**Peoples Liberation Army Air Force**

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*"Chinese Air Force" redirects here. For other air forces associated with that name, see* [*Chinese Air Force (disambiguation)*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Air_Force_(disambiguation))*.*

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| **People's Liberation Army Air Force 中国人民解放军空军** | |
| People's Liberation Army Air Force emblem | |
| **Founded** | November 11, 1949 |
| **Country** | [People's Republic of China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China) |
| **Allegiance** | [Communist Party of China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist_Party_of_China) |
| **Branch** | [People's Liberation Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Liberation_Army) |
| **Type** | [Aerial military force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_force) |
| **Role** | Aerial warfare |
| **Size** | 398,000 active personnel Approx. 1,755 to 3,010+ aircraft |
| **Engagements** | [Korean War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_War), [Vietnam War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War), [Sino-Vietnamese War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Vietnamese_War) |
| **Commanders** | |
| **Commander** | Gen. [Ma Xiaotian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ma_Xiaotian) |
| [**Political Commissar**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_Commissar) | Lt. Gen. [Yu Zhongfu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yu_Zhongfu) |
| **Notable commanders** | [Wang Hai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wang_Hai) |
| **Insignia** | |
| **Flag** |  |
| **Roundel** |  |
| **Low Visibility Roundel** |  |
| **Aircraft flown** | |
| [**Attack**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attack_aircraft) | [Q-5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanchang_Q-5), [JH-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xian_JH-7) |
| [**Bomber**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bomber) | [JH-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xian_JH-7), [H-6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xian_H-6) |
| [**Electronic warfare**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_warfare) | [KJ-200](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KJ-200), [KJ-2000](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KJ-2000). |
| [**Fighter**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fighter_aircraft) | [J-11](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-11), [J-10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_J-10), [J-8II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-8), [J-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_J-7), [Su-27](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Su-27), [Su-30MKK](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Su-30MKK) |
| [**Interceptor**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interceptor_aircraft) | [J-8II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-8) |
| [**Trainer**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trainer_(aircraft)) | [L-15](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hongdu_L-15), [JL-8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hongdu_JL-8), [JL-9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JL-9) |
| [**Transport**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cargo_aircraft) | [Y-9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaanxi_Y-9), [Y-8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaanxi_Y-8), [Y-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xian_Y-7), [Il-76](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Il-76) |

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| People's Liberation Army Air Force | |
| [Simplified Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simplified_Chinese_characters) | 中国人民解放军空军 |
| [Traditional Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_Chinese_characters) | 中國人民解放軍空軍 |
|  | |

The **People's Liberation Army Air Force** (**PLAAF**) is the [aerial warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aerial_warfare) service branch of the [People's Liberation Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Liberation_Army), the [armed forces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armed_forces) of the [People's Republic of China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China). The PLAAF was officially established on 11 November 1949. As of 2014, the PLAAF has a strength of around 398,000 personnel and is the largest air force in [Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia). With ongoing modernization, all older aircraft types in service are quickly being phased out and emphasis being placed on developing modern [4.5th generation fighters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fighter_aircraft#4.5th_generation_jet_fighters_.281990s_to_present.29) to replace them - along with [5th generation fighters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fifth-generation_jet_fighter) in the near future.

**History**

Main articles: [History of the People's Liberation Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_People%27s_Liberation_Army) and [Military history of China before 1911](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_China_before_1911)

**Korean War to the Sino-Soviet Split**

The PLAAF was founded with Soviet assistance on November 11, 1949, shortly after the formation of the [People's Republic of China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China). The PLA had operated few aircraft before that. The PLA's first organized air unit, the Nanyuan Flying Group, was formed only in the summer of 1949 from about 40 ex-[Nationalist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_China) aircraft; its task was to defend [Beijing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing), the nation's new capital.

The PLAAF fought the [Korean War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_War) in Soviet-built [MiG-15](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikoyan-Gurevich_MiG-15), known as the [J-2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikoyan-Gurevich_MiG-15) in Chinese service, with training from Soviet instructors. The war also brought Soviet assistance for the indigenous aircraft industry. The [Shenyang Aircraft Factory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_Aircraft_Corporation) built the two-seat MiG-15UTI trainer as the [JJ-2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JJ-2), and during the war manufactured various components to maintain the Soviet-built fighters. This prepared them to mass-produce derivatives of Soviet aircraft under license, starting with the [J-5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-5) ([MiG-17](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikoyan-Gurevich_MiG-17)) in 1956, then the [J-6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-6) ([MiG-19](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikoyan-Gurevich_MiG-19)) in 1959, and then the [J-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_J-7) ([MiG-21](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikoyan-Gurevich_MiG-21)) in 1967.

