部门): The report translates *yewu bumen* as functional department(s). No available Chinese military dictionaries provide a good definition of this term. Based on the term’s usage in PLA writings and interviews with PLA officials, the author of this report has determined the term generally refers to anything that impacts on operations. Specific functional departments include operations, intelligence, training, finance, and health.

Xingzheng bumen (行政部门): The report translates *xingzheng bumen* as administrative department(s). No Chinese military dictionaries provide a good definition of this term but their function best aligns with the U.S. Army service and support function. Based on the term’s usage in PLA writings and interviews with PLA officials, studies conducted by the author of this report has determined that the term generally refers to the Logistics Department, Equipment Department, and Support Department and to most of their subordinate organizations. It also refers to some, but not all, of the subordinate organizations in Staff and Political Work Departments. These administrative departments conduct work that impacts upon daily life, including support, supplies, and housing.

Budui (部队): According to the 2011 PLA Dictionary, *budui* can be translated as forces, troops, and units.¹⁸⁸ For example, the former Second Artillery Force, which was a military region leader-grade organization, was a *budui* and the new CMC Strategic Support Force, which is a theater command leader grade organization, and the CMC Joint Logistics Support Force, which is a corps leader grade organization, are both *budui*. However, the most common use of the term *budui* is translated as unit, which refers to four specific organizations—corps (军), division (师), brigade (旅), or regiment (团). *Budui* at this level are normally involved in the campaign-level (战役) of war. For the purpose of this report, the term *budui* is translated as unit or force, depending on which organization it is referring to.

Danwei (单位) and *danyuan* (单元): The terms *danwei* and *danyuan* are basically synonymous. To make the distinction between a *budui* and *danwei/danyuan*, all of which can be translated as unit, *danwei* and *danyuan* are normally translated as a work unit. The PLA uses the terms *danwei* and *danyuan* as a generic term that refers to all types of PLA organizations, including combat and non-combat units and organizations. In some cases, the PLA uses *danwei* and *danyuan* to refer only to non-combat organizations, such as administrative organizations, academies, research institutes, etc. The exact meaning is usually clear from the context.

Jidi (基地): *Jidi* is always translated as base.¹⁸⁹ Within the PLA, there can be division leader, corps deputy leader, and corps leader-grade bases. The different types of bases include operational bases, such as PLARF missile bases, as well as training bases, supply bases, support bases, and weapons

testing bases that are further categorized according to their subordinate service or force. Concerning PLAAF operational bases, they serve as the operational headquarters between brigades and TCAF HQ. For purposes of this report, Base with a capital B is used to distinguish them from the other types of bases. The person in command of a base can be a commander (司令员) or a director (主任). Based on analysis of PLAAF writings, it appears that a commander can command an operational base or certain types of training bases, while a director commands only a training base and the other types of bases.¹⁹⁰

The Meaning of *Zhihui*

To understand what the service Command Colleges do, it is important first to know what the term *zhihui* (指挥) means in the context of academic institutions, career tracks, organizational structure, and operations. With this as a basis, it is also important to know what the PLA's five career tracks are and how the PLA defines and organizes its "commanding academic institutions" (指挥院校).

Most importantly, no available PLA dictionary or encyclopedia has a single entry or translation for the term *zhihui* (指挥); however, every PLA dictionary and encyclopedia uses this term in multiple combinations, including *zhihuiyuan* (指挥员) *zhihui junguan* (指挥军官) and *zhihui yuanyao* (指挥院校) discussed below. The best translation for *zhihui* is "command."

Commander (指挥员): The term *zhihuiyuan* is translated as commander;¹⁹¹ however, it is the generic term for commander compared to specific terms such as *silingyuan* (司令员) or *zhang* (长), as in division commander (师长). Based on how *zhihuiyuan* is used, it sometimes refers to a single person and other times it refers to the leaders (领导) and principal officers (主官) as a group, to include the commander, political commissar, deputy commanders, deputy political commissars, and directors of the four first-level departments. The *Air Force Dictionary* defines commander it as the leading cadre (领导干部) at each level who are responsible for combat/operations command (作战指挥). The commander's primary combat/operations responsibilities are: organizing intelligence and reconnaissance (情报侦察), issuing decisions (定下决心), clarifying missions/tasks (明确任务), formulating combat plans (制定作战计划), organizing coordinated actions and support (组织协同动作和各种保障) [within the PLAAF and with other services and branches], inspecting combat preparations situation (检查作战准备情况), and implementing battlefield coordination and control (实施战场协调与控制).¹⁹²

Commanding Officer(s)/Cadre (指挥军官 / 指挥干部): According to various PLA publications, such as the *Military Cadre Work* volume of the *China Military Encyclopedia*, *zhihui junguan* is translated as "commanding officer" and is defined as officers who have the grade of platoon leader and above and are in one of the four PLA officer career tracks—military, political, logistics, and equipment—and are identified as military commanding officers (军事指挥军官), political commanding officers (政治指挥军官), logistics commanding officers (后勤指挥军官), and equipment commanding officers (装备指挥军官). These tracks are discussed later in Part 1. Commanding officers are categorized by their career track, grade, missions/tasks, and by their service and branch.¹⁹³

Staff Officers (参谋军官): The term *canmou junguan* is the generic term for staff officers in all four departments (Headquarters, Political, Logistics, and Equipment); however, three other terms also refer to specific types of staff officers: *canmou* (参谋), *ganshi* (干事), and *zhuli* (助理).

Canmou and *zhuli*, sometimes referred to as assistants, refer specifically to staff officers in the Headquarters Department, Logistics Department, and Equipment Department, while *ganshi* refers only to staff officers in the Political Department.¹⁹⁴

The Functional and Administrative Department Structure's Sliding Scale

The PLA's functional and administrative departments are usually identified as one of six types: department (部), bureau (局), division (处), office (科 or 室) or branch (股). Occasionally, there are also sections (组). As noted above, these organizations are collectively called *bumen*.

The PLA's functional and administrative department structure below the CMC is fairly consistent down to the regiment level. With the exception of some independent battalions, which are treated like a regiment, there are no functional and administrative organizations below the regiment level. As a general rule for 1st-level departments:

- Each PLAAF HQ in the chain of command, including the regiment level, has a Staff Department. PLA academic institutions are an exception, because each academy has a Training Department (训练部) that serves the same function as a Staff Department. However, all three PLAAF flight academies are organized the same as an operational unit.
- Each headquarters in the chain of command down to the brigade level has a Political Work Department. Regiments all have a Political Work Division (*zhengzhi chu*; 政治处).

Fendui (Element) Overview

The PLA primarily translates the term *fendui* (分队) as “element”¹⁹⁵ but also translates it as “detachment”¹⁹⁶ and defines it as follows: 1) battalion and below work units (单位) that are directly responsible for operations and support tasks (直接担负作战和保障任务的营级以下建制单位);¹⁹⁷ 2) Military organizations equivalent to companies or platoons that are usually subordinate to squadrons (相当于连或排的军队组织通常隶属于中队);¹⁹⁸ and battalion, company, platoon, squad, and equivalent work units (营,连,排,班以及与相其当的单位的统称).¹⁹⁹ Elements can be subordinate to brigades²⁰⁰ or regiments.²⁰¹ At times, this type of unit could also be translated as “force” in US naming conventions.

Concerning the organizational structure, each element at each level, which is called a “work unit” (单位), has a commander (分队长)²⁰² and each battalion-equivalent element has a political instructor (教导员)²⁰³ and each company-equivalent element has a political instructor (指导员).²⁰⁴ Of note, although no examples were found concerning a deputy commander (副分队长), each element most likely has 1-2 deputy commanders. No platoon-level organizations anywhere in the PLA have a political officer.

Based on the different examples found for the PLAAF, it appears that an element can be either a permanent organization, such as an airborne brigade's air defense element (空降兵旅防空分队),²⁰⁵ artillery element (空降兵旅炮兵分队),²⁰⁶ and reconnaissance element (空降兵旅侦察分队),²⁰⁷ or as an ad hoc organization, such as a task force (任务分队)²⁰⁸ or an emergency support element (应急保障分队),²⁰⁹ which are established for a specific task at the battalion or company level. Each battalion-level element has a Grassroots Party Committee (基层党委) and each company-level element has a Party Branch (党支部) assigned to it.²¹⁰ Platoon-level elements have

a Party small group (党小组) assigned to them. See Section 7 for more information on the Party system.

Like all other PLA organizations, each element is apparently assigned a grade based on their size and responsibility, to include battalion leader, company leader, or platoon. In addition, each officer (commander, deputy commander, and political officer) is assigned the appropriate grade level of leader or deputy leader. See Section 3 and Appendix K for information about the grade structure.

Some elements 1) can be subordinate to a battalion²¹¹ or company,²¹² 2) can have a subordinate company,²¹³ 3) can have subordinate platoons, which, in turn, have subordinate squads,²¹⁴ or 4) are considered mobile (机动) elements, such as a radar brigade's mobile element (雷达旅机动分队), which have subordinate squads.²¹⁵ For example, they can be subordinate to a regiment-level air station's company-level missile squadron (场站导弹中队), such a platoon-level equipment element (设备分队) and an armament/ordnance element (军械分队),²¹⁶ or to platoon-level electrical element (电气分队) that is subordinate to an aircraft maintenance group's (机务大队) maintenance squadron (机务中队).²¹⁷ Other examples are provided throughout the rest of the report.

While it is not clear when a work unit is a numbered subordinate element and when it is a *fendui*, it seems that the latter have independent missions in support of, but not integral to its parent organization's missions and operations. More research is required to confirm the difference.

Each element is given a 1 to 3 digit unit cover designator as part of the military unit cover designator (MUCD) system. The majority of the numbered elements are 2-digit numbers from 10 to 99. For example, an award was given to PLAAF unit 95969 element 64 (95969 部队 64 分队) in May 2022,²¹⁸ where unit 95969 is the 134th Airborne Brigade.²¹⁹ However, a few elements have only 1 digit or 3 digits.²²⁰ No pattern has been discerned for the number of digits assigned to an element.

Academic Institution Terms and Concepts

One of the biggest challenges for this project is how to translate the four terms *yuanxiao* (院校), *xuexiao* (学校), *xueyuan* (学院), and *daxue* (大学), because the PLA is not consistent as shown below. For example, the PLA's *Dictionary of Modern Military Education* (sic) (现代军校教育辞典)²²¹ and *PLA Military History* (中国人民解放军军史)²²² do not have a single entry for any of the three terms; however, specific institutions with these terms are translated as shown in the bullets below. In general, the problem is not the Chinese term but the English translation, which sometimes uses British English instead of American English, such as "defence" versus "defense." The best place to find the "official" English name is the institutions' website; however, not every institution has its own website, and many of those that do have one do not have an English translation. Even though several PLA dictionaries and encyclopedias have entries for some or all of the institutions, there is oftentimes a lack of consistency in the translation.

- *Xuexiao*: In the mid-1980s, the PLA upgraded all of its existing officer *xuexiao* to *xueyuan*. Since 1986, this term only refers to NCO schools, such that the only remaining *xuexiao* today are the three standalone non-commissioned officer (NCO) schools (士官学校)—Naval, Air Force, and Rocket Force—and several NCO schools that are either subordinate to an officer university or *xueyuan*, such as the Air Force Aviation Maintenance NCO School that is subordinate to the Air Force Engineering University and the Air Force Radar

NCO School that is subordinate to the Early Warning College. However, the PLAAF translates the name for 空军大连通信士官学校 as Air Force Communication NCO Academy.²²³ In addition, as noted later, the PLA sometimes translates the term *xi* (系) as school, even though it is an academic department. Each NCO school specializes in only a few areas, such as the Air Force's Communications NCO School and the Army's Wuhan Ordnance NCO School, and offers only Secondary professional programs/diplomas and Post-secondary educational programs/diplomas, not bachelor's degrees.

- *Xueyuan*: This is the most complicated term, because the PLA translates it as academy, college, and institute.²²⁴ In some cases, the PLA also translates it as university.²²⁵ Two official PLA publications will also translate the same name as college in one and as academy in the other.²²⁶ In addition, the PLA often changes the English name. For example, the PLAAF officially called its three flight *xueyuan* as colleges until 2014 and then changed the English name to academy.²²⁷ Although the majority of officer academic institutions during the 1950s to 1986 were schools, some of them were academies/colleges, such as the Xi'an Political College (西安政治学院), which was created in 1952.²²⁸ As a general rule, a *xueyuan* is smaller than a university. It can be a standalone institution or can be subordinate to a university. It is also larger than an NCO school, but can often have a subordinate NCO school. Therefore, for purposes of this report, the term college or academy will be used based on either an official English name or a best guess.
- *Daxue*: As a general rule, the term *daxue* is translated as university.²²⁹ In some cases, the PLA also translates it as college.²³⁰ Also, as a general rule, these institutions are called *daxue* because they are the largest institutions and have subordinate *xueyuan* and, in some cases, an NCO school. The use of the term *daxue* goes back to the 1950s, such as the 1st Military Medical University (第一军医大学), which was created in 1952 under the General Logistics Department's predecessor the General Rear Area Department (总后方勤务部).²³¹

Appendix D: Staff Department

The following bullets provide the information found concerning the current structure of the 2nd-level “departments” within the PLAAF HQ’s SD.²³² Each level’s SD has two or more deputy chiefs of staff (副参谋长), each of which has responsibility for specific 2nd- and 3rd-level “departments”. Each 2nd- and 3rd-level “department” also has multiple staff officers (参谋) with specific responsibilities. Some “departments”, such as the Operations Department and Training Department, retained the same responsibilities but were downgraded to bureaus due their size, whereas others, such as the Flight Safety Bureau, have retained their previous nomenclature, which implies those organizations have not been downsized.²³³ Each 2nd-level bureau has one or more 3rd-level divisions; however, little information was found about them, so it is not clear exactly what they are responsible for or if they even exist. Of note, these are not necessarily official PLAAF translations for each organization.

- General Office (办公室)²³⁴
- Air Force Pilot Recruitment Office (空军招飞办/空军招收飞行学员办公室)²³⁵
 - Beijing Selection Center (北京选拔中心)
 - Guangzhou Selection Center (广州选拔中心)
 - Pilot recruitment physical exam teams (招飞体检队) in Shenyang, Beijing, Lanzhou, Jinan, Nanjing, and Guangzhou
- Aviation Bureau (航空兵局)²³⁶
- Central Station Center (总站某中心主任,政委) that has subordinate 1st, 2nd, and 3rd offices (一室,二室,三室)²³⁷
- Confidential Bureau (机要局)²³⁸
- Directly Subordinate Work Bureau (直属工作局)^{a, 239}
- Electronic Countermeasures and Radar Bureau (电雷局)²⁴⁰
- Flight Safety Bureau (飞行安全局)²⁴¹
- Ground-based Air Defense Bureau (地防局/地面防空兵局)²⁴²
- Information and Communications Bureau (信息通信局)²⁴³
- Operations Bureau (作战局)²⁴⁴
- [Probable] Military Affairs Bureau (军务局)^{b, 245}
- Test Flight Bureau (空军某试飞局)²⁴⁶
 - Test Flight Group (试飞大队)

^a The directly subordinate units under this bureau include special mission (intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance) aviation units, one transport division, one transport and search and rescue brigade, and the airborne corps, as well as communications station(s) and battalion(s), security guard battalion(s), warehouses, repair and spare parts factories, various training units, and transportation battalion(s), etc.

^b The PLAAF HQ has had a 2nd-level Military Affairs Department (军务部) since at least the late 1990s to 2015; however, no information was found concerning a Military Relations Bureau following the reorganization, but it most likely exists, since references were found in 2017 to an air station Military Affairs Branch. Historically, the department and its equivalents at the corps, division, and regiment levels were responsible for the organizational structure of the PLAAF, including the table of organization and equipment (TO&E) and billets. It also served as the personnel office for the enlisted force; however, under the current reorganization, the enlist force personnel responsibility was merged into Political Work Department’s [Enlisted] Soldier and Civilian Personnel Bureau (兵文局/兵员和文职人员局) noted in Appendix E.

- Training Bureau (训练局)²⁴⁷
 - Flight Training Division (训练局飞训处主任)²⁴⁸
- Unit Management Bureau (部队管理局)²⁴⁹
- Planning and Organization Bureau (规编局/规划与编制局)
- Veteran (Retired) Cadre Service Division (老干部服务处)²⁵⁰

The SD also has some directly subordinate units and elements such as a communications brigade (通信旅),²⁵¹ communications group (通信大队),²⁵² new soldier training brigade (新训旅),²⁵³ support group (保障大队),²⁵⁴ security battalion (警卫营/警卫勤务营),²⁵⁵ and a military occupation education center (军事职业教育中心/职教中心)²⁵⁶

The following bullets provide the information found concerning 2nd-level “departments” and directly subordinate units and elements at the TCAF to regiment levels. Unfortunately, little information was found. However, it appears that not every 2nd-level “department” in PLAAF HQ exists at the lower levels, such as the Pilot Recruitment Offices. In addition, some, but not all of the operations and training “departments” have been merged at lower levels.

- TCAF HQ SD: Unit Management Division (部队管理处/管理处);²⁵⁷ Training Division (训练处)²⁵⁸
- Base SD: Training Division (训练处);²⁵⁹ Service Battalion’s (警卫营) Security Service Company (警卫连/警卫勤务连)²⁶⁰
- Command Post SD: Unit Management Office (管理科)²⁶¹
- Division SD: No information found.
- Brigade SD: It does not appear that there is a standard structure that applies to all brigades. Each branch appears to have its own structure as shown below:
 - Aviation Branch: Operations and Training Office (作训科);²⁶² Planning Office (计划室);²⁶³ Air Combat Guidance Office (空战引导科)²⁶⁴
 - Airborne Branch: Training Division (训练处);²⁶⁵ Training Office (训练科);²⁶⁶ Operations and Training Office (作训科);²⁶⁷ Unit Management Office (部队管理科);²⁶⁸ Reconnaissance Office (侦察科)²⁶⁹
 - Ground-to-Air Missile Branch: Training Office (训练科);²⁷⁰ Information Support Office (信息保障科);²⁷¹ Operations Reconnaissance Office (作侦科)²⁷²
 - Radar Branch: Training Office (训练科)²⁷³ with a subordinate General Office (办公室);²⁷⁴ Combat Service Planning Office (战勤计划科);²⁷⁵ War Preparation (aka Combat Readiness) Duty Office (战备值班)²⁷⁶
 - Communications Branch: No information was found.
- Regiment SD: No information was found.

Appendix E: Political Work Department

The following bullets provide the information found concerning the current structure of the 2nd-level “departments” within the PWD.²⁷⁷ Like the SD, some entities were downgraded to bureaus whereas others have retained their previous nomenclature, the latter implying that those organizations have not been downsized. Each 2nd-level bureau has one or more 3rd-level divisions; however, little information was found about them.

- General Office (办公室)²⁷⁸
- Cadre Bureau (干部局)²⁷⁹
- [Enlisted] Soldier and Civilian Personnel Bureau (兵文局/兵员和文职人员局)²⁸⁰
 - [Enlisted] Soldier Division (兵员处)
- Mass Work Liaison Bureau (群工联络局)²⁸¹
 - Mass Work Petition Division (群工信访处)²⁸²
- Organization Bureau (组织局)²⁸³
- Propaganda Bureau (宣传局)²⁸⁴
 - External Publicity Office (对外宣传办公室)
 - Education Division (教育处)
- Publicity Center (宣文中心)²⁸⁵
- Cultural [Song and Dance] Troupe (文工团).²⁸⁶

The following bullets provide the information found concerning 2nd-level “departments” and directly subordinate units and elements at the TCAF to regiment levels. Unfortunately, little information was found. However, it appears that not every 2nd-level “department” in PLAAF HQ exists at the lower levels. Of particular note, although the SD remains as a department at each level from PLAAF HQ down to the regiment level, the PWD is only a department down to the brigade level and is a division (处) at the regiment level.²⁸⁷

- TCAF HQ PWD:²⁸⁸ Cadre Division (干部处),²⁸⁹ Mass Work Liaison Bureau (群工联络局干事),²⁹⁰ Political Work Support Office (政工保障室),²⁹¹ Propaganda Division (宣传处),²⁹² and Soldier and Civilian Personnel Division (兵文处)²⁹³
- Base PWD:²⁹⁴ Human Resources Division (人力资源处),²⁹⁵ Organization Division (组织处),²⁹⁶ and a Propaganda Division (宣传处)²⁹⁷
- Command Post PWD: No information found.
- Division PWD: No information found.
- Brigade PWD: Most likely, each branch has the same standard structure that applies to all brigades, but only certain ones were found as shown below:
 - Aviation Branch: Propaganda Office (宣传科)²⁹⁸
 - Airborne Branch: Propaganda Office (宣传科)²⁹⁹
 - Ground-to-Air Missile Branch: Human Resources Office (人力资源科),³⁰⁰ Propaganda Office (宣传科)³⁰¹
 - Radar Branch: Human Resources Office (人力资源科),³⁰² Propaganda Office (宣传科),³⁰³ and Security Office (保卫科)³⁰⁴

- Communications Branch: No information was found concerning any subordinate offices.
- Unidentified Branch: Organization Office (组织科).³⁰⁵

Appendix F: Logistics Department

The following bullets provide the information found concerning the current structure of the 2nd-level “departments” within the Logistics Department. Like the SD and PWD, some entities were downgraded to bureaus whereas others have retained their previous nomenclature, the latter implying that those organizations have not been downsized. Each 2nd-level bureau has one or more 3rd-level divisions; however, little information was found about them.

Of particular note, as part of the reorganization, the Logistics Department and Equipment Department were merged into a single Support Department at the TCAF HQ down to the regiment level.³⁰⁶ Also of note, while the PLAAF’s SD and PWD are co-located in the PLAAF’s HQ compound at 14 Fuxing Nan Lu in western Beijing, the Logistics Department and Equipment Department have each always been located in separate locations in Beijing due to their size and missions. Historically, the LD has had a Headquarters Department and a Political Department;³⁰⁷ although no information was found concerning a Staff Department and Political Work Department under the reorganization, they most likely exist. The following bullets provide a list of the “departments” and subordinate organizations that were found:

- Combat Service Planning Bureau (战勤计划局/战勤计划局)³⁰⁸
- Finance Bureau (财务局)³⁰⁹
- Health Bureau (卫生局)³¹⁰
 - Medical Management/Administration Division (医疗管理处)³¹¹
- Military Facilities Construction Bureau (军事设施建设局)³¹²
 - Barracks and Land Division (营房土地处)³¹³
- Procurement and Supply Bureau (采购供应局)³¹⁴
- Real Estate Management Bureau (房管局)³¹⁵
- Transport Aircraft and Delivery [Airdrop] Bureau (空后运投局/运输投送局)³¹⁶

The Logistics Department manages the Air Force General Hospital (总医院)³¹⁷ located in Beijing and also has a subordinate Training Base (训练基地)³¹⁸ and a directly subordinate Support Dadui (保障大队), which appears to be a brigade-level organization since it has a PWD.³¹⁹ The Dadui has (a) subordinate Zhongdui³²⁰ (possible regiment level) and a Vehicle Service Team (汽车勤务队).³²¹

Appendix G: Equipment Department

The following bullets provide the information found concerning the current structure of the 2nd-level “departments” within the Equipment Department. Like the other three 1st-level departments discussed above, some entities were downgraded to bureaus whereas others have retained their previous nomenclature, the latter implying that those organizations have not been downsized. Each 2nd-level bureau has one or more 3rd-level divisions; however, no information was found about them. The former Ordnance General-Use Equipment Department (军械通用装备部), which now likely still exists as a bureau, is responsible for overseeing all PLAAF military representative offices throughout the country. Prior to the reorganization, the ED had a Political Department.³²² Although no information was found after the reorganization, it most likely still exists as a Political Work Department or Bureau.

- Air Force Flight Safety Bureau (空军飞行安全局)³²³
- Aviation Equipment Bureau (空装航装局)³²⁴
- Comprehensive Planning Bureau (综合计划局)³²⁵
- Directly Subordinate Work Bureau (直属工作局/直工局)³²⁶
- Equipment Purchasing Bureau (装购局)³²⁷
- First Line [Maintenance] Support Bureau (外场保障局)^{a,328}
- Ground Equipment Bureau (地装局)³²⁹
- Military Representative Bureau (军事代表局)^{b,330}
- Ordnance General-Use Equipment Bureau (军械通用装备局)³³¹
- Project Management Bureau (工管局)³³²
- Testing & Inspection Bureau (试监局).³³³

^a The First Line Maintenance Bureau is responsible for all first- and second-level maintenance at the aviation division, brigade, and regiment level. “First Line” (外场), ZHU Rongchang, ed. [*Air Force Dictionary*] [空军大辞典]. Shanghai: Shanghai Dictionary Press, September 1996, p. 277.

^b The Military Representative Bureau is responsible for guiding all of the PLAAF’s military representatives assigned to regional bureaus and offices and to individual non-military research institutes and factories to monitor the development and production of PLAAF systems. It is roughly equivalent to the USAF’s Air Force Plant Representative Office (AFPRO) system, except that the PLAAF’s military representatives spend most, if not all, of their career in the same office, while the USAF’s representatives rotate every two to three years. The PLAAF currently has a three-tiered military representative structure: PLAAF HQ, regional bureaus and offices, and factory or research institute representative offices.

Appendix H: Support Department

The following bullets provide the information found concerning the current structure of the 2nd-level “departments” within the Support Department which was created by merging the LD and ED beginning at the TCAF level down to the regiment level. Like the SD, PWD, LD, and ED, some entities were downgraded to bureaus whereas others have retained their previous nomenclature, the latter implying that those organizations have not been downsized. Each 2nd-level bureau has one or more 3rd-level divisions; however, little information was found about them.

Of particular note, while the former seven MRAF Headquarters Department and Political Departments were co-located in the MRAF HQ compound, the Logistics Department and Equipment Department have each always been located in separate locations in the same city due to their size and missions. It is not clear if each TCAF HQ Support Department has consolidated everything into a single compound, but they most likely have done this. The following bullets provide a list of the “departments” and subordinate organizations that were found. Each brigade most likely has the same “departments”.

- TCAF HQ Support Department:³³⁴ Airfield and Barracks Division (机营处),³³⁵ it also has a subordinate Vehicle Transportation Regiment (汽车运输某团),³³⁶ POL Support Dadui (油料保障大队),³³⁷ a POL Technical Support Dadui (油料技术保障大队),³³⁸ a Directly Subordinate Support Team (直属保障队),³³⁹ and a Transportation Element (运势分队).³⁴⁰
- Base Support Department: Finance Division (财务处)³⁴¹ and a First Line Division (外场处).³⁴²
- Division Support Department: No information was found.
- Brigade Support Department:³⁴³
 - Aviation Branch: Support Department³⁴⁴
 - Airborne Branch: Support Department;³⁴⁵ Support Element(s) (保障分队)³⁴⁶ and a Support Battalion (保障营)³⁴⁷
 - Ground-to-Air Missile Branch: Support Department³⁴⁸ and Information Support Office (信息保障科);³⁴⁹ brigades also have a subordinate Combat Service Support Battalion (战勤保障营),³⁵⁰ a Communications Support Element (通信保障分队),³⁵¹ and a Health Team (卫生队)³⁵²
 - Radar Branch: Support Department,³⁵³ Procurement and Supply Office (采购供应科)³⁵⁴ which supports cooking; brigades also have a subordinate Technical Support Team (技保队)³⁵⁵
 - Communications Branch: No information was found.
- Regiment Support Division (保障处)³⁵⁶

Appendix I: Billets

This appendix provides a list of billets in Table 11 below identified in *Air Force News* for 2021 and 2022. The table is divided into four groups, including organization leadership billets, air station billets, aircraft maintenance billets, and ground air defense billets. The table includes the billet in English and Chinese. Each group is organized in alphabetical order in English. Of note, an official English translation was not found for every billet, so some of the entries are our best guess.^a

^a The primary sources for the translations are: Pan Xiangting, ed., *A New English-Chinese Chinese-English Dictionary of Military Terms* [新编英汉汉英军事词典], (Beijing: National Defense Industry Press, October 1999); *The Chinese-English English-Chinese Military Dictionary* [英汉汉英军事大辞典], (Beijing: Xuewan Press, November 2011); *A Chinese-English Dictionary of Military Terms* [汉英军事词典], (Beijing: Naval Press, December 2001); and *Chinese-English Dictionary* [汉英辞典], (Shanghai Jiaotong University Press, 1997).

