

Central Military Commission

CLAWS RESEARCH TEAM

The Central Military Commission (CMC), established in 1982 is the supreme political military organisation which exercises control over all wings of PLA. It comprises of Chairman, two to three Vice Chairmen and seven members. The commission is elected for a period of five years and can be re-elected. The Chairman is elected by the National Peoples Congress (NPC) and other members are nominated by NPC based on recommendations of the Chairman.

CMC's origin dates back to 1928 when Central Military Department was created as the highest military authority to oversee the functioning of the Red Army. The creation of Peoples Republic of China in 1949 led to formulation of the People's Revolution Military Commission of the Central People's Government as the highest military decision making body. It was renamed as National Defence Commission in 1954 with the defence minister as its chairman. The constitution amendment in 1982 led to the creation of present day CMC.

The Ministry of Defence in China does not have any executive control over any arm of PLA. Although CMC is the highest military command body, all decisions regarding national defence and armed forces are taken by Communist party's Politburo thus ensuring total civilian control over the armed forces.

Organisational Structure

CMC exercises its operational control through General Staff Department, General Political Department, General Logistics Department and General Armament Department. It retains control over each service Headquarters

through the four General Headquarters. In addition, CMC also directly controls the Second Artillery Corps (Strategic Missile Force), the National Defence University, the Academy of Military Science and the internal security force, People's Armed Police (PAP). The key functions of various organs are:-

- **General Staff Department** is nerve centre of the military command and control system. It is responsible for day to day functioning of CMC. It is also responsible for training and mobilization of PLA.
- **General Political Department** is responsible for ideological training of the armed forces personnel. It also oversees discipline and security issues.
- **General Logistics Department** coordinates all logistics requirements of the armed forces including finance, military supplies, health, transportation and defence related construction.
- **General Armament Department** is responsible for planning and procurement of all armament and related equipment for PLA and PAP.
- **The Chairman** is usually the Secretary general of Communist Party of China (CPC), the Vice Chairmen include Minister of Defence and the members comprise of Chiefs of four General Headquarters of PLA, Chiefs of Army, Navy and Airforce and Second Artillery Corps. The present organisation of CMC is:-
 - **Chairman** - Hu Jintao, President of China and secretary General of CPC.
 - **Vice Chairmen**
 - Xi Jinping, Vice President of China.
 - Gen Guo Boxiong, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.
 - Gen Xu Caihou, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.
- **Members**
 - Gen Liang Guanglie, Minister of National Defence.
 - Gen Chen Bingde, Chief of General Staff of PLA.
 - Gen Li Jinai, Director Political Department, PLA.
 - Gen Liao Xilong, Director Logistics Department, PLA.
 - Gen Chang Wanquan, Director Armament Department, PLA.
 - Gen Jing Zhiyuan, Commander Second Artillery Corps.
 - Gen Wu Shengli, Commander PLA Navy.