



# Strong Defense: **STRONG AMERICA**

\*\*\*\*\* An initiative of Congressman Randy Forbes

## China: A Dangerous Trajectory

*A comparison of future U.S. security in light of China's path*

### TRUE OR FALSE?

The Chinese People's Liberation Army has more attack submarines than the United States.

For the money the United States pays to China for interest-only on our debt, the U.S. could fund its entire yearly shipbuilding budget with \$12 billion left over.

During the last decade, China has more than doubled the pace of our base budget military growth.

All of these statements are true and indicate that for the first time in their history and ours, Beijing is on a trajectory to achieve military parity with the United States. While the United States continues on a path of rapid decline in national security investments, China's stated plan, and earnest goal, is to become a dominant regional force by 2020, and an unrivaled international power by 2050.

## A Comparison of Trajectories: China vs. the United States

### Missile Submarines

China is continuing production of its new class of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine designed to carry the JL-2 missile with an estimated range of about 4,600 miles; giving them their first highly survivable, sea-based nuclear weapons platform.

Meanwhile, just last month it was reported that the U.S. Navy, in response to anticipated reductions in defense spending, is discussing reducing the planned number of replacements for the aging U.S. ballistic missile submarine fleet and delaying the procurement of the first boat.

As our fleet ages and shrinks, China works aggressively to close the gap.

### Surface Combatants

In 2010 alone, China has acquired at least two ships in a new generation of guided missile destroyers with additional ships under construction.

**"Making the country prosperous and making the armed forces strong are two major cornerstones for realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."**

*China's Defense Minister Liang Guanglie*

Meanwhile, recent reports indicate that in response to anticipated reductions in defense spending, the U.S. Navy is discussing early retirement of some of its highly capable Ticonderoga class cruisers.

As we look to further shrink our already dwindling fleet to save costs, China builds aggressively to close the gap.

### Carriers

In addition to the widely reported launch of its first foreign bought aircraft carrier, China plans to build several domestically produced carriers in Chinese shipyards.

Meanwhile, reports indicate that the U.S. Navy, in response to anticipated reductions in defense spending, is discussing early retirement (rather than refueling as planned) for the carrier George Washington as well as delaying for years the purchase of the next carrier, John F Kennedy.

### Space

In 2008 China conducted its first spacewalk as well as the launch and rendezvous with an autonomous microsatellite. China will continue its manned space program, including both manned and unmanned docking, with the goals of establishing a permanently manned space station by 2020 and landing a human on the moon by 2030.

Meanwhile, the United States has cancelled its space shuttle program, plans to effectively abandon the International Space Station and hasn't conducted a manned mission to the moon since 1972.

### GPS

China is developing a GPS-like precision navigation system that they can operate independent of foreign control. By 2012, the satellite constellation is expected to provide regional services with approximately 10 satellites. The PRC plans to complete the system by 2020, with a 35 satellite constellation offering global coverage.

Meanwhile, the U.S. GPS network is in jeopardy as the FCC has expedited LightSquared's bid to operate a 4G network that will significantly degrade, or even jam, GPS by operating at frequencies very close to GPS and transmitting at much higher strength. Empirical test results indicate the planned LightSquared network does not preserve existing GPS service.

## One Year of U.S.-Sino Security Developments

**DEC 2010** Commander of U.S. Pacific Command, Admiral Robert Willard announces that China is moving close to deploying a ballistic missile capable of targeting and striking a U.S. aircraft carrier.

**JAN 2011** China conducts its initial flight test on its first stealth jet fighter, making faster-than-expected progress in developing an advanced fighter jet.

**FEB 2011** The U.S. Treasury Department announces that China holds \$268 billion more of the U.S. debt than was previously thought.

**MAR 2011** China releases its biannual defense white paper, comparable to a U.S. National Security Strategy, which includes the Chinese military's intent to project power outside of the Western Pacific.

**APR 2011** China announces plans to build and deploy a space station to rival the International Space Station by 2020.

**APR 2011** China's new J-15 jet fighter is debuted for use on the nation's first aircraft carrier.

**MAY 2011** The Chinese military confirms the existence of a cyber-warfare team being operated by the People's Liberation Army.

**JUN 2011** China's aggression in asserting disputed territorial claims in the South China Sea results in widespread regional protests and fears of military escalation.

**AUG 2011** China's first aircraft carrier begins sea trials signaling China's continued naval build-up and increasing regional concerns over China's military ambitions.

**AUG 2011** The U.S. Department of Defense releases its annual report on China's military power saying that China's military modernization contributes to regional tensions and potentially destabilizes military balances.