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Global Wars: China Boosts Defense Spending
 By: fromPortugal on: 07.03.2006 [10:22] (464 reads)



China announced a 14.7 percent increase in defense spending on Saturday

This is the 18th consecutive year of double-digit growth in China's defense budget...

...much of the new defense expenditure of recent years has gone to buy advanced new weaponry, including SU-27 and SU-30 warplanes, Kilo-class submarines and Sovremenny-class warships, all from Russia.

(11110 bytes) [c]

China Boosts Defense Spending Another 15 Percent

by Martin Walker
 Washington (UPI) Mar 06, 2006

The strategic significance for Asia of the nuclear cooperation deal signed with India last week in New Delhi by U.S. President George W. Bush was underlined Saturday by the announcement that China's military budget for the coming year will rise by almost 15 percent.

This is the 18th consecutive year of double-digit growth in China's defense budget, which officials from the Pentagon and from India's RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) intelligence service agree is now the second largest in the world after the U.S. defense budget of \$450 billion.

The paradox is that China's military spending is rising sharply just as the overall numbers of military personnel are falling, as China shifts from a strategic doctrine that relied on mass armies and human wave attacks to a far more sophisticated and capital intensive military with modern and high-technology equipment.

The American and Indian commitment to a new strategic partnership, symbolized by the Bush visit to India, owes a great deal to the common concern over the rise of China and the strategic implications of China's headlong economic growth. The Goldman Sachs financial group last week issued a report suggesting that the Chinese economy will be larger than the American by 2050, and Indian security officials are concerned by the prospect of Chinese dominance over Asia.

The news of the new rise in China's military budget was released in Beijing by parliamentary spokesman Jiang Enzhu, who said the country will increase its military spending by 14.7 percent this year to 283.8 billion yuan or \$35.3 billion. He noted that the United States spent a greater proportion of its wealth on defense and that China had "no intention of vigorously developing armaments," claiming that much of the new spending would be devoted to higher petrol and fuel costs and to salaries and concluded that China was a "peace-loving nation."

But much of the new defense expenditure of recent years has gone to buy advanced new weaponry, including S0-27 and su-30 warplanes, Kilo-class submarines and Sovremenny-class warships, all from Russia. China also sought to buy the Phalcon AWACS airborne early warning system from Israel, but was barred when the Bush administration pressured Israel to stop the deal. China has also sought, so far without success, to press the European Union to lift its own arms embargo against China, first imposed after the Tiananmen Square massacre 17 years ago.

American defense analysts claim that the official Chinese budget massively understates the real level of spending, which they believe to be as much as \$100 billion a year, three times higher than Beijing admits. They say that the military research and development budget, the military construction and pension and medical bills and some of the procurement costs are all hidden away elsewhere in the civilian budget. They also claim that profits from private companies owned or managed by the Peoples Liberation Army also swell the real military budget.

The new Chinese budget comes after the publication last month of the Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review, which described the new priorities of the U.S. military as preparing to conduct a "long war" against terrorists worldwide, to improve homeland security capabilities, and to prepare for possible confrontation with China as an emerging superpower rival.

"China is likely to continue making large investments in high-end, asymmetric military capabilities," the Pentagon report said. "These capabilities, the vast distances of the Asian theater, China's continental depth, and the challenge of en route and in-theater U.S. basing place a premium on forces capable of sustained operations at great distances into denied areas."

American military concerns are matched in India, which has watched nervously the construction with Chinese funds and engineers of new ports and naval bases in Pakistan and Myanmar, as China builds a string of bases to protect the sea routes of the oil tankers from the Persian Gulf on which China's energy imports depend. But for India, this new Chinese presence on both its flanks in the Indian Ocean, along with China's central role in arming Pakistan, means that Beijing is a major security concern. India's last Defense Minister, George Fernandes, said publicly that India's new nuclear arsenal was aimed at deterring China.

India security officials told United Press International in interviews in Delhi last week that they have taken careful note of the American report, "The National Security Implications of the Economic Relationship Between the United States and China," published by the Congressional China Security Review Commission (CSRC), which argues that:

"China's leaders consistently characterize the United States as a 'hegemon', connoting a powerful protagonist and overbearing bully that is China's major competitor, but they also believe that the United States is a declining power with important military vulnerabilities that can be exploited."

The report said that "China sees the United States as a hegemonic power that is a major obstacle and competitor for influence in the world; believes the United States is a superpower in decline, losing economic political, and military influence around the world; and China aspires to be a major international power and the dominant power in Asia."

Indian officials broadly agree, which is the background to the new strategic partnership between India as the world's largest democracy, and the United States as its most powerful democracy, each of them nervous at the rise of a China where political power is still a monopoly of the Communist Party.

Indian and U.S. officials are paying particular concern to China's suspected capabilities in unconventional warfare, particularly in cyber-warfare and information warfare, attacking the computer networks on which advanced military forces increasingly depend. The U.S. concerns were first made public by U.S. Air Force General Ralph Eberhart, Commander of U.S. Space Command, who noted in 2001 that, "We see this (cyber-warfare) in terms of capabilities we know they have, we see this written in their doctrine, we see this espoused by their leadership."

Joint alarm about China has led to an unprecedented degree of cooperation between Indian and U.S. forces, with intensive joint exercises between their militaries, which include giving U.S. pilots dog-fighting experience against China's Su-30 warplanes, also operated by India. U.S. and Indian intelligence officials have operated a number of cooperation and data-sharing agreements, most notably in Afghanistan and Central Asia, where both countries share a common concern for Islamic and jihadist radicalism, as well as for China's growth and ambitions.

China Posts Sharp Rise in Defense Spending

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press Writer
Sat Mar 4, 4:36 PM ET

BEIJING - China announced a 14.7 percent increase in defense spending on Saturday, underscoring a continuing emphasis on upgrading its military even as its ceremonial legislature gathers to boost funding for the poor.

The announcement came as some 3,000 delegates prepared for Sunday's start of the National People's Congress, the central event of China's political calendar and a key occasion for laying out policies.

After 57 years in power, Communist Party leaders are striving for public support with promises to provide education, health care and other services for the more than 800 million rural citizens who have largely failed to share in the booming economy.

A spokesman for the congress played down the growth in defense spending, which will raise the official military budget to \$35.3 billion. Funds will go toward salaries, new equipment, training and higher fuel costs, Jiang Enzhu said at a news conference.

Beijing's true military spending is believed to be as high as several times the reported figure, which doesn't include weapons purchases and other key items.

"I wish to emphasize that China is a peace-loving nation," Jiang said. "China is committed to a path of peaceful development."

China has announced double-digit spending increases for its 2.5 million member military nearly every year since the early 1990s, drawing concern from Japan, the United States and other countries that question China's intentions amid its rise in regional influence.

However, defense is expected to draw little attention in the congress, which ends March 14.

Leaders say they want to address the underlying causes of spreading rural protests over poverty, corruption and land seizures by helping the countryside catch up with the booming cities.

"I can tell you this year there will be a considerable increase in the government's spending on the rural areas," Jiang said.

He gave no other details about the central government's 2006 budget, which is to be announced during the parliamentary session.

Premier Wen Jiabao is due to open parliament Sunday with a report on the government's plans for 2006 and forecasts for economic growth — expected to again top 9 percent.

No major changes in policy direction or spending were expected from this year's legislative session.

The main item on the agenda was announced last month in a document released by the Cabinet that laid out goals for 2006 and promised a wide range of new aid to the countryside, from schools and health care to at least \$1.9 billion in new farm subsidies.

During their 10-day session, delegates will meet frequently in mostly closed-door sessions to air grievances and propose their own ideas for reforms.

The one topic guaranteed to stay off the agenda is political reform; public political dissent remains taboo.

China is committed to its path of "building socialism with Chinese characteristics," Jiang said, using the party's phrase for its blend of authoritarian rule and capitalist economics.