The 1960s were a difficult time for the PLAAF. The withdrawal of Soviet aid due to the [Sino-Soviet split](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Soviet_split), and the prioritization of the [missile and nuclear weapon programs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction), caused the industry to markedly decline through 1963. A recovery began around 1965 as J-2s, J-5s, and some J-6s were provided to [North Vietnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Vietnam) during the [Vietnam War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War). Development of the [J-8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-8), China's first indigenous fighter, was also initiated during the 1960s.

**The 1980s**

The PLA Air Force underwent reorganization and streamlining as part of the reduction in force begun in 1985. Before the 1985 reorganization, the Air Force reportedly had four branches: [air defense](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_defense), [ground attack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground-attack_aircraft), [bombing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bomb), and independent air regiments. In peacetime the Air Force Directorate, under the supervision of the PLA [General Staff Department](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Staff_Department), controlled the Air Force through air army headquarters located with, or in communication with, each of the seven [military region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PLA_Military_Region) headquarters. In war, control of the Air Force probably reverted to the regional commanders. In 1987 it was not clear how the reorganization and the incorporation of air support elements into the group armies affected air force organization. The largest Air Force organizational unit was the [division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Division_(military)), which consisted of 17,000 personnel in three [regiments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regiment). A typical air defense regiment had three [squadrons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Squadron_(aviation)) of three flights; each flight had three or four aircraft. The Air Force also had 220,000 air defense personnel who controlled about 100 [surface-to-air missile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surface-to-air_missile) sites and over 16,000 [antiaircraft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-aircraft_warfare) guns. In addition, it had a large number of [early-warning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early-warning_radar), [ground-control-intercept](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground-controlled_interception), and air-base radars manned by specialized troops organized into at least twenty-two independent regiments.

In the 1980s the Air Force made serious efforts to raise the educational level and improve the training of its pilots. [Superannuated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superannuate) pilots were retired or assigned to other duties. All new pilots were at least [middle-school](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle-school) graduates. The time it took to train a qualified pilot capable of performing combat missions reportedly was reduced from four or five years to two years. Training emphasized raising technical and tactical skills in individual pilots and participation in [combined-arms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combined-arms) operations. [Flight safety](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flight_safety) also increased.

In 1987 the Air Force had serious technological deficiencies — especially when compared with its principal threat, the [Soviet Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_of_the_Soviet_Union) — and had many needs that it could not satisfy. It needed more advanced aircraft, better [avionics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avionics), [electronic countermeasures](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_countermeasures) equipment, more powerful [aircraft weaponry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aircraft_weaponry), a low-altitude [surface-to-air missile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surface-to-air_missile), and better controlled [antiaircraft artillery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antiaircraft_artillery) guns. Some progress was made in aircraft design with the incorporation of Western avionics into the [F-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_J-7) ([MiG-21](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikoyan-Gurevich_MiG-21)) and [F-8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-8), the development of refueling capabilities for the [B-6D](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B-6D) bomber and the [A-5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanchang_Q-5) attack fighter, increased aircraft all-weather capabilities, and the production of the [HQ-2J](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HQ-2J) high-altitude surface-to-air missile and the [C-601](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C-601) air-to-ship missile.

Although the PLAAF received significant support from Western nations in the 1980s when China was seen as a counterweight to Soviet power, this support ended in 1989 as a result of the Chinese crackdown on the [Tiananmen protests of 1989](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiananmen_protests_of_1989) and the later collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. After the fall of the [USSR](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USSR), [Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Federation) became China's principal arms supplier to the effect that Chinese economic growth allowed Russia to sustain its aerospace industry.

**Modernization program**



PLAAF airmen on parade during a full honors arrival ceremony in 2000.

