



C H I N A   A E R O S P A C E  
S T U D I E S   I N S T I T U T E

## Assessment of Simultaneous PLA 3-Star and Theater Command Leader-grade Promotions since 2019

Kenneth W. Allen

For anyone looking at the PLA, it is important to understand the link between the rank and grade systems and how it is changing at the highest level. In the PLA officer corps, there are 10 ranks and 15 grades. Historically, grade and rank promotions have rarely occurred at the same time. The PLA is trying to move to a “rank-centric” system, which, since late 2019, has focused on simultaneous promotions to 3-stars and Theater Command Leader grade.

In 1988, the People’s Liberation Army (PLA /人民解放军) officer corps reinstated a 10-rank system for the first time since the beginning of the Cultural Revolution in 1965 when ranks were abolished. It also adjusted its officer grade system from 18 down to 15 grades, which are assigned not only to officers but also to every organization and are more important than ranks. Historically, rank and grade promotions have not occurred at the same time since each grade has had a primary and a secondary rank; however, the system is slowly changing at the 3-star level and is discussed in this report.

This report discusses the shift to simultaneous 3-star flag officer rank (上将) promotions and promotions in grade to Theater Command (TC) Leader (正大战区职) grade for 32 PLA and 1 People’s Armed Police (PAP/人民武装警察部队) officers that began in December 2019. However, there are still some anomalies for three officers, which will be discussed. The figure at the right shows the 3-star rank insignia for the PLA Army (PLAA), Navy (PLAN), and Air Force (PLAAF), and PAP. The PLA Rocket Force (PLARF) also has its own rank insignia.<sup>1</sup>



### Rank and Grade System Background

As discussed in detail in Appendix B, the PLA had an officer 15-rank system from 1955 until it was abolished when the Cultural Revolution began in 1965. It did not reinstitute a 10-rank system until 1988. However, the base for the PLA officer corps has always been the grade system that included 23 grades from 1952-1955; 20 grades from 1955-1965; 27 grades from 1965-1972, 23 grades from 1972-1979, 18 grades from 1979-1988, and 15 grades from 1988 to now.

As shown in Table 8 in Appendix B, from 1988 to 1994, each grade had up to three ranks (primary, secondary, and standard). However, in 1994, the standard rank was abolished and each

grade was only assigned a primary and secondary rank. The key is that, until recently, rank and grade promotions rarely ever occurred at the same time, which will be discussed later. As a general rule, officers have received a grade promotion every 3 years and a rank promotion every 4 years up to the regiment level.

### **3-Star Promotion Ceremonies Background**

From 1988, when ranks were reintroduced, to March 2024, a total of 208 PLA and 10 PAP officers were promoted in rank to 3-stars in 38 ceremonies.<sup>2</sup> Of note, the PLA only has 1-, 2- and 3-star flag officers. There are no 4-star ranks.

Altogether, concerning the PLA, there have been 167 Army, 16 Navy, 19 Air Force, 6 Second Artillery Force, 6 Rocket Force,<sup>1</sup> and 4 Strategic Support Force officers who received promotions. Both commanders for the Strategic Support Force, which was recently abolished, have been Army officers.<sup>2</sup> Seven Air Force officers held billets other than the Air Force Commander and PC, such as a Deputy Chief of the General/Joint Staff Department; however, no Navy officers held other billets, such as a Deputy Chief of the General/Joint Staff, at the time of their promotion. In addition, some officers served in one service and then moved to another service. For example, Admiral Miao Hua was a career Army political officer until he became the Navy's PC in 2014. He then retained his Navy uniform when he became the Director of the CMC's Political Work Department in 2017. In addition, the new Rocket Force commander in July 2023 was previously a PLA Navy deputy commander and the new PC was a PLA Air Force political officer.

The first ceremony was held in 1988 when the PLA re-introduced ranks; however, the next ceremony was not held until 1993. From 1994 through 2006, ceremonies were held only every two years except for special ceremonies in 1999 and 2004 to promote two people each time. Three special ceremonies were also held (2007 and 2012 and 2017) to promote a total of four people. Of note, no ceremony was held in 2018; however, two separate ceremonies were held in 2019 and 2020 in July and December. Two ceremonies were held in 2021 (July and September). Two ceremonies were held in 2022 (January and September). The September ceremony was only for one officer. The first 2023 ceremony was held in January and was only for one officer and the second ceremony was in June for only two officers. The third ceremony in 2023 was for only two officers and was linked to a corruption scandal in the Rocket Force leadership. The fourth ceremony in 2023 was for two officers. The first ceremony in 2024 was held in March for two officers.

### **The 2010 Path to 3 Stars**

According to retired Army Colonel John Corbett, the July 2010 group of promotions demonstrated the path to full general, which combined rank and grade promotions consisting of three observable steps:<sup>3</sup>

- Step One: Lieutenant Generals (LTGs) in an MR Deputy Leader-grade *moved laterally* to

---

<sup>1</sup> The Rocket Force became a service in 2016 and received their own uniforms. Prior to that, the Second Artillery Force was an independent branch under the Army and all personnel wore Army uniforms.

<sup>2</sup> The Strategic Support Force was created in 2016 as a "force" not a "service". It has personnel from each service, who wear their service uniforms.

a second position in the same grade

- Step Two: After three or so years, they received a *grade promotion* to an MR Leader-grade position, and
- Step Three: After three years or so as a LTG in an MR leader-grade position, they received a *rank promotion* to full general [Note: Since the rank-to-grade adjustment in 1994, all MR Leader-grade officers in the PLA received their third star.]

### **The Current Path to Simultaneous 3 Stars and Theater Command Leader<sup>4</sup>**

There were clear indications leading up to the PLA's 11<sup>th</sup> force reduction that began in 2016 that the PLA wanted to shift to a rank-based system that consists of 10 ranks rather than the grade-based system that consists of 15 grades.<sup>5</sup> In mid-December 2016, the first official confirmation of such plans was reported when General Zhang Yang, a member of CMC and Director of the CMC Political Work Department, told members of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress that "China will build a rank-centered military officer system (军衔主导的军官等级制度) that is fit for the construction of a modern armed force and, furthermore, that military rank will reflect officers' capabilities, identities and status". He added that ranks would determine career development, and that the appointment system would be rebuilt to promote "excellent" officers and professional training. In December 2019, the CMC issued a Notice on Adjusting the Policy Concerning the Promotion of Military Ranks of Officers at and above the Corps Level.<sup>6</sup> The Notice emphasized that the military would "adjust the military officers' promotion policy that is based on the military ranks system and takes into account the needs of officers with various ranks and categories. Starting with the reform of the ranks promotion system for commanding officers at and above the corps level, the Chinese military will streamline the corresponding relationship between military ranks and positions at various levels, so as to set an example and provide practical support for the revision and implementation of the Law on Officers."

Based on analysis of the 31 3-star promotions starting in 2020 to March 2024, it appears that the PLA has clearly implemented the new rank-based system at the 3-star level and is gradually implementing it at lower levels as well. The first change appears to be that all 3-star promotions now occur simultaneously as a promotion in grade to TC Leader. Each of them previously held 1-2 TC Deputy Leader-grade billets. As such, it appears that TC Leader-grade billets now only have one (3 stars), rather than two (3 stars and 2 stars), assigned ranks.

It appears that the next change will be to link all 2-star rank promotions and TC Deputy Leader-grade promotions together. The PLA has already begun doing this for some, but not all officers. As shown in Appendix E, 8 of the 32 officers discussed received simultaneous 2-star rank promotions and grade promotions to TC Deputy Leader starting in 2021. In addition, the bullets for the 8 officers indicate that the average time to receive a 3-star promotion that coincides with a grade promotion now appears to be only 2.0 to 2.5 years.

Historically, a one-star served 5-10 years before receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> star. During that time, they would have served in two to three different Corps leader-grade positions followed by a grade promotion to a MR/TC Deputy Leader-grade billet—still as a one star. After a year or two as a one-star in a MR/TC Deputy Leader-grade billet, they would be promoted to two-stars.

The bottom line is that, although the PLA has announced that it is shifting to a rank-based system and has apparently begun doing this at the TC leader-grade level, there are still many hurdles it is facing in order to be able to fully implement it and, if it can actually fully implement it, it will take several years.

### **Three Anomalies**

As with everything the PLA does concerning its personnel, there are a few anomalies and exceptions to the rule. Specifically, concerning the simultaneous 3-star rank promotions and TC Leader-grade promotions, there are 3 anomalies.

First, prior to March 2018, the National Defense University (NDU) and Academy of Military Sciences (AMS) were both TC Leader-grade organizations; however, in March 2018, they were both downgraded to TC Deputy Leader grade.<sup>7</sup> Although both organizations were downgraded, it appears that the Presidents and PCs have retained the rank of 3-star general and the grade of TC Leader.

On 4 December 2018, the author of this report attended a full-day meeting at the U.S. National Defense University at Fort McNair with a visiting delegation from the PLA's NDU. During breaks, the discussion sessions, and over dinner, I asked several questions, including the downgrading of NDU and AMS. They said that it is still in flux. For example, the President of NDU at that time (Zheng He) still had the grade of TC Leader, while the PC was a TC Deputy Leader-grade officer. They stated that it was not clear if the next president would be downgraded. The driving force for the downsizing of NDU and AMS involved reduction in personnel and to not have as many TC leader-grade organizations. It wasn't about the mission.

Apparently, the President has retained the 3-star rank. Specifically, Xu Xueqiang became the President in September 2021 and Xiao Tianlian became the President in March 2024 and received their 3<sup>rd</sup> star at the same time.

Second, concerning AMS, Yang Xuejun became the Commandant in 2017 and received his 3<sup>rd</sup> star in December 2019 and Ling Huanxin became the AMS PC in June 2023 and received his simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup>-star promotion.

Based on the author's assessment, all 4 generals also have the grade of TC Leader, even though their organizations are TC Deputy Leader-grade organizations.<sup>8</sup> Specifically, the TC Deputy Leader grade does not have any 3-star ranks associated with it. Furthermore, as an example, prior to 2016, the leaders of the General Staff Department (GSD), General Political Department (GPD), General Logistics Department (GLD), and General Armament Department (GAD) were CMC Members because that was the grade of their organization. In addition, following the addition of the commanders of the PLA Navy (PLAN), PLA Air Force (PLAAF), and PLA Second Artillery Force (PLASAF) as CMC Members in 2004, their grades were "upgraded" based on a "policy promotion" (政策升级) to CMC Member grade even though the grade of their organization was only a MR Leader grade.<sup>3</sup> Based on the author's interviews with PLA officers about this issue, I was told that this meant that the commanders and PCs were still co-equals within their service and that their service retained the MR Leader grade, but that the commanders now had equal responsibilities as the other CMC Members. In addition, the GLD and GAD PCs only had the

---

<sup>3</sup> Of note, the Commanders of the Navy, Air Force, and Rocket Force were not added to the CMC in 2017.

grade of MR Leader, even though they were co-equals with the directors and were the Party Standing Committee secretary. Based on this information, it is possible that, while the NDU and AMS are TC Deputy Leader grade organizations, their leaders are “policy promotion” TC Leader grade officers so that they can interact on an equal basis with the other Theater Command Leader-grade officers.<sup>4</sup>

Third, Wang Renhua, received his 3<sup>rd</sup> star in March 2024, but he had already assumed the billet as Secretary of the CMC Politics and Law Commission in December 2019. The author’s best guess is that the Politics and Law Commission was most likely upgraded to TC Leader at that time as well, to support its involvement with overseeing corruption issues.

## **Conclusion**

It is clear that the PLA implemented a system in 2020 to provide simultaneous 3-star rank and TC Leader grade promotions. It is apparently also gradually shifting to the same process for simultaneous 2-star and TC Deputy Leader grade billets as well, but it will take several years to accomplish it. As with everything in the PLA, there are exceptions to every rule.

---

<sup>4</sup> According to Frank Miller from CIRA, the US military equivalent to a “policy promotion” is called “frocking” to create a temporary promotion (without increased pay, by the way) to align a junior officer with the rank needed for the performance of the job assigned to, in order to give said officer the rank needed for the job. The need to have certain rank to coordinate with your colleagues is no different in the US system than in the PLA. In our system, if you are not formally promoted before you leave that job you revert back to your formal rank for the next job (or re-frocked if the situation is similar there).