To prevent disturbances, some 14,800 police and 62,000 civilian deputies were deployed in the capital, state media reported.

Meanwhile, authorities detained prominent lawyer Gao Zhisheng, who said he was drawn into a 30-minute scuffle with plainclothes policemen and state security agents who accused him of taking photos of them.

Gao, who often has represented political activists, said he was taken to a local police station, where officers checked his camera and found no evidence of photos. They released him after two hours of questioning.

"It was just an excuse," Gao said. "I guess it has something to do with the legislative session beginning."

The congress also is an opportunity to re-emphasize China's stance on a wide range of policies — including its decades-old claim to self-ruled Taiwan.

Jiang denounced as a "dangerous step" moves by Taiwan's president, Chen Shui-bian, to eliminate a committee devoted to unification with mainland China.

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Why are US analysts complaining?
by G-Man on 07.03.2006 [15:08]

Quote:

"American defense analysts claim that the official Chinese budget massively understates the real level of spending, which they believe to be as much as \$100 billion a year, three times higher than Beijing admits. They say that the military research and development budget, the military construction and pension and medical bills and some of the procurement costs are all hidden away elsewhere in the civilian budget. They also claim that profits from private companies owned or managed by the Peoples Liberation Army also swell the real military budget."

I think the US does the same with its budget figures.

@fromPortugal

by verve on 07.03.2006 [16:37]

missed your usual hi lites. You should have flagged the part were China is building naval bases in Pakistan and Myanmar to secure 'oil' shipping routes from Iran. That's a major policy shift, no? Chinese military bases on foreign soil? Wonder if Freeport in the Bahamas might act as a defacto Chinese naval base? One might have to deploy, what, 10-14,000 marines in Haiti and Dom Republic across the bay as a stop gap, fail safe measure? Sheds new light on the civil unrest going on in those areas.

@G-man

by picard-fortune-500 on 07.03.2006 [21:30]

only \$100 billion. Us expenditures including Iraq and Afghanistan total \$650 billion/year. poor crybabies.

Iran achieves stealth technology

by Iranian-Shi'ite on 08.03.2006 [02:27]

Iranian experts have gained access to the strategic stealth technology which is only accessed by a few developed countries in the world.

Stealth technology covers a range of techniques used with aircraft, ships and missiles, in order to make them less visible (ideally invisible) to radar and other detection methods.

Iran is currently constructing the biggest L band test room in the Middle East in order to conduct further studies in this regard.

h <http://www.tehrantimes.com/Description.asp?Da=3/8/2006&Cat=2&Num=017>

Iran launches second model of military submarine

by Iranian-Shi'ite on 08.03.2006 [02:29]

Iran boosts Persian Gulf presence with locally-made submarine

Iran's armed forces have deployed a new locally-built submarine in Persian Gulf waters, state television reported Tuesday.

The vessel is named the Nahang, meaning whale, and was "built by specialists in the Iranian defense ministry and has the capability to carry multipurpose weapons for different missions", Rear Admiral Sajjad Kuchaki said.

"The submarine is fully adapted to the Persian Gulf," he said, adding that the Iranian navy was pursuing a policy of deterrence in the strategic waters — home to the world's largest oil reserves.

No further details on the submarine were given.

Last May state media announced Iran had begun producing its first locally-built submarine. At the time it was called the Ghadir.

ht <tp://www.tehrantimes.com/Description.asp?Da=3/8/2006&Cat=2&Num=015>

Iran advances in electronic warfare

by Iranian-Shi'ite on 08.03.2006 [02:32]

Iran owns advanced technology in electronic warfare and can combat any such attacks on its military equipment, the head of defense ministry electronics industries revealed.

"If our main enemy wants to carry out electronic warfare and jamming operations, our standards are at the NATO level," Ebrahim Mahmoudzadeh told state television on Saturday.

He was also quoted as saying that Iran's radars, passive and active electronic protection "can combat anything that wants to harm us".

