

U.S.-China Military Exchanges: Developments and Limits (2004-2007)

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Abstract

This study examines the military exchanges between the United States and China from the perspective of comparative foreign strategy. The overall relationship between the two great powers is neither that of enemies nor allies. Under such circumstances, U.S.-China military relations feature a mixture of competition and cooperation. Given China's efforts to promote military modernization, Washington has shown increasing concern over the potential military challenges posed by China. While both powers seek to advance bilateral military exchanges, political and military mutual trust has remained weak. Thus, the nature of U.S.-China military exchanges has been one of "negative strategic cooperation," aimed at the avoidance of military accidents and confrontations. Although Washington and Beijing have built multiple channels for military dialogue and exchanges, the two countries nonetheless find themselves in a predicament over how to deepen their cooperation on various security issues.

Key Words: U.S.-China Relations, U.S.-China military exchanges, PLA, military hotline