In the late 1980s, the primary mission of the PLAAF was the defense of the mainland, and most aircraft were assigned to this role. A smaller number of [ground attack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground_attack_aircraft) and [bomber](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bomber) units were assigned to [Air interdiction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_interdiction) and possibly [close air support](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Close_air_support), and some bomber units could be used for [nuclear delivery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_weapons_delivery). The force had only limited [military airlift](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_airlift) and [aerial reconnaissance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aerial_reconnaissance) capabilities.

In the early 1990s, the PLAAF began a program of modernization, motivated by the collapse of the [Soviet Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union), as well as the possibility of military conflict with the [Republic of China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiwan) and perhaps also involving the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States). This process began with the acquisition of [Su-27s](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sukhoi_Su-27) in the early 1990s and the development of various fourth-generation aircraft, including the domestic [J-10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_J-10), and the [FC-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CAC/PAC_JF-17_Thunder) . The PLAAF also strove to improve its pilot training and continued to retire obsolete aircraft. This resulted in a reduction of the overall number of aircraft in the PLAAF with a concurrent increase in quality of its air fleet.

The 21st century has seen the continuation of the modernization program with China's huge economic growth. It acquired 76 [Su-30MKK](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Su-30MKK)'s from 2000 to 2003, and 24 upgraded [Su-30MK2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sukhoi_Su-30MKK)'s in 2004. It also produced around 200 [J-11s](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-11) from 2002 onwards and bought 3 batches (at a total of 76) of the Su-27SK/UBK. Production of the [J-10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_J-10) fighter began in 2002 with an estimated 200 aircraft in service currently. The PLAAF also began developing its own [tanker aircraft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanker_aircraft), which it previously lacked, by modifying old [H-6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xian_H-6) bomber ([Tupolev Tu-16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tupolev_Tu-16)). In 2005 it announced plans to buy approximately 30 [IL-76](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ilyushin_Il-76) transport planes and 8 [Il-78](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ilyushin_Il-78) tanker planes, which would greatly increase its troop airlift capability and offer extended range to many aircraft, though as of 2009 this deal is still on hold.

Predictions of the PLAAF's future aircraft fleet indicate that it will consist of large quantities of [Chengdu J-10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_J-10) and [Shenyang J-11](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-11) as its main force, with [J-16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-16) and [JH-7A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xian_JH-7) as the PLAAF backbone precision strike fighters. Future stealth fighter projects such as the [Chengdu J-20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_J-20) will be inducted into the air fleet in small numbers, assigned to elite PLAAF selected pilots. The transport fleet will comprise [Y-9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaanxi_Y-9) medium range transport aircraft, along with the Soviet [Ilyushin Il-76](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ilyushin_Il-76), and domestic [Y-20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xian_Y-20) heavy transport aircraft. Its helicopter fleet will comprise [Z-20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harbin_Z-20), [Z-15](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurocopter_EC175) and [Mi-17](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mi-17) troop transporters, and the [WZ-10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WZ-10) attack helicopter for its ground forces. AWACS/AEW will be refined variants of existing service fleet of [KJ-2000](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KJ-2000) and [KJ-200](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KJ-200), with UAV/UCAV in early stages of service in the PLAAF.

Senior Colonel Wu Guohui has said that the PLAAF is working on a [stealth bomber](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stealth_aircraft), which some people have called the H-18.

According to a 2015 Pentagon report, PLAAF has around 600 modern aircraft.

**Ranks and insignia**

Main article: [Ranks of the People's Liberation Army Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ranks_of_the_People%27s_Liberation_Army_Air_Force)

The ranks in the Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force are similar to those of the Chinese Army, formally known as the [People's Liberation Army Ground Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Liberation_Army_Ground_Force), except that those of the PLA Air Force are prefixed by 空军 (Kong Jun) meaning Air Force. See [Ranks of the People's Liberation Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ranks_of_the_People%27s_Liberation_Army) or the article on an individual rank for details on the evolution of rank and insignia in the PLAAF. This article primarily covers the existing ranks and insignia.

The markings of the PLAAF are a red star in front of a red band, it is very similar to the [insignia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insignia) of the [Russian Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Air_Force). The Red star contains the [Chinese characters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_character) for eight and one, representing August 1, 1927, the date of the formation of the PLA. PLAAF aircraft carry these markings on the fins as well.