## Appendix A: Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Full Term
(A)	(Army)
(AF)	(Air Force)
(N)	(Navy)
(RF)	(Rocket Force)
1LT	1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant
2LT	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant
ADM	Admiral
BMAC	Beijing Military Attache Corps
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CDL	Corps Deputy Leader
CDR	Commander
CL	Corps Leader
CMC	Central Military Commission
COL	Colonel
CoS	Chief of Staff
CPT	Captain
DEP	Deputy
DOB	Date of Birth
ENS	Ensign
GA	Group Army
GEN	General
GPD	General Political Department
GSD	General Staff Department
JSD	Joint Staff Department
KF	Key Finding
KMT	Kuomintang (Nationalist Party)
LCDR	Lieutenant Commander
LT	Lieutenant
LTC	Lieutenant Colonel

LTG	Lieutenant General
LTJG	Lieutenant Junior Grade
MAJ	Major
MG	Major General
MR	Military Region
MRAF	Military Region Air Force
NPC	National People's Congress
PAP	People's Armed Police
PC	Political Commissar
PD	Political Director
PLA	People's Liberation Army
PLAA	PLA Army
PLAAF	PLA Air Force
PLAN	PLA Navy
PLARF	PLA Rocket Force
PLASAF	PLA Second Artillery Force
PLASSF	PLA Strategic Support Force
PRC	People's Republic of China
PWD	Political Work Department
RADM	Rear Admiral
SAF	Second Artillery Force
SCOL	Senior Colonel
SCPT	Senior Captain
TC	Theater Command
TCDL	Theater Command Deputy Leader
TCL	Theater Command Leader
U.S.	United States
VADM	Vice Admiral
YOB	Year of Birth

## Appendix B: PLA Officer (Cadre) Grade and Rank History

This appendix provides the PLA officer corps' grade and rank history from the 1920s to today.<sup>9</sup>

The PLA is the armed wing of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and was founded in 1927 prior to the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949. The CCP created the PLA on 1 August 1927 as the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army (红军) composed solely of ground forces. The CCP's CMC began using the terms Liberation Army and People's Liberation Army as early as 1945 to identify the concept of a single armed force facing the Nationalist forces in the civil war. However, the term PLA was not formally used until the CMC issued a general order on 1 November 1948.

No formal rank system was used from 1946 to 1948, when the PLA was created, nor did it ever have a rank system for its enlisted force until 1955. The PLA established its first 21-grade system in 1952, which was revised five times, and its first formal rank system in 1955 for both the officer corps and enlisted force, which was then abolished in 1965 and was not replaced until 1988. Together, the officer and enlisted force grade and rank systems have consisted of five basic components: grade categories (职务), grades (级别), rank categories (等级), ranks (军衔), and billets (岗位). These terms do not always translate directly into English, and are sometimes mixed together, but their meaning is usually clear from the context.

**Table 1: Red Army and PLA Officer Grades and Ranks, 1927-Present**

Year	Officer Corps Grades	Officer Corps Ranks
1927	None	None
1937	None	10 ranks based on the KMT (Nationalist Party) system
1946	None	Abolished
1952	23 grades	None
1955	20 grades	15 ranks based on the Soviet System
1965	27 grades based on the State Administrative Grade System	Abolished
1972	23 grades based on the State Administrative Grade System	None
1979	18 grades	None
1988-Now	15 grades	10 ranks

Although we tend to think of grades and ranks as applying to personnel, one of the key issues for the PLA is that every organization is assigned a grade, and the grade system defines command, control, and coordination between organizations such that an organization can only command an organization that has a lower grade and can coordinate with an organization at the same grade.

### *The First Unified Grade System: 1952*

During the Civil War (1927-1949) between the Nationalist Party (KMT) and Communist Party, the PLA [then Red Army] only had grades (只有职务之分) and no ranks (而无衔级之别).

In order to meet requirements for PLA regularization (正规化)<sup>5</sup> after the PRC was founded in 1949, the entire PLA created a unified grade system (统一的等级制度) in 1952 such that the cadre grades (级别) were organized into 10 *deng* (等) and 21 *ji* (级) shown in Table 2 below:<sup>10</sup>

**Table 2: 10 Cadre *Deng* and 21 *Ji* System in 1952**

10 <i>Deng</i> (等)	21 <i>Ji</i> (级)		
Central Military Commission (CMC / 中央军委)	Chairman and Vice Chairmen (军委主席, 军委副主席级)		
Military Region (MR / 大军区)	Commander and PC (司令员, 政治委员级)		
CMC	Member (军委委员级)		
<i>Bingtuan</i> <sup>6,11</sup> (兵团)	Leader (正兵团级) <sup>7</sup>	Deputy Leader (副兵团级)	Standard (准兵团级)
Corps (军)	Leader (正军级)	Deputy Leader (副军级)	Standard (准军级)
Division (师)	Leader (正师级)	Deputy Leader (副师级)	Standard (准师级)
Regiment (团)	Leader (正团级)	Deputy Leader (副团级)	Standard (准团级)
Battalion (营)	Leader (正营级)	Deputy Leader (副营级)	
Company (连)	Leader (正连级)	Deputy Leader (副连级)	
Platoon (排)	Leader (正排级)	Deputy Leader (副排级)	

### *First Unified Rank System and a Revised Grade System: 1955*

In February 1955, the 6th Plenum of the PRC's 1<sup>st</sup> National People's Congress's (NPC / 全国人民代表大会) Standing Committee approved and issued the 《PLA Officer Service Regulations (中国人民解放军服役条例)》, which explained the PLA's officer rank system.<sup>12</sup> At that time, officer ranks were organized into 4 *deng*, including marshal, flag officer, field grade, and company grade, and 14 *ji* (i.e., ranks) as shown in Table 3 below.<sup>13</sup> When the regulations were implemented, they added the Warrant Officer (准尉) rank below Second Lieutenant, which increased the number to 15 *ji*. In August 1955, the State Council made the decision to implement the new system starting on 1 October 1955. When the rank system was implemented, a total of

<sup>5</sup> The PLA uses the term “modernization” (现代化) primarily to refer to the development of and use of military weapons, equipment, and technology. It uses the term “regularization” (正规化) to encompass a wide-ranging effort to construct a rational organizational structure within the military and to standardize all aspects of the military through the use of rules and regulations. The exact meaning of “revolutionization” (革命化) of the army remains debatable. In many ways it is a catch-all phrase or process that epitomizes the constant regeneration of communist ideals and traditional military values. The PLA began using these three terms as early as the 1930s and have been incorporated them into PLA laws, regulations, and *Defense White Papers* ever since. For example, the 2015 *Defense White Paper* states, “Military Force Building Measures include aiming at strengthening the revolutionization, modernization and regularization of the armed forces in all respects.”

<sup>6</sup> Although *bingtuan* has been translated as army, large (military) unit, and formation, I prefer to just use *bingtuan*.

<sup>7</sup> The 2004 PRC *Defense White Paper* translates *zheng* (正) as “chief” and *fu* (副) as “deputy”. For purposes of this paper, the term leader is used instead of chief.



531,000 officers received their rank from 2nd Lieutenant and above. In particular, on 27 September, a ceremony was held in Beijing to grant the rank of Marshal to 10 officers and Senior General to 10 officers. Of note, although the regulations included a Generalissimo rank that was supposed to be assigned to Mao Zedong, he declined to accept the rank, so it ceased to exist.

**Table 3: 4 Deng and 15 ji Ranks in 1955**

<b>4 Deng</b>	<b>15 Ji</b>			
Marshal	Generalissimo (大元帅) <sup>8</sup> Marshal (元帅)			
Flag Officer	Senior General (大将)	General (上将)	Lieutenant General (中将)	Major General (少将)
Field Grade	Senior Colonel (大校)	Colonel (上校)	Lieutenant Colonel (中校)	Major (少校)
Company Grade	Captain (上尉)	First Lieutenant (中尉)	Second Lieutenant (少尉)	Warrant Officer (准尉)

In conjunction with creating a unified rank system in early 1955, the PLA abolished (取消) the CMC Member *ji* (中央军委委员级), which left 9 *deng* and 20 *ji*, as shown in Table 4 below.<sup>14</sup>

**Table 4: Revised 9 Cadre Deng and 20 ji System in 1955**

<b>9 Deng (等)</b>	<b>20 ji (级)</b>		
Central Military Commission (CMC / 中央军委)	Chairman and Vice Chairmen (军委主席, 军委副主席级)		
Military Region (MR / 大军区)	Commander and PC (司令员, 政治委员级)		
<i>Bingtuan</i> (兵团)	Leader (正兵团级) <sup>9</sup>	Deputy Leader (副兵团级)	Standard (准兵团级)
Corps (军)	Leader (正军级)	Deputy Leader (副军级)	Standard (准军级)
Division (师)	Leader (正师级)	Deputy Leader (副师级)	Standard (准师级)
Regiment (团)	Leader (正团级)	Deputy Leader (副团级)	Standard (准团级)
Battalion (营)	Leader (正营级)	Deputy Leader (副营级)	
Company (连)	Leader (正连级)	Deputy Leader (副连级)	
Platoon (排)	Leader (正排级)	Deputy Leader (副排级)	

<sup>8</sup> At that time, no one was given this rank. [Note: Supposedly, Mao Zedong was supposed to be given this rank, but he opted not to receive it. See <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/大元帅>.]

<sup>9</sup> The 2004 PRC Defense White Paper translates *zheng* (正) as “chief” and *fu* (副) as “deputy”. For purposes of this paper, the term leader is used instead of chief.

Concerning the term *Bingtuan* (兵团), no official PLA translation into English was found. The PLA created its first *Bingtuan* in 1948. After the PRC was established, it remained as an organization between the Corps and Military Region levels. All *Bingtuan* units were abolished as an organization in 1955; however, it retained the name as a grade level between the Corps level and MR level until 1988.<sup>15</sup>

*Changes during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)*

Due to “leftist” thought leading up to the Cultural Revolution, at the recommendation of the CMC in May 1965, the 9<sup>th</sup> Plenum of the 3rd NPC Standing Committee made the decision to abolish the rank system and passed 《The Decision Concerning Abolishing the PLA Rank System (关于取消中国人民解放军军衔制度的决定)》.<sup>16</sup> On 1 June 1965, the PLA began using the State Administrative Grade System (国家机关行政干部级别制度) that had 27 *ji* (级).<sup>17</sup> No actual title for each *ji*, such as bureau director (局长), was found. The first numbered 23 *ji* are shown in Table 5 below.<sup>18</sup> In 1972, the 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> *ji* were abolished, leaving only 23 *ji*.

