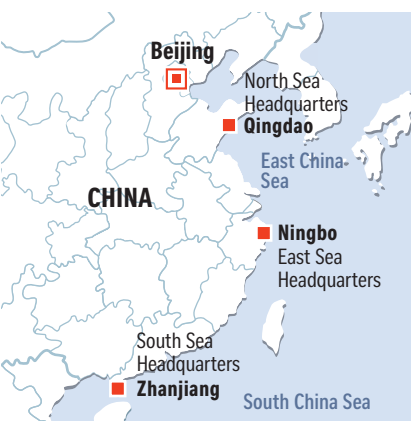


China's growing military prowess



China's navy is now the biggest in the region. The East China Sea and South China Sea fleets are responsible for naval security around Taiwan and the South China Sea. The North Sea fleet protects Beijing and the northern coast. China's defence budget was among the top 10 fastest-growing in the world.

The People's Liberation Army Navy

	North Sea Fleet	East Sea Fleet	South Sea Fleet
Aircraft carrier	●	NA	NA
Ballistic missile subs	NA	NA	●●●●
Nuclear attack subs	●●●	NA	●●
Diesel attack subs	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
Destroyers	●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●
Frigates	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
Corvettes	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●	●●●●●●
Amphibious docks	NA	NA	●●●
Tank landing ships	●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
Med. landing ships	●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●
Missile patrol craft	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●

Fastest-growing defence budgets

Country	Growth in 2015 (%)
Ukraine	69.97
Iran	29.01
Poland	21.97
Russian Federation	21.34
Philippines	14.98
Indonesia	12.78
Israel	9.9
China	9.05
Iraq	8.55
Vietnam	7.15

Top 10 defence budgets last year

Country	Defence budget (US\$m)
United States	595,330
China	190,914
Britain	66,545
France	56,467
Russian Federation	54,127
India	49,654
Japan	49,298
Saudi Arabia	46,277
Germany	43,797
South Korea	35,667