

Updated March 12, 2019

## Going Global? The People's Navy in a Time of Strategic Transformation



### China Maritime Studies Institute Conference

Monday 6 May and Tuesday 7 May 2019

Naval War College, Newport, RI

The PLA Navy is engaged in a “strategic transformation” (战略转型) from a regional navy to a force also capable of effective operations in other parts of the world. As critical as its “near seas” efforts are, China’s capacity to operate in the “far seas” beyond East Asia is much more significant for its influence in the broader world. Observers have paid great attention to the outward signs of this process: new ships and submarines, the country’s first overseas base, and new training and deployment patterns. However, there exist serious gaps in our knowledge about the strategic calculus guiding observed behavior: what ends do these capabilities serve? This conference will address the interests, drivers, and objectives that inform decisions about the roles and missions of Chinese sea power in areas beyond East Asia. Examining the key people, guiding concepts, and likely peacetime and wartime scenarios, we will assess the resulting trends and their implications for global maritime dynamics.

### 6 May (Monday)

- 0830 – Registration and Coffee
- 0900 – Welcome and Administrative Remarks
- 0930 – Panel I. Sea Power in Support of China’s Evolving Grand Strategy
  - Presentation 1: “China’s Changing Grand Strategy”
  - Presentation 2: “Military Strategic Guidelines in the New Era”
  - Presentation 3: “The New Imperative: Protecting Overseas Interests”
  - Presentation 4: “Naval Transformation and China’s ‘Maritime Power’ Strategy”
- 1130 – Panel Ends
- 1145-1300 – Luncheon Keynote Address at Officers’ Club: “China’s Far Seas Force Structure”
- 1315 – Panel II. The Sources and Origins of Chinese Naval Strategy
  - Presentation 1: “The Legacy of Admiral Liu Huaqing”
  - Presentation 2: “The Origins of ‘Near Seas Defense/Far Seas Protection’”
  - Presentation 3: “Admiral Wu Shengli and the Far Seas Navy”
  - Presentation 4: “Technology and Naval Strategy”
- 1515 – Afternoon Break
- 1530 – Panel III. The PLA Navy as an Instrument of Peacetime Influence
  - Presentation 1: “Naval Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics”
  - Presentation 2: “Overseas Naval Support”
  - Presentation 3: “The PLA Navy Marines: New Roles and Missions”
  - Presentation 4: “PLA Organizational Reform in the Context of a Far Seas Navy”
- 1730 – Administrative Remarks
- 1800 – Cocktails – Officers’ Club
- 1830 – Dinner – Officers’ Club
- 1900 – Evening Keynote Address: “China’s Navy and American Interests in the Indo-Pacific”
- 2100 – Day 1 Adjourns

## 7 May (Tuesday)

- 0830 – Morning Coffee
- 0900 – Panel IV. The PLA Navy as an Instrument of War
  - Presentation 2: “Counterintervention in the Philippine Sea”
  - Presentation 3: “Securing China’s ‘Lifelines’ Through the Indian Ocean”
  - Presentation 4: “Joint Operations in the Far Seas”
- 1100 – Coffee Break
- 1115 – Panel V. Understanding and Responding to China’s Navy
  - Part 1—China’s Naval Transformation: How Fast, How Sustainable?*
  - Part 2—The Implications of the PLA Navy’s Strategic Transformation*
- 1315 – Panel Ends
- 1330 – Conference Adjourns