Table 11: PLAAF Personnel Billets

Billet Name (English)	Billet Name (Chinese)
<i>Organization Leadership Billets</i>	
Air station commander	场站站长
Air station deputy commander	场站副站长
Assistant	助理
Battalion commander	营长
Battalion deputy commander	副营长
Branch deputy director	副股长
Branch director	股长
Bureau deputy director	副局长
Bureau director	局长
Chief of staff	参谋长
Civilian person	文职人员
Company commander	连长
Company deputy commander	副连长
Department deputy director	副部长
Department director	部长
Deputy director	副主任
Deputy squad leader	副班长
Director	主任
Division deputy director	副处长
Division director	处长
Element commander	分队长
Leader	领导 ³⁵⁷
Office deputy director	副科长
Office director	科长
Party Committee deputy secretary	党委副书记
Party Committee secretary	党委书记
Platoon commander	排长
Political commissar	政委 / 政治委员
Political instructor (battalion level)	指导员
Political instructor (company level)	教导员

Political Work Department director	政治工作部主任 ³⁵⁸
Regiment commander	团长
Regiment deputy commander	副团长
Squad leader	班长
Staff officer (military, logistics, equipment, and support tracks)	参谋; 助理
Staff officer (political track)	干事
Station	站
Station commander	站长
Station deputy commander	副站长
<i>Air Station (场站)Billets</i>	
Airborne ammunition group electronic technician	机载弹药大队电子技师 ³⁵⁹
Airfield and barracks branch director	机营股股长 ³⁶⁰
Airfield and barracks branch plumber and electrician	机营股水电工 ³⁶¹
Armorer; ammo handler; arming crew ³⁶²	军械员 ³⁶³
Assistant engineer	助理工程师 ³⁶⁴
Aviation materiel branch survival equipment person	航材股救生装具员 ³⁶⁵
telephone operator	话务员 ³⁶⁶
Communications maintenance technician	通信维修技师 ³⁶⁷
Driver	司机 ³⁶⁸
Finance branch assistant	财务股助理员 ³⁶⁹
First line duty office staff officer	外场值班参谋 ³⁷⁰
Flight support office director	飞行保障室主任 ³⁷¹
Four stations company maintenance technician	四站连修理技师 ³⁷²
Four Stations Company Platoon commander	四站连排长 ³⁷³
Four Stations Company political director	四站连指导员 ³⁷⁴
Hospital civilian nurse	医院文职护士 ³⁷⁵
Hospital director	医院院长 ³⁷⁶
Hospital deputy director	医院副院长 ³⁷⁷
Navigation company aircraft landing radar station commander	导航连着陆雷达站站长 ³⁷⁸
Mess officer ^a	司务长 ³⁷⁹
Meteorological detection squad deputy leader	气象台探测班副班长 ³⁸⁰
Meteorological station commander	气象台台长 ³⁸¹
Meteorological station observer	气象台观测员 ³⁸²
Motor vehicle company political director	汽车连指导员 ³⁸³
Motor vehicle company refueling truck driver	汽车连加油车司机 ³⁸⁴
Motor vehicle company squad leader	汽车连班长 ³⁸⁵
Navigation company northern long-range navigation station soldiers	导航连北远距导航台战士们 ³⁸⁶

^a 司务长 can be translated to mess officer/sergeant, mess/quartermaster, or supply chief.

Navigation company political director	导航连指导员 ³⁸⁷
Navigation station commander	导航连台长 ³⁸⁸
On-duty parking attendant	车场值班员 ³⁸⁹
Ordnance branch munitions preservation management person	军械股保管员 ³⁹⁰
Petroleum-oil-lubricant (POL) branch assistant	的油料股助理 ³⁹¹
Petroleum-oil-lubricant (POL) branch oil testing technician	油料股油料化验技师 ³⁹²
Driver ^a	驾驶员 ³⁹³
Political work division staff officer	政治工作处干事 ³⁹⁴
Political work division deputy director	政治工作处副主任 ³⁹⁵
Political work division director	政治工作处主任 ³⁹⁶
Quartermaster division director	军需处处长 ³⁹⁷
Security company political director	警卫连指导员 ³⁹⁸
Security company Party branch security member	警卫连党支部保卫委员 ³⁹⁹
Security company squad leader	警卫连班长 ⁴⁰⁰
Service company element commander	场务连分队长 ⁴⁰¹
Staff Department printer and concurrent security [classified information] clerk	参谋部文印员兼保密员 ⁴⁰²
<i>Aircraft Maintenance (机务) Billets</i>	
Ad hoc member	特设员 ⁴⁰³
Ad hoc technician (NCO)	特设技师 (NCO) ⁴⁰⁴
Chief mechanic; technician	机械师 ⁴⁰⁵
Maintenance squadron electronics specialist	机务中队电子员 ⁴⁰⁶
Mechanic	机械员 ⁴⁰⁷
Mechanical technician	机械技师 ⁴⁰⁸
Senior engineer	高级工程师 ⁴⁰⁹
Special equipment maintenance technician	特设技师 ⁴¹⁰
<i>Ground Air Defense (地空防空兵) Billets</i>	
Support department director	保障部部长 ⁴¹¹
Air conditioning technician	冷气技师 ⁴¹²
Command office director	指挥室主任 ⁴¹³
Command battalion communications engineer	指挥营通信工程师 ⁴¹⁴
POL depot POL management person	油料库油料保管员 ⁴¹⁵
Maintenance element technical backbone	维修分队技术骨干 ⁴¹⁶
Communications technician	通信技师 ⁴¹⁷
Technical support team engineer	技术保障队工程师 ⁴¹⁸
Radar operator	雷达操纵员 ⁴¹⁹
Engineer	工程师 ⁴²⁰
Search officer ^b	搜索军官 ⁴²¹
Logistics staff officer/assistant	后勤助理员 ⁴²²
Antenna transceiver technician	天线收发技师 ⁴²³
Command and control technician	指控技师 ⁴²⁴

^a 驾驶员 can be translated to both ‘pilot’ and ‘driver’.

^b It is not clear what the “search officer” is responsible for.

Special communications person	特约通讯员 ⁴²⁵
Driver	司机 ⁴²⁶
Launch technician	发射技师 ⁴²⁷
Safety person	安全员 ⁴²⁸
Technical support and distribution technician	技术保障连配技师 ⁴²⁹
Command Post civil war support person	指挥所内战勤人员 ⁴³⁰

Appendix J: Conscript Training Bases and Brigades

Of note, prior to 2015, new two-year conscripts assigned to all PLAAF units, including air stations, were organized into new soldier companies (新兵连) and new soldier battalions (新兵营) where they received their basic training at their operational unit and were then assigned to their operational billet for on-the-job training and specialty training. However, in 2015, the PLAAF created about 40 new soldier training brigades (新兵训练旅), some of which are subordinate to a new soldier training base (新兵训练基地), so that all new conscripts received their basic training at one of these locations before they are assigned to their operational units and billets. The PLAAF does not have just one enlisted force training base that is similar to the US Air Force's Lackland Air Force Base.

Appendix K: PLA Officer Grade and Rank History

Table 12 below shows the history of the rank and grade system since 1927.

Table 12: Red Army and PLA Officer Grades and Ranks, 1927-Present

Year	Grades	Ranks
1927	None	None
1937	None	10 ranks based on the KMT system
1946	None	Abolished
1952	21	None
1955	20	15 ranks based on the Soviet System
1965	27 based on the State Administrative Grade System	Abolished
1972	23 based on the State Administrative Grade System	None
1979	18	None
1988	15	10 ranks

Appendix L: Air Stations and Maintenance Groups

This appendix provides information about PLAAF aviation unit maintenance groups (机务大队) and air stations (场站) under the air division – regiment structure in Figure 2 and the current air brigade structure for all fighter and ground attack units in Figure 3.

Figure 2: Air Division – Regiment Structure

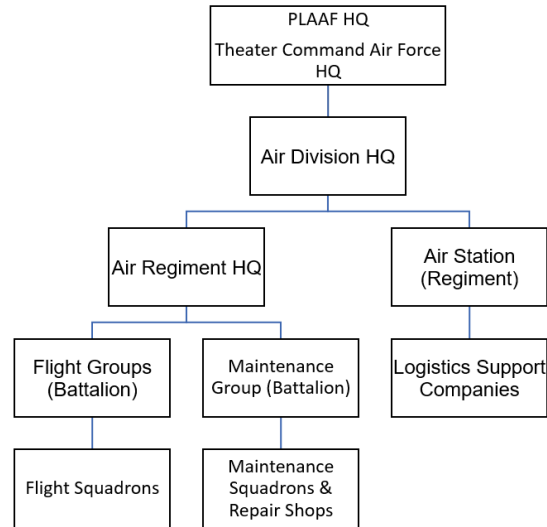
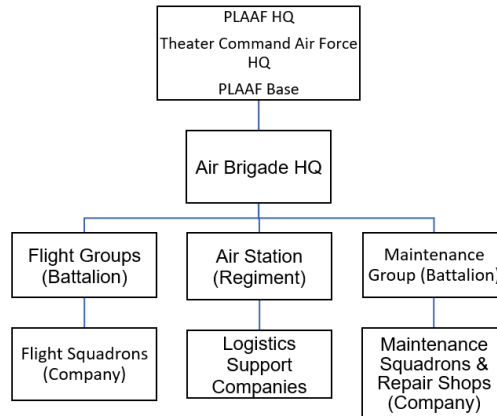


Figure 3: Air Brigade Structure



*Air Station*⁴³¹

An air station^a (场站) is an independent regiment leader-grade logistics support unit subordinate to an air division or air brigade that is responsible for aviation material (航空器材), POL (petroleum, oil, and lubricants/油料),⁴³² ammunition (弹药), materials supply (物资供应), airfield maintenance (机场维护), security (警卫), medical rescue (医疗救护), and personnel welfare support (生活保障), as well as communications (通信), navigation (导航), flight control

^a “Air Station” [场站], in Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee. [*People’s Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 958. The primary source for this section was analysis of over 500 *AFN* articles during the 2000s and 2010s.

(飞行管制), meteorology (气象), transportation (运输), and four stations (四站), etc. The PLAAF's airborne force, which is organized into brigades with various helicopters and transport aircraft assigned to them, also has an air station assigned to each brigade.⁴³³ It appears that each air station receives guidance from the air brigade's and air regiment's Support Department and Support Division, respectively. Of note, air divisions have not had a Logistics Department.⁴³⁴ The air stations co-located with each air regiment served as the logistics node for the air division HQ.

It appears that the PLAAF categorizes its air stations into two tiers identified as A (甲级) and B (乙级). For example, in October 2016, one air station was identified as a Tier B, and in April 2017, an air station was upgraded from B to A.⁴³⁵ However, it is not clear what each tier includes. The PLAAF also has reserve air stations (备用场站), which are apparently assigned to reserve airfields.⁴³⁶ However, it appears that they are not well equipped. For example, according to one article in about a Northern TCAF reserve air station in February 2016, "The personnel on the base lived in very difficult and crude conditions, causing some to lack a sense of purpose and believe the auxiliary air station serves no purpose. During an actual-combat major training event, it was evident that the air station had few personnel, and that each member would have to learn multiple specialties. For this reason, the air station established discussions and competitions to make clear their purpose as a flight support preparation unit and challenge the personnel."⁴³⁷

Prior to February 1970, the air station was called a base (基地) and was subordinate to an air division. Because the air station is a regiment leader-grade organization, it cannot be subordinate to an air regiment. Following the reorganization of all fighter and attack air divisions and regiments into brigades from 2011-2017, the air stations can now be directly subordinate to the air brigade that they support. However, the PLAAF still has nine air divisions (bomber, transport, and special mission) that have subordinate regiments along with air stations. Some air stations can also be directly subordinate to a TCAF HQ.⁴³⁸ Some air stations were also downgraded in the 2000s. For example, according to a 1 September 2005 *AFN* article, a Chengdu MRAF air station received orders in April 2005 that, as a result of the ongoing 10th PLA force reduction, it was to be downgraded from a regiment leader-grade organization to a regiment deputy leader-grade organization. A follow-on article on 13 September 2005 noted that the downgrading had caused morale problems because both officers and enlisted personnel were concerned they would not be selected for promotion. It does not appear that many, if any, other air stations were downgraded.

The commander (站长) serves as the airfield commander with responsibility for all facilities and operations. He also organizes the supply of materials and equipment to each tenant air regiment or brigade and provides logistics support for flight operations and training. The air station is also responsible for radar, communications, and meteorology components within the control tower; however, the primary personnel in the control tower are the aviation unit leaders.

Air stations supporting a single air regiment or air brigade normally have about 500 personnel with an approximate ratio of 20 percent officers and 80 percent enlisted members; however, some air stations support two regiments at the same airfield and can have up to 900 personnel. An air station has three components: a command staff, functional and administrative organizations, and subordinate battalion- and company-level organizations.⁴³⁹

The command staff consists of a commander, PC, at least two deputy commanders, and at least one deputy PC. Prior to the 11th force reduction in 2016, it had a Headquarters Department (司令部) and Political Division (政治处), which became the Staff Department (参谋部) and Political

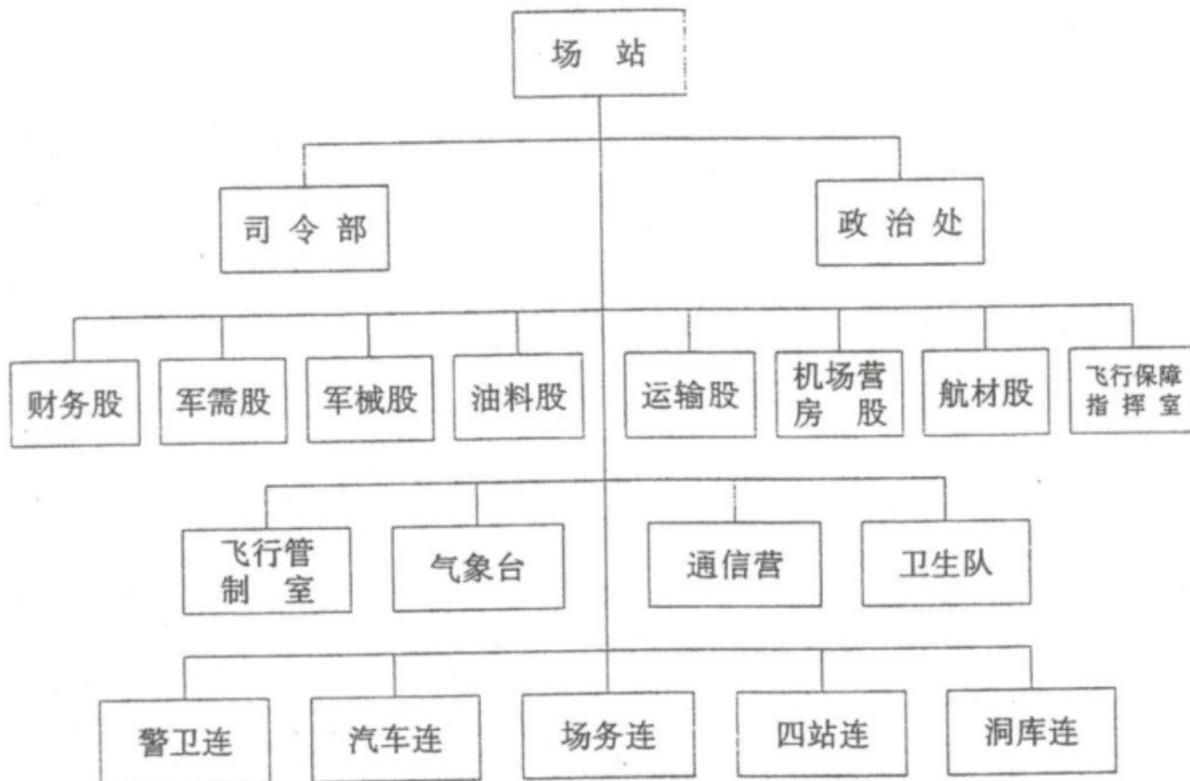
Work Division (政治工作处), respectively, in 2016, each of which has several subordinate functional and administrative branches (股) and support elements identified below.