In recent months

Israel has been dangling the threat of pre-emptive action to stop Iran's disputed nuclear program

h http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060304/wl_mideast_afp/irandefensetechnology

Iran develops new surface to air missile
by Iranian-Shi'ite on 08.03.2006 [02:39]

"La de Irán es una política de defensa, y, a este respecto, se apoya en el potencial popular que se basa en el sacrificio de su propia vida, así pues, no estamos preocupados", ha declarado el ministro de Defensa de Irán, el general Mostafa Mohammad Nayyar.

Mohammad Nayyar ha hablado hoy lunes en una rueda de prensa al margen del comienzo de la ceremonia de puesta en marcha de una línea de producción de armamento avanzado que incluye misiles antiaéreos Misaq 2, un misil que persigue y destruye su objetivo aéreo aprovechando los puntos ciegos del radar y a muy baja altura.

h <http://www.irna.ir/es/news/view/line-81/0602060066184318.htm>

Iran is improving its military
by Iranian-Shi'ite on 08.03.2006 [02:43]

Iran is developing:

New missiles
new submarines
new radar
stealth technology
new aircraft
etc.

Meanwhile, Venezuela is also improving its military.

The USA is getting surrounded, thank God.

The USA is a threat to the world, and the world is starting to defend itself.

Let the USA bankrupt itself on a new arms-race
by Iranian-Shi'ite on 08.03.2006 [02:47]

Iran is making so much money that it has to save some of it in order to prevent inflation.

Venezuela and China (which also have plenty of money) are purchasing arms from Russia which will give Russia more funds to develop its own military.

Let the USA drain itself on trying to stay ahead of us.

quote and comment
by Iranian-Shi'ite on 08.03.2006 [02:50]

quote: "The American and Indian commitment to a new strategic partnership, symbolized by the Bush visit to India, owes a great deal to the common concern over the rise of China and the strategic implications of China's headlong economic growth."

comment: How does India feel about the USA's military sales to Pakistan?

Pakistan might get a tiny Chinese port
by IvanGrozny on 08.03.2006 [07:46]

but it already has a whole Air Armada of US Warplanes on its soil.

China should increase military cooperation with South American countries.

RE: Verve
by fromPortugal on 08.03.2006 [09:32]

missed your usual hi lites. You should have flagged the part were China is building naval bases in Pakistan and Myanmar to secure 'oil' shipping routes from Iran. That's a major policy shift, no? Chinese military bases on foreign soil?...

I'm sorry Verve. it is just that i have very few time to dedicate to IraqWar.

Choosing article, reading carefully, underlying what i consider more important and sometimes include some comments, consumes a lot of time. just for one article.

this article deserves more attention including India position between China and US.

there will be more articles in near future about subject, with more time dedicated.

regards,
FromPortugal

@fromPortugal
by verve on 08.03.2006 [15:38]

no appology nessesary, I just got used to your usual formatting, with your 'food for thought' comments that follow an article.

Real strategy
by Atheist on 09.03.2006 [05:33]

Increasing defense spending = increasing unhappiness everywhere

Let cleansing
by Atheist on 09.03.2006 [05:46]

Jew-controlled U.S. government, with potential secret cooperation with Jew-controlled Russia, is helping China building and improving its military in a similar way as U.S. did with Iraq and Iran through illegal trades and sales. U.S. is outsourcing U.S. jobs to China, then China is building its military to fight against U.S., huh? What so many paradoxes which Jews ever created for U.S. I think that cleansing 14 million Jews and their dirty Kabbalah-style logicity are proven to be far more worthy than cleansing 1 billion Chinese. Isn't "the Goldman Sachs financial group" a Jewish group? I don't think that I need to deal with "2050" propoganda invented by childish Jews any farther.

Don't we know?
by Atheist on 09.03.2006 [06:00]

All right, Jews in Iran, China, Russia, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, U.S., England, Germany, France, Mexico, South America, and especially Israel should be all drained so the WWII, illegal immigration, drug smuggling, dirty propoganda, lies, and countless crimes will be stopped. Too many people are hurt by Jews.

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