Keywords: defense strategy, Chinese Armed Forces, the development of China’s air force, spheres of influence, peaceful development

ABSTRACT: The social and economic developments observed in recent decades in the PRC have led to a significant increase in economic and military capabilities. China is aspiring to the role of world power. Despite the assurances given by President Xi and the Chairman of the Communist Party on China’s peaceful development, the voices and opinions expressed are the opposite. Such an approach will be dominant in coming years and one cannot exclude a possibility of provocation, even armed intervention, if China finds that its national interest is threatened. The article presents the perspectives of PRC in playing the role of world peace guarantor.

INTRODUCTION

The social and economic developments observed in recent decades in the PRC have led to a significant increase in economic and military capabilities. China is aspiring to the role of world power. It plays a role of a wizard for a new world order. It negates the role of the USA as the guarantor of world peace and presents new initiatives to change the state of affairs. Despite the assurances given by President Xi and the Chairman

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of the Communist Party on China’s peaceful development, the voices and opinions expressed are increasingly heard – we need to change the current world order (7 Xiangsham Forum). China, especially recently, has been increasingly assertive and in its opinion it has boldly drawn conclusions and even provocative to change the existing situation. I assume that such an approach will be dominant in coming years and I do not exclude a possibility of provocation, even armed intervention, when China finds that its national interest is threatened – considering Taiwan, South China Sea, Malacca Strait, Suez Canal or Chinese citizens abroad (Sheng Y).

**AN ACTIVE DEFENSE STRATEGY**

The “Central State” has abandoned the doctrine of the “People’s War”, where it has defended its own territory for the “active defense” strategy, where China’s national interest is threatened. In the case of PLA Navy this means that the static defense of the coast PLA Navy of coastal waters – “brown waters”, for active defense in ocean waters is dispensed with PLA Navy of open waters – „blue waters”. In the case of aviation, the defense strategy of the South China Sea covers not only the area of limited scope aircraft coverage, but is extended to the whole region. The first line of defense is within the so-called line of nine bars), a second so-called “Defense Line” for aviation and naval vessels go far beyond the coastal area (US bases in Japan, Guam, Philippines), the third line is the most important area covering the main maritime routes (Hawaii, coast of Australia). According to some experts, the third line also covers global seas and trails (Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf, Mediterranean and African Horn). Now we look forward for further action that will expand borders of the sphere of influence of China to other directions and areas with their ambitions to be a world power. The Chinese authorities are consistently seeking to transform their maritime and air forces into a large ocean and air fleet able shortly to support the interests of China in all the waters where they occur or are in existence. The aim is to increase the activity of Chinese vessels in remote waters, to build a network of military bases from Africa to China (known as “pearled lines”) and very
dynamic development of its own fleet built by its own shipyards and aircrafts factory. Construction of about 1000 Y 20, 500-700 J-20B, 100 J-20A, dozens of H-20, 6/8 aircraft carriers, several dozen 052, 054, 055 different versions and retrofitting, several new hovercraft Bison for sea infantry which increase their strength by 5 times now, 1,000 UAV medium and long range. The ambitious programme of reform in the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) implemented by the government under President Xi’s leading role consistently and effectively. Many of the new programmes approved by the Armed Forces Development Plan have fully secured financial resources for their implementation (China to increase 2018). Modernization of the Chinese Armed Forces is faster than experts expected. Progress is most visible mainly in the development of the Air Force and Navy. Some of experts believe that the USA must pay greater attention to the rapid development of Chinese PLA – more than to Russia, which has recently reduced the rate of development of new construction and export of arms (almost 20%) and is unable to sustain such rapid development for new and upgraded designs as China (Trends in international, Changes, China expands). The development plans are implemented with a high level of commitment, timely and fast implementation of individual projects. This confirms the engineering staff’s high skills and the ability of the design studios to build multiple constructions themselves in a very short period of time. This is not possible for construction offices in Europe, USA and Russia, where almost all projects are delayed for many years (Eurofighter, A-400, F-22, SU-35, T-50). Rapid project completion – like in Chinese design offices – results in increased risk of errors or errors, which often – according to the experiences of other countries – lead to disasters or even failure to build a new project or design. China, following strong support from Russia after 1990, often acquires these technologies with methods that do not necessarily have to be considered as compliant with current business practices or, in other words, it carries out an advanced exchange of old range of weapons for its highly upgraded and mainly new designs. Priority is given to Aviation (People Liberation Army Air Force – PLAAF) – combat, long-range, identification and strategic transport, and Navy
A SUDDEN LEAP IN QUALITY IN CHINA’S AVIATION DEVELOPMENT (PLAF)

Currently, a revolutionary change in Chinese aviation is taking place – the number of combat equipment is moving very quickly into an uncomparable quality to the previous periods and decades. This period can be called a revolutionary leap forward. The dynamic development of Chinese combat aviation took place in the 1950s when more than 2,000 fighter jets were involved, with huge support from the USSR (e.g., the J-5 aircraft is Mig-17F; J-6 to Mig-19). At the beginning of the 1960s, the supply of a new aviation technique was suddenly interrupted in result of intertension and animosities. This resulted in a sudden loss of the effectiveness and combat capacity of Chinese aviation, mainly technological collapse for the rest of the developed world. The next J-7 (license Mig-21F-13) was only launched in the PRC in the late 1970s. The first stand-alone design – Q-5 fighter-bomber design was built on the Mig-19 basis in the early 1980s. Work on heavy fighter J-8 began, but the refined J-8II version was launched in the mid-1980s (in the US, the F-16C/D was already in use, in the USSR – Mig-29, SU-27). The lack of adequate engines for new designs is a particularly acute and still an unresolved problem. Copying or stealing of technology from other sources (J-20 is based on the technology obtained by testing the United States F-117 debris on Bosnia in 1999, which was probably obtained from Serbs in good relations with China during this period. This may be confirmed by the fact that only parts of Nighthawk which was destroyed are in Belgrade’s Aviation Museum: section of left wing, thrown seat, radio and wind deflector. This would not be speculations, but the shape of J-20 is generally in the shape of F-117) and experience with the operation of the new Russian technology (Su-27, Su-30, Su-35) the ability of constructors and construction offices has increased signifi-
cantly. They allow for an advanced modification of older designs (J-8, J-10, J-11, J-15), modernization of fighter aircraft to the fourth generation (J-10B TVS), developing new fifth-generation designs (J-20, J-31) and also in the sixth-generation fighter projects (Dark Sword Creed with pilot and pilot-free version to be introduced in production by 2035 at the latest). The Shenyang Center, after the management of the Communist Party ensuring that the construction will be fully financed, accelerated the work on J-31 again. Western analysts claim that this construction was mainly based on the F-35 files stolen from the Department of Defense and significantly accelerated the development of the structure. As a fighter to maintain a advantage in the air is supposed to compete with F-22 or T-50. Many experts say that this will also be the future fighter on-board aircraft carrier CV-18 and subsequent equipped with new EMALS/CATOBAR catapults (EMALS – Electro Magnetic Launch System, STOBAR – Short Take-of But Arrested Recovery, CATOBAR – Catapult Assisted Take-of But Arrested Recovery).

The bomber H-6 (120 aircrafts) now is upgraded to version H-6K (TU-22 equivalent). Work on a new bomber H-20 in stealth technology (comparable with B2 Spirit and the future B-21 Raider) is under way. Work and trials carried out by Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) at Xi’an Aircraft Industrial Corporation are to be completed in 2025. The introduction of H-20 into the service will result in a gradual increase in the long-range aviation capacity – operating from land bases without refuelling outside the second line of defense. Probably to be a platform for nuclear weapon carry. This will enable China to achieve a full nuclear Triad – submarine with the ability to launch nuclear missiles, ballistic missiles and strategic bombers. Some specialists, mainly Chinese, claim that it will still be able to recognize, manage and control overall situation – like F-35.

New radar equipment has been developed for the latest aircraft (Active Electronical Scanned Array – AESA) type KJ-7A (J-10C, J-20), FC-1 from AVIC with a range of up to 170 km (JF-17) and KLC-7 (for the new early warning aircraft on the aircraft carrier KJ-600). Short range missiles have been modernized (PL-10-IIR), new medium
missiles were presented (PL-12, CM-401) and also long range rockets (PL-15 up to 300 km, HD-1 up to 290 km with ramjet engine and with sea, land and OP version of this missile) *(Air Show China 2018)*. Together with the SU-35, as a one package, China purchased the R-77-1 Wympiel missiles and is considering long-range missiles R-37M or R-74M. China is modernizing and building new versions of its guided missiles to combat ships. CM-401, DF-21D, DF-26, HJ-12 (CM-302 export), C-802A, C-802B, CM-501X, CM-501XA, JK-2 are used in the PLA. Some of these are offered for export sales. The PLA officially presented a 30 KW short range laser for air defense – CASIC LW-30.

Currently, the PRC is the second manufacturer – after the USA – in the development of unmanned aircraft in the world. Wing Loong I, Wong Loong II (GJ-2), CH-4, CH-5, WJ-700 CASIC (weight 3.5 tons, long flight life – over 20 hours) with missiles AR-1, 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D and AR-1B are already equipped with the PLAF, but they are also a good export product. 50% of the price for 75% of the combat capacity is an important argument for purchasing and a good alternative for countries, which is not sufficient to finance the purchase of more expensive UAV from leading manufacturers. CH-7 version built by the CASC (CASC- China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation) was presented at Air Show China 2018 in the form of natural mock-ups (range 23 m, weight 13 tonnes, load capacity in the internal chamber – 2 tonnes) is to be another export hit. The shape and size is very similar to the X-47B Northrop Grunman – almost like copy of him. The first flight is scheduled for 2019th.

When China maintained good relations with Russia, many of Tu-4 Bull aircraft (a technically reversed copy of Boeing B-29 Superfortress) were transferred to China’s Air Force. The first attempt to build an AWACS aircraft in China, it consisted in modifying one of the Tu-4 Bull aircraft, but it never entered the service. Toward the end of the 1990s Chinese tried to obtain from Russia IL-76 then fitted it with ELTA EL/M-2075 Phalcon radar system in Israel. However, under pressure from the USA, Israel withdrew from the Agreement at the last moment, and the programme was canceled. The Chinese then returned to Russia and considered purchasing six planes, respectively IL-76/Beriev A-50. This agreement has stalled, when Chinese realized that the Russians only offer them an export
version of Beriev A-50Ah, with significantly reduced capabilities. The only solution was to build your own AWACS aircraft using copied or stolen technology from other countries. Official sale of six British Skymaster radars from Racal Co and one Argus from Marconi company (from the liquidated NIMROD AEW programme) in the mid-1990s helped them a rapid increase in the quality of successive constructed radars of a similar type. They are still used in the Y-8J air force of the PLAN and in KJ-2000.

Another Chinese AWACS aircraft was Shanxi KJ-200 (Moth/Balance Bean) with a single “line” electronically controlled radar antenna with linear phase array, fitted to the hull of the redesigned Shaanxi Y-8 turbo-prop engine (licensed on An-12) – similar to the Swedish Saab 340 AEW&C Erieye. On June 3, 2006, one of these planes crashed in the eastern province of Anhui, killing 40 people, many of whom were considered to be experts from electronics and on-board engineers. Chinese also developed Shanxi Y-8 as the ELINT-Shanxi Y-8(DZ) platform. This aircraft was first seen in summer 2004 near Shanghai. The Shaanxi Y-8 platform was used as the basis for experimental configuration of the J-STARS – Y-8 SLAR aircraft. Y-8 was also the basis for the AWACS export version for Pakistan – ZZDK-03 with the first antenna in the form of a ‘dish’ (4 pieces were delivered in 2010-2011).

The early warning airplanes, KJ-2000, Mainring, are modified in China russian A-50/IL-76. The AESA radar (in the form of a rotating “dish” based on the Argus radar) was built over the hull. It has the greatest opportunity to gather, transmit information about the situation in air and at sea, control of the air situation and take-over of command in the case of destroyed the Ground Command Point. The first air trials observed in 2005 and the service were introduced in 2009.

KJ-500 Kuntzen is one of the newest designs of the third generation of AEW system (in service from September 2015). Built on the basis of a modernized Y-8 (as Y-9) design with an AESA (three antennas mounted in a “shield” above the airframe) with a new digital information processing and transmission system satellite communications system and two passive electronic hearing systems, with a range of up to 470 km. According to experts it has the ability to work as Air Command Point, to observe air
targets at low altitude, stealth technology and to additional up to 100 ground and marine targets.

Soon CJ-600/H-600 carriers-based AEW version (developed by Institute 603 and produced by AVIC XAIC) will begin the air and will be reinforced by AEW system after the entry of third and subsequent carriers with the EMALS/STOBAR/CATBAR catapult. According to experts this will be practically an E-2 copy with the latest AESA radar – KLC7 (shown in China Air Show 2018), which will complement the command capabilities of the aircrafts, the observation and detection of aircraft targets at low altitude, at sea, with stealth technology and the ability to steer long-range firing of missiles launched from land and sea.

Currently four KJ-2000, twelve KJ-500 (finally 17 planes), eleven NJ-200/KJ205 A and in the near future KJ-600 from aircrafts (in the first six, finally about 20 planes) the new and modern AWACS aircraft in China in the command, control and surveillance of airspace is already a serious power to support and safeguard aviation activities. According to many experts, Chinese AWACS now is one-two generations ahead than AWACS aircraft in NATO and Russia. NATO AWACS fleet is to be replaced as planned after 2035th. Despite the partial modernization of command, force detection and control capabilities of our AWACS assets not change. Further development of Chinese early warning and alert forces for operational needs and adopted directions of action by the Communist Party’s management is only a matter of time.

The new transport aircraft Y-20 Kunpeng (known by pilots as “Chubby Girl”) is currently the largest transport aircraft being built in the world (the USA completed C-17 production in 2015th.). Y-20 is larger than IL-76 but smaller than C-17 Globmaster. Built as the first aircraft in China with 3D printing technology, MBD and ADT technologies, which have significantly accelerated the production process and reduced the cost of the aircraft. In service from June 2016. This aircraft is an important element in increasing combat capacity, mainly for strategic transport. A short take-off (700 m) allows to provide Woody Island soldiers and supplies, Fierry Cross Reef, Mischief Reef or Subi Reef. Other tasks are strategic transport – 4500 km with a load of 66 tonnes, 7800 km with a load of 40 tonnes, transport of 300 soldiers or the discharge of 110 paratroopers over 10 000
km, carriage and discharge of large cargoes. Due to the limited possibilities of delivery of flying tanker in the air (only four IL-78, some old H-6), the construction of a flying tanker is considered on the basis of Y-20. In the production of such a large series (finally 1000 planes), other variants will soon be created to meet future operational needs such as a flying hospital, radio-electronic combat, AWACS, etc. It may also be a good export offer for countries that do not want or are unable to buy similar aircraft from Russia, and the USA which has already completed C-17 production.

New and the largest water-borne AG-600 flights (introduced in January 2018, finally 17 planes) despite the demand by the civil sector as aircraft mainly for Search & Rescue (SAR) operations it may also be used by the PLA to provide supplies to residents or soldiers in remote islands in the Southern Sea.

Strategic transport opportunities will increase incomparably when China will take over the license to build the largest transport aircraft in the world – Ukrainian An-225 Mrija. In the first phase, the construction and modernization of the second plane is to be completed at the Kyiv plant (digital avionics and new engines) and transfer the license production to China to the Airspace Industry Corporation of China – ICC. The demand for exceptional and specific transport services using this aircraft (loads of up to 250 tonnes, up to 40 m in length, over 4 m in height) is very high. At the same time, additional ‘stretchers’ will be built on the hull to allow the carriage of loads not in the hold. At the same time, the possibility of using these aircraft for a distance of more than 4500 km with full load is an important indicator of strategic transport of forces and combat means in the event of a threat or conflict. While the announcement of the contract (30.08.2016) should be followed by further actions in the implementation of the contract, there has been no visible follow-up in this direction. This is likely to suggest, that this agreement has not been implemented for unknown reasons and according to the Chinese tradition is expected to wait for another convenient moment to achieve the desired objective, either by acquiring design plans or purchasing licenses for the expansion of strategic transport.
China has plans for the development of a sea missile shield and a long range fleet safeguarding its national interests in the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, and also on a global scale perspective (Joe). It pursues this goal by increasing activity on many long distance areas and by developing its own fleet practically only through the construction of these units by their own shipyards with long series. This process has been in progress since the beginning of this century with a high intensity and efficiency. Over the last 15 years, Chinese have built more corvettes, frigates, destroyers and submarine ships than Japan, India and South Korea taken together. The total tonnage of warships brought by Beijing during the last four years is greater than the entire French Navy.

A destroyer project (according to the US, size should be included as battle cruiser class) 055 Nanczang by stealth technology is successful. The Jiangnan and Daljan shipyards have four ships, which are equipped with marine equipment and testing, which will be in service in 2020 and four more are under construction (finally 12 vessels in the basic version and post-2020 will be in the advanced version 055A). These ships will be fitted with new HQ-26 marine missile systems and 3500 km range maneuvering rockets. The destroyer project 052D DDR with elements of stealth technology is comparable with US class Arleigh Burke – three of them are already in service (finally 25 vessels) and will be continued with the improved 052E version. The 055A and 052E versions will already be manufactured with new electric drive systems. The capacity of these yards is to construct three 052D/E and two 055A destroyers during the year. This will allow the following number of in-service consumed in 2030: 40 x 7000 tons (052C/D/E) and 20 x 12000 tons (055/A). Rocket frigates of 054A (4000 tonnes) was build and now into the service of 30 ships (well proven in the Gulf of Adenian Anti-Piracy Operations). Its successor – 054B has not yet been introduced into production (until 2030), it can be built at the Huangpu and Hudong yards to 24 frigates project 054B. Actually, there are carried out discussions on the continuation of this series with a new engine or to increase the volume of destroyers built for the 7000 tons and
12000 tons class. The corvette 056/A is currently the core of the Chinese navy. It was introduced for the first time in 2012 and so far almost 60 units were built and put into service, i.e. at a rate of 9 corvettes a year (finally 64 corvettes).

The situation with the current state and plans for the construction of new submarine ships is the least known by experts. After major problems in the initial period, the development of new structures with the assistance of Russian specialists accelerated considerably. Currently, the experts estimate that the PLAN has two to three older submarine project 091 SSN, six to nine new subvessels of project 093 SSN different options, up to five subvessels of project 094 SSBN SSBN (with twelve Juang 2 ballistic missiles on board). Actually, there is the lack of information on the use of old subships of the 092 SSBN (Majumdar). The latest conventional constructions are the twelve submarine project 039A/B SSK, thirteen submarine subprojects 039 SSK and twelve kilo classes SSK. The plans for the development of new constructions at the yard under construction at Huladao and with modernized yard at Bohai (Bohai Heavy Industry Company – BHIC) for the new nuclear power ships indicate that their volume and quality will soon increase significantly. The new submarine models of the 095 SSN, 096 SSBN, 039C SSK projects should soon enter production. The experts predict that by 2030 the yards can produce eight SSN ships, three to four SSBN. According to experts, the PLAN currently has 76-78 submarine ships of different classes.

The development plan for the carrier’s fleet is one of the priorities adopted. The plan foresees the creation of a 6 LOGU (some experts say that the plan foresees the creation of up to 8 LOGU). This is a huge intellectual, technical and training effort. It requires the construction of many devices, equipment and training from the beginning. The programme also has many restrictions on the use of devices that are not suited to current and future needs. The solutions require the construction of new electromagnetic catapults (EMALS/CATOBAR) that will allow the use of heavier or larger airplanes, increase their tactical operating radius (TOR) adapted for the needs of the carrier. The air bases in Wuhan and Huangdicun have extensive infrastructure (including real-sized airframe mock-ups) for training air and security personnel and experimentation in new
solutions. The fifth generation Shenyang J-31 fighter project has now been returned to its progress as J-FX (TOR – 1250 km, additional tanks around 2000 km, to 10 tonnes of weapons including around 4 tonnes in the interior chambers, in service at the 2020-2022) which is intended to replace J-15 on new generations of carriers. The atomic-driven subships of the 093G, 094 do not secure the needs of the LOGU, but in the near future, the construction of new ships of the 095 project (four ships) will be planned to complement this lack. The new all-purpose project transport ship type 901 can become part of the LOGU (two are currently built – the final quantity is not known, but the experts stress that they will be built to meet the requirements of the intended LOGU).

The construction of LPD 25000 tonnes of assault ship is carried out at Hudong Zhonga, with six LPD projects being launched, eight currently in production and seven being equipped. In 2019, a new model – the LHD class with a displacement tonnage of 36,000 tonnes – is expected to be built (after the production of three LHD, a larger LHD model with a displacement tonnage of 40,000 tonnes is likely to be built). By 2030, the yard will be able to build up twelve LPD and five-six LHD class. There is a further addition to the fleet of assault ship of the 072A project with a displacement tonnage of 5000 tonnes – (seventeen), project 072 III (ten). The assault ship will be used by maritime infantry units which, will be increased five times soon (up to 100,000 seamen).

In summary, the experts shall assess, that in 2030 the PLAN will include:
- 16 to 20 destroyers project 055/A with a displacement tonnage of 12000 tonnes;
- 36–40 destroyers project 052D/E with a displacement tonnage of 7000 tonnes;
- 40–50 frigate project 054A/B with a displacement tonnage of 4000 to 5000 tonnes;
- approximately 60 SSK;
- approximately 16 or more SSN;
- approximately 8 or more SSBN;
- 4 (or 5) carriers;
– 8 and more class LPD of project 071 having a displacement tonnage of 25000 tonnes;
– 3 (or 4) LHD-class 075 project with a displacement tonnage of 36000 tonnes.

The figure includes 60 more corvets of the 056/A project (already completed), 11 old destroyers without AEGIS system, 12 older frigates, 25-30 project 072 frigates, 60 project 22 rockets cutter.

Summing-up, in 2030 the PLAN will have about 375 warships of different classes. In comparison, the current US Navy modernization plans foresee the development of the fleet of up to some 355 warships in 2034 (Ronald).

WHAT’S NEXT – PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OR HEGEMONY?

The statement by Mao Ze-dong that “political power is growing out of the lookout barrels” is still valid. Where China has political and economic interests, Chinese soldiers must be present. The goal of the ongoing transformation of the Armed Forces is not only to create a force capable of fighting enemy in defense war, but also to act quickly and efficiently outside their country in both wartime and stabilization operations. The Armed Forces are increasingly engaged in supporting the diplomatic activities of the state. China shall communicate through diplomatic channels its peaceful intentions to all, but the message coming from real action is an indication of the continuation of the profound modernization of the PLA and of the strengthening of its position in the Southern Sea and the Horn of Africa.

The Armed Forces of China are transformed rapidly in our eyes. Despite the isolation of access to new technologies, they have been acquired in different ways – deceit, theft, bribery (Gertz). With a huge financial surplus in trade with all countries, they invest in various projects aimed at gaining a lead over the rest of the countries and pretending to be a superpower. The sense of self-esteem and assertiveness toward neighbours and the ambitions to change the existing world order are also
increasing (China Expands). The ambitions are subordinated to the reform plans in various areas, mainly in the Armed Forces, to enable them to be implemented. The change in the structure of the Armed Forces and its equipment shall be implemented consistently, comprehensively and quickly, ensuring full financing of approved projects.

Land forces are undergoing major modernization and transformation. PLA increasingly removes organizational residues from the 1950s, when the Chinese military was modeled on the Soviet era. In April 2017, five of eighteen armoured corps was disbanded and there was officially announced a new way of modernizing armed forces under the reform announced in 2015. In mid-July 2017, it was announced that due to further transformations the land forces will be reduced to less than one million soldiers. At the same time, technical modernization and the introduction of new combat equipment into the service is carried out.

China is increasing the size of its maritime infantry forces from 20 thousand soldiers to 100 thousand (six brigades, each with an armoured unit and two paratroopers battalions). Some of these newly-established divisions China is likely to move beyond the country’s borders, including Pakistan and Djibouti.

In Beijing, work is being carried out on 5-generation stealth jet J-20, J-31/FC-31. A part of these airplanes will be deployed on artificial islands, which for several years Chinese have been building in the South China Sea. China is also working on new strategic bomber H-20 (range of at least 8 000 km without additional fuel, in service since 2025), long range missiles and a growing strategic transport on an unprecedented scale.

During the last few years, the navy has undergone a very deep metamorphosis. This kind of armed forces now has a priority for development. Until the 1990s, it was subordinated to military land, and its role was marginal – in the Cold War aircrafts were intended to protect only the coastal zone. It is now becoming fully ocean-going. One of the most important objectives of the PLA Navy is to secure all maritime and commercial routes (pipeline for life), not only the “Pekin Lake” (like the South China Sea was announced by Japanese Premier Shinzo Abe in a warning tone). The construction of aircrafts is an important element in the development of China’s marine potential, which is able to project forces away
from its borders. As with many other elements, China has also adopted a proven tactical approach – first of all, it is based on foreign technologies that have been copied or developed.

Strategic (missile) Forces are also modernized and will be increased through PLA. Chinese work on intercontinental thermo-nuclear ballistic missile which particularies worry others specialists. In the coming years, Beijing will launch a new ballistic missile launcher, marked DF-41, each with five thermo-nuclear fusion missiles. As with the current use of DF-31A, five new subships of Type 094 with 12 multi-annual JL2 thermo-nuclear fusion missiles are capable of pursuing the goals of the United States.

Since the mid-1960s, there has been work on anti-satellite technologies, which Beijing regards as an effective asymmetric weapon in case of war with the US. Since then, China has carried out a number of anti-satellite attempts, either by means of a teleconference network (paralysis of terrestrial stations and satellites) or by means of a rocket launched from the Earth. Beijing also tested Dong Neng-3, an beyond atmospherical rocket – maybe it was most likely to attack objects on the boundary of geosynchronous orbits (around 30,000 kilometers above the Earth), which gives China a clear advantage over the USA, which does not have such a capability. PLA plays a major role in the use of unmanned aircraft, so it will produce up to one thousand medium and long-range vehicles in the coming years, communication and diagnosis (C4ISR) and satellite systems. This also includes extensive operations in cyber-space, which consists not only of economic espionage, but also offensive operations (several tens of thousands of IT professionals responsible for tasks in the area are used in the construction of the PLA).

In order to meet the growing political aspirations of Beijing and to provide PLA with the appropriate forces and resources of the PRC, it is increasing in time for armaments – according to official figures for 2018, the annual military budget is about US$179 billion (Military expenditure). Although this is still far less than US spending (about $639 billion), but if ignoring the different costs in both countries (hardware purchases, salaries, etc.) and given the long-term trends, the US will spend less than now but China military budget is still growing. On scale of the Chinese panache is evidenced by the fact that in 2018 the increase in military expenditure
amounted about 8 percent according to official data, which is despite the regrowing trend…. one of the worst results for years.

At the scale and pace of China development, China can quickly enter the game as a player who will protect its ambitions in a deceivable way. One of the important problems and obstacles to such a policy in case of a regional or global conflict is... the lack of combat experience. The last soldiers who took part in the war with Vietnam in 1979 will soon leave service. The lack of combat experience in history was the main factor in the failure of the German army in North Africa in 1943. In 1991 Iraq had military experience in the eight-year war period with Iran, but old equipment, inadequate command and command structures, outdated doctrines have not made it possible to make use of combat experience in the war with the international coalition.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The PLA is undergoing large and profound changes in the organizational structures. They are designed to allow the new conditions to function, people who have to change their...mentality are the most difficult ones to adapt to the new conditions. I suppose that this process will be one of the most difficult, because the habits of the previous period are very persistent and the process of changing and adapting to the new situation takes ... time (one or even two decades or generations). The compilation of old and most modern combat technology is bound to cause many problems in its effective use. Doctrine documents and tactics of action must also be change. The lack of combat experience, ability to carry out joint military activities, and only theoretical consideration of the problem from a scientific point of view or copying stolen/reaving doctrinal documents will not result in appropriate habits on soldiers. Also, other countries are not willing to share their experience in this field with the PLA, as they fear that an aggressive and increasingly assertive Chinese policy in many areas could subsequently also address China against it.
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