**Aerobatic display team**

The [August 1st (aerobatic team)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/August_1st_(aerobatic_team)) is the first PLAAF aerobatics team. It was formed in 1962. Aircraft inventory of PLAAF August 1st Aerobatic Team includes the [J-10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_J-10) and it has previously flown the [JJ-5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-5) and [J-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_J-7). The Sky Wing and Red Falcon air demonstration teams, which operate [Nanchang CJ-6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanchang_CJ-6) and [Hongdu JL-8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hongdu_JL-8) respectively, were established in 2011.

**Organization**

*See also:* [*List of divisions of the People's Liberation Army*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_divisions_of_the_People%27s_Liberation_Army)



A PLAAF KJ-2000 AEW&C aircraft



A PLAAF Xian H-6 strategic bomber



A PLAAF J-11 multi-role fighter



A PLAAF J-10 multi-role fighter



A PLAAF Xian JH-7 fighter-bomber

The Air Force headquarters consists of four departments: Command, Political, Logistic, and Equipment, which mirrors the four general departments of the PLA. Below the headquarters, Military region air forces (MRAF) direct divisions (Fighter, Attack, Bomber), which in turn direct regiments and squadrons. The PLAAF typically used the system of threes in its organization at Division level and below, i.e. 3 Regiments per Division, 3 Squadrons per Regiment, and so on. The situation is now more fluid, with several divisions (the 5th, 15th, 24th for example) only having two regiments. There are also Independent Regiments within the MRAFs. There is also an Airborne Corps (the [15th Airborne Corps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th_Airborne_Corps)) under direct control of PLAAF Headquarters.

Scramble.nl, accessed mid-2015, indicates there are at least six regiments of H-6 bombers. All three regiments of the [8th Bomber Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=8th_Bomber_Division_(People%27s_Republic_of_China)&action=edit&redlink=1) fly the aircraft - the 22nd, 23rd (former 143rd Regt/48th Div), and 24th. Also flying is the 28th Regiment of the [10th Bomber Division (People's Republic of China)](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=10th_Bomber_Division_(People%27s_Republic_of_China)&action=edit&redlink=1) and the 107th and 108th Regiments of the [36th Bomber Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=36th_Bomber_Division_(People%27s_Republic_of_China)&action=edit&redlink=1).

**Order of battle**

* [Beijing Military Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing_Military_Region)
  + [7th Fighter Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PLA-AF_7th_Fighter_Division)
  + [15th Fighter Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th_Fighter_Division_(People%27s_Republic_of_China))
  + [24th Fighter Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PLA-AF_24th_Fighter_Division)
  + [34th Transport Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PLA-AF_34th_Transport_Division)
* [Chengdu Military Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_Military_Region)
  + [33rd Fighter Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=33rd_Fighter_Division&action=edit&redlink=1)
  + [44th Fighter Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=44th_Fighter_Division&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Guangzhou Military Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guangzhou_Military_Region)
  + 2nd Independent Regiment
  + [2nd Fighter Division PLAAF](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2nd_Fighter_Division_PLAAF&action=edit&redlink=1)
  + [8th Bomber Division PLAAF](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=8th_Bomber_Division_PLAAF&action=edit&redlink=1)
  + [9th Fighter Division PLAAF](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=9th_Fighter_Division_PLAAF&action=edit&redlink=1)
  + [13th Transport Division PLAAF](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=13th_Transport_Division_PLAAF&action=edit&redlink=1)
  + [18th Fighter Division PLAAF](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=18th_Fighter_Division_PLAAF&action=edit&redlink=1)
  + [42nd Fighter Division PLAAF](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=42nd_Fighter_Division_PLAAF&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Jinan Military Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jinan_Military_Region)
  + 1st Independent Regiment
  + [5th Attack Division PLAAF](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=5th_Attack_Division_PLAAF&action=edit&redlink=1)
  + [12th Fighter Division (People's Republic of China)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/12th_Fighter_Division_(People%27s_Republic_of_China))
  + 19th Fighter Division
* [Lanzhou Military Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lanzhou_Military_Region)
  + 6th Fighter Division
  + 36th Bomber Division
  + 37th Fighter Division
* [Nanjing Military Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanjing_Military_Region)
  + 3rd Independent Regiment
  + 3rd Fighter Division
  + 10th Bomber Division
  + 14th Fighter Division
  + 28th Attack Division
  + 29th Fighter Division
* [Shenyang Military Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_Military_Region)
  + [1st Fighter Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PLA-AF_1st_Fighter_Division)
  + 4th Independent Regiment
  + [4th Fighter Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PLA-AF_4th_Fighter_Division)
  + 11th Attack Division
  + 21st Fighter Division
  + 30th Fighter Division
* [People's Liberation Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Liberation_Army) Airborne Forces of the PLAAF under Air Force HQ
  + [15th Airborne Corps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th_Airborne_Corps)
    - 43rd Airborne Division
    - 44th Airborne Division
    - 45th Airborne Division

