A Reading Guide to Key US-China Security Reports

NAME OF REPORT	BY WHOM, FOR WHOM, AND WHEN	HISTORY/RELATION TO OTHER DOCUMENTS/COMMENTS
National Security Strategy Report	By the President annually to the Congress. Required to be transmitted on the date on which the President submits the annual budget to Congress (i.e., 1st Monday in February) and additionally within 150 days after the date on which a new President takes office.	"The President shall transmit to Congress each year a comprehensive report on the national security strategy of the United States…" From 1987 through 2000, reports were submitted every year except for 1989 and 1992, though on varying dates. The George W. Bush Administration released only two reports, the first in September 2002 and the second in March 2006. The Obama Administration released its first report on May 25, 2010.
Quadrennial Defense Review	By the Secretary of Defense to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. Original report due by May 15, 1997. 2001 report due September 30, 2001. Subsequent reviews due every four years on the date on which the president submits the annual budget to Congress (i.e., 1st Monday in February). Also requires the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs to submit an independent assessment of the QDR, including an assessment of risks in carrying out the national defense strategy. The Chairman's assessment has been appended to each of the QDR reports.	Preceded by the 1990-1991 Base Force analysis and the 1993 Bottom-Up Review, which were DOD initiatives not required by law. Reports have all been released by the date required. By law, the QDR is required "to delineate a national defense strategy consistent with the most recent National Security Strategy prescribed by the President" and to "conduct a comprehensive examination … of … national defense strategy, force structure, force modernization plans, infrastructure, budget plan, and other elements of the defense program and policies of the United States with a view toward determining and expressing the defense strategy of the United States and establishing a defense program for the next 20 years."
National Defense Panel	Panel of 9 members appointed by Secretary of Defense in consultation with chairmen and ranking members of Senate Armed Services and House National Security (temporary renaming of HASC) Committees. By March 14, 1997 the Panel was required to provide a report to the Secretary of Defense assessing the conduct of the QDR to date. Final report to Congress due December 1, 1997.	Required to review and assess a full range of alternative force structures, including the recommended QDR force structure, and required to recommend the optimal force structure to meet anticipated threats. The Panel reported that it did not have the time or resources to perform such a full assessment. It recommended much more attention to asymmetric challenges, reductions in selected capabilities for traditional conflicts, and extensive experimental testing of alternative technologies and organization.

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Quadrennial Defense Review Independent Panel	Under the original statute, the report is to be prepared by an independent panel appointed by the Secretary of Defense no later than six months before the QDR is due, with no guidance on the number of members or their qualifications. The FY2010 NDAA amendment adds eight members, two each appointed by Chairman and Ranking Member of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. The DOD Report on the QDR is required to include an interim assessment by the Panel. A final report to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees is due on July 15, 2010, and a response by the Secretary of Defense is due by August 15, 2010.	Required to submit an assessment of the QDR, including the recommendations of the QDR, the assumptions in the QDR, and the vulnerabilities of the strategy and force structure underlying the QDR. The final Panel report was critical of the QDR for not planning a full 20 years ahead, as required by the QDR statute, and for not including clear force sizing criteria. It urged greater efforts in cyberspace, homeland defense, and responding to anti-access strategies (all areas of emphasis in the QDR). It endorsed the planned size and composition of most of the force, but urged an increase in the size of the Navy based on assessments in the 1993 Bottom-Up Review.
National Defense Strategy	Required to be prepared by the Secretary of Defense as part of the QDR. A discussion was included in QDRs in 1997 and 2001. The Defense Department later prepared separate documents in May 2005 and June 2008.	The permanent QDR statute requires that the national defense strategy be consistent with the President's National Security Strategy. The 2008 National Defense Strategy report explains that the document "flows from" the President's National Security Strategy and "informs the National Military Strategy."
National Military Strategy	By the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, due on February 15 of each even numbered year. A separate part of the statute requires an assessment of risks in executing the strategy, to be prepared by the Chairman "in conjunction with" the service chiefs and the commanders of the unified and specified commands, to be submitted to the Secretary of Defense. The Secretary's assessment and comments are to be included in the report.	The report is required to delineate a national military strategy consistent with the most recent National Security Strategy and Quadrennial Defense Review, and to assess the adequacy of planned forces to successfully execute the strategy. If the Chairman identifies any "significant" risks in executing the strategy, the Secretary of Defense is required to include in the report submitted to the congressional committees the Secretary's plan for mitigating the risks.

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Roles and Missions Report	Initially required to be prepared by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and submitted to the Secretary of Defense. Required every three years or when requested by the Secretary of Defense or the President. As amended by the FY2008 NDAA, required to be prepared by the Secretary of Defense, with an initial report to the Secretary by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. First review to be conducted in 2008 and subsequent reviews to be conducted every four years beginning in 2011. A report on the review is to be submitted to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees in the year following the review no later than the date on which the President's annual budget is submitted to Congress.	Initially required the Chairman of the JCS to make recommendations for such "changes in the assignment of functions (or roles and missions) to the armed forces as the Chairman considers necessary to achieve maximum effectiveness of the armed forces." As amended, requires the Chairman to organize forces into core mission areas, avoid unnecessary duplication, identify core competencies associated with missions, identify gaps in capabilities, and report on plans for addressing gaps and reducing duplication.
Unified Command Plan	An executive document signed by the President.	The Unified Command Plan is a classified document, signed by the President. The Defense Department has established a regular, biennial review cycle for considering changes in the UCP.
Annual "Posture" Statements	Annual statements by each of the service chiefs and by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs on the posture of the armed forces – presented as testimony to the congressional defense committees.	

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DoD Annual Report on Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China	Prepared Annually by the Department of Defense	"The report shall address the current and probable future course of military- technological development of the People's Liberation Army and the tenets and probable development of Chinese security strategy and military strategy, and of the military organizations and operational concepts, through the next 20 years. The report shall also address United States-China engagement and cooperation on security matters during the period covered by the report, including through United States-China military-to-military contacts, and the United States strategy for such engagement and cooperation in the future."
US-China Economic and Security Review Commission Annual Report to Congress	Prepared Annually by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission for Congress	The US-China Commission's Annual Report to Congress sets forth the Commission's analysis of the U.S.-China relationship in the topical areas designated by its Congressional mandate. These areas are China's proliferation practices, the qualitative and quantitative nature of economic transfers of U.S. production activities to China, the effect of China's development on world energy supplies, the access to and use of U.S. capital markets by China, China's regional economic and security impacts, U.S.-China bilateral programs and agreements, China's record of compliance with its World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments, and the implications of China's restrictions on freedom of expression.