Although the air station serves as the logistics support organization for an air regiment or brigade, it also incorporates certain organizations within the Equipment Department system, such as munitions and air materiel.⁴⁴⁰

Figure 4 below shows the organizational structure of an A and B tier air station in 2002 with the following organizations identified by row from the top down:⁴⁴¹

- Row 1: Air Station (场站)
- Row 2: Headquarters Department (司令部) and Political Division (政治处)
- Row 3: Finance Branch (财务股), Quartermaster Branch (军需股), Armament/Ordnance Branch (军械股), Petroleum-Oil-Lubricant (POL) Branch (油料股), Transportation Branch (运输股), Airfield and Barracks Branch (机场营房股), Aviation Materiel Branch (航材股), and Flight Support Command Office (飞行保障指挥室)
- Row 4: Flight Management Office (飞行管制室); Meteorology Station (气象台), Communications Battalion (通信营), and Health Team (卫生队)
- Row 5: Security Company (警卫连), Vehicle Company (汽车连), Airfield services company (场务连), Four Stations Company (四站连), and Cave depot company (洞库连).

Figure 4: Air Station Structure in 2002



The following bullets provide a list of the functional and administrative departments identified since 2016 and are shown below in alphabetical order. Of note, the only difference between the information from 2002 in Figure 4 above and the information from 2016-2023 is that the Headquarters Department became the Staff Department, the Political Division became the Political Work Division, and the Military Affairs Bureau (军务股) was apparently added around 2004. The responsibilities for each branch comes from *The Science of Air Force Tactical Logistics*.⁴⁴²

- Staff Department (参谋部)⁴⁴³
 - Armament/Ordnance Branch (军械股) is responsible for managing all munitions, including storage and maintenance^{a,444}
 - Aviation Materiel Branch (航材股) is responsible for managing the purchase, storage, and supply of all materials involved in aircraft technical equipment maintenance, including air conditioning, oxygen, and power supply^{b,445}
 - Barracks Branch (营房股) aka the Airfield and Barracks Branch (机营股) is responsible for managing the airfield, aircraft evacuation and concealment facilities, caves, barracks, airport power supply, water supply, lighting, airport emergency repair barriers, and greening of the camp area⁴⁴⁶
 - Finance Branch (财务股) is responsible for all financial issues including the purchase of equipment⁴⁴⁷
 - Flight Support Command Office (飞行保障指挥室) is responsible for receiving support tasks, drafting support plans, providing suggestions to the leaders, conveying the leaders' instructions accordingly, deploying support forces, and ensuring safety⁴⁴⁸
 - Military Affairs Branch (军务股)^{449,c}
 - Petroleum-Oil-Lubricant (POL) Branch (油料股) is responsible for the financing, storage, and supplying of all POL and preventing any fuel accidents⁴⁵⁰
 - Quartermaster Branch (军需股) is responsible for managing and storing all military supplies, including clothing and equipment⁴⁵¹
 - Support Center (保障中心)⁴⁵²
 - Transportation Branch (运输股) is responsible for managing all vehicles.^{d,453}
- Political Work Division (政治工作处)⁴⁵⁴
 - Organization and Cadre Branch (组织干部股 or 组干股).⁴⁵⁵
 - Propaganda and Security Branch (宣保股)⁴⁵⁶

Since 2016, the functional and administrative branches support more than ten companies, including navigation beacon, target range, security, four stations, airfield service, vehicle, POL transport, cave depot, and air-to-air missile companies. Personnel are organized into over 90

^a The PLA translates *junxie* (军械) as ordnance and armament. *An English-Chinese Military Dictionary*, Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, December 2006, p. 152 and 1140.

^b When the General Equipment Department was created in 1998, the PLAAF's Logistics Department re-subordinated its Air Materiel Department (航材部) to the Equipment Department (装备部). It appears that the PLAAF has not been uniform in transferring all components of the air materiel system from the logistics to the equipment system. Whereas the air materiel warehouses/depots for some air regiments are subordinate to the air division's Equipment Department, some are still subordinate to the air station. This branch works closely with the four stations company.

^c The Military Affairs Branch was not identified in the 2002 *The Science of Air Force Tactical Logistics* and was apparently added around 2004.

^d This branch works closely with the vehicle company.

specialties. The air station also has several depots, including those for POL, air materiel, and munitions. In addition, it is responsible for communications and navigation stations, as well as radar stations, and has a subordinate meteorology station. The subordinate organizations are shown below in alphabetical order. It is not clear what each organization is responsible for.

- Airborne Munitions Group (机载弹药大队) and Airborne Munitions Squadron (机载弹药中队)⁴⁵⁷
- Aircraft Landing Radar Station (着陆雷达站)⁴⁵⁸
- Airfield Services Company (场务连)^{a,459}
- Air Materiel Depots (航材仓库)⁴⁶⁰
- Armament/Ordnance Depot Area (军械库区)⁴⁶¹
 - Armament/Ordnance Depots (军械仓库)
- Cave Depot Company (洞库连), assigned to airfields with cave shelters rather than flightline aircraft shelters⁴⁶²
- Command Center (指挥中心)⁴⁶³ and Command Office (指挥室)⁴⁶⁴
- Communications Battalion (通信营)⁴⁶⁵
 - Communications Company (通信连)⁴⁶⁶
 - Duty Office (值班室)
 - Communications Company Station (通信连某台站)⁴⁶⁷
 - Communications and Navigation Company (通信导航连)⁴⁶⁸
- Communications Equipment Repair Facility (通信修理所)⁴⁶⁹
- Engineering Maintenance Company (工程维护连)⁴⁷⁰
- Ground-To-Air Station (站对空台)⁴⁷¹
- Field Maintenance Flight Duty Office (飞行值班室)⁴⁷²
- First Line (外场)^{b,473}
- First Line Station (外场台站),⁴⁷⁴ which most likely refers to a Communications Station (通信台站) or Navigation Station (导航台站)
- Flight Control Office (飞行管制室)⁴⁷⁵
- Flight Logistics Support Command Office (飞行后勤保障指挥室/飞行保障指挥室)⁴⁷⁶
- Flight Support Center (飞行保障中心)⁴⁷⁷
- Four Stations Company (四站连)^{c,478}
 - Four Stations Company Environmental Control Squad (站四站连环控班)⁴⁷⁹

^a An airfield service company is responsible for an airfield's runways, beacons, fire and rescue, airfield flood protection, snow removal, camouflage, missile movement, rapid repair, bird repulsion/dispersal, electricity, destroying old chemical weapons, emergency response, and maintaining the associated equipment.

^b "First line" (*waichang*; 外场) is translated as: (1) the location in the airfield where flight activities and service support are carried out, which is commonly used to refer to the airfield takeoff line, landing line, refueling line, tarmac, and aircraft bunkers and hangars, etc. (2) Airfields other than those where the Air Force is stationed, such as landing at another runway during training. When the term is used in this way, the external airfield is also referred to as *waichang*, while the airfield where the Air Force is stationed is referred to as home airfield (本场).

^c The four stations company consists of an oxygen generation station (制氧站), compressed air (冷氧站), battery charging (充电站), and power supply equipment (电源站), each of which is considered a station (站). Each station is probably a platoon-level organization and has subordinate squads, such as an oxygen generation station squad commander (制氧站班).

- Hospital (医院)⁴⁸⁰
 - Health/Medical Teams (卫生队)⁴⁸¹
 - Hospital Outpatient Clinic (医院门诊所)⁴⁸²
- Meteorological Radar/Observation Stations (气象雷达站/气象台⁴⁸³/气象观测站⁴⁸⁴)
 - Meteorological Detection Squad (气象台探测班)⁴⁸⁵
- Missile Squadron (导弹中队)⁴⁸⁶
- Missile Technology Training Ground (导弹技术阵地训练场)⁴⁸⁷
- Munitions Group (弹药大队)⁴⁸⁸
- Navigation Company (导航连)⁴⁸⁹ or Communications and Navigation Company (通信导航连)
- Navigation Tower and Stations (导航台/导航台站), which has a primary tower located at the airfield and short- and long-distance support stations in locations along flight routes leading to the airfield⁴⁹⁰
- Navigational Light Squad (助航灯光班)⁴⁹¹
- Northern Long-Range Navigation Station (北远距导航台)⁴⁹²
- Party Committee (党委)⁴⁹³
- Parachute Rigging Office (抱伞室)^{a, 494}
- POL Branch's POL Supply Center (外场供油中心)⁴⁹⁵
- POL Branch's Storage Squad (油料股保管班)⁴⁹⁶
- POL Depots (油料仓库 or 油库)⁴⁹⁷
- POL Transport Company (运油连)⁴⁹⁸
- Psychological Services Support Center (依托心理服务中心)⁴⁹⁹
- Quartermaster Support Center (军需保障中心)⁵⁰⁰
- Radar Station (雷达站)⁵⁰¹
- Security Company (警卫连)⁵⁰² and Security and Airfield Services Company (警卫场务连)⁵⁰³
- TACAN - Tactical Air Navigation System Station (东部战区空军某场站导航连塔康站)⁵⁰⁴
- Target Range Company (靶场连)⁵⁰⁵
- Tower Command Hall (塔台指挥大厅)⁵⁰⁶
- Vehicle Company (汽车连)⁵⁰⁷ or Vehicle Airfield Service Company (汽车场务连)
 - Vehicle Company Training Ground Drilling Squad (汽车连训练场教练班)⁵⁰⁸
 - Vehicle Company Training Ground Maintenance Platoon (汽车连训练场的维修排)⁵⁰⁹
 - Vehicle Repair Squad (修理班)⁵¹⁰

Each Air Station also has several ad hoc elements (分队) and groups (大队), including those shown below in alphabetical order:^b

- Air Materiel Element (航材分队)⁵¹¹
- Aircraft Munitions Group (机载弹药大队)⁵¹²

^a These personnel wrap up the drag chutes from aircraft after they land.

^b An air station can put together ad hoc element to support specific missions, such as for an aircraft deployment.

- Airfield Services Element (场务分队)⁵¹³
- Anti-Bird Strike Squad (驱鸟班)⁵¹⁴
- Armament/Ordnance Support Element (军械分队⁵¹⁵ or 军械保障分队)
- Chemical Defense Element (防化分队)⁵¹⁶
- Clearance Publicity Element (净空宣传分队)⁵¹⁷
- Communications Company's Automation Element (空军某场站通信连自动分队)⁵¹⁸
- Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Support Element (应急救援分队/应急分队/应急保障分队).⁵¹⁹ For Example, in July 2016, one air station deployed over 300 personnel to Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, to help with disaster relief operations.⁵²⁰
- POL Testing Element (检测分队)⁵²¹
- Fire Obstruction Squad (场务连消防拦阻班)⁵²²
- Firefighting Element (消防分队)⁵²³
- Fuel Support Element (油料保障分队)⁵²⁴
- Health Support Element (卫生保障分队)
- Medical Element (医疗分队)⁵²⁵
- Missile Squadron's Equipment Element (导弹中队设备分队)⁵²⁶
- Support Element (保障分队), which provides aircraft maintenance⁵²⁷
- Temporary Support Element Missile *Zhongdui* Duty Office (临时保障分队导弹中队值班室)⁵²⁸
- Transportation Support Element (运输保障分队)⁵²⁹

*Maintenance Group*⁵³⁰

Each air brigade and regiment has a subordinate battalion-level maintenance group (机务大队), which appears to receive guidance from the brigade's Support Department or regiment's Support Division, respectively.^a The maintenance group, which is responsible for aircraft maintenance, has a commander (大队长), a Political Instructor (教导员), one to two deputy commanders (副大队长), and a deputy political instructor (副教导员). Given that it is a battalion-grade organization, it does not have any functional and administrative "departments".

As part of the 10th force reduction in 2004, maintenance group commanders were upgraded to regiment deputy leader-grade officers in order to emphasize the importance of aircraft maintenance, but the remaining personnel retained their previous grades.^b Historically, a typical maintenance group for a single air regiment or brigade has about 350 people, including 90 officers and 260 enlisted personnel.⁵³¹ Of note, as a result of the 10th force reduction in 2004 when the PLAAF began turning over dozens of junior officer billets to NCOs, the PLAAF began to allow some NCOs to become "acting" (代理) maintenance crew chiefs on the flight line and leaders in maintenance squadrons and maintenance groups; however, because they are not officers who can continue to move up their grade ladder, there is a glass ceiling for the NCOs. As part of the 11th force reduction in 2016, the PLAAF continued to reduce the number of maintenance officers and increased the number of enlisted personnel.⁵³² Each year, the PLAAF holds unit competitions for its

^a The terms *jiwu* (机务) and *jixie* (机械) are both translated as "maintenance."

^b The upgrade information is based on analysis of several articles in *AFN* during 2003 that first identified the maintenance group directors as deputy regiment leader grade officers.

maintenance personnel to see who will be promoted. Other competitions are also held throughout the year in order to keep personnel focused on their responsibilities.⁵³³

A typical maintenance group is organized into four company-level maintenance squadrons (机务中队), which are identified as the 1st squadron (一中队), 2nd squadron (二中队), 3rd squadron (三中队), and periodic inspection squadron (定期检查中队). A typical *AFN* article identifies this type of unit as an air brigade's maintenance group's 1st squadron (航空兵旅机务一中队), etc. Each maintenance squadron has a commander (中队长), a political instructor (指导员), and at least one deputy commander (副中队长). Some squadrons may also have a deputy political instructor (副指导员)

The first three squadrons are typically organized into the following platoon-level elements (分队), which are listed alphabetically, each of which only has a commander (排长), since platoon-level organizations do not have political officers or deputy commanders.⁵³⁴

- Armament/Ordnance Element (军械分队)^a
- Fighter Machinery Element (歼击机机械分队)
- Machinery Element (机械分队)
- Radar Element (雷达分队)
- Radio Element (无线电分队)
- Special Equipment Element (特设分队)
- Trainer Aircraft Machinery Element (教练机机械分队).