**Air bases**

Main article: [List of People's Liberation Army Air Force airbases](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_People%27s_Liberation_Army_Air_Force_airbases)

There is presently over 150 air bases utilized by the People's Liberation Army Air Force, these are divided into seven military regions as follows:

* [Beijing Military Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_People%27s_Liberation_Army_Air_Force_airbases#Beijing_Military_Region)
* [Chengdu Military Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_People%27s_Liberation_Army_Air_Force_airbases#Chengdu_Military_Region)
* [Guangzhou Military Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_People%27s_Liberation_Army_Air_Force_airbases#Guangzhou_Military_Region)
* [Jinan Military Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_People%27s_Liberation_Army_Air_Force_airbases#Jinan_Military_Region)
* [Lanzhou Military Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_People%27s_Liberation_Army_Air_Force_airbases#Lanzhou_Military_Region)
* [Nanjing Military Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_People%27s_Liberation_Army_Air_Force_airbases#Nanjing_Military_Region)
* [Shenyang Military Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_People%27s_Liberation_Army_Air_Force_airbases#Shenyang_Military_Region)

**Equipment**

Main article: [List of active People's Liberation Army aircraft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_active_People%27s_Liberation_Army_aircraft)

The People's Liberation Army Air Force operates a large and varied fleet of some 3,010+ aircraft, of which around 2,100 are combat aircraft (fighter, attack and bombers). According to the [International Institute for Strategic Studies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Institute_for_Strategic_Studies), PLAAF combat pilots acquire an average of 100-150 flying hours per year. For a list of aircraft no-longer flown by the People's Liberation Army Air Force see; [List of historic aircraft of the People's Liberation Army Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_historic_aircraft_of_the_People%27s_Liberation_Army_Air_Force).