**Table 5: 1965 PLA Grade System**

State Grade #	Personnel	Former Military Grade
1,2	N/A	
3	Chief of the General Staff (总参谋长) Director, General Political Department (总政主任)	N/A
4	Military Region Commander/PC (大区司令员、政委)	Military Region (大军区级)
5	Bingtuan, PLAN Fleet, and MRAF Commander/PC (兵团,舰队,军区空军司令员,政委)	Bingtuan Leader & some Deputy Leader (正兵团和部分副兵团级)
6	Bingtuan Commander/PC (兵团司令员、政委以)	Bingtuan Standard & Some Deputy & Some Corps Leader (准兵团和有的副兵团、正军级)
7	Corps Commander/PC (军长、政委)	Corps Deputy & Some Leader & Some Bingtuan Standard (副军和有的正军、准兵团级)
8	Corps Deputy Commander/PC/Chief of Staff/Political Director (副军长,副政委,军参谋长,主任)	Corps Standard & Some Deputy (准军和有的副军级)
9	Corps Deputy Commander/PC/Chief of Staff/Political Director (副军长,副政委,军参谋长,主任)	Division Leader & Some Corps Standard (正师和有的准军级)
10	Division Commander/PC (师长,政委)	Division Deputy & Some Leader (副师和有的正师级)

11	Division Deputy Commander/PC/Chief of Staff/Political Director (副师长,副政委,师参谋长,主任)	Division Standard & Some Deputy (准师和有的副师级)
12	Division Deputy (副师长、副政委、师参谋长、主任)	Regiment Leader & Some Division Standard (正团和有的准师级)
13	Regiment Commander/PC (团长、政委)	Regiment Deputy & Some Leader (副团和有的正团级)
14	Regiment Deputy Commander/PC/Chief of Staff/Political Director (副团长,副政委,团参谋长,主任)	Regiment Standard & Some Deputy (准团和有的副团级)
15	Regiment Deputy Commander/PC/Chief of Staff/Political Director (副团长,副政委,团参谋长,主任)	Battalion Leader & Some Regiment Standard (正营和有的准团级)
16	Battalion Commander/Political Director (营长,教导员)	Battalion Deputy & Some Leader (副营和有的正营级)
17	Battalion Deputy Commander/Political Director (副营长,副教导员) Battalion Commander/Political Director (营长,教导员)	Battalion Deputy (副营级) Company Leader (正连级)
18	Company Commander/Political Instructor (连长,指导员) Battalion Commander/Political Director (营长,教导员)	Company Leader & Some Battalion Deputy (正连和有的副营级) Platoon Leader (正排级)
19	Company Deputy Commander/Political Instructor (副连长、副指导员)	Company Deputy & Some Leader (副连和有的正连级)
20	Company Deputy Commander/Political Instructor (副连长,副指导员) Company Commander/Political Instructor (连长,指导员)	Company Deputy (副连级) Platoon Leader (正排级)
21	Platoon Commander (排长) Company Deputy Commander/Political Instructor (副连长,副指导员)	Platoon Leader & Deputy (正排级,副排级)
22	Quartermaster (司务长)	Platoon Deputy (副排级)
23-27	Unknown	

*Revised Grade System: 1979-1988*

In 1978, the NPC passed the 《PLA Cadre Service Regulations (中国人民解放军干部服役条例)》, and, in July 1979, the General Political Department issued the 《Notice on the Work of Assessing Administrative Positions (关于评定行政职务等级工作的通知)》 that got rid of the 23-grades based on the State Administrative Grade System and implemented an 18-grade structure for the PLA as shown in Table 6 below.<sup>19</sup> Of note, at that time, the 11 MR Air Forces (MRAF) and three PLA Navy Fleets were *Bingtuan* leader-grade organizations. In addition, no officers were assigned ranks during this period.

**Table 6: PLA's 18-grade Structure, 1979-1988**

Grade
CMC Chairman (军委主席)
Vice Chairmen (军委副主席)
CMC Member (军委委员)
MR Leader (正大军区职)
MR Deputy Leader (副大军区职)
Bingtuan Leader (正兵团职)
Bingtuan Deputy Leader (副兵团职)
Corps Leader (正军职)
Corps Deputy Leader (副军职)
Division Leader (正师职)
Division Deputy Leader (副师职) / (Brigade Leader)
Regiment Leader (正团职) / (Brigade Deputy Leader)
Regiment Deputy Leader (副团职)
Battalion Leader (正营职)
Battalion Deputy Leader (副营职)
Company Leader (正连职)
Company Deputy Leader (副连职)
Platoon Leader (正排职)
Platoon Deputy Leader (副排职)

*New Grade and Rank System: 1988*




1988 was a significant turning point that occurred for the entire PLA, which included reducing the number of grades to 15 by abolishing the *Bingtuan* Leader and Deputy Leader grades and Platoon Deputy Leader grade and implementing a new 10-rank system.<sup>20</sup>

In 1984, the 《PRC Military Law (中华人民共和国兵役法)》 again regulated that the “PLA Would Implement a Rank System” (中国人民解放军实行军衔制度). In July 1988, the 2nd Plenum of the 7th NPC Standing Committee passed (通过) the 《PLA Officer Rank Regulations (中国人民解放军军官军衔条例)》, whereby a new rank system officially went into effect on 1 October 1988. Of note, although the NPC passed the law in 1984 and an announcement was made in July 1988, no one in the U.S. Government knew this was going to happen until officers actually started wearing their ranks at a large gathering of the Beijing Military Attaché Corps (BMAC) on 1 October, which the author of this report attended while serving as an Assistant Air Attache.

The new rank system consisted of 3 *deng* (等) and 11 *ji* (级) as shown below in Table 7 and Figure 1. Although the original law included the rank of General First Class, no one was ever assigned that rank. As a result, in May 1994, the 7th Plenum of the 8th NCP Standing Committee revised the 《PLA Officer Rank Regulations》 by abolishing the General First-Class rank. Furthermore, the decision was made in 1988 to not assign a rank to the CMC Chairman.

**Table 7 and Figure 1: 1988 Officer Rank System**

3 Deng	11 Ji
Flag officers (将官)	General First Class (一级上将) <sup>21,10</sup> General (上将) Lieutenant General (中将) Major General (少将)
Field-grade officers (校官)	Senior Colonel (大校) Colonel (上校) Lieutenant Colonel (中校) Major (少校)
Company-grade officers (尉官)	Captain (上尉) 1st Lieutenant (中尉) 2nd Lieutenant (少尉)

Category	PLA Ranks (All Services)
Flag-Rank Officer (将官) 	General (上将) (3 stars)
	Lieutenant General (中将) (2 stars)
	Major General (少将) (1 star)
Field-Grade Officer (校官) 	Senior Colonel (大校)
	Colonel (上校)
	Lieutenant Colonel (中校)
	Major (少校)
Company-Grade Officer (尉官) 	Captain (上尉)
	1st Lieutenant (中尉)
	2nd Lieutenant (少尉)

<sup>10</sup> Although the 1988 regulations identified this rank, it did not assign it to any particular billet or person. As such, it was abolished in 1994.

Under the current system that was implemented in 1988, officers are assigned one of 10 ranks as shown in Figure 1 above. As with the U.S. military, officer ranks are categorized into company grade (尉官), field grade (校官), and flag officers (将官). As noted earlier and as shown in Figure 1 above, the PLA has full generals, but they only wear three stars. Furthermore, the PLA does not have Chinese terms equivalent to U.S. Navy ranks, including admiral, vice admiral, rear admiral, and commander, etc.<sup>11</sup> In Chinese, they are called Navy General (海军上将), Navy Colonel (海军上校), etc., as shown in the photo at the right during Dong Jun’s simultaneous promotion from a Navy Lieutenant General (vice admiral) to Navy General (admiral) and to his new billet as the PLA Navy commander in September 2021.<sup>22</sup> Figure 2 below shows the different PLA Navy flag officer rank insignia and what they look like on different parts of the uniform<sup>23</sup>



**Figure 2: PLA Navy Flag Officer Ranks**

Title	海军上将 <i>Hāijūn shang jiang</i>	海军中将 <i>Hāijūn zhong jiang</i>	海军少将 <i>Hāijūn shao jiang</i>
Equivalent translation	Admiral	Vice admiral	Rear admiral
Shoulder insignia			
Collar insignia			
Sleeve insignia			

However, even though there are no official Chinese terms for U.S. Navy ranks, English language articles, including *Xinhua*, do use the English ranks. For example, the Ministry of National Defense posted this article in English on 25 April 2024: “Chinese Defense Minister Admiral Dong Jun had a video call with US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin on the evening of April 16.”<sup>24</sup> However, the Chinese language version did not mention his rank at all and only called him Defense Minister Dong.<sup>25</sup> Furthermore, in Chinese, the PLAN identifies the U.S. Navy’s Chief of Naval Operations (美国海军作战部) as a “navy general” (海军上将) or just a “general” (上将).<sup>26</sup>

<sup>11</sup> A search of multiple PLA dictionaries and encyclopedias did not find a single entry for any US-equivalent ranks, including admiral, vice admiral, rear admiral, etc.

*Establishing the 15-grade System: 1988*<sup>27</sup>

Although the PLA implemented a revised 15-grade system at the same time that it implemented the 10-rank system, as noted in the beginning of the report, no one in the U.S. Government knew that a grade system even existed until 2000.

Under the system that began in 1988, every PLA organization and officer is assigned a grade (职务等级) from Platoon level to CMC Vice Chairman to designate their position in the military hierarchy. As shown in Table 8, from 1988-1994, every grade had a primary rank, secondary rank, and standard (基准) rank.<sup>28</sup> There is no term for “primary rank” or “secondary rank”, but there is a term for “standard rank”. The wording for each entry is “Grade X: Rank A 至 Rank B, 基准 Rank C” as in “正军职: 中将至大校, 基准军衔少将”. (In some cases, the standard rank and secondary rank were the same. Needless to say, it is very complicated for the average person to understand). Of particular note, the decision was made in 1988 to not assign a rank to the CMC Chairman.

As shown in Table 8 below, the *Bingtuan* Leader and Deputy Leader grades and the Platoon Deputy Leader grade disappeared and the Platoon Leader grade was just renamed Platoon (排职). What happened was that the *Bingtuan* Leader grade was merged into the MR Deputy Leader grade and the *Bingtuan* Deputy Leader grade was merged into the Corps Leader grade, while the Platoon Deputy Leader grade was merged into the Platoon Leader grade. This is significant, because, from 1979 to 1988, all of the MRAF HQ were *Bingtuan* Leader-grade organizations, so none of the Commanders were concurrent MR Commanders. However, following the merger of the *Bingtuan* Leader and MR Deputy Leader grades, all MRAF Commanders became concurrent MR Deputy Commanders, while some but not all, MRAF PCs became concurrent MR Deputy PCs.<sup>12</sup>

**Table 8: PLA’s 15-grade and 10-rank Structure, 1988-1994**

Grade	Primary Rank	Secondary Rank	Standard Rank
CMC Member (军委委员)	GEN / ADM (上将)	LTG / VADM (中将)	GEN / ADM (上将)
MR Leader (正大军区职)	GEN / ADM (上将)	MG / RADM (少将)	LTG / VADM (中将)
MR Deputy Leader (副大军区职)	LTG / VADM (中将)	SCOL / SCPT (大校)	LTG / VADM (中将)
Corps Leader (正军职)	LTG / VADM (中将)	SCOL / SCPT (大校)	MG / RADM (少将)
Corps Deputy Leader (副军职)	MG / RADM (少将)	COL / CPT (上校)	MG / RADM (少将)
Division Leader (正师职)	MG / RADM (少将)	COL / CPT (上校)	SCOL / SCPT (大校)
Division Deputy Leader (副师职) / (Brigade Leader)	SCOL / SCPT (大校)	LTC / CDR (中校)	COL / CPT (上校)

<sup>12</sup> As a side story, the author of this report escorted a delegation led by the USAF Chief of Staff, General Larry Welch, to Guangzhou in April 1989. The delegation flew to Guangzhou with the PLAAF Commander on his aircraft. When the Guangzhou MRAF Commander met the delegation at the airport on behalf of the Guangzhou MR Commander, he was wearing an Army uniform. However, he wore his Air Force uniform for all other events that he hosted. It was not until 2003 that PLAAF officers who worked in an Air Force billet in an Army-dominated organization, such as in the Four General Departments or an MR Headquarters, were allowed to wear an Air Force uniform.

Regiment Leader (正团职) / (Brigade Deputy Leader)	COL / CPT (上校)	LTC / CDR (中校)	COL / CPT (上校)
Regiment Deputy Leader (副团职)	LTC / CDR (中校)	MAJ / LCDR (少校)	LTC / CDR (中校)
Battalion Leader (正营职)	LTC / CDR (中校)	MAJ / LCDR (少校)	MAJ / LCDR (少校)
Battalion Deputy Leader (副营职)	MAJ / LCDR (少校)	CPT / LT (上尉)	CPT / LT (上尉)
Company Leader (正连职)	CPT / LT (上尉)	1LT / LTJG (中尉)	CPT / LT (上尉)
Company Deputy Leader (副连职)	CPT / LT (上尉)	1LT / LTJG (中尉)	1LT / LTJG (中尉)
Platoon (排职)	1LT / LTJG (中尉)	2LT / ENS (少尉)	2LT / ENS (少尉)

In order to understand why each grade had three ranks, the PLA explained that, when comparing an officer with a higher rank and an officer with a lower rank, the one with a higher rank is the superior (军衔高的军官对军衔的军官,军衔高的为上将).<sup>29</sup> When a military officer of a higher rank who is subordinate to an officer who is of a lower rank, the one with the higher (duty) grade will be the superior officer (of the two) (当军衔的军官在职务上隶属于军衔低的军官时,职务高的为上级).

#### *Major Changes in 1994 and 2016*

In 1994, the PLA abolished the standard rank but still left a primary and secondary rank as shown in Table 9 below.<sup>30</sup> In addition, as part of the PLA's 11<sup>th</sup> force reduction of 300,000 personnel that began in 2016, the MR Leader and MR Deputy Leader grades were renamed Theater Command (TC / 正战区) Leader and Deputy Leader (副战区) grades, respectively. As shown in Table 9, under the current system, each grade from TC Leader down has two assigned ranks, while some ranks, such as major general, can be assigned to up to four grades. Unlike the U.S. military, which assigns numbers to grades, such as an O-1 to O-10, the PLA does not assign numbers to its grades except for special technical officers.

**Table 9: PLA's 15-grade and 10-rank Structure, 1994-2019**

Grade	Primary Rank	Secondary Rank
CMC Chairman (军委主席)	N/A	
Vice Chairmen (军委副主席)	GEN / ADM (上将)	N/A
CMC Member (军委委员)	GEN / ADM (上将)	
TC Leader (正战区)	GEN / ADM (上将)	LTG / VADM (中将)
Former MR Leader (正大军区)		
TC Deputy Leader (副战区)	LTG / VADM (中将)	MG / RADM (少将)
Former MR Deputy Leader (副大军区)		
Corps Leader (正军职)	MG / RADM (少将)	LTG / VADM (中将)
Corps Deputy Leader (副军职)	MG / RADM (少将)	SCOL / SCPT (大校)
Division Leader (正师职)	SCOL / SCPT (大校)	MG / RADM (少将)



Division Deputy Leader (副师职) / (Brigade Leader)	COL / CPT (上校)	SCOL / SCPT (大校)
Regiment Leader (正团职) / (Brigade Deputy Leader)	COL / CPT (上校)	LTC / CDR (中校)
Regiment Deputy Leader (副团职)	LTC / CDR (中校)	MAJ / LCDR (少校)
Battalion Leader (正营职)	MAJ / LCDR (少校)	LTC / CDR (中校)
Battalion Deputy Leader (副营职)	CPT / LT (上尉)	MAJ / LCDR (少校)
Company Leader (正连职)	CPT / LT (上尉)	1LT / LTJG (中尉)
Company Deputy Leader (副连职)	1LT / LTJG (中尉)	CPT / LT (上尉)
Platoon (排职)	2LT / ENS (少尉)	1LT / LTJG (中尉)

It appears that the PLA has removed the 2-star rank (LTG/VADM) from the TC Leader grade, since all 3-star rank promotions are now simultaneous TC Leader-grade promotions. As such the top of the Table 9 above is now as shown below in Table 10.

**Table 10: PLA Current Senior Officer Grade and Rank Structure**

Grade	Primary Rank	Secondary Rank
CMC Chairman (军委主席)	N/A	
Vice Chairmen (军委副主席)	GEN / ADM (上将)	N/A
CMC Member (军委委员)	GEN / ADM (上将)	
TC Leader (正战区职)	GEN / ADM (上将)	
TC Deputy Leader (副战区职)	LTG / VADM (中将)	MG / RADM (少将)

### **Appendix C: 3-Star Flag Officer Theater Command Leader Billets**

The following bullets identify the TC Leader billets that are now synced with simultaneous 3-star ranks:<sup>31</sup>

- Central Military Commission
  - Director and PC, Logistic Support Department and Equipment Development Department
  - Prior to sometime in 2018, the Deputy Chiefs of the Joint Staff Department were TC Leader-grade officers, which allowed them to move laterally to another TC Leader billet, such as a service commander; however, all of the Deputy Chief of Staff grades were downgraded to TC Deputy Leader sometime between April 2018 and March 2019.
- Services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Rocket Force), Strategic Support Force, and People's Armed Police
  - Commander and PC
- 5 TCs
  - Commander and PC

The anomalies concerning the National Defense University, Academy of Military Sciences, and CMC Politics and Law Commission are discussed in the main text section.

## Appendix D: Profiles for 3-Star Flag Officers since December 2019

This appendix provides the name and brief profile for each officer who received a simultaneous 3-star and TC Leader-grade promotion starting in December 2019.

### 2019 Promotions

- 27<sup>th</sup> Batch (7) (12 December 2019)<sup>32</sup>
  - The following officer received a simultaneous rank and grade promotion
    - He Weidong (何卫东) (A): Commander, Eastern TC
  - 6 other officers only received a rank promotion, since they had already held their billet for 8 months to 2 years.

*He Weidong (何卫东)<sup>33</sup> (A)*

- DOB: May 1957 (age at promotion 62)
- Jun 2007: Chief of Staff, 31st Group Army (Corps Deputy Leader)
- Jul 2008: Deputy Commander, 31st Group Army (Corps Deputy Leader) (Jul 2008: 1<sup>st</sup> star)
- Jan 2013: Deputy Chief of Staff, Nanjing MR (Corps Leader)
- Jul 2013: Commander, Jiangsu Military District (Corps Leader)
- Mar 2014: Commander, Shanghai Garrison (Corps Leader)
- Feb 2015: Director, Political Department, Nanjing MR (MR Deputy Leader)
- May 2016: Commander, Western TC Army and concurrent Deputy Commander, Western TC (TC Deputy Leader) (Jul 2017: 2<sup>nd</sup> star)
- Dec 2019: Commander, Eastern TC (TC Leader); simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star

### 2020 Promotions

- 28th Batch (1) 29 July 2020<sup>34</sup>
  - Xu Zhongbo 徐忠波 (A/RF): PC, Rocket Force
- 29th Batch (4) 18 December 2020<sup>35</sup>
  - Guo Puxiao 郭普校 (AF): PC, CMC Logistic Support Department
  - Zhang Xudong 张旭东 (A): Commander, Western TC
  - Li Wei 李伟 (A/SSF): PC, Strategic Support Force

*Xu Zhongbo 徐忠波<sup>36</sup> (A/RF)*

- DOB: October 1960 (age at promotion 60)
- 2013: PC, Jinan MR 20<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Oct 2014: PC, Jinan MR 54<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Feb 2016-Dec 2017: PC, Western TC Army (TC Deputy Leader)
- Dec 2017-Jul 2020: PC, Joint Logistics Support Force (TC Deputy Leader); Jul 2017, 2<sup>nd</sup> star
- Jul 2020: PC, PLA Rocket Force (TC Leader); simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star

*Guo Puxiao 郭普校<sup>37</sup> (AF)*

- DOB: Jan 1964 (age at promotion 56)

- Jul 2011: Director, 15<sup>th</sup> Airborne Corps Political Department (Corps Deputy Leader); Jul 2012: 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- 2014: PC, 15<sup>th</sup> Airborne Corps (Corps Leader)
- 2017: PC, Central TC Air Force (TC Deputy Leader); Jul 2018; 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Dec 2019: PC, CMC Logistics Support Department (TC Deputy Leader); Dec 2020 upgraded to TC Leader; Dec 2020, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion
- Jan 2022: PC, PLA Air Force (TC Leader)

*Zhang Xudong 张旭东*<sup>38</sup> (A)

- DOB : Nov 1962 (age at promotion 60)
- Jul 2012: 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- 2014: Commander, 39<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- 2016: Commander, Central TC Army (TC Deputy Leader); Jul 2018, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Dec 2020: Commander, Western TC (TC Leader); simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion
- Oct 2021: Died

*Li Wei 李伟*<sup>39</sup> (A/SSF)

- DOB: Sep 1960 (age at promotion 62)
- Jan 2007: Director, 47<sup>th</sup> Group Army Political Department (Corps Deputy Leader)
- 2010: PC, 47<sup>th</sup> Group Army Deputy (Corps Deputy Leader)
- Oct 2012: PC, Nanjiang Military District (Corps Leader)
- Sep 2013: PC, 21<sup>st</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Dec 2014: PC, Xinjiang Military District (TC Deputy Leader); Jul 2016, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Dec 2020: PC, PLASSF (TC Leader); simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star

### 2021 Promotions

- 30th Batch (4) 5 July 2021<sup>40</sup>
  - Wang Xiubin 王秀斌 (A): Commander, Southern TC
  - Xu Qiling 徐起零 (A): Commander, Western TC
  - Liu Zhenli 刘振立 (A): Commander, PLA Army
  - Ju Qiansheng 巨乾生 (A/SSF): Commander, PLA Strategic Support Force
- 31st Batch (5) 6 September 2021<sup>41</sup>
  - Wang Haijiang 汪海江 (A): Commander, Western TC
  - Lin Xiangyang 林向阳 (A): Commander, Central TC
  - Dong Jun (N) 董军 (N): Commander, PLA Navy
  - Chang Dingqiu 常丁求 (AF): Commander, PLA Air Force
  - Xu Xueqiang 许学强 (AF): President, PLA National Defense University

*Wang Xiubin 王秀斌*<sup>42</sup> (A)

- DOB: Mar 1963 (age at promotion 58)
- 2013: Deputy Commander, Nanjing MR 31<sup>st</sup> Group Army (Corps Deputy Leader); Jul 2014, 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- 2015: Deputy Commander, Nanjing MR 1<sup>st</sup> Group Army (Corps Deputy Leader)

- Jul 2016: Commander, Eastern TC 1<sup>st</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Jul 2017: Commander, Northern TC 80<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Aug 2019: Deputy Commander and concurrent Chief of Staff Eastern TC HQ (TC Deputy Leader); Dec 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Jun 2021: Commander, Southern TC (TC Leader); Jul 2021, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

*Xu Qiling 徐起零*<sup>43</sup> (A)

- DOB: Jul 1962 (age at promotion 59)
- Pre-2016: Chief of Staff, Jinan MR 54<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Deputy Leader)
- Mar 2017: Commander, Northern TC 79<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Dec 2018: Commander, Eastern TC Army (TC Deputy Leader); Dec 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Apr 2020: Commander, Western TC Army (TC Deputy Leader)
- Jun 2021: Commander, Western TC (TC Leader); Jul 2021, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

*Liu Zhenli 刘振立*<sup>44</sup> (A)

- DOB: Aug 1964 (age at promotion 57)
- Dec 2009: Chief of Staff, Beijing MR 65<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Deputy Leader); Dec 2010, 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- Feb 2012: Commander, Beijing MR 65<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Feb 2014: Commander, Beijing MR 38<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Jul 2015: Chief of Staff, People's Armed Police (TC Deputy Leader)
- Dec 2015: Chief of Staff, PLA Army (TC Deputy Leader); Jul 2016, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Jun 2021: Commander, PLA Army (TC Leader); Jul 2021, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

*Ju Qiansheng 巨乾生*<sup>45</sup> (A/SSF)

- DOB: May 1962 (age at promotion 59)
- Unk: Deputy Director, GSD Technical Reconnaissance Department (Corps Deputy Leader)
- 2015: 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- 2018: Commander (Director), PLA Strategic Support Force Network Systems Department (TC Deputy Leader); 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Jun 2021: Commander, PLA Strategic Support Force (TC Leader); July 2021; simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

*Wang Haijiang 汪海江*<sup>46</sup> (A)

- DOB: Oct 1963 (age at promotion 58)
- Jan 2013: Deputy Commander, Xinjiang Military District's Nanjiang Military District (Corps Deputy Leader)
- Nov 2016: Deputy Commander, Tibet Military District (Corps Leader)
- Dec 2019: Commander, Tibet Military District (TC Deputy Leader); Dec 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion

- Mar 2021: Commander, Xinjiang Military District (TC Deputy Leader Grade)
- Aug 2021: Commander, Western TC (TC Leader); Sep 2021, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

*Lin Xiangyang 林向阳*<sup>47</sup> (A)