The Periodic Inspection Squadron (定期检查中队) has the following elements:

- Armament/Ordnance Element (军械分队)
- Machinery Element (机械分队)
- Radio Element (无线电分队)
- Repair Element (修理分队).
- Special Equipment Element (特设分队)

Maintenance Groups also Encompass Relevant Training and Research-Related Organizations, Such As:

- The PLAAF Engineering University (AFEU) is the primary organization responsible for educating and training officer aircraft maintenance personnel.⁵³⁵
- AFEU also has an Aviation Maintenance NCO School (空军工程大学航空机务士官学校), which has Subordinate Cadet Groups (学员大队) and a Technology Laboratory (电子技术实验室)⁵³⁶ and is responsible for educating and training enlisted aircraft maintenance personnel.
- At least one TCAF (Western TCAF), and most likely each TCAF, has a subordinate Aviation Maintenance Realistic Training Ground (航空机务实装训练场) organized into Training Teams (训练队).⁵³⁷

^a The PLA translates *junxie* (军械) as ordnance and armament. *An English-Chinese Military Dictionary*, Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, December 2006, p. 152 and 1140.

*Aircraft Repair Shops*⁵³⁸

Each maintenance group has a subordinate company-level aircraft repair shop (修理厂), or backshop, for local repairs. The repair shop, in turn, has several subordinate platoon-level elements (分队) that work with their corresponding squadrons in a maintenance group. Each element is organized into several squad-level sections (组).⁵³⁹ The repair shop is manned by technical officers and NCOs, all of whom fill billets as machinists and mechanics. NCOs serve as the section leaders (组长) but are also replacing some junior officers as element commanders.

The repair shops are responsible for intermediate repair of the division's/brigade's aircraft and periodic inspections under 400 hours, general malfunction repair and overall repair, specialized parts inspection and repair, and repairing of certain spare parts. All the technical equipment for maintenance is organized into ground equipment and instruments, and instruments and equipment onboard engineering vehicles. A typical repair shop department (厂部) is organized into platoon-grade elements (分队) and squad-level sections (组) as follows:

- Aircraft element (飞机分队): Assembly section, metal work section, special equipment flight, electrical section, and instruments section.
 - Armament/Ordnance Element (军械分队): In-house repair section and out house (periodic repair) section.
 - Wireless Radio Element (无线电分队): Communications and navigation section and radar section.
 - Accessories Element: Hydraulics section, compressed air section, and inspection, non-destructive section.
 - Machinery Element (机械分队): Lathe section, heat treatment section, welding section, benchwork section, and milling and grinding section.

*Rapid Repair Elements*⁵⁴⁰

The PLAAF began studying rapid repair for damaged aircraft after the first Gulf War. In 1998, the PLAAF's 1st Aviation Technology College, located in Xinyang, Henan Province (Jinan MRAF), opened the PLA's first aircraft-damage rush-repair test center (战伤抢修实验中心).⁵⁴¹ During the early 2000s, the PLAAF began creating a rapid-repair element at each airfield and conducting training for "on-site rapid repair" of equipment after an enemy attack. Each element incorporates personnel from the maintenance group and air station.⁵⁴²

Appendix M: Airborne Force Organizational Structure

As noted in Subsection 11-2, the Airborne Corps has the following types of brigades: Airborne Corps has, at a minimum, the following units: six airborne brigades (空降兵旅), a transport air brigade (运输航空兵旅),⁵⁴³ an air assault brigade (空中突击旅),⁵⁴⁴ and a special operations brigade (特种作战旅).⁵⁴⁵ It also has a helicopter regiment that is subordinate to an unidentified brigade.⁵⁴⁶

This appendix provides information about the organizational structure for the different brigades found in about 150 articles in the 2017-2022 *AFN*.

The articles clearly identified the organizations under the transport air brigade, which is organized the same way as all aviation unit brigades. Specifically, it has an air station and maintenance group that is basically organized the same way as all other aviation brigades discussed in Appendix L.⁵⁴⁷ For example, the transport brigade has a Support Department that oversees an air station with a four-stations company and a communications battalion, as well as a maintenance group with subordinate 2nd and 3rd Maintenance Squadrons and maintenance repair shops.⁵⁴⁸ The air station has a communications battalion with a subordinate communications company and a navigation company.⁵⁴⁹ The air station also has a Quartermaster Branch (军需股).⁵⁵⁰

However, none of the articles identified which other types of brigades the remaining organizations are subordinate to, so they are lumped together as battalions, companies, squads, and elements. According to one article, the airborne corps consists of the following specialties (专业): infantry (步兵), chemical defense (防化), communications (通信), and engineering (工兵), etc.⁵⁵¹ Each battalion, company, squad, and element are identified by their responsibilities, such as a communications battalion, while some are also identified by a number, such as the 4th Battalion (四营),⁵⁵² 8th Company (八连),⁵⁵³ 2nd Platoon (二排),⁵⁵⁴ and 5th Squad (五班).⁵⁵⁵ No examples were found for a numbered element such as the 5th Element.

See Appendices D, E, and H for information concerning the brigades' Staff Department, Political Work Department, and Support Department "departments". It appears that each brigade also has a command post (指挥所),⁵⁵⁶ which is usually managed by the Staff Department. The following bullets provide the types of battalions, companies, squads, and elements that were identified.

- Battalions:
 - Communications Battalion (通信营)⁵⁵⁷
 - Mechanized Infantry Battalion (机步营/机械化步兵营)⁵⁵⁸
 - Mobile Command and Control Battalion (机动指控营)⁵⁵⁹
 - Motorized Infantry 3rd Battalion (摩步三营/摩托化步兵)⁵⁶⁰
 - Reconnaissance Battalion (侦察营)⁵⁶¹
 - Security Battalion (警卫营/警卫勤务营)⁵⁶²
 - Support Battalion (保障营)
 - Support Battalion (支援营),⁵⁶³ which is defined as the organization that holds all of the weapons that are then distributed as needed
 - Chemical Defense Company (防化连)⁵⁶⁴
 - Communications Battalion Communications Company (通信营通信连)⁵⁶⁵
 - Communications Company Telephone Squad (电话班)⁵⁶⁶

- Health Company (卫生连)⁵⁶⁷
- Mechanized Artillery Company (机炮连)⁵⁶⁸
- Mortar Squad (迫击炮班)⁵⁶⁹
- Repair Company (修理连)⁵⁷⁰
- Roving Health Company (游卫生连)⁵⁷¹
- Support Battalion Transportation Company (保障营运输连)⁵⁷²
- Wireless Radio Communications Company (无线通信连)⁵⁷³
- Squads:
 - Communications Squad (通信班)⁵⁷⁴
 - First Line Airborne Combat Vehicle Squad (一场空降战车班)⁵⁷⁵
 - Heavy Machine Gun Squad (重机枪班)⁵⁷⁶
 - Reconnaissance Squad (侦察班)⁵⁷⁷
 - Communications Element Wireless Radio Squad (通信分队无线班)⁵⁷⁸
- Elements:
 - Air Defense Element (防空分队)⁵⁷⁹ with a photo showing a soldier firing a should-fired rocket
 - Artillery Element (炮兵分队)⁵⁸⁰
 - Chemical Defense Element (防化分队)⁵⁸¹
 - War Preparation (aka Combat Readiness) Element (战备分队)⁵⁸²
 - Communications Element (通信分队)⁵⁸³
 - Engineer Element (工兵分队)⁵⁸⁴
 - Firepower Element (火力分队)⁵⁸⁵ that is subordinate to a company and has at least 5 subordinate squads⁵⁸⁶
 - Notification Repair Element (通知修理分队)⁵⁸⁷ but it is not clear what “notification” refers to
 - Reconnaissance Element (侦察分队)⁵⁸⁸
 - Special Purpose Communications Element (特建通信分队)⁵⁸⁹
 - Support Element (保障分队)⁵⁹⁰ which is responsible for air drop (运输投送), battlefield repairs (战场抢修), POL support (油料保障), and munitions warehouses (弹药库)⁵⁹¹
 - Task Element (任务分队)^{a592}

The following bullets identify three other components of the Airborne Corps:

- Deployed Training Ground (野外训练场)⁵⁹³
- Over Water Parachute Training Center (水上跳伞训练中心)⁵⁹⁴
- Swimming Training Site (游泳训练场)⁵⁹⁵

^a No official translation or definition was found for this term. However, based on discussions with Dennis Blasko, it could be translated as “task force” but in reality it means a group of battalion to squad level organizations that are temporarily grouped together to perform a specific mission. Or it may be just a temporary group of people to perform a specific task. Specifically, it is not a permanent organization.

Appendix N: Ground-to-Air Missile Branch Organizational Structure

As noted in Section 10 and Subsection 11-3, the PLAAF has SAM brigades in all five TCAFs and SAM division(s) and regiment(s) only in the Central TCAF. The following bullets provide information about the organizational structure found under the SAM brigade HQ:

- Air Defense Missile Element (防空导弹分队)⁵⁹⁶
- Antenna Transceiver Squad (天线收发班)⁵⁹⁷
- Combat Service Squad (战勤班)⁵⁹⁸
- Command [Large] Office (指挥大厅)⁵⁹⁹
- Command Battalion (指挥营)⁶⁰⁰
- Command Office (指挥室)⁶⁰¹
- Command Post (指挥所)⁶⁰²
- Command Shelter (指挥方舱)⁶⁰³
- Communications Company and subordinate Platoon(s) (通信连排)⁶⁰⁴
- Communications Support Element (通信保障分队)⁶⁰⁵
- Maintenance Element (维修分队)⁶⁰⁶
- Mess Squad (炊事班)⁶⁰⁷
- Operations Research Office (作战研究室)⁶⁰⁸
- Radar Station (雷达站)⁶⁰⁹
- SAM Battalion (地导营)⁶¹⁰
- Security Company (警勤连)⁶¹¹
- Task Element (任务分队)⁶¹²
- Theory Service Element (理论服务分队)⁶¹³
- U/I Battalion Command Shelter (指挥方舱)⁶¹⁴
- U/I Battalion Communications Company (通信连)⁶¹⁵
- U/I Battalion Deployment Training Area (野外处驻训练阵地)⁶¹⁶
- U/I Battalion Guidance Company (制导连)⁶¹⁷
- U/I Battalion Guidance Launch Company (制导发射连/制导发射连)⁶¹⁸
- U/I Battalion Mobile Element (机动分队)⁶¹⁹
- U/I Battalion POL Warehouse (油料库)⁶²⁰
- U/I Battalion Radar Combat Service Squad (雷达战勤班) Squad #1 (一号班) and Squad #2 (二号班)⁶²¹
- U/I Battalion Radar Shelter (雷达放舱)⁶²²
- U/I Battalion Tactics Research Office (战术研究室)⁶²³
- U/I Battalion Telephone Operator Squad (话务班)⁶²⁴
- U/I Battalion Training Ground (训练场)⁶²⁵
- Vehicle Company (汽车连)⁶²⁶
- Vehicle Maintenance Squad (汽车修理班)⁶²⁷
- Warehouse (仓库)⁶²⁸

The following bullets provide information about the organizational structure found under the SAM division(s) and regiments HQ:

- Division HQ
 - 1st Radar Shelter (一雷达放舱)⁶²⁹
 - Command Post (指挥所)⁶³⁰
 - New-soldier training brigade (新训旅)⁶³¹
- Regiment HQ
 - Command Post (指挥所)⁶³²
 - Launch area (发射阵地)⁶³³
 - Task Element (任务分队)⁶³⁴
 - Training ground (训练场)⁶³⁵
 - U/I Battalion (营)⁶³⁶

Appendix O: Radar Branch Organizational Structure

The following radar-related organizations that are subordinate to radar brigades (雷达旅) were found from 2016 through 2022 and are listed alphabetically. See Subsection 11-4 for information concerning the history of the Radar Branch.

- Air Station Meteorology Tower Meteorology Radar Control Squad (场站气象台气象雷达操纵班)⁶³⁷
- Central Radar Station (中心站/中心雷达站)⁶³⁸
- Combat Service [company-level] Squadron (战勤中队)⁶³⁹
- Combat Service Company (战勤连)⁶⁴⁰
 - Mess Squad (炊事班)^{a,641}
 - Combat Service Squad (战勤班)⁶⁴²
- Command Post (指挥所)⁶⁴³
- Field Operations Command Post (野战指挥所)⁶⁴⁴
- Fixed Radar Station (固定雷达站)⁶⁴⁵
- Health Team (卫生队)⁶⁴⁶
- Island-Based Radar Station and Subordinate Platoon(S) (海岛雷达站排)⁶⁴⁷
- Mobile Element (机动分队)⁶⁴⁸
- Mobile Radar Battalion (机动雷达站/机动营)⁶⁴⁹ With A Mobile Station (机动站)⁶⁵⁰
- Mobile Radar Element (机动雷达分队/机动分队)^{b,651}
- Mobile Radar Station (机动雷达站/机动站)⁶⁵²
- Mobile Station (机动站)⁶⁵³ identified as a company-level organization (是个连级单位)
- Operations Research Office (作战研究室)⁶⁵⁴
- Radar Battalion (雷达营)⁶⁵⁵
- Radar Station (雷达站)⁶⁵⁶
 - General Office (雷达站办公室)⁶⁵⁷
 - Training Ground (雷达站训练场)⁶⁵⁸
 - Training Office (雷达站训练室)⁶⁵⁹
- Radar Training Base (雷达训练基地/雷训基地)⁶⁶⁰
- Security Company (警卫连)⁶⁶¹
- Task Element (任务分队)⁶⁶²
- Theory Service Element (理论服务分队)⁶⁶³
- Vehicle Company (汽车连)⁶⁶⁴

Appendix P: Communications Branch Organizational Structure

The following communications-related organizations that are subordinate to communications brigades (通信旅) were found from 2016 through 2022 and are listed alphabetically. See Subsection 11-6 for information concerning the history of the Communications Branch.

^a Mess Squads were also found subordinate to other battalions and companies.

^b The article notes that it has several elements (多支机动分队).