**Aircraft inventory**

| **Type** | **Origin** | **Class** | **Role** | **Introduced** | **In service** | **Total** |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Boeing 737](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boeing_737) | USA | Jet | Transport/patrol |  | 11 | 11 |  |
| [Bombardier CRJ200](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombardier_CRJ200) | Canada | Jet | Transport |  | 5 |  |  |
| [Bombardier CRJ700](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombardier_CRJ700_series) | Canada | Jet | Transport |  | 5 |  |  |
| [Changhe Z-8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Changhe_Z-8) | China | Rotorcraft | Transport | 2007 | 34 |  |  |
| [Changhe Z-18](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Changhe_Z-18) | China | Rotorcraft | Patrol | 2014 | 1+ | 1+ |  |
| [Chengdu J-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_J-7) | China | Jet | Fighter/trainer |  | 728 |  |  |
| [Chengdu J-10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_J-10) | China | Jet | Multi-role | 2005 | 240+ | 240+ |  |
| [Eurocopter AS332 Super Puma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurocopter_AS332_Super_Puma) | France | Rotorcraft | Transport |  | 6+ | 6+ |  |
| [Guizhou JL-9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guizhou_JL-9) | China | Jet | Trainer | 2003 | 2+ | 2+ |  |
| [Harbin Y-11](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harbin_Y-11) | China | Propeller | Transport/utility | 1976 | 20 |  |  |
| [Harbin Y-12](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harbin_Y-12) | China | Propeller | Transport/utility | 1985 | 8 |  |  |
| [Harbin Z-9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harbin_Z-9) | China | Rotorcraft | Transport | 1994 | 42 |  |  |
| [Hongdu JL-8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hongdu_JL-8) | China | Jet | Trainer | 1994 | 350 |  |  |
| [Hongdu L-15](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hongdu_L-15) | China | Jet | Trainer | 2010 | 2+ | 2+ |  |
| [Hongdu Yakovlev CJ-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hongdu_Yakovlev_CJ-7) | China | Jet | Trainer | 2010 | 1+ | 1+ |  |
| [Ilyushin Il-76](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ilyushin_Il-76) | Russia | Jet | Transport |  | 16+ | 16+ |  |
| [Ilyushin Il-78](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ilyushin_Il-78) | Russia | Jet | Transport |  | 1+ | 1+ |  |
| [KJ-200](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KJ-200) | China | Propeller | Patrol |  | 8 | 8 |  |
| [KJ-500](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaanxi_Y-9#Variants) | China | Propeller | Patrol | 2013 | 1+ | 1+ |  |
| [KJ-2000](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KJ-2000) | China | Jet | Patrol | 2003 | 5 | 5 |  |
| [Mil Mi-17](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mil_Mi-17) | USSR | Rotorcraft | Transport |  | 10 |  |  |
| [Nanchang CJ-6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanchang_CJ-6) | China | Propeller | Trainer | 1960 | 400 | 1,500+ |  |
| [Nanchang Q-5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanchang_Q-5) | China | Jet | Attack | 1970 | 120 |  |  |
| [Shaanxi Y-8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaanxi_Y-8) | China | Propeller | Transport/patrol | 1981 | 78 |  |  |
| [Shaanxi Y-9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaanxi_Y-9) | China | Propeller | Transport/patrol | 2011 | 7+ | 7+ |  |
| [Shenyang J-8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-8) | China | Jet | Fighter/patrol | 1980 | 192 |  |  |
| [Shenyang J-11](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-11) | China | Jet | Multi-role | 1998 | 205+ |  |  |
| [Shenyang J-16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-16) | China | Jet | Multi-role | 2013 | 24 |  |  |
| [Shijiazhuang Y-5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shijiazhuang_Y-5) | China | Propeller | Transport/utility |  | 170 |  |  |
| [Sukhoi Su-27](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sukhoi_Su-27) | USSR | Jet | Fighter |  | 75 | 75 |  |
| [Sukhoi Su-30MKK](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sukhoi_Su-30MKK) | Russia | Jet | Multi-role |  | 73 |  |  |
| [Tupolev Tu-154](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tupolev_Tu-154) | USSR | Jet | Transport/patrol |  | 16 |  |  |
| [Xian H-6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xian_H-6) | China | Jet | Bomber/transport | 1960 | 120 |  |  |
| [Xian JH-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xian_JH-7) | China | Jet | Multi-role | 1992 | 120 |  |  |
| [Xian MA60](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xian_MA60) | China | Propeller | Transport |  | 9 |  |  |
| [Xian Y-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xian_Y-7) | China | Propeller | Transport |  | 43 |  |  |

**Future of the People's Liberation Army Air Force**

The People's Liberation Army Air Force is undergoing a period of extensive modernization. Listed below are some of the more high profile aircraft under development.



J-31 at the 2014 Zhuhai Air Show

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Origin** | **Class** | **Role** | **Planned No.** | **Notes** |
| [Chengdu J-20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_J-20) | China | Jet | Multi-role | tbd | [Fifth-generation jet fighter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fifth-generation_jet_fighter) being developed by [Chengdu Aircraft Design Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chengdu_Aircraft_Design_Institute). |
| Shaanxi Y-30 | China | Propeller | Transport | tbd | Medium-sized and ranged military transport. Has maximum payload of 30,000 kg. |
| [Shenyang J-31](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenyang_J-31) | China | Jet | Multi-role | tbd | [Fifth-generation jet fighter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fifth-generation_jet_fighter). Similar role and configuration to the [Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lockheed_Martin_F-35_Lightning_II). |
| [Xian Y-20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xian_Y-20) | China | Jet | Transport | tbd | Large and long range military transport. Has maximum payload of 66,000 kg. |
| Xian H-X | China | Jet | Bomber | tbd | A large, long range strategic bomber incorporating stealth technology. Currently under development. |

**See also**

* [People's Liberation Army Naval Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Liberation_Army_Naval_Air_Force)
* [Republic of China Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_China_Air_Force)
* [List of Chinese aircraft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Chinese_aircraft)
* [List of Chinese aircraft engines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Chinese_aircraft_engines)
* This page was last modified on 3 April 2016, at 01:34.