- DOB: Oct 1964 (age at promotion 57)
- May 2013: Deputy Commander, Nanjing MR 31<sup>st</sup> Group Army (Corps Deputy Leader); Jul 2014, 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- Jul 2016: Commander, Western TC 47<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Mar 2017: Commander, Central TC 82<sup>nd</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Apr 2019: Commander, Eastern TC 72<sup>nd</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Apr 2020: Deputy Commander, Eastern TC and concurrent Commander, Eastern TC Army (TC Deputy Leader); Apr 2020, simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Aug 2021: Commander, Central TC (TC Leader); Sep 2021, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion
- Jan 2022: Commander, Eastern TC (TC Leader)

*Dong Jun 董军*<sup>48</sup> (N)

- DOB: 1963 (age at promotion 58) (Career Navy officer)
- Jul 2012: 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- 2013: Deputy Commander, East Sea Fleet (Corps Leader)
- Dec 2014: Deputy Chief of Staff, PLA Navy (Corps Leader)
- Jan 2017: Deputy Commander, Eastern TC (TC Deputy Leader); Jul 2018, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- May 2021: Deputy Commander, PLA Navy (TC Deputy Leader)
- Aug 2021; Commander, PLA Navy (TC Leader); Sep 2021, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

*Chang Dingqiu 常丁求*<sup>49</sup> (AF)

- DOB: Jan 1967 (age at promotion 54) (career Air Force officer)
- 2011: Assistant to PLA Air Force Chief of Staff (Corps Deputy Leader); Jul 2012, 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- 2013: Chief of Staff, Shenyang MRAF (Corps Leader)
- Jan 2016: Deputy Commander, Southern TC (TC Deputy Leader)
- Dec 2017: Deputy Chief of Staff, CMC Joint Staff Department (TC Deputy Leader); Jul 2018, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Aug 2021: Commander, PLA Air Force (TC Leader); Sep 2021, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

*Xu Xueqiang 许学强*<sup>50</sup> (AF)

- DOB: Nov 1962 (age at promotion 59)
- 2014: Chief of Staff, Nanjing MRAF (Corps Leader)
- 2016: Chief of Staff, Eastern TC Air Force (Corps Leader) [same billet as above, changed names during the reorg]

- Aug 2017: Commander, Northern TC Air Force and concurrent Deputy Commander, Northern TC (TC Deputy Leader); Jun 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Aug 2021: Commandant, National Defense University (TC Leader)<sup>13</sup>; Sep 2021, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

### 2022 Promotions

- 32<sup>nd</sup> Batch (7) 21 January 2022<sup>51</sup>
  - Liu Qingsong 刘青松 (N): PC, Northern TC
  - Wu Ya'nan 吴亚男 (A): Commander, Central TC
  - Xu Deqing 徐德清 (A): PC, Central TC
  - Qin Shutong 秦树桐 (A): PC, PLA Army
  - Yuan Huazhi 袁华智 (N): PC, PLA Navy
  - Li Yuchao 李玉超 (SAF/RF): Commander, PLA Rocket Force
  - Zhang Hongbing 张红兵 (A/PAP): PC, People's Armed Police Force.
- 33<sup>rd</sup> Batch (1) 8 September 2022<sup>52</sup>
  - Wang Qiang 王强 (AF): Commander, Northern TC

#### *Liu Qingsong 刘青松*<sup>53</sup> (N)

- DOB: Nov 1963 (age at promotion 59) (career political officer in the Air Force and Navy)
- Jul 2014: 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- Jan 2016: Director, Northern TC Air Force Political Work Department (Corps Leader)
- Jan 2017: Deputy Director, PLA Air Force Political Work Department (Corps Leader)
- Jul 2018: PC, Eastern TC Navy and concurrent Deputy PC, Eastern TC (TC Deputy Leader); Jun 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Jan 2022: PC, Northern TC (TC Leader); Jan 2022, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

#### *Wu Ya'nan 吴亚男*<sup>54</sup> (A)

- DOB: Aug 1962 (age at promotion 60)
- Jul 2013: Deputy Commander, Shenyang MR 16<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Deputy Leader); Jul 2014, 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- Mar 2017: Commander, Northern TC Army 78<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- April 2020: Commander, Northern TC Army and concurrent Deputy Commander, Northern TC (TC Deputy Leader); Apr 2020, simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Dec 2020: Deputy Chief of Staff, CMC JSD (TC Deputy Leader)
- Jan 2022: Commander, Central TC (TC Leader); Jan 2022, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

---

<sup>13</sup> OSINT research and grade analysis suggests that the NDU is now a TC Deputy Leader [副战区职] grade organization. This most likely occurred on or about 17 July 2017 when Xi Jinping held a ceremony to recognize the newly reorganized AMS, NDU, and NUDT. The reorganization process is still in flux because many of the senior officials in this organization retained their “old” grades, while personnel assuming billets after 17 July 2017 appear to hold the organization’s “new” grade. However, Xu was appointed in the billet and received his 3<sup>rd</sup> star in August 2021. TC Deputy Leader grade officers are not assigned a 3<sup>rd</sup> star.

*Xu Deqing 徐德清*<sup>55</sup> (A)

- DOB: Jul 1963 (age at promotion 59)
- Apr 2013: Deputy PC, Chengdu MR 13<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Deputy Leader); Jul 2014, 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- Aug 2015: PC, Lanzhou MR 47<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- May 2017: PC, Eastern TC Army 71<sup>st</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Apr 2018: PC, Western TC Army (TC Deputy Leader); Jul 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Jan 2022: PC, Central TC (TC Leader); Jan 2022, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

*Qin Shutong 秦树桐*<sup>56</sup> (A)

- DOB: Nov 1963 (age at promotion 59)
- Mar 2013: Director, Nanjing MR 31<sup>st</sup> Group Army Political Department (Corps Deputy Leader)
- Jul 2014: Deputy PC, Nanjing MR 31<sup>st</sup> Group Army (Corps Deputy Leader); Jul 2014; simultaneous 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- Sep 2015: PC, Nanjing MR 1<sup>st</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- May 2017: PC, Southern TC 75<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Apr 2018: Director, PLA Army Political Work Department (TC Deputy Leader); Jun 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Jan 2022: PC, PLA Army (TC Leader); Jan 2022, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

*Yuan Huazhi 袁华智*<sup>57</sup> (N)

- DOB: Oct 1961 (age at promotion 61) (career Navy political officer until switch to Air Force in 2018 then back to Navy in 2019)
- Unk: Deputy Director, South Sea Fleet Political Department (Corps Deputy Leader); Jul 2015: 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- Dec 2015: PC, PLA Navy Equipment Research Academy (Corps Leader)
- Mar 2017: PC, PLA Navy Marine Corps (Corps Leader)
- Dec 2018: PC, Eastern TC Air Force (TC Deputy Leader)
- Mar 2019: Deputy PC, PLA Navy (TC Deputy Leader); Dec 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Jan 2022: PC (TC Leader); Jan 2022, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

*Li Yuchao 李玉超*<sup>58</sup> (SAF/RF)

- DOB: Nov 1962 (age at promotion 60) (career PLA Second Artillery Force and Rocket Force officer)
- Jul 2012: Deputy Commandant, PLA Second Artillery Force Engineering University (Corps Deputy Leader)
- Jan 2013: Deputy Commander, PLA Second Artillery Force Base 56 (Corps Deputy Leader); Jul 2013, 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- Mar 2015: Commander, PLA Second Artillery Force Base 53 (Corps Leader)
- Jul 2016: Commander, PLA Rocket Force Base 55 (Corps Leader)
- Mar 2017: Commander, PLA Rocket Force Base 63 (Corps Leader)
- Apr 2020: Chief of Staff, PLA Rocket Force (TC Deputy Leader); Apr 2020, simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion



- Jan 2022: Commander, PLA Rocket Force (TC Leader); Jan 2022, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

*Zhang Hongbing 张红兵*<sup>59</sup> (A/PAP)

- DOB: Jan 1966 (age at promotion 56) (career political officer)
- 2014: Director, Jinan MR 20<sup>th</sup> Group Army Political Department (Corps Deputy Leader)
- Mar 2017: PC, Western TC Army 76<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Dec 2019: PC, Eastern TC Army (TC Deputy Leader); Dec 2019; simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Jan 2022: PC, People's Armed Police (TC Leader); Jan 2022, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion

*Wang Qiang 王强*<sup>60</sup> (AF)

- DOB: 1963 (age at promotion 59) (career Air Force pilot)
- Jul 2013: Deputy Chief of Staff, Jinan MRAF (Corps Deputy Leader); Jul 2014, 1<sup>st</sup> star promotion
- Jan 2016: Chief of Staff, Western TC Air Force and concurrent Deputy Chief of Staff, Western TC (Corps Leader)
- Jul 2018: Deputy Commander, Western TC (TC Deputy Leader); Jun 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion
- Apr 2020: Commander, Western TC Air Force, and concurrently Deputy Commander, Western TC (TC Deputy Leader)
- Sep 2022: Commander, Northern TC (TC Leader); Sep 2022, simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion.

### 2023 Promotions

- *34<sup>th</sup> Batch (1) 18 January 2023*<sup>61</sup>
  - Huang Ming 黄铭 (A): Commander, Central TC
- *35<sup>th</sup> Batch (2) 28 June 2023*<sup>62</sup>
  - Zheng Xuan 郑璇 (A):PC, Northern TC
  - Ling Huanxin 凌焕新 (A): PC, Academy of Military Sciences
- *36<sup>th</sup> Batch (2) 31 July 2023*<sup>63</sup>
  - Wang Houbin<sup>14</sup> 王厚斌 (N/RF): Commander, PLA Rocket Force
  - Xu Xisheng<sup>15</sup> 徐西盛 (AF/RF): PC, PLA Rocket Force
- *37<sup>th</sup> Batch (2) 25 December 2023*<sup>64</sup>
  - Wang Wenquan 王文全 (A): PC, Southern TC
  - Hu Zhongming 胡中明 (N): Commander, PLA Navy

<sup>14</sup> Of note, he was a career Navy officer until he became the PLARF commander.

<sup>15</sup> Of note, he was a career Air Force political officer until he became the PLARF PC.

*Huang Ming 黄铭*<sup>65</sup> (A)

- DOB: Apr 1963 (age at promotion 60)
- Jun 2014: 1<sup>st</sup> star
- Jul 2016: Commander, 41<sup>st</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Mar 2017: Commander, 81<sup>st</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Jun 2019: Deputy Commander, PLA Army (TC Deputy Leader) (Dec 2019: 2<sup>nd</sup> star)
- Jan 2023: Commander, Central TC (TC Leader) (Jan 2023: simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion)

*Zheng Xuan 郑璇*<sup>66</sup> (A)

- DOB: Nov 1964 (age at promotion 59)
- 2008: PC, 14<sup>th</sup> Group Army U/I Division (Division Deputy Leader)
- 2012: 1<sup>st</sup> star
- 2012: Deputy PC, 13<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Deputy Leader)
- 2013: PC, 13<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- 2016: Director, Political Work Department and concurrent Deputy PC, Central TC (TC Deputy Leader) (Jun 2019: 2<sup>nd</sup> star)
- Dec 2020: PC, Northern TC Army and concurrent Deputy PC, Northern TC (TC Deputy Leader)
- Jun 2023: PC, Northern TC (TC Leader) (Jun 2023: simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion)

*Ling Huanxin 凌焕新*<sup>67</sup> (A)

- DOB: Mar 1962 (age at promotion 61)
- (N/A): Deputy Director, Organization Department, General Political Department (Corps Deputy Leader)
- Jan 2017: Director, Political Work Department, Northern TC Army (Corps Leader)
- Apr 2019: Deputy Secretary, CMC Discipline Inspection Commission (TC Deputy Leader) (Dec 2019: 2<sup>nd</sup> star)
- Jun 2023: PC, Academy of Military Sciences (TC Leader) (Jun 2023: simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion)<sup>16</sup>

*Wang Houbin*<sup>17</sup> 王厚斌<sup>68</sup> (N/RF)

- DOB: 1961 (age at promotion 62)
- Dec 2014: 1<sup>st</sup> star
- Jun 2016: Chief of Staff, PLAN South Sea Fleet (Corps Leader)
- Apr 2018: Deputy Chief of Staff, PLA Navy (Corps Leader)
- Dec 2019: Deputy Commander, PLA Navy (TC Deputy Leader) (Dec 2019, simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star)

---

<sup>16</sup> OSINT research and grade analysis suggests that the AMS is now a TC Deputy Leader [副战区职] grade organization. This most likely occurred on or about 17 July 2017 when Xi Jinping held a ceremony to recognize the newly reorganized AMS, NDU, and NUDT. The reorganization process is still in flux because many of the senior officials in this organization retained their “old” grades, while personnel assuming billets after 17 July 2017 appear to hold the organization’s “new” grade.