- Communications Mobile Element (通信机务分队)⁶⁶⁵
- Communications Station (通信台站)⁶⁶⁶
- Engineering Battalion (工程营)⁶⁶⁷
- Maintenance Company (维护连)⁶⁶⁸
- Mobile Communications Battalion (机动营/机动通信营)⁶⁶⁹
 - Deployed Training Ground (野外训练场)⁶⁷⁰
- Mobile Communications Battalion's Subordinate Element (机动通信营分队)⁶⁷¹
- Numbered battalions, companies, and stations, such as the 1st Battalion's 1st Company's [platoon-level] #1 Station (通信旅一营一连一号台)⁶⁷²
- Telephone Operator Company (话务连)⁶⁷³

Of note, each air brigade's and air division's air station has a subordinate communications battalion with subordinate communications companies, which, in turn, have subordinate platoons (场站通信营,通信连排).⁶⁷⁴ Based on their location, air station communications companies can have ground-to-air radio stations located on high mountains (高山对空台).⁶⁷⁵ In addition, each of the three PLAAF flight academies training brigades has a subordinate air station, which, in turn, has a subordinate communications battalion (空军石家庄飞行学院旅场站通信营教导员).⁶⁷⁶

Appendix Q: PLAAF National Defense Student Programs

Table 13 below provides a list of the 20 universities that hosted a PLAAF National Defense Student Program discussed in Section 12.⁶⁷⁷

Table 13: Universities formerly with PLAAF National Defense Student Programs

University Name	Location
Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (北京航空航天大学)	Beijing
Changchun University of S&T (长春理工大学国防科学技术学院)	Changchun, Jilin
Changchun University of Technology (长春工业大学)	Changchun, Jilin
Changsha University of S&T (长沙理工大学)	Changsha, Hunan
Hebei University of Technology (河北工业大学)	Tianjin, Hebei
Hunan University (湖南大学)	Changsha, Hunan
Lanzhou Jiaotong University (兰州交通大学)	Lanzhou, Gansu
Lanzhou University (兰州大学)	Lanzhou, Gansu
Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (南京航空航天大学)	Nanjing, Jiangsu
Nanjing University of Information S&T (南京信息工程大学)	Nanjing, Jiangsu
Peking University (北京大学)	Beijing
Shandong University of Technology (山东理工大学)	Zibo, Shandong
Shenyang Institute of Aeronautical Engineering (沈阳航空工业学院空军后备军官学院)	Shenyang, Liaoning
Shenyang University of Technology (沈阳工业大学国防生教育学院)	Shenyang, Liaoning
Southeast University (东南大学)	Nanjing, Jiangsu
Tsinghua University (清华大学)	Beijing
University of Electronics S&T (电子科技大学)	Chengdu, Sichuan
Wuhan University of Technology (武汉理工大学)	Wuhan, Hubei
Xidian University [Xi'an Electronics S&T University] (西安电子科技大学)	Xian, Shaanxi
Xihua University (西华大学后备军官学院)	Chengdu, Sichuan

¹⁸⁶ “Operations” [作战] and “Operational system” [作战体系], in Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People’s Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 63. Only a few combinations of terms in the dictionary, such as “militia combat detachment” [民兵作战分队], translate it as “combat”. For example, see *Ibid.*, p. 32. The [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*] translates [作战飞机] as “combat aircraft”. YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], p. 657.

-
- ¹⁸⁷ “Combat” [战斗], in Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People’s Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 130.
- ¹⁸⁸ “Forces; troops; unit” [部队], in Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People’s Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 322.
- ¹⁸⁹ “Military base” [军事基地], in Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People’s Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second Edition, p. 7.
- ¹⁹⁰ *AFN*, 25 October 2022, p. 4.
- ¹⁹¹ ZHU, ed., [*Air Force Dictionary*], p. 71; Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People’s Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 171.
- ¹⁹² ZHU, ed., [*Air Force Dictionary*], p. 71.
- ¹⁹³ “Commanding Officer” [指挥军官], in XU, LIN, and MU, eds., [*Military Cadre Work*], Second edition, p. 84; SU, YANG, YU, and LIN, eds., [*Military Cadre Work Handbook*], p. 35-36.
- ¹⁹⁴ “Staff Officers Contingent” [参谋军官] in XU, LIN, and MU, eds., [*Military Cadre Work*], Second Edition, p. 72-73.
- ¹⁹⁵ “Element” [分队] in Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People’s Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 332-333, and “Element” [分队] in ZHU, ed., [*Air Force Dictionary*], p. 151.
- ¹⁹⁶ “Logistics detachment” [后勤分队] and “Reconnaissance detachment” [侦察分队], in Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People’s Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 477 and 201, respectively.
- ¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 332-333.
- ¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 332-333.
- ¹⁹⁹ ZHU, ed., [*Air Force Dictionary*], p. 151.
- ²⁰⁰ *AFN*, 23 June 2022, p. 2; *AFN*, 9 March 2021, p. 4.
- ²⁰¹ *AFN*, 14 July 2022, p. 2; *AFN*, 26 August 2021, p. 2.
- ²⁰² *AFN*, 9 August 2022, p. 2.
- ²⁰³ *AFN*, 8 July 2021, p. 2.
- ²⁰⁴ *AFN*, 8 July 2021, p. 2.
- ²⁰⁵ *AFN*, 2 August 2019, p. 4.
- ²⁰⁶ *AFN*, 24 August 2018, p. 1.
- ²⁰⁷ *AFN*, 12 September 2018, p. 1.
- ²⁰⁸ *AFN*, 23 June 2022, p. 2.
- ²⁰⁹ *AFN*, 9 March 2006, p. 2. An air station airfield beacon company (场站通信导航连 requested some emergency equipment, and a 20-man emergency support element (应急保障分队) that was subordinate to a communications warehouse found the necessary equipment and delivered it.
- ²¹⁰ *AFN*, 8 August 2022, p. 2.
- ²¹¹ *AFN*, 1 November 2021, p. 2, which identifies a ground-to-air missile battalion’s subordinate battalion task element (地导某营营任务分队).
- ²¹² *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 3, which identifies a firepower element subordinate to the 8th company in an airborne brigade (空降兵某旅八连火力分队).
- ²¹³ *AFN*, 13 May 2022, p. 2, which identifies an element subordinate to an air station’s airfield service’s company (场站场务连分队).
- ²¹⁴ *AFN*, 9 March 2021, p. 1. (95848 部队 68 分队 2 排 6 班).
- ²¹⁵ *AFN*, 13 August 2018, p. 3; *AFN*, 26 August 2022, p. 4. (雷达某旅某机动分队班).
- ²¹⁶ *AFN*, 9 August 2022, p. 2.
- ²¹⁷ *AFN*, 9 March 2006, p. 3.
- ²¹⁸ *AFN*, 12 May 2022, p. 3.
- ²¹⁹ “[Huangpi District Airborne Force 134th Brigade Unit, Wuhan Huangpi Air Force Unit 95969]” [黄陂区空降兵 134 旅部队, 武汉黄陂空军 95969 部队]. Accessed at <https://web.archive.org/web/20230704184528/https://www.sgss8.net/tpdq/16409557/>.
- ²²⁰ *AFN*, 24 August 2021, p. 3; “[XIN Changxing, WU Xiaojun, and other Leaders from Qinghai Province Visited Troops Stationed in Qinghai and Expressed Their Support on the Eve of ‘August 1st;’]” [信长星吴晓军等青海省领

导在“八一”前夕看望慰问驻青部队], 31 July 2022. Accessed at <http://qh.people.com.cn/n2/2022/0731/c182775-40061281.html>.

²²¹ DONG Huiyu and MOU Xianming, eds., *Dictionary of Modern Military Education* (sic) [现代军校教育辞典] Second edition, 2011.

²²² ZHAO Yiping et al., eds. [*PLA Military History*] [中国人民解放军军史], Second edition, Vol. 3, 2007.

²²³ WANG Peinan et al., “Although I Do Not Know If My Alma Mater Still Exists, the School Motto Is Always in Our Hearts” [虽然不知道母校还在不在, 但是校训永远在我们心中] in *China Youth Daily*, 2 Mar 2017 Accessed at http://news.cyol.com/content/2017-03/02/content_15687657.htm.

²²⁴ “Institute of International Relations of the CPLA” [中国人民解放军国际关系学院] in ZHAO et al., [*PLA Military History*], p. 678.

²²⁵ “University Foreign Languages of the CPLA” [中国人民解放军外国语大学] in *Ibid.*, p. 678-679; For example, the Chinese name of the academic institution 陆军勤务学院 was translated as “Army Logistic University of PLA.” See LI Zhenqiang, MEI Yan, and LU Ke, “Development of Bivouac Base System of PLA” [我军“基地化宿营保障系统”建设初探] in *Equipment Environmental Engineering*, No. 5 (2019).

²²⁶ “Shenyang Artillery Academy of the CPLA” [中国人民解放军沈阳炮兵学院] in ZHAO et al., *PLA Military History*, Second edition, Vol. 3, p. 689-690; “Shenyang Artillery College” [沈阳炮兵学院] in DONG and MOU, eds., *Dictionary of Modern Military Education* (sic), Second edition, p. 467.

²²⁷ DONG and MOU, *Dictionary of Modern Military Education* (sic), Second edition, p. 152; YAO, ed., [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 2, p. 1249; “Free Air Combat Training Course Included in Air Force Flight Academy Syllabus” in *China Military Online*, 6 February 2018. Accessed at http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2018-02/06/content_7934591.htm.

²²⁸ Sun, ed., [*A Brief History of China People’s Liberation Army Academic Institutions*], p. 540; “Xi’an Political College of the CPLA” [西安政治学院] in ZHAO et al., [*PLA Military History*], Second edition, Vol. 3, p. 704-705.

²²⁹ “National Defense University” [国防大学] in DONG and MOU, eds., *Dictionary of Modern Military Education* (sic), Second edition, p. 460; “National Defence University” [国防大学] in Zhao et al., [*PLA Military History*], Second edition, Vol. 3 (Beijing: Encyclopedia of China Publishing House, December 2007), p. 665-667.

²³⁰ “Military and Political College of the CPLA” [中国人民解放军军政大学] in Zhao et al., [*PLA Military History*], Second edition, Vol. 3, p. 660-661.

²³¹ Sun, ed., [*A Brief History of China People’s Liberation Army Academic Institutions*], p. 547.

²³² See Allen, “PLA Air Force Organizational Reforms: 2000-2012” and *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2022.

²³³ See Allen and Mulvaney, “Ongoing Organizational Reforms of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force” for a list of previous 2nd- and 3rd-level “departments”.

²³⁴ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2022.

²³⁵ *AFN*, 28 March 2018, p. 3.

²³⁶ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2022.

²³⁷ *AFN*, 29 June 2018, p. 3.

²³⁸ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2022.

²³⁹ *AFN*, 31 July 2018, p. 2. Brendan S. Mulvaney, ed., *PLA Aerospace Power: A Primer on Trends in China’s Military Air, Space, and Missile Forces*, Second edition, 2019, p. 11.

²⁴⁰ *AFN* 22 September 2017, p. 2.

²⁴¹ *AFN*, 15 August 2017, p. 2.

²⁴² *AFN*, 24 April 2017, p. 3.

²⁴³ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2022.

²⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁵ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2000; *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, 2015; Allen, “PLA Air Force Organization”; “Military affairs” [军务], Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People’s Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 345.

²⁴⁶ *AFN*, 5 December 2017, p. 2.

²⁴⁷ *AFN*, 15 November 2017, p. 1; *AFN*, 4 July 2018, p. 2.

²⁴⁸ *AFN*, 15 November 2017, p. 1.

²⁴⁹ *AFN*, 1 February 2018, p. 2; *AFN*, 24 June 2022, p. 3.

²⁵⁰ *AFN*, 10 July 2017, p. 4.

²⁵¹ *AFN*, 18 October 2017, p. 2.

-
- ²⁵² *AFN*, 3 November 2022, p. 1.
- ²⁵³ *AFN*, 13 December 2017, p. 3.
- ²⁵⁴ *AFN*, 12 July 2022, p. 2.
- ²⁵⁵ *AFN*, 9 January 2018, p. 1; *AFN*, 3 November 2022, p. 3.
- ²⁵⁶ *AFN*, 14 July 2021, p. 3.
- ²⁵⁷ *AFN*, 6 June 2022, p. 3; *AFN*, 8 February 2021, p. 2.
- ²⁵⁸ *AFN*, 14 October 2022, p. 2.
- ²⁵⁹ *AFN*, 10 February 2021, p. 3.
- ²⁶⁰ *AFN*, 20 October 2021, p. 2.
- ²⁶¹ *AFN*, 23 June 2022, p. 2.
- ²⁶² *AFN*, 30 August 2022, p. 1.
- ²⁶³ *AFN*, 21 June 2022, p. 1.
- ²⁶⁴ *AFN*, 16 November 2022, p. 4.
- ²⁶⁵ *AFN*, 5 May 2022, p. 2.
- ²⁶⁶ *AFN*, 14 October 2022, p. 2.
- ²⁶⁷ *AFN*, 2 January 2018, p. 2.
- ²⁶⁸ *AFN*, 16 July 2018, p. 3.
- ²⁶⁹ *AFN*, 12 October 2022, p. 2.
- ²⁷⁰ *AFN*, 18 November 2022, p. 1.
- ²⁷¹ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 1.
- ²⁷² *AFN*, 25 January 2021, p. 3.
- ²⁷³ *AFN*, 14 October 2022 p. 2.
- ²⁷⁴ *AFN*, 3 February 2021, p. 2.
- ²⁷⁵ *AFN*, 13 October 2021, p. 2. The translation of 战旗 (*zhanqin*) as “combat service” is from the Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People’s Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 480.
- ²⁷⁶ *AFN*, 12 August 2021, p. 3.
- ²⁷⁷ See Allen, “PLA Air Force Organizational Reforms: 2000-2012” and *Directory of PRC Military Personalities, 2022*.
- ²⁷⁸ *AFN*, 29 May 2018, p. 1.
- ²⁷⁹ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities, 2022*.
- ²⁸⁰ *AFN*, 12 January 2018, p. 1.
- ²⁸¹ *AFN*, 26 February 2021, p. 3.
- ²⁸² *AFN*, 26 February 2021, p. 3.
- ²⁸³ *AFN*, 2 August 2021, p. 3.
- ²⁸⁴ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities, 2022*.
- ²⁸⁵ *AFN*, 26 July 2021, p. 1.
- ²⁸⁶ *AFN*, 8 August 2017, p. 1.
- ²⁸⁷ *AFN*, 26 August 2022, p. 2; *AFN* 30 November 2022, p. 2.
- ²⁸⁸ *AFN*, 27 September 2022, p. 1.
- ²⁸⁹ *AFN*, 12 July 2022, p. 2.
- ²⁹⁰ *AFN*, 26 February 2021, p. 3.
- ²⁹¹ *AFN*, 2 November 2022, p. 4.
- ²⁹² *AFN*, 2 September 2022, p. 1.
- ²⁹³ *AFN*, 2 February 2021, p. 4.
- ²⁹⁴ *AFN*, 14 September 2022, p. 2.
- ²⁹⁵ *AFN*, 16 August 2022, p. 1.
- ²⁹⁶ *AFN*, 21 September 2022, p. 3.
- ²⁹⁷ *AFN*, 24 August 2022, p. 1.
- ²⁹⁸ *AFN*, 14 October 2022, p. 1.
- ²⁹⁹ *AFN*, 23 August 2022, p. 1.
- ³⁰⁰ *AFN*, 16 July 2021, p. 3.
- ³⁰¹ *AFN*, 5 August 2022, p. 4.
- ³⁰² *AFN*, 24 March 2021, p. 2; *AFN* 14 July 2021, p. 2.
- ³⁰³ *AFN*, 23 June 2021, p. 3.
- ³⁰⁴ *AFN*, 4 August 2022, p. 2.

