(U) CHINA: PLAA COMBINED-ARMS BRIGADE'S FIREPOWER STRIKE OPERATIONS

(U) **This infographic describes and depicts PLA Army (PLAA) Combined Arms-Brigade (CA-BDE) Firepower Strike operations**. The PLAA relies on fires to offset maneuver and air power capability shortcomings and reconnaissance to support its fires. Fires, in the form of Artillery—mortars, tubes, and rockets—are deployed across every type of PLAA formation and is versatile and effective. Targeting is often decentralized, with lower echelon commanders integrating artillery spotters, unