

U.S. - China Military and Defense Exchanges and Mechanisms:

中美国防部防务磋商机制 [中美國防部防務磋商機制]

zhong1-mei3 guo2fang2bu4 fang2wu4 cuo1shang1 ji1zhi4

US-China Defense Consultations Mechanisms

This term refers to the bilaterally agreed to institutionalized mechanisms between the two nation's defense organizations. At a minimum it refers to the Defense Consultative Talks (DCT), and the Defense Policy Coordination Talks (DPCT), but may also include other mechanisms such as the Military maritime Consultative Agreement (MMCA) and other mechanisms.

中美国防部防务磋商 [中美國防部防務磋商]

zhong1-mei3 guo2fang2bu4 fang2wu4 cuo1shang1

Defense Consultative Talks (DCT)

DCT is the capstone bilateral annual defense dialogue led on the U.S. side by the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P)), and on the Chinese side led by a Deputy Chief of General Staff (DCoGS) with the foreign affairs portfolio. Common shortened terms for the DCT include: 中美防务磋商, 或 防务磋商.

Some Chinese language media have referred to these talks as the U.S. - China Deputy Minister (Under Secretary) Defense Dialogue 中美国防部副部长级防务磋商.

中美国防部亚太安全对话 [中美國防部亞太安全對話]

zhong1-mei3 guo2fang4 ya4-tai4 an1quan2 dui4hua4

U.S.-China Asia-Pacific Security Dialogue (APSD)

A U.S. - China Defense dialogue led on the Chinese side by the Director of the CMC Office of International Military Cooperation (CMC-OIMC), and on the U.S. side by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asia-Pacific Security Affairs (ASD/APSA). This new dialogue, fits between the DCT and DPCT, and focuses on regional or global issues of mutual or respective concern. Held for the first time in March of 2015

中美国防部政策协调会谈 [中美國防部政策協調會談]

zhong1-mei3 guo2fang2bu4 zheng4ce4 xie2tiao2 hui4tan2

Defense Policy Coordination Talks (DPCT)

An annual bilateral defense dialogue below the Undersecretary level dialogue (DCT). On the U.S. side it is led by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia Security (DASD/EAS). On the Chinese side it is led by the Deputy-Director of the CMC Office of International Military Cooperation (CMC-OIMC). The PLA may not give them full 'mechanism' status when they refer to them as defense working talks (国防部工作会晤), but has maintained the dialogue as an annual talk.

中美国防部工作会晤 [中美國防部工作會晤]

zhong1-mei3 guo2fang2bu4 gong1zuo4 hui4wu4

U.S. - China Defense Working-Level Meeting

Annual working level staff meetings to coordinate and prepare annual bi-lateral military-to-military work plan proposals and other initiatives to be brought to the DPCT or DCT for agreement by the two sides. For several years the PLA have been referring to the DPCT with this term (国防部工作会晤), where previously there were two formal talks (DCT and DPCT), plus informal working-level meetings.



战略规划部门对话 [戰略規劃部門對話]

zhan4lue4 gui1hua4 bu4men2 dui4hua4

Strategic Planning Departments Dialogue; Joint Staff Strategy Talks (JSST); JSMD

Talks between the U.S. Joint Staff and the PLA General Staff (now Joint Staff) that began as a result of CJCS General Martin Dempsey's trip to China in 2013. Led by each other's strategic planning department, the U.S. Joint Staff J-5, and the PLA Strategic Planning Department (SPD). After attempts in 2013 through 2015 to begin and energize the commitment to a JSST, in 2017 this dialogue may have been rebranded, upgraded to a mechanism (机制), and renamed the Joint Staff Dialogue Mechanism (JSDM). Still very little in open sources.

中美海上军事安全磋商机制 [中美海上軍事安全磋商機制]

zhong1-mei3 hai3shang4 jun1shi4 an1quan2 cuo1shang1 ji1zhi4

U.S. - China Military Maritime Consultative Agreement (MMCA) mechanism

A bilateral institutionalized mechanism established in 1998, comprised of an annual meeting plus working groups and special sessions as necessary. The purpose of the MMCA is to discuss issues of mutual concern regarding safety between the forces of the two sides in the maritime domain. According to the founding document, 'maritime domain' includes both maritime forces and air forces, however the mechanism, led by the Navies of each side, has struggled to regularly include Air Force representatives and air issues in the maritime domain.

中美国防部直通电话 [中美國防部直通電話]

Zhong1-Mei3 guo2fang2bu4 zhi2tong1 dian4hua4

U.S. - China Defense Telephone Link (DTL)

A direct telephone line established in 2008 between the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and China's Ministry of National Defense (MND), allowing direct calls between senior leaders of the U.S. DoD or military and the PRC MND or PLA. While media commonly calls it a "military hot-line" (军事热线), as a matter of policy, neither side fully accepts this as a "hot-line." Calls typically take from one-day to two weeks to set-up.

中美两军人道主义救援减灾研讨交流 [中美兩軍人道主義救援減災研討交流]

zhong1-mei3 liang3jun1 ren2dao4zhu3yi4 jiu4yuan2 jian3zai1 yan2tao3 jiao1liu2

US-China Joint Military Disaster Management Exchange (DME)

The Chinese term includes Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HA/DR), Rescue, (and) Disaster Mitigation, not fully consistent with the English. The PLA has also tried to rebrand this as an annual U.S. - China military exercise, but the U.S. side does not.

陆军交流与合作对话机制 [陸軍交流與合作對話機制]

lu4jun1 jiao1liu2 yu3 He2zuo4 Dui4hua4 Ji1zhi4

Army to Army Dialogue Mechanism (AADM)

A U.S.-China mechanism agreed to at the U.S. Secretary of Defense visit to China in 2014, an inaugural meeting was held in 2016.

中美退役高级将领会谈 [中美退役高級將領會談]

zhong1-mei3 tui4yi4 gao1ji4 jiang4ling3 hui4tan2

US-China retired senior generals talks.

An unofficial recurring event, organized and executed by non-governmental organizations and private individuals. Also referred to as the "Sanya Dialogue" [三亚对话] or Sanya Initiative. On the U.S. side, Sanya is associated with Admiral (retired) Bill Owens, and recently the East West Initiative. On the Chinese side, the Sanya group is sponsored and managed by the Chinese Associations for International Friendly Contacts (CAIFC, an organization with known links to the former GSD/2PLA Military Intelligence Dept. and the former GPD).



Non DoD-led Bilateral Dialogues:

that involve security issues or DoD participation

中美外交安全对话 [中美外交安全對話]

zhong1-mei3 wai4jiao1 an1quan2 dui4hua4

U.S.-China Diplomatic and Security Dialogue (D&SD or DSD)

Beginning from the 2017 Trump - Xi meeting at Mar-a-Lago Florida, the Trump administration agreed to replace the previous dialogue mechanism structure used throughout the Obama administration with four new U.S. - China Dialogues; the Diplomatic and Security Dialogue (外交安全对话), Comprehensive Economic Dialogue (全面经济对话), Cyber and Law Enforcement Dialogue (执法及网络安全对话), and the Social and People-to-people Exchange Dialogue (社会和人文对话). The D&SD is to be chaired on the U.S. side by the Secretaries of State and Defense, creating for the first time a recurring cabinet-level security dialogue with China. This set of four dialogue mechanisms will be developed over time, and replaces the S&ED and SSD of the previous administration.

中美战略与经济对话 [中美戰略與經濟對話]

zhong1-mei3 zhan4lue4 yu3 jing1ji4 dui4hua4

U.S. - China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED)

Was the highest level institutionalized bilateral exchange held between the U.S. and China during the Obama administration. Typically hosted by two U.S. cabinet members (Secretary of State and Secretary of Treasury) on the U.S. side and the State Councilor and a Vice Premier on the Chinese side. It has two distinct tracks, a strategic track and an economic track, and was held annually during the Obama administration, alternating between Washington and Beijing hosting. It replaced the U.S. - China Strategic Economic Dialogue (中美战略经济对话) of the Bush administration. The only difference in titles was the "and" in English, and the "与" in Chinese. The S&ED typically had Under Secretary-level participation from Defense, and was often followed by an SSD (See below).

中美战略经济对话 [中美戰略經濟對話]

zhong1-mei3 zhan4lue4 jing1ji4 dui4hua4

US-China Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED)

(note: not to be confused with the S&ED). The SED was a twice annual dialogue led by the Department of the Treasury on the U.S. side and a Chinese Vice Premier, held 5 times between 2006 and 2008 during the Bush administration. The SED, a one track dialogue focused on economic issues, was upgraded during the Obama administration to the S&ED (中美战略与经济对话), a two track dialogue adding a strategic track led by the U.S. Secretary of State and Chinese State Councilor.

中美战略安全对话 [中美戰略安全對話]

zhong1-mei3 zhan4lue4 an1quan2 dui4hua4

U.S. - China Strategic Security Dialogue (SSD)

A dialogue established in the 2011 S&ED outcomes as a strategic security dialogue under the auspices of the strategic track of the S&ED. SSD is hosted by the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State and a Chinese Vice Foreign Minister when it is not held in Conjunction with the S&ED. Although senior leaders from U.S. and Chinese defense/military institutions attend, has been a State / Foreign Ministry led dialogue.



中美安全对话 [中美安全對話]

zhong-mei3 an1quan2 dui4hua4

U.S. - China Security Dialogue (SD)

A bilateral dialogue between the U.S. State Department and Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) held at the deputy foreign minister level. It covers arms control, nonproliferation and international security issues directly related to nonproliferation and arms control. In 2013, Chinese media referred to these talks as the 6th Strategic Security and Multi-lateral Arms Control Consultations (战略安全与多边军控磋商), the US side just called this the U.S. - China Security Dialogue, or SD.

中美海事安全对话机制 [中美海事安全對話機制]

zhong1-mei3 hai3shi4 an1quan2 dui4hua4 ji1zhi4

U.S. - China Maritime Safety Dialogue Mechanism (MSDM)

A bilateral dialogue established between China's Maritime Safety Agency (中国海事局) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG, 美国海岸警卫队) established in 2012.

General Terms for Military and Government Exchanges:

机制性交流 [機制性交流]

ji1zhi4xing4 jiao1liu2

institutionalized exchanges.

年度会晤 [年度會晤]

nian2du4 hui4wu4

annual meeting; plenum session.

The annual general meeting of an institutionalized mechanism, like the U.S.-China MMCA.

工作组会议 [工作組會議]

gong1zuo4zu3 hui4yi4

working group meeting(s).

Regular meetings of small groups as part of another mechanism, such as under the MMCA.

谅解备忘录 [諒解備忘錄]

liang4jie3 bei4wang4lu4

memorandum of understanding; MOU.

建立信任措施 [建立信任措施]

jian4li4 xin4ren4 cuo4shang1

confidence building measure; CBM.

The U.S. and China signed two CBMs in 2014, one on notification of major military activities and another on rules of behavior for air and maritime encounters in the maritime domain.



重大军事行动相互通报机制 [重大軍事行動相互通報機制]

zhong4da4 jun1shi4 xing2dong4 xiang1hu4 tong1bao4 ji1zhi4

Major Military Activities Mutual Notification Mechanism.

海空相遇安全行为准则磋商 [海空相遇安全行為準則磋商]

hai3-kong1 xiang1yu4 an1quan2 xing2wei2 zhun3ze2 cuo1shang1

Maritime and Air Encounters Rules of Safe Behavior Consultations.

两军军事医学合作代表团 [兩軍軍事醫學合作代表團]

liang3jun1 jun1shi4 yi1xue2 he2zuo4 dai4biao3tuan2

two-militaries military medical cooperation delegation.

军事环保交流 [軍事環保交流]

jun1shi4 huan2bao3 jiao1liu2

military environmental protection exchange.

中高级军官研修班 [高中級軍官研修班]

gao1zhong1ji2 jun1guan1 yan2xiu1ban1

mid-senior officer study delegation

A PLA term for a topic-oriented military delegation. These groups seek to conduct a series of military and defense site visits focused on a specific topic (civilian personnel management, joint assignments, military doctrine, military media, etc.). The mid-grade and senior officers of the PLA delegation are tasked with assessing how the U.S. manages the given topic in order to make recommendations back to the PLA headquarters on ways to improve China's military modernization program.

中青年军官研修班 [中青年軍官研修班]

zhong1qing1nian2 jun1guan1 yan2xiu1ban1

junior and mid-level officer orientation delegation

After several years of aperiodic exchanges of junior officers at various levels, DoD and MND agreed in 2015 to institutionalized annual mid-level officer exchanges. The PLA routinely tries to push these up to the senior colonel or major general level, while the U.S. prefers to facilitate engagement at the major to lieutenant colonel level.

两国海军反海盗联合演练 [兩軍海軍反海盜聯合演練]

liang3guo2 hai3jun1 fan3hai3dao4 lian2he2 yan3lian4

navies of two nations joint counter-piracy drill.

两国海军联合搜救演习 [兩軍海軍聯合搜救演習]

liang3guo2 hai3jun1 lian2he2 sou1jiu4 yan3xi2

navies of two nations joint search and rescue exercise.

搜救演习 [搜救演習]

sou1jiu4 yan3xi2

search and rescue exercise; SAREX

