

Panel: China's Defense Policy (Orchid Room)

Date/Time: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 / 09:00-10:15

Talking Points for: Liu Qun, Visiting Research Fellow, The Asan Institute for Policy Studies

As the new Chinese leadership takes its place after the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, China's defense policy will remain stable and continuous to safeguard the country's sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and security; to provide a peaceful and stable environment for economic development and reform; and to safeguard regional stability and the peace of the world.

The principle of China's defense modernization is to promote the combined development of mechanization and informatization, thereby enhancing the capacity for independent innovation in military technology, with a particular focus on information technology, and improving the quality of weapons and equipment.

China's defense expenditure will maintain moderate growth. With the market-oriented reform of the national economic system, the costs of the maintenance of personnel and weaponry have sharply increased. At the same time, the mission of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has become far more diversified. This can be seen in the Chinese military's focus on MOOTW (military operations other than war), humanitarian relief, and providing naval escorts around the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia, etc. To fulfill China's international responsibilities, China's military spending must maintain an appropriate and reasonable rate of growth.

China has repeatedly promised to follow the road of peaceful development and to maintain a defensive policy, never seeking hegemony or engaging in any military expansion or arms race. Sino-US military relations are among the most important bilateral military relations in the world, and also involve the most sensitive and complex issues between the two countries. To develop and maintain a stable and reliable bilateral military relationship, the two countries should improve mutual trust based on mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, security, and development interests. China will continuously improve its military transparency and conduct security dialogues with other countries. But military transparency

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alone is insufficient for the establishment of mutual trust between two countries. Real military transparency can only be realized on the basis of firmly established mutual trust.

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