<sup>17</sup> Of note, he was a career Navy officer until he became the PLARF commander.

- Jul 2023: Commander, PLA Rocket Force (TC Leader) (Jul 2023: simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion)

*Xu Xisheng*<sup>18</sup> 徐西盛<sup>69</sup> (AF/RF)

- DOB: Apr 1964 (age at promotion 59)
- Previously served as PC, Air Force Fuzhou Command Post (Corps Deputy Leader); Director, Beijing MR Air Force Political Department (Corps Leader); Director, Central TC Air Force Political Work Department (Corps Leader)
- Jun 2017: PC, Southern TC Air Force and concurrent Deputy PC, Southern TC (TC Deputy Leader) (Jul 2018: 2<sup>nd</sup> star)
- Jul 2023: PC, PLA Rocket Force (Jul 2023: simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion)

*Wang Wenquan* 王文全<sup>70</sup> (A)

- DOB: Dec 1962 (age at promotion 61)
- Previously served as PC, 20<sup>th</sup> Group Army Artillery Brigade (Division Deputy Leader); PC, , 20<sup>th</sup> Group Army Armored Brigade (Division Deputy Leader); Deputy Director, 20<sup>th</sup> Group Army Political Department (Division Leader)
- Jul 2013: Director, Political Work Department, 26<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Deputy Leader) (Jul 2014: 1<sup>st</sup> star)
- Jun 2016: PC, 27<sup>th</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Mar 2017: PC, 72<sup>nd</sup> Group Army (Corps Leader)
- Jun 2020: Deputy PC, PLA Army (TC Deputy Leader) (Jun 2020: simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion)
- Sep 2020: PC, Joint Logistic Support Force (TC Deputy Leader)
- Dec 2023: PC, Southern TC (TC Leader) Force (Dec 2023: simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion)

*Hu Zhongming* 胡中明<sup>71</sup> (N)

- DOB: Jan 1964 (age at promotion 59)
- Jul 2013: Commander, South Sea Fleet's 2<sup>nd</sup> Submarine Base (Sanya, Hainan) (Corps Leader) (Jul 2014: 1<sup>st</sup> star)
- Dec 2014: Assistant Chief of Staff, PLA Navy (Corps Deputy Leader)
- May 2016: Deputy Chief of Staff, PLA Navy (Corps Leader)
- Dec 2019: Commander, Northern TC Navy and concurrent Deputy Commander, Northern TC (TC Deputy Leader) (Jun 2020: 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion)
- Dec 2021: Chief of Staff, PLA Navy (TC Deputy Leader)
- Dec 2023: Commander, PLA Navy (TC Leader) (Dec 2023: simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion)

---

<sup>18</sup> Of note, he was a career Air Force political officer until he became the PLARF PC.

## 2024 Promotions

- 38<sup>th</sup> Batch (2) 28 March 2024<sup>72</sup>
  - Wang Renhua 王仁华 (N): Secretary, CMC Politics and Law (aka Political and Legal Affairs) Commission<sup>19</sup>
  - Xiao Tianliang<sup>20</sup> 肖天亮 (N/A): President, National Defense University

Wang Renhua 王仁华 (N)<sup>73</sup>

- DOB: 1962 (age at promotion 62)
- Previously served as Director, General Armament Department's Security Department (Corps Leader)
- 2012: Director, General Armament Department's Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center's Political Department (Corps Deputy Leader)
- 2013: 1<sup>st</sup> star
- Jan 2015: Director, Political Department in the CMC General Armament Department's Army Equipment, Scientific Research, and Procurement Department (Corps Leader)
- Jan 2016: Deputy Director, PLA Army Political Work Department (Corps Leader)
- Jan 2017: Secretary, Discipline Inspection Commission, PLA Navy East Sea Fleet<sup>21</sup> (Corps Leader)
- 2018: Deputy Secretary, CMC Politics and Law Commission (Corps Leader)
- Dec 2019: Secretary, CMC Politics and Law Commission (TC Deputy Leader) (Dec 2019: simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star promotion; 3<sup>rd</sup> star promotion as a Navy General in March 2024, but still held the same billet)

Xiao Tianliang<sup>22</sup> 肖天亮<sup>74</sup> (N/A)

- DOB: Nov 1962 (age at promotion 62)
- 2007: Deputy Director, South Sea Fleet Political Department (Corps Deputy Leader)
- Jul 2008: 1<sup>st</sup> star
- 2011: Deputy Director, National Defense University's Strategic Teaching and Research Department (Corps Leader)
- Dec 2014: Vice President, National Defense University (MR Deputy Leader) (Aug 2016: 2<sup>nd</sup> star)
- Feb 2023: President, National Defense University (TC Leader) (Mar 2024, 3<sup>rd</sup> star)

---

<sup>19</sup> It appears that the Politics and Law Commission was upgraded from TC Deputy Leader to TC Leader grade in March 2024, which accounts for the concurrent rank and grade promotion.

<sup>20</sup> Xiao Tianliang became the NDU President in February 2023. However, he did not receive his 3rd star until March 2024 (a year later). Given that it is a 3-star rank implies to me that, even though NDU as an org was downgraded, the President and PC are still TC leader-grade billets.

<sup>21</sup> The PLA Navy retained the 3 fleet names (North Sea, East Sea, and South Sea Fleets) until early 2018 when it changed them to Northern, Eastern, and Southern Theater Command Navies.

<sup>22</sup> Xiao Tianliang became the NDU President in February 2023. However, he did not receive his 3rd star until March 2024 (a year later). Given that it is a 3-star rank implies to me that, even though NDU as an org was downgraded, the President and PC are still TC leader-grade billets.

## Appendix E: Simultaneous 3-Star and Grade Promotion Matrix for 2019-2024

This appendix consolidates the information in Appendix C and shows the following information: Their name, their year of birth (YOB), their age at the time of their promotion, their service/force, their specialty (but only political officers are identified), the year they received their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> star, the first year they were identified as a Corps Leader-grade officer and how many billets they served in as a Corps Leader-grade officer, the year they were identified as an MR / TC Deputy Leader-grade officer and how many billets they served in this grade, and, finally, the year they received their simultaneous 3<sup>rd</sup> star and TC Leader grade. Of note, 3 officers received simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup>-star and TC Deputy Leader-grade promotions, which indicates more such promotions will most likely occur in the future as the PLA gradually shifts to a rank-centric system.

**Table 11: Simultaneous 3-Star and Grade Promotion Matrix for 2019-2024**

The age column represents their age when they received their promotion.

### 2019 3-Star Promotions

Name	YOB	Age	Service	Specialty	1st Star	2nd Star	3rd Star	Corps LDR	MR/TC DLDR	TC LDR
He Weidong (何卫东)	1957	62	PLAA		2008	2017	2019	2013 / 3 billets	2015 / 2 billets	2019

### 2020 3-Star Promotions

Name	YOB	Age	Service	Specialty	1st Star	2nd Star	3rd Star	Corps LDR	MR/TC DLDR	TC LDR
Xu Zhongbo 徐忠波	1960	60	PLAA	Political		2017	2020	2013 / 2 billets	2016 / 2 billets	2020
Guo Puxiao 郭普校	1964	56	PLAAF	Political	2012	2018	2020	2014 / 1 billet	2017 / 2 billets	2019
Zhang Xudong* 张旭东	1962	60	PLAA		2012	2018	2020	2014 / 1 billet	2016 / 1 billet	2020
Li Wei 李伟	1960	60	PLAA / PLASSF	Political		2016	2020	2012 / 2 billets	2014 / 1 billet	2020

### 2021 3-Star Promotions

Name	YOB	Age	Service	Specialty	1st Star	2nd Star	3rd Star	Corps LDR	MR/TC DLDR	TC LDR
Wang Xiubin 王秀斌	1963	58	PLAA		2014	2019	2021	2015 / 3 billets	2019 / 1 billet	2021
Xu Qiling 徐起零	1962	59	PLAA			2019	2021	2017 / 1 billet	2018 / 2 billets	2021
Liu Zhenli 刘振立	1964	57	PLAA		2010	2016	2021	2012 / 2 billets	2015 / 2 billets	2021
Ju Qiansheng 巨乾生	1962	59	PLAA		2010	2016	2021	2012 / 2 billets	2015 / 2 billets	2021
Wang Haijiang 汪海江	1963	58	PLAA			2019 <sup>23</sup>	2021	2016 / 1 billet	2019 / 1 billet	2021

<sup>23</sup> Simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star and grade promotion.

Lin Xiangyang 林向阳	1964	57	PLAA		2014	2020 <sup>24</sup>	2021	2016 / 3 billets	2020 / 1 billet	2021
Dong Jun 董军	1963	58	PLAN		2012	2018	2021	2013 / 1 billet	2018 / 2 billets	2021
Chang Dingqiu 常丁求	1967	54	PLAAF		2012	2018	2021	2013 / 1 billet	2016 / 2 billets	2021
Xu Xueqiang 许学强	1962	59	PLAAF			2019	2021	2014 / 1 billet	2017 / 1 billet	2021

### 2022 3-Star Promotions

Name	YOB	Age	Service	Specialty	1st Star	2nd Star	3rd Star	Corps LDR	MR/TC DLDR	TC LDR
Liu Qingsong 刘青松	1963	59	PLAN / PLAAF	Political	2014	2019	2022	2016 / 2 billets	2018 / 1 billet	2022
Wu Ya'nan 吴亚男	1962	60	PLAA		2014	2020 <sup>25</sup>	2022	2017 / 1 billet	2020 / 2 billets	2022
Xu Deqing 徐德清	1963	59	PLAA	Political	2014	2019	2022	2015 / 2 billets	2018 / 1 billet	2022
Qin Shutong 秦树桐	1963	59	PLASAF / PLARF		2013	2020	2022	2015 / 3 billets	2020 / 1 billet	2022
Yuan Huazhi 袁华智	1961	61	PLAN / PLAAF	Political	2015	2019	2022	2015 / 2 billets	2018 / 2 billets	2022
Li Yuchao 李玉超	1962	60	PLASAF / PLARF		2013	2020 <sup>26</sup>	2022	2015 / 3 billets	2020 / 1 billet	2022
Zhang Hongbing 张红兵	1966	56	PLAA / PAP	Political		2019 <sup>27</sup>	2022	2017 / 1 billet	2019 / 1 billet	2022
Wang Qiang 王强	1963	59	PLAAF		2014	2019	2022	2016 / 1 billet	2018 / 2 billets	2022

\*Zhang died in 2021

### 2023 3-Star Promotions

Name	YOB	Age	Service	Specialty	1st Star	2nd Star	3rd Star	Corps LDR	MR/TC DLDR	TC LDR
Huang Ming 黄 铭	1963	60	PLAA		2014	2019	2023	2016 / 2 billets	2019 / 2 billets	2023
Zheng Xuan 郑 璇	1964	59	PLAA	Political	2012	2019	2023	2013 / 1 billet	2016 / 2 billets	2023
Ling Huanxin 凌 焕新	1962	61	PLAA	Political		2019	2023	2017 / 1 billet	2019 / 1 billet	2023
Wang Houbin 王 厚斌	1962	62	PLAN / PLARF		2014	2019 <sup>28</sup>	2023	2016 / 2 billets	2019 / 1 billet	2023

<sup>24</sup> Simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star and grade promotion.

<sup>25</sup> Simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star and grade promotion.

<sup>26</sup> Simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star and grade promotion.

<sup>27</sup> Simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star and grade promotion.

<sup>28</sup> Simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star and grade promotion.