-
- ³⁰⁵ *AFN*, 28 June 2022, p. 1.
- ³⁰⁶ See Allen, “Overview of the Organizational Structure of PLA Logistics, Equipment, and Support,” Section 1.
- ³⁰⁷ See Allen, “The Organizational Structure of the PLAAF”.
- ³⁰⁸ *AFN*, 21 August 2017, p. 3.
- ³⁰⁹ *AFN*, 9 January 2018, p. 2.
- ³¹⁰ *AFN*, 9 May 2018, p. 2.
- ³¹¹ *AFN*, 9 May 2018, p. 2.
- ³¹² *AFN*, 12 February 2018, p. 2.
- ³¹³ *AFN*, 12 February 2018, p. 2.
- ³¹⁴ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities, 2022*.
- ³¹⁵ *AFN*, 17 October 2017, p. 1.
- ³¹⁶ *AFN*, 31 July 2018, p. 1; *AFN* 2 August 2021, p. 3.
- ³¹⁷ *AFN*, 10 August 2017, p. 1; *Directory of PRC Military Personalities, 2022*.
- ³¹⁸ *AFN*, 22 November 2021, p. 2.
- ³¹⁹ *AFN*, 13 March 2021, p. 1.
- ³²⁰ *AFN*, 29 August 2022, p. 4.
- ³²¹ *AFN*, 23 September 2022, p. 2.
- ³²² *Directory of PRC Military Personalities, 2015*.
- ³²³ *AFN*, 15 August 2017, p. 2.
- ³²⁴ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities, 2022*.
- ³²⁵ *Ibid.*
- ³²⁶ *Ibid.*
- ³²⁷ *Ibid.*
- ³²⁸ *Ibid.*
- ³²⁹ *Ibid.*
- ³³⁰ *AFN*, 25 February 2021, p. 3. “Air Force Bureaus of Military Representatives” in YAO, ed. [*China Air Force Encyclopedia*], Vol. 1, p. 245.
- ³³¹ *Directory of PRC Military Personalities, 2022*.
- ³³² *Ibid.*
- ³³³ *Ibid.*
- ³³⁴ *AFN*, 13 December 2022, p. 1.
- ³³⁵ *AFN*, 7 January 2021, p. 2.
- ³³⁶ *AFN*, 25 July 2022, p. 2.
- ³³⁷ *AFN*, 7 July 2022, p. 2.
- ³³⁸ *AFN*, 15 July 2021, p. 2.
- ³³⁹ *AFN*, 23 August 2022, p. 2.
- ³⁴⁰ *AFN*, 11 August 2021, p. 4.
- ³⁴¹ *AFN*, 13 October 2022, p. 3.
- ³⁴² *AFN*, 13 May 2022, p. 1.
- ³⁴³ *AFN*, 12 October 2022, p. 2.
- ³⁴⁴ *AFN*, 18 October 2022, p. 1.
- ³⁴⁵ *AFN*, 26 April 2018, p. 2.
- ³⁴⁶ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 2.
- ³⁴⁷ *AFN*, 8 September 2022, p. 2.
- ³⁴⁸ *AFN*, 12 October 2022, p. 2.
- ³⁴⁹ *AFN*, 5 September 2022, p. 2.
- ³⁵⁰ *AFN*, 22 December 2022, p. 1.
- ³⁵¹ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 1.
- ³⁵² *AFN*, 26 May 2022, p. 4.
- ³⁵³ *AFN*, 7 June 2022, p. 2.
- ³⁵⁴ *AFN*, 15 September 2022, p. 3.
- ³⁵⁵ *AFN*, 20 May 2022, p. 4.
- ³⁵⁶ *AFN*, 31 October 2022, p. 3.
- ³⁵⁷ *AFN*, 30 June 2022, p. 2.
- ³⁵⁸ *AFN*, 24 May 2022, p. 3.
- ³⁵⁹ *AFN*, 25 October 2021, p. 2.

-
- 360 *AFN*, 26 August 2021, p. 3.
361 *AFN*, 26 August 2021, p. 3.
362 *The Chinese-English English-Chinese Military Dictionary*, p. 334.
363 *AFN*, 22 November 2022, p. 4.
364 *AFN*, 20 August 2021, p. 4.
365 *AFN*, 20 August 2021, p. 2.
366 *AFN*, 8 June 2022, p. 2.
367 *AFN*, 12 December 2022, p. 2.
368 *AFN*, 14 November 2022, p. 2.
369 *AFN*, 2 February 2021, p. 3.
370 *AFN*, 31 August 2021, p. 3.
371 *AFN*, 4 January 2021, p. 3.
372 *AFN*, 23 November 2022, p. 4.
373 *AFN*, 17 November 2022, p. 1.
374 *AFN*, 23 November 2022, p. 4.
375 *AFN*, 8 March 2021, p. 4.
376 *AFN*, 20 July 2022, p. 3.
377 *AFN*, 6 September 2021, p. 3.
378 *AFN*, 6 August 2022, p. 2.
379 *AFN*, 30 May 2022, p. 1.
380 *AFN*, 10 November 2021, p. 4.
381 *AFN*, 10 August 2021, p. 2.
382 *AFN*, 22 November 2022, p. 4.
383 *AFN*, 28 July 2022, p. 2.
384 *AFN*, 31 August 2021, p. 3.
385 *AFN*, 9 November 2022, p. 3.
386 *AFN*, 25 October 2022, p. 4.
387 *AFN*, 12 July 2022, p. 2.
388 *AFN*, 9 March 2021, p. 4.
389 *AFN*, 14 January 2021, p. 1.
390 *AFN*, 17 August 2022, p. 2.
391 *AFN*, 7 November 2022, p. 2.
392 *AFN*, 20 May 2022, p. 4.
393 *AFN*, 2 August 2021, p. 2.
394 *AFN*, 21 October 2021, p. 2.
395 *AFN*, 21 October 2021, p. 1.
396 *AFN*, 3 November 2022, p. 3.
397 *AFN*, 11 June 2021, p. 3.
398 *AFN*, 15 December 2022, p. 1.
399 *AFN*, 12 July 2022, p. 2.
400 *AFN*, 9 March 2021, p. 4.
401 *AFN*, 13 May 2022, p. 2.
402 *AFN*, 13 June 2022, p. 3.
403 *AFN*, 17 August 2022, p. 1.
404 *AFN*, 10 October 2022, p. 1.
405 *AFN*, 10 October 2022, p. 2.
406 *AFN*, 18 November 2022, p. 2.
407 *AFN*, 10 June 2022, p. 3.
408 *AFN*, 16 November 2022, p. 4.
409 *AFN*, 3 October 2021, p. 2.
410 *AFN*, 14 June 2022, p. 3.
411 *AFN*, 13 March 2021, p. 1.
412 *AFN*, 28 September 2021, p. 4.
413 *AFN*, 8 October 2021, p. 3.
414 *AFN*, 28 November 2022, p. 2.
415 *AFN*, 5 June 2022, p. 1.

-
- ⁴¹⁶ *AFN*, 24 August 2021, p. 2.
- ⁴¹⁷ *AFN*, 28 September 2022, p. 1.
- ⁴¹⁸ *AFN*, 3 August 2022, p. 4.
- ⁴¹⁹ *AFN*, 01 July 2022, p. 3.
- ⁴²⁰ *AFN*, 19 December 2022, p. 1.
- ⁴²¹ *AFN*, 14 January 2021, p. 3.
- ⁴²² *AFN*, 20 January 2021, p. 4.
- ⁴²³ *AFN*, 20 December 2022, p. 3.
- ⁴²⁴ *AFN*, 5 January 2021, p. 4.
- ⁴²⁵ *AFN*, 12 August 2022, p. 3.
- ⁴²⁶ *AFN*, 18 October 2021, p. 2.
- ⁴²⁷ *AFN*, 10 October 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴²⁸ *AFN*, 28 November 2022, p. 1.
- ⁴²⁹ *AFN*, 28 June 2021, p. 3.
- ⁴³⁰ *AFN*, 14 November 2022, p. 1.
- ⁴³¹ The base for this section is Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*, Section 3, Aviation Branch.
- ⁴³² POL [油料], in Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People's Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second edition, p. 497.
- ⁴³³ *AFN*, 15 July 2018, p. 3.
- ⁴³⁴ LIU Daoqin, ed., [*The Science of Air Force Tactical Logistics*] [空军战术后勤学], 2002, p. 15.
- ⁴³⁵ *AFN*, 12 October 2016, p. 3; *AFN*, 18 April 2017, p. 2.
- ⁴³⁶ *AFN*, 3 January 2016, p. 2; *AFN*, 15 February 2016, 1; *AFN*, 8 March 2016, p. 2.
- ⁴³⁷ *AFN*, 15 February 2016, p. 1.
- ⁴³⁸ LIU, ed., [*The Science of Air Force Tactical Logistics*], p. 21.
- ⁴³⁹ See Allen, *People's Republic of China People's Liberation Air Force*, Section 13. Although the information in this section comes from visits to PLAAF units in the late 1980s, the information still tracks with that available in *AFN* articles. See *AFN*, 1 June 2006, p. 3 where a Nanjing MRAF air station has 500 personnel. See LIU, ed., [*The Science of Air Force Tactical Logistics*], p. 48, for detailed information on the organizational structure of PLAAF air stations. The 2002 through 2006 *AFN* also has several hundred articles containing information on the air stations.
- ⁴⁴⁰ LIU, ed., [*The Science of Air Force Tactical Logistics*], p. 36-37.
- ⁴⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 35.
- ⁴⁴² *Ibid.*, p. 36-37.
- ⁴⁴³ *AFN*, 19 September 2016, p. 4.
- ⁴⁴⁴ *AFN*, 1 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁴⁵ *AFN*, 20 August 2021, p. 2.
- ⁴⁴⁶ *AFN*, 15 December 2022, p. 1.
- ⁴⁴⁷ *AFN*, 5 July 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁴⁸ *AFN*, 10 June 2018, p. 1.
- ⁴⁴⁹ *AFN*, 28 November 2017, p. 3.
- ⁴⁵⁰ *AFN*, 6 September 2021, p. 2.
- ⁴⁵¹ *AFN*, 23 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁵² *AFN*, 5 August 2018, p. 1.
- ⁴⁵³ *AFN*, 7 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁵⁴ *AFN*, 24 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁵⁵ *AFN*, 24 June 2006, p. 1.
- ⁴⁵⁶ PENG Liang and LI Kang, “[A Good Lesson in the Classroom: Sometimes Kung Fu is Outside the Lesson]” [一堂好课：功夫有时在课外], in *PLA Daily*, 15 April 2023, p. 4. Accessed at http://www.81.cn/szb_223187/szbxq/index.html?paperName=jfjb&paperDate=2023-04-15&paperNumber=04&articleid=903357.
- ⁴⁵⁷ *AFN*, 27 July 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁵⁸ *AFN*, 6 August 2021, p. 2.
- ⁴⁵⁹ *AFN*, 19 December 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁶⁰ *AFN*, 17 October 2006, p. 4; *AFN*, 15 February 2016, p. 2.
- ⁴⁶¹ *AFN*, 26 December 2022, p. 4.
- ⁴⁶² *AFN*, 2 June 2005, p. 1.

-
- ⁴⁶³ *AFN*, 8 September 2016, p. 2.
- ⁴⁶⁴ *AFN*, 29 December 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁶⁵ *AFN*, 29 July 2022, p. 3.
- ⁴⁶⁶ *AFN*, 27 December 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁶⁷ *AFN*, 24 February 2021, p. 4.
- ⁴⁶⁸ *AFN*, 22 February 2016, p. 4.
- ⁴⁶⁹ *AFN*, 13 June 2006, p. 1.
- ⁴⁷⁰ *AFN*, 7 March 2016, p. 2; *AFN*, 26 October 2016, p. 1.
- ⁴⁷¹ *AFN*, 19 March 2021, p. 4.
- ⁴⁷² *AFN*, 15 April 2004, p. 2.
- ⁴⁷³ *AFN*, 19 December 2022, p. 1. “First line” [外场], in ZHU, ed. [*Air Force Dictionary*], p. 277.
- ⁴⁷⁴ *AFN*, 16 December 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁷⁵ *AFN*, 15 October 2002, p. 2.
- ⁴⁷⁶ *AFN*, 27 July 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁷⁷ *AFN*, 22 March 2005, p. 2; *PLA Daily*, 3 March 2016, p. 4.
- ⁴⁷⁸ *AFN*, 27 July 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁷⁹ *AFN*, 5 September 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁸⁰ *AFN*, 4 December 2022, p. 4.
- ⁴⁸¹ *AFN*, 22 July 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁸² *AFN*, 19 September 2016, p. 4.
- ⁴⁸³ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 3.
- ⁴⁸⁴ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁸⁵ *AFN*, 1 November 2021, p. 4.
- ⁴⁸⁶ *AFN*, 9 August 2022, p. 2.
- ⁴⁸⁷ *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁸⁸ *AFN*, 7 March 2016, p. 2.
- ⁴⁸⁹ *AFN*, 5 May 2022, p. 1.
- ⁴⁹⁰ *AFN*, 25 October 2022, p. 8.
- ⁴⁹¹ *AFN*, 18 November 2022, p. 2; *AFN*, 11 February 2016, p. 3; *AFN*, 15 February 2017, p. 1.
- ⁴⁹² *AFN*, 22 November 2022, p. 4.
- ⁴⁹³ *AFN*, 16 December 2022, p. 1.
- ⁴⁹⁴ *AFN*, 25 November 2005, p. 4.
- ⁴⁹⁵ *AFN*, 1 May 2017, p. 4.
- ⁴⁹⁶ *AFN*, 15 December 2022, p. 1.
- ⁴⁹⁷ *AFN*, 23 May 2002, p. 2.
- ⁴⁹⁸ *PLA Daily*, 22 April 2014, p. 5.
- ⁴⁹⁹ *AFN*, 10 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁰⁰ *AFN*, 16 September 2016, p. 1.
- ⁵⁰¹ *AFN*, 2 May 2017, p. 2. “[ZHOU Junzhong, a Lanzhou MRAF radar station Commander guided over 100,000 sorties without errors]” [兰空某场站雷达站站站长周俊忠引导飞机十万架次无差错] in *PLA Daily*, 27 May 2004. Accessed at <https://web.archive.org/web/20230705042350/http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2004-05-27/07192638676s.shtml>.
- ⁵⁰² *AFN*, 15 December 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁰³ *AFN*, 22 February 2016, p. 3.
- ⁵⁰⁴ *AFN*, 17 August 2021, p. 4.
- ⁵⁰⁵ *AFN*, 18 August 2005, p. 2.
- ⁵⁰⁶ *AFN*, 31 August 2021, p. 3.
- ⁵⁰⁷ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 3.
- ⁵⁰⁸ *AFN*, 19 October 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁰⁹ *Ibid.*
- ⁵¹⁰ *AFN*, 24 November 2019, p. 2.
- ⁵¹¹ *AFN*, 1 January 2006, p. 2.
- ⁵¹² *AFN*, 18 February 2016, p. 4.
- ⁵¹³ *AFN*, 7 February 2006, p. 1.
- ⁵¹⁴ *AFN*, 15 December 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵¹⁵ *AFN*, 9 August 2022, p. 2.

-
- ⁵¹⁶ *AFN*, 19 July 2021, p. 4.
- ⁵¹⁷ *AFN*, 17 June 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵¹⁸ *AFN*, 16 July 2017, p. 3.
- ⁵¹⁹ *AFN*, 10 October 2016, p. 2; 17 February 2016, p. 2; 20 October 2016, p. 1.
- ⁵²⁰ *AFN*, 5 July 2016, p. 1.
- ⁵²¹ *AFN*, 29 November 2019, p. 4.
- ⁵²² *AFN*, 15 December 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵²³ *AFN*, 21 November 2019, p. 2.
- ⁵²⁴ *AFN*, 24 November 2016, p. 4.
- ⁵²⁵ *AFN*, 25 September 2016, p. 1.
- ⁵²⁶ *AFN*, 9 August 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵²⁷ *AFN*, 24 November 2016, p. 2.
- ⁵²⁸ *AFN*, 26 April 2005, p. 2.
- ⁵²⁹ *AFN*, 1 January 2018, p. 2.
- ⁵³⁰ The base for this section is Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*, Section 3, Aviation Branch.
- ⁵³¹ See Allen, *People's Republic of China People's Liberation Air Force*, Section 13. Information from several *AFN* articles between 2002-2006 indicate that this information was still valid at that time and is most likely still valid.
- ⁵³² *AFN*, 7 September 2018, p. 1.
- ⁵³³ *AFN*, 17 February 2016, p. 1.
- ⁵³⁴ See Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*, Section 3, Aviation Branch.
- ⁵³⁵ Allen and Chen, *The People's Liberation Army's 37 Academic Institutions*.
- ⁵³⁶ *AFN*, 23 August 2022, p. 1; *AFN*, 10 November 2022, p. 4; and *AFN*, 1 September 2022, p. 3.
- ⁵³⁷ *AFN*, 29 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵³⁸ The information in this section comes from Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*.
- ⁵³⁹ For information on the intermediate repair facilities, see *AFN*, 30 June 2005. On 21 June 2005, the PLAAF's 5706 Overhaul Factory formally opened its second repair line (第二条修理线) for a new type of combat aircraft. [Note: The wording indicates this is the second line, meaning second facility, for this particular type of aircraft, rather than merely a second repair line in addition to a first line that is being used for another type of aircraft.] In August 2002, the factory officially received the task to start building the second line. It took almost three years and RMB 220 million (approx. USD 27.5 million) to build. [Note: The PLAAF's 5706 Overhaul Factory is in Dalian, Liaoning Province, and is also known as the Changfeng Aircraft and Engine Factory.] *AFN*, 27 April 2006. According to the caption accompanying a photo showing the nose of a Sukhoi aircraft and a pilot whose helmet has a helmet mounted site base, at 0800 on 20 April 2006, a new type of aircraft rolled out of the PLAAF's 5706 factory in Dalian after completing 10 months of overhaul. This was the first new type of aircraft to receive an overhaul at this factory. The 2003-4 issue of *China Air Force* magazine, No. 13, has a photo and caption showing Su-27s at the Dalian intermediate overhaul facility. *AFN* also had multiple articles about the Overhaul Factory during the 2010s, including 20 April 2018, p. 1.
- ⁵⁴⁰ The information in this section comes from Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*.
- ⁵⁴¹ *AFN*, 21 September 2002, p. 1.
- ⁵⁴² As noted in Section 3, the PLA defines "elements" [分队] as organizations at the battalion, company, and platoon level.
- ⁵⁴³ *AFN*, 26 April 2017, p. 2.
- ⁵⁴⁴ *AFN*, 12 October 2022, p. 3.
- ⁵⁴⁵ *AFN*, 16 June 2017, p. 1.
- ⁵⁴⁶ *Ibid.*
- ⁵⁴⁷ For example, see *AFN*, 7 September 2018, p. 3; and *AFN*, 15 August 2018, p. 3.
- ⁵⁴⁸ *AFN*, 26 April 2018, p. 2.
- ⁵⁴⁹ *AFN*, 6 July 2018, p. 3; *AFN*, 4 July 2018, p. 3.
- ⁵⁵⁰ *AFN*, 15 August 2018, p. 3.
- ⁵⁵¹ *AFN*, 8 July 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁵² *AFN*, 14 January 2021, p. 2.
- ⁵⁵³ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 3.
- ⁵⁵⁴ *AFN*, 31 May 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁵⁵ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 3.
- ⁵⁵⁶ *AFN*, 15 July 2021, p. 2.
- ⁵⁵⁷ *AFN*, 6 July 2018, p. 3.

-
- ⁵⁵⁸ *AFN*, 1 September 2021, p. 2.
- ⁵⁵⁹ *AFN*, 15 June 2021, p. 4.
- ⁵⁶⁰ *AFN*, 13 April 2018, p. 3.
- ⁵⁶¹ *AFN*, 23 December 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁶² *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁶³ *AFN*, 8 July 2022, p. 1; “Support” [支援], in Academy of Military Science All-Army Military Terminology Management Committee, [*People’s Liberation Army Military Terminology*], Second Edition, p. 86.
- ⁵⁶⁴ *AFN*, 8 December 2022, p. 1.
- ⁵⁶⁵ *AFN*, 6 July 2018, p. 3.
- ⁵⁶⁶ *AFN*, 28 July 2022, p. 4.
- ⁵⁶⁷ *AFN*, 3 August 2022, p. 3.
- ⁵⁶⁸ *AFN*, 30 August 2021, p. 2.
- ⁵⁶⁹ *Ibid.*
- ⁵⁷⁰ *AFN*, 8 July 2022, p. 1.
- ⁵⁷¹ *AFN*, 9 September 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁷² *AFN*, 26 March 2018, p. 2.
- ⁵⁷³ *AFN*, 28 January 2021, p. 4.
- ⁵⁷⁴ *AFN*, 15 August 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁷⁵ *AFN*, 3 August 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁷⁶ *AFN*, 3 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁷⁷ *AFN*, 25 July 2022, p. 4.
- ⁵⁷⁸ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 1.
- ⁵⁷⁹ *AFN*, 9 June 2021, p. 1.
- ⁵⁸⁰ *AFN*, 24 August 2018, p. 1.
- ⁵⁸¹ *AFN*, 4 August 2021, p. 2.
- ⁵⁸² *AFN*, 12 October 2022, p. 2. Multiple entries for [战备] are translated as “war preparation” and “combat readiness” in *The Chinese-English English-Chinese Military Dictionary*, p. 619.
- ⁵⁸³ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 1.
- ⁵⁸⁴ *Ibid.*
- ⁵⁸⁵ *AFN*, 1 September 2021, p. 2.
- ⁵⁸⁶ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 3.
- ⁵⁸⁷ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁸⁸ *AFN*, 12 September 2018, p. 1.
- ⁵⁸⁹ *AFN*, 28 June 2021, p. 4.
- ⁵⁹⁰ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁹¹ *AFN*, 13 October 2021, p. 2.
- ⁵⁹² *AFN*, 8 September 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁹³ *Ibid.*
- ⁵⁹⁴ *AFN*, 12 May 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁹⁵ *AFN*, 9 September 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁹⁶ *AFN*, 15 July 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁹⁷ *AFN*, 17 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁵⁹⁸ *AFN*, 1 September 2021, p. 2.
- ⁵⁹⁹ *AFN*, 15 September 2022, p. 1.
- ⁶⁰⁰ *AFN*, 28 November 2022, p. 2.
- ⁶⁰¹ *AFN*, 8 October 2021, p. 3.
- ⁶⁰² *AFN*, 17 June 2022, p. 1.
- ⁶⁰³ *AFN*, 4 August 2021, p. 4.
- ⁶⁰⁴ *AFN*, 18 May 2022, p. 1.
- ⁶⁰⁵ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 1.
- ⁶⁰⁶ *AFN*, 24 August 2021, p. 2.
- ⁶⁰⁷ *AFN*, 22 July 2022, p. 4.
- ⁶⁰⁸ *AFN*, 21 June 2022, p. 2.
- ⁶⁰⁹ *AFN*, 22 December 2022, p. 1.
- ⁶¹⁰ *Ibid.*
- ⁶¹¹ *AFN*, 2 September 2021, p. 2.

-
- ⁶¹² *AFN*, 23 June 2022, p. 2.
⁶¹³ *AFN*, 2 September 2021, p. 2.
⁶¹⁴ *AFN*, 8 June 2022, p. 1.
⁶¹⁵ *AFN*, 19 December 2022, p. 1.
⁶¹⁶ *AFN*, 5 August 2022, p. 2.
⁶¹⁷ *AFN*, 9 December 2022, p. 2.
⁶¹⁸ *AFN*, 6 August 2021, p. 2; *AFN*, 19 December 2022, p. 1.
⁶¹⁹ *AFN*, 25 May 2022, p. 1.
⁶²⁰ *AFN*, 5 July 2022, p. 1.
⁶²¹ *AFN*, 21 July 2022, p. 1.
⁶²² *AFN*, 9 August 2021, p. 1.
⁶²³ *AFN*, 9 February 2021, p. 2.
⁶²⁴ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 1.
⁶²⁵ *AFN*, 27 September 2022, p. 1.
⁶²⁶ *AFN*, 27 October 2021, p. 2.
⁶²⁷ *AFN*, 25 November 2022, p. 3.
⁶²⁸ *AFN*, 11 June 2021, p.2.
⁶²⁹ *AFN*, 30 August 2021, p. 2.
⁶³⁰ *AFN*, 29 September 2021, p. 2.
⁶³¹ *AFN*, 13 October 2022, p. 2.
⁶³² *AFN*, 10 October 2022, p. 2.
⁶³³ *AFN*, 29 September 2022, p. 2.
⁶³⁴ *AFN*, 14 July 2022, p. 2.
⁶³⁵ *AFN*, 9 November 2022, p. 2.
⁶³⁶ *AFN*, 10 October 2022, p. 2.
⁶³⁷ *AFN*, 27 September 2022, p. 4.
⁶³⁸ *AFN*, 14 July 2022, p. 1; *AFN*, 13 September 2022, p. 2.
⁶³⁹ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 2.
⁶⁴⁰ *AFN*, 2 February 2021, p. 2.
⁶⁴¹ *AFN*, 28 November 2022, p. 3.
⁶⁴² *AFN*, 17 November 2022, p. 1.
⁶⁴³ *AFN*, 27 July 2021, p. 2.
⁶⁴⁴ *AFN*, 21 November 2022, p. 2.
⁶⁴⁵ *AFN*, 13 May 2022, p. 1.
⁶⁴⁶ *AFN*, 26 August 2022, p. 4.
⁶⁴⁷ *AFN*, 19 March 2021, p. 4.
⁶⁴⁸ *AFN*, 14 September 2022, p. 1.
⁶⁴⁹ *AFN*, 22 September 2022, p. 2; *AFN*, 23 July 2021, p. 4.
⁶⁵⁰ *AFN*, 9 June 2022, p. 2.
⁶⁵¹ *AFN*, 30 June 2022, p. 2; *AFN*, 14 October 2022, p. 1.
⁶⁵² *AFN*, 18 March 2021, p. 1; *AFN*, 3 June 2022, p. 2.
⁶⁵³ *AFN*, 10 October 2022, p. 1.
⁶⁵⁴ *AFN*, 5 August 2022, p. 1.
⁶⁵⁵ *AFN*, 19 October 2022, p. 2.
⁶⁵⁶ *AFN*, 18 February 2021, p. 2.
⁶⁵⁷ *Ibid.*
⁶⁵⁸ *AFN*, 24 May 2022, p. 2.
⁶⁵⁹ *AFN*, 27 June 2022, p. 1.
⁶⁶⁰ *AFN*, 17 June 2021, p. 2.
⁶⁶¹ *AFN*, 11 July 2022, p. 2.
⁶⁶² *AFN*, 26 August 2022, p. 1.
⁶⁶³ *AFN*, 2 September 2021, p. 2.
⁶⁶⁴ *AFN*, 13 September 2022, p. 2.
⁶⁶⁵ *AFN*, 5 August 2022, p. 1.
⁶⁶⁶ *AFN*, 27 June 2022, p. 1.
⁶⁶⁷ *AFN*, 5 September 2022, p. 2.

-
- ⁶⁶⁸ *AFN*, 25 August 2021, p. 4.
- ⁶⁶⁹ *AFN*, 31 October 2022, p. 2; *AFN*, 14 January 2021, p. 3.
- ⁶⁷⁰ *AFN*, 15 November 2022, p. 1.
- ⁶⁷¹ *AFN*, 9 March 2021, p. 4.
- ⁶⁷² *AFN*, 1 October 2022, p. 3.
- ⁶⁷³ *AFN*, 5 March 2021, p. 2.
- ⁶⁷⁴ *AFN*, 23 September 2022, p. 3; *AFN*, 21 September 2022, p. 2; *AFN*, 23 November 2022, p. 4.
- ⁶⁷⁵ *AFN*, 19 August 2022, p. 4.
- ⁶⁷⁶ *AFN*, 2 August 2022, p. 2.
- ⁶⁷⁷ Allen and Garafola, *70 Years of the PLA Air Force*.