

Tuesday Dispatch

14 January, 2020

# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

An Initiative by Indian Pugwash Society and Centre for  
Nuclear Issues and Arms Control (IDSA)



INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY



INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE  
STUDIES & ANALYSES  
रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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## **Chinese shipyards call time on corvettes to switch to larger vessels**

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, January 14, 2020

China will reportedly stop building its Type 056 corvettes after the navy shifted its focus to ordering bigger warships for high sea missions. The last of the 1,300-tonne guided-missile corvettes, the *Aba*, was completed in December, according to a recent report by the local media in the vessel's namesake, the *Aba* prefecture in Sichuan. The vessel will join the navy's south sea fleet, *Aba* Television's official social media account reported last week, although did not say when it would join the fleet. The first Type 056 was only launched in 2012; it immediately became one of the most widely produced warships with at least 60 being built over the past eight years. China's most advanced destroyer the *Nanchang* formally enters service

The lightweight model has been widely adopted thanks to its powerful armaments, which include a 176mm gun, two 30mm cannons, anti-ship and air-defence missile launchers and two torpedo tubes. It can also load a medium-lift helicopter on board and has great flexibility in near-shore operations. Two Type 056 corvettes, the *Huizhou* and the *Qinzhou*, have been deployed in the PLA's Hong Kong Garrison since 2013. There is also an anti-submarine variant, the Type 056A, and a coastguard variant armed with water cannon.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3046056/chinese-shipyards-call-time-corvettes-switch-larger-vessels>

## **Chinese peacekeepers to Mali carry out first defense drill in 2020**

Zhang Xin

China Military Online, January 14, 2020

The Chinese 7th peacekeeping engineering contingent to Mali conducted its first defense drill in 2020 at the barrack of the Chinese engineers on the afternoon of January 10, local time. The Chinese officers and soldiers quickly put on combat gears, collected weapons and ammunition, and rushed to designated battle positions according to the action plan. It is reported that the Chinese peacekeeping engineering contingent is mainly responsible for the engineering support tasks of the Sector East of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Since its deployment to the Menaka region, the area has been repeatedly attacked by terrorists.

To ensure the safety of the camp area, the Chinese peacekeeping engineering contingent has newly set up the defensive facilities such as fences, *chevaux de frise* (an obstacle defence made of angled iron), and underground bunkers around the camp, and regularly organizes the troops to conduct

defense exercises to improve the contingent's emergency response capacity. The contingent's professional and efficient engineering support capabilities and their excellent camp defensive capabilities have been repeatedly commended by officials from various departments of the MINUSMA.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-01/13/content\\_9716044.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-01/13/content_9716044.htm)

### **China-Pakistan Sea Guardians 2020 exercise concludes second-phase drills**

Dong Zhaohui, Mu Ruilin, Chen Runchu and Zhang Jian

China Military Online, January 14, 2020

As the last cleat hitch of China's guided-missile frigate Yuncheng (Hull 571) was tied to the dock at 3 p.m. on January 13, all naval ships of the Chinese fleet participating in the PN-PLAN Bilateral Exercise, code-named Sea Guardians-2020, have returned to Karachi Port, Pakistan, marking the successful completion of the maritime phase of the bilateral exercise. From leaving the port early in the morning on January 10, to their berthing at the dock on the afternoon of January 13, 11 naval ships from China and Pakistan have carried out over 10 drill subjects as the vessels breaching three meters of high wave in waters of the northern Arabian Sea.

The drill subjects include anti-pirate speedboat attack, maritime interception and temporary inspection, helicopter cross-deck landing, anti-missile drill, search and rescue drill, change of guard formation, ship-aircraft coordinated anti-submarine drill, underway replenishment control, submarine rescue and lifesaving. Senior Captain Ye Dan, commander of the Chinese naval fleet, said after returning to Karachi Port: "The joint exercise promoted the deep integration of the technologies and tactics of the two navies and deepened the exchanges and cooperation between the two sides." "The first actual-troop submarine rescue exercise at sea greatly improved the underwater emergency rescue capabilities of the two navies, and also tested and improved the actual combat training level of the formation. The entire formation completed the scheduled subjects and related training plans and laid a good foundation for our new mission," he added.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-01/14/content\\_9717107.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-01/14/content_9717107.htm)

### **Xi extends Spring Festival greetings to military veterans**

Xinhua, January 13, 2020

President Xi Jinping on Monday extended his Spring Festival greetings to military veterans and retired officers. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), extended the greetings when attending a gala held by the CMC for retired military officers of Beijing-based troops. Together

with the veterans, Xi looked back on the major achievements made by the Party, the country and the military in 2019. The military veterans and retired officers vowed to rally more closely around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core, follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and implement Xi Jinping's thinking on strengthening the military.

They expressed readiness to make new contributions to realizing the 2020 goal for the building of national defense and the armed forces and to securing a victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/13/c\\_138701722.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/13/c_138701722.htm)