Xu Xisheng <sup>29</sup> 徐西盛	1964	59	PLAAF / PLARF	Political		2018	2023	3 billets	2018 / 1 billet	2023
Wang Wenquan 王文全	1962	61	PLAA	Political	2014	2020 <sup>30</sup>	2023	2016 / 2 billets	2020 / 2 billets	2023
Hu Zhongming 胡中明	1964	59	PLAN		2014	2020	2023	2016 / 1 billet	2019 / 1 billet	2023

### 2024 3-Star Promotions

Name	YOB	Age	Service	Specialty	1st Star	2nd Star	3rd Star	Corps LDR	MR/TC DLDR	TC LDR
Wang Renhua 王仁华	1962	62	PLAA / PLAN	Political	2013	2019 <sup>31</sup>	2024	2015 / 4 billets	2019 / 1 billet	2023
Xiao Tianliang 肖天亮	1962	62	PLAN / PLAA	Political	2008	2016	2024	2011 / 1 Billet	2014 / 1 billet	2024

<sup>29</sup> Of note, he was a career Air Force political officer until he became the PLARF PC.

<sup>30</sup> Simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star and grade promotion.

<sup>31</sup> Simultaneous 2<sup>nd</sup> star and grade promotion.

Opinions, conclusions, and recommendations expressed or implied within are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the Air University, the Department of the Air Force, the Department of Defense, or any other U.S. government agency. Cleared for public release: distribution unlimited.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> See the following link for photos of the 3-star ranks: Army, Navy, Air Force, and PAP. The Rocket Force has its own rank insignia.

[https://images.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search; ylt=Awrhdeyef1Rm5Z0egCQPxQt.; ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEednRpZANEMjY4MjBZSF9DXzEEc2VjA3BpdnM-?p=%E4%B8%8A%E5%B0%86&type=fc\\_AC5AE6A96A2\\_s69\\_g\\_e\\_d\\_n0002\\_c999&param1=7&param2=eJwtjEsOgzAMRK%2FiJUgoOCQEIrY9QbeIROpRAkE8RFVT18jV\\_V7M84zHoxvapns%2BOKKotGyzbqEdEOvCOyLpSbTWRG4lVDXTNeNCMI7dV6ON5J474WmI5vh1IZi8ZAJ5\\_ZYhXjssB3Bk2AAZSjwUTIFs67BXvbl3ZGXomJCQeKnYw4ZBOctjLb3MYV%2B2uJsc17Qx3tgN2%2BzuX%2FIBwPLOeg%3D&hsimp=yhs-3971&hspart=fc&ei=UTF-8&fr=yhs-fc-3971#id=1&iurl=https%3A%2F%2Fp6-bk.byteimg.com%2Ftos-cn-i-mlhdmxsy5m%2F8a519b72001b4e4395c1465c345654fd~tplv-mlhdmxsy5m-q75%3A0%3A0.image&action=click.](https://images.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search; ylt=Awrhdeyef1Rm5Z0egCQPxQt.; ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEednRpZANEMjY4MjBZSF9DXzEEc2VjA3BpdnM-?p=%E4%B8%8A%E5%B0%86&type=fc_AC5AE6A96A2_s69_g_e_d_n0002_c999&param1=7&param2=eJwtjEsOgzAMRK%2FiJUgoOCQEIrY9QbeIROpRAkE8RFVT18jV_V7M84zHoxvapns%2BOKKotGyzbqEdEOvCOyLpSbTWRG4lVDXTNeNCMI7dV6ON5J474WmI5vh1IZi8ZAJ5_ZYhXjssB3Bk2AAZSjwUTIFs67BXvbl3ZGXomJCQeKnYw4ZBOctjLb3MYV%2B2uJsc17Qx3tgN2%2BzuX%2FIBwPLOeg%3D&hsimp=yhs-3971&hspart=fc&ei=UTF-8&fr=yhs-fc-3971#id=1&iurl=https%3A%2F%2Fp6-bk.byteimg.com%2Ftos-cn-i-mlhdmxsy5m%2F8a519b72001b4e4395c1465c345654fd~tplv-mlhdmxsy5m-q75%3A0%3A0.image&action=click.)

<sup>2</sup> For a full list of 1988 to 2001 see <http://club.xilu.com/zgjsyj/replyview-819697-74407.html?PHPSESSID=74e7ac6eed51d240ab47d34b9d6311d8>. For 1988-2004 see Hong Kong Kuang Chiao Ching in Chinese -- non-PRC-owned monthly magazine (“Wide Angle”); reputed in Hong Kong to have close ties to the PRC military establishment]

<sup>3</sup> Kenneth Allen, “Assessing the PLA’s Promotion Ladder to CMC Member Based on Grades vs. Ranks”; Washington, DC: Jamestown Foundation *China Brief*, Part 1, Volume 10, Issue 15, 22 July 2010, and Part 2, Volume 10, Issue 16, 5 August 2010, accessed at <https://jamestown.org/program/assessing-the-plas-promotion-ladder-to-cmc-member-based-on-grades-vs-ranks-part-1/> and <https://jamestown.org/program/assessing-the-plas-promotion-ladder-to-cmc-member-based-on-grades-vs-ranks-part-2/>.

<sup>4</sup> Kenneth W. Allen and John F. Corbett, “Assessment of the PLA’s 3-Star Promotions in January 2022,” China Aerospace Studies Institute, 9 February 2022. <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/CASI/Display/Article/2916576/assessment-of-the-plas-3-star-promotions-in-january-2022/>. James Char, “What a Change in China’s Officer Rank and Grade System Tells Us About PLA Reform” *The Diplomat*, 31 March 2021, <https://thediplomat.com/2021/03/what-a-change-in-chinas-officer-rank-and-grade-system-tells-us-about-pla-reform/>.

<sup>5</sup> Kenneth Allen, “China Announces Reform of Military Ranks,” Jamestown Foundation China Brief, Volume 17, Issue 2, 30 January 2017. Joel Wuthnow and Phillip C. Sanders, “A New Step Forward in PLA Professionalization,” Jamestown Foundation China Brief, Volume 21, Issue 5, 15 March 2021.

<sup>6</sup> “China to reform military ranks promotion system,” 9 December 2019, accessed at [http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2019-12/09/content\\_4856476.htm](http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2019-12/09/content_4856476.htm).

<sup>7</sup> Cui Shifang, “National Defense University’s Downgrade Is a Reality” (崔土方：国防大学被降级成真), epochtimes.com, 12 March 2018, <http://www.epochtimes.com/gb/18/3/12/n10211708.htm>.

<sup>8</sup> Concerning “Policy Promotions”, see Kenneth W. Allen, Dennis J. Blasko, John F. Corbett, Jr., “The PLA’s New Organizational Structure: What is Known, Unknown, and Speculation (Part 2)”: Washington, DC: Jamestown Foundation China Brief, Volume 16, Issue 4, 23 February 2016.) <https://jamestown.org/program/the-plas-new-organizational-structure-what-is-known-unknown-and-speculation-part-2/>.

<sup>9</sup> The information in this subsection comes from Allen, “Introduction to the PLA’s Administrative and Operational Structure.”; Kenneth W. Allen, “Introduction to the PLA’s Organizational Reforms: 2000-2012,” in Kevin Pollpeter and Kenneth W. Allen, eds., *The PLA as Organization v2.0*, (Vienna, VA: Defense Group Inc., 2015); Hereafter referred to as Allen, “Introduction to the PLA’s Organizational Reform”; and Kenneth W. Allen, “China Announces Reform of Military Ranks,” (Washington, D.C.: Jamestown Foundation *China Brief*, Volume 17, Issue 2, 30 January 2017). Hereafter referred to as Allen, “China Announces Reform of Military Ranks.” One primary Chinese source was Xu Ping, ed., *New China Implements Military Rank System Record* (新中国实行军衔制纪实), (Beijing: Gold Wall Press, June 2010). Another valuable source is “Overview of the evolution of contemporary Chinese military



hierarchy” (当代中国军队等级制度沿革概况), 12 November 2009, accessed at [http://www.zhjunshi.com/mil/2009-11-12/content5\\_36359.shtml](http://www.zhjunshi.com/mil/2009-11-12/content5_36359.shtml)

<sup>10</sup> “System of cadre grades” (干部等级制度), 48-50.

<sup>11</sup> “Army; large (military) unit; formation” (兵团), Pan Xiangting, ed. *A New English-Chinese Chinese-English Dictionary of Military Terms* (新编英汉汉英军事词典), (Beijing: National Defense Industry Press, October 1999).

<sup>11</sup> “Generalissimo” (大元帅), Pan Xiangting, ed. 260.

<sup>12</sup> “System of military ranks” (军官军衔制度), 50-53.

<sup>13</sup> Zhao Yiping et al., eds. *PLA Military History* (中国人民解放军军史), Second Edition, Volumes 1, 2, and 3.

Beijing: Encyclopedia of China Publishing House, December 2007. Xu Ping, “The Evolution of our Army’s Cadre Ranks after the Founding of New China” (新中国成立后我军干部级别的沿革), *Chinamil.com* (中国军网), 31

March 2020, accessed at [http://www.mod.gov.cn/education/2020-03/31/content\\_4862889.htm](http://www.mod.gov.cn/education/2020-03/31/content_4862889.htm)

<sup>14</sup> “System of cadre grades” (干部等级制度), 48-50.

<sup>15</sup> For more information about the bingtuan see Kenneth W. Allen, “PLA Organization: Operational and Administrative Structure,” in *The PLA as Organization: Reference Volume v1.0*. James C. Mulvenon and Andrew N.D. Yang, eds., (Santa Monica, CA: RAND, 2002). *Chinese Military Encyclopedia* (中国军事百科全书), (Beijing, Academy of Military Science Publishers, July 1997, Volume 7), 321.

<sup>16</sup> “System of military ranks” (军官军衔制度), 50-53.

<sup>17</sup> Xu Ping, “The Evolution of our Army’s Cadre Ranks after the Founding of New China” (新中国成立后我军干部级别的沿革), *Chinamil.com* (中国军网), 31 March 2020, accessed at [http://www.mod.gov.cn/education/2020-03/31/content\\_4862889.htm](http://www.mod.gov.cn/education/2020-03/31/content_4862889.htm)

<sup>18</sup> “Overview of the evolution of contemporary Chinese military hierarchy” (当代中国军队等级制度沿革概况), 12 November 2009, accessed at [http://www.zhjunshi.com/mil/2009-11-12/content5\\_36359.shtml](http://www.zhjunshi.com/mil/2009-11-12/content5_36359.shtml)

<sup>19</sup> “Overview of the evolution of contemporary Chinese military hierarchy” (当代中国军队等级制度沿革概况), 12 November 2009, accessed at [http://www.zhjunshi.com/mil/2009-11-12/content5\\_36359.shtml](http://www.zhjunshi.com/mil/2009-11-12/content5_36359.shtml). “Historical Review of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army’s Handling of the Relationship between Positions and Ranks” (中国人民解放军处理职务与衔级关系问题的历史回顾), 13 June 2019, accessed at [https://www.360kuai.com/pc/97f1f06dbeb951e59?cota=3&kuai\\_so=1&sign=360\\_7bc3b157](https://www.360kuai.com/pc/97f1f06dbeb951e59?cota=3&kuai_so=1&sign=360_7bc3b157).

<sup>20</sup> “System of military ranks” (军官军衔制度), 50-53. “System of cadre grades” (干部等级制度), 48-50.

<sup>21</sup> “General first class” (一级上将), Zhang Qiliang, ed. *A Chinese-English Dictionary of Military Terms* (汉英军事词典), (Beijing: Haiyang Press (海洋出版社), December 2001), 923. Information about the rank was accessed at <https://baike.baidu.com/item/一级上将/4706219>.

<sup>22</sup> [https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-fc-3971&ei=UTF-8&hsimp=yhs-3971&hspart=fc&param1=7&param2=eJwtjEsOgzAMRk%2FiJUGoOCQEIrY9QbeIRQopRAkE8RFVt18jVV7M84zHoxvapns%2BOKKotGyzbqEdEQvCOyLpSbTWRG4IVDXtNeNCMI7dV6ON5J474Wml5vh1IZi8ZAjJ5ZYhXjssB3Bk2AAZSjwUTIFs67BXvbl3ZGXomJCQeKnYw4ZBOctjLb3MYV%2B2uJsc17Qx3tgN2%2BzuX%2FIBwPLOeg%3D&p=%E6%B5%B7%E5%86%9B%E4%B8%8A%E5%B0%86%E8%91%A3%E5%86%9B&type=fc\\_AC5AE6A96A2\\_s69\\_g\\_e\\_d\\_n0002\\_c999#id=4&vid=bf6ff9db5d82ca3f2f52a5b58c8a8682&action=click](https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-fc-3971&ei=UTF-8&hsimp=yhs-3971&hspart=fc&param1=7&param2=eJwtjEsOgzAMRk%2FiJUGoOCQEIrY9QbeIRQopRAkE8RFVt18jVV7M84zHoxvapns%2BOKKotGyzbqEdEQvCOyLpSbTWRG4IVDXtNeNCMI7dV6ON5J474Wml5vh1IZi8ZAjJ5ZYhXjssB3Bk2AAZSjwUTIFs67BXvbl3ZGXomJCQeKnYw4ZBOctjLb3MYV%2B2uJsc17Qx3tgN2%2BzuX%2FIBwPLOeg%3D&p=%E6%B5%B7%E5%86%9B%E4%B8%8A%E5%B0%86%E8%91%A3%E5%86%9B&type=fc_AC5AE6A96A2_s69_g_e_d_n0002_c999#id=4&vid=bf6ff9db5d82ca3f2f52a5b58c8a8682&action=click).

<sup>23</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ranks\\_of\\_the\\_People%27s\\_Liberation\\_Army\\_Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ranks_of_the_People%27s_Liberation_Army_Navy).

<sup>24</sup> Wang Xinjuan, ed., “The video call between Chinese Defense Minister and US Secretary of Defense bears positive significance in maintaining the overall stability of military-to-military relationship,” Ministry of National Defense, 25 April 2024, [http://eng.mod.gov.cn/xb/News\\_213114/TopStories/16303546.html](http://eng.mod.gov.cn/xb/News_213114/TopStories/16303546.html).

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.mod.gov.cn/gfbw/qwfb/16301367.html>.

<sup>26</sup> <https://baike.baidu.com/item/美国海军作战部长/10423193>.

<sup>27</sup> “System of military ranks” (军官军衔制度), 50-53.

<sup>28</sup> Xu Ping, ed., *New China Implements Military Rank System Record* (新中国实行军衔制纪实), (Beijing: Gold Wall Press (金城出版社), June 2010), 325. The grade and ranks for each grade are identified as follows: 正军职: 中将至大校, 基准军衔为少将. Xu Ping, “The Evolution of our Army’s Cadre Ranks after the Founding of New China” (新中国成立后我军干部级别的沿革), *Chinamil.com* (中国军网), 31 March 2020, accessed at [http://www.mod.gov.cn/education/2020-03/31/content\\_4862889.htm](http://www.mod.gov.cn/education/2020-03/31/content_4862889.htm)

<sup>29</sup> “System of military ranks” (军官军衔制度), 50-53.

- <sup>30</sup> Xu Ping, ed., *New China Implements Military Rank System Record* (新中国实行军衔制纪实), (Beijing: Gold Wall Press (金城出版社), June 2010), 331. The grade and ranks for each grade are identified as follows: 正军职: 少将, 中将. Xu Ping, “The Evolution of our Army’s Cadre Ranks after the Founding of New China” (新中国成立后我军干部级别的沿革), *Chinamil.com* (中国军网), 31 March 2020, accessed at [http://www.mod.gov.cn/education/2020-03/31/content\\_4862889.htm](http://www.mod.gov.cn/education/2020-03/31/content_4862889.htm).
- <sup>31</sup> *Directory of PRC Military Personalities*, October 2022; Washington, D.C.: Defense Intelligence Agency. This is an annual report published since 1986.
- <sup>32</sup> 中央军委举行晋升上将军衔仪式 习近平颁发命令状并向晋衔的军官表示祝贺, [http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/leaders/2019-12/12/c\\_1125340398.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/leaders/2019-12/12/c_1125340398.htm).
- <sup>33</sup> <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/何卫东>. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/He\\_Weidong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/He_Weidong).
- <sup>34</sup> [https://www.thepaper.cn/newsDetail\\_forward\\_8488763](https://www.thepaper.cn/newsDetail_forward_8488763).
- <sup>35</sup> [http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2020-12/18/content\\_4875737.htm](http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2020-12/18/content_4875737.htm).
- <sup>36</sup> <https://news.cctv.com/m/lda/index.shtml?id=ARTII1Om3ZyOpcTmcFLWaC3H201218>.
- <sup>37</sup> <https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/徐忠波>. <https://baike.baidu.com/item/徐忠波/15954508>.
- <sup>38</sup> <https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/郭普校>. <https://baike.baidu.com/item/郭普校/15955117>. <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/郭普校>. <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/中央军事委员会后勤保障部>.
- <sup>39</sup> [https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh/张旭东\\_\(上将\)](https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh/张旭东_(上将)). <https://baike.baidu.com/item/张旭东/16047397>.
- <sup>40</sup> [https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh/李伟\\_\(1960年\)](https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh/李伟_(1960年)). [https://www.baike.com/wikiid/4506309084609925754?prd=attribute&view\\_id=276tprowi7gg00](https://www.baike.com/wikiid/4506309084609925754?prd=attribute&view_id=276tprowi7gg00).
- <sup>41</sup> [https://baike.baidu.com/reference/16047397/36d9Yi95PQR166s4CSy99BSItdb2ucUrdp09iIqQMe7RNC8Fxm-Ik94OvnzvdpxPr3PjMQScc4aMiQoxgs3X2cEjq0\\_pP1Rji19FY0U-xAk\\_Iyql0aTNQoJ-DsZfV2ggC\\_](https://baike.baidu.com/reference/16047397/36d9Yi95PQR166s4CSy99BSItdb2ucUrdp09iIqQMe7RNC8Fxm-Ik94OvnzvdpxPr3PjMQScc4aMiQoxgs3X2cEjq0_pP1Rji19FY0U-xAk_Iyql0aTNQoJ-DsZfV2ggC_). [https://news.cctv.com/m/lda/index.shtml?id=ARTIYkspQl5gfKRa1EdWASMF210705\\_](https://news.cctv.com/m/lda/index.shtml?id=ARTIYkspQl5gfKRa1EdWASMF210705_).
- <sup>42</sup> [http://www.mod.gov.cn/shouye/2021-09/06/content\\_4894191.htm](http://www.mod.gov.cn/shouye/2021-09/06/content_4894191.htm).
- <sup>43</sup> <https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/王秀斌>. <https://baike.baidu.com/item/王秀斌/16700827>.
- <sup>44</sup> <https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/徐起零>. <https://baike.baidu.com/item/徐起零/16967488>.
- <sup>45</sup> <https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/刘振立>. <https://baike.baidu.com/item/刘振立/1738563>.
- <sup>46</sup> <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/巨乾生>. <https://baike.baidu.com/item/巨乾生/57902726>.
- <sup>47</sup> <https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/汪海江>. <https://baike.baidu.com/item/汪海江/16700769>.
- <sup>48</sup> [https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/林向阳\\_\(解放军\)](https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/林向阳_(解放军)). <https://baike.baidu.com/item/林向阳/17240964>.
- <sup>49</sup> [https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/董军\\_\(海军\)](https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/董军_(海军)). <https://baike.baidu.com/item/董军/16524460>.
- <sup>50</sup> <https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/常丁求>. <https://baike.baidu.com/item/常丁求/12588167>.
- <sup>51</sup> [https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/许学强\\_\(空军\)](https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/许学强_(空军)). <https://baike.baidu.com/item/许学强/17194138>. <https://www.163.com/dy/article/H317RK3505493U65.html>.
- <sup>52</sup> [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-01/21/content\\_10125550.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-01/21/content_10125550.htm). <https://tv.cctv.com/2022/01/21/VIDEnQ8TREtw5KWQ43WbDwmj220121.shtml?spm=C31267.PXDaChrrDGdt.EbD5Beq0unIQ.5>.
- <sup>53</sup> [http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2022-09/08/content\\_4920553.htm](http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2022-09/08/content_4920553.htm). [http://www.81.cn/syjd/2022-09/08/content\\_10183737.htm](http://www.81.cn/syjd/2022-09/08/content_10183737.htm).
- <sup>54</sup> [https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/刘青松\\_\(解放军\)](https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/刘青松_(解放军)).
- <sup>55</sup> [https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/吴亚男\\_\(陆军\)](https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/吴亚男_(陆军)). <https://baike.baidu.com/item/吴亚男/16700822>.
- <sup>56</sup> <https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/徐德清>. <https://baike.baidu.com/item/徐德清/16979217>.
- <sup>57</sup> <https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/秦树桐>. <https://baike.baidu.com/item/秦树桐/16445102>.
- <sup>58</sup> <https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/袁华智>. <https://baike.baidu.com/item/袁华智/17194207>.
- <sup>59</sup> <https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/李玉超>. <https://baike.baidu.com/item/李玉超/16969378>.
- <sup>60</sup> <https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/张红兵>. <https://baike.baidu.com/item/张红兵/16423044>.
- <sup>61</sup> [https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/王强\\_\(解放军\)](https://zh.m.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/王强_(解放军)). <https://baike.baidu.com/item/王强/17194165>.
- <sup>62</sup> [http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2023-01/18/content\\_4930969.htm](http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2023-01/18/content_4930969.htm).
- <sup>63</sup> [http://eng.mod.gov.cn/xb/News\\_213114/TopStories/16233847.html](http://eng.mod.gov.cn/xb/News_213114/TopStories/16233847.html). <https://english.news.cn/20230731/130783b936704932a1d7041eeb818280/c.html>. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3229515/china-unveils-new-pla-rocket-force-leadership-after-former-commanders-snared-corruption-scandal>.

- 
- <sup>64</sup> <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202312/25/WS65895c31a31040ac301a969b.html>.  
<http://www.news.cn/politics/leaders/20231225/9db60f951dc842cba6c8806e3914b9e5/c.html>.
- <sup>65</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huang\\_Ming\\_\(military\\_officer\)d](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huang_Ming_(military_officer)d). [https://baike.baidu.com/item/黄铭/16700824?fromModule=lemma\\_search-box](https://baike.baidu.com/item/黄铭/16700824?fromModule=lemma_search-box).
- <sup>66</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zheng\\_Xuan\\_\(general\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zheng_Xuan_(general)). [https://baike.baidu.com/item/郑璇/16684612?fromModule=lemma\\_search-box](https://baike.baidu.com/item/郑璇/16684612?fromModule=lemma_search-box).
- <sup>67</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ling\\_Huanxin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ling_Huanxin). [https://baike.baidu.com/item/凌焕新/20380445?fromModule=lemma\\_search-box](https://baike.baidu.com/item/凌焕新/20380445?fromModule=lemma_search-box). <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/凌焕新>.
- <sup>68</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wang\\_Houbin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wang_Houbin). [https://baike.baidu.com/item/王厚斌?fromModule=lemma\\_search-box](https://baike.baidu.com/item/王厚斌?fromModule=lemma_search-box).
- <sup>69</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xu\\_Xisheng](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xu_Xisheng). [https://baike.baidu.com/item/徐西盛?fromModule=lemma\\_search-box](https://baike.baidu.com/item/徐西盛?fromModule=lemma_search-box).
- <sup>70</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wang\\_Wenquan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wang_Wenquan). <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/王文全>.
- <sup>71</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hu\\_Zhongming/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hu_Zhongming/) <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/胡中明>.
- <sup>72</sup> [https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202403/content\\_6942104.htm](https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202403/content_6942104.htm).  
[https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202403/28/content\\_WS66055f62c6d0868f4e8e58e9.html](https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202403/28/content_WS66055f62c6d0868f4e8e58e9.html).
- <sup>73</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wang\\_Renhua](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wang_Renhua). <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/王仁华/>.
- <sup>74</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xiao\\_Tianliang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xiao_Tianliang). <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/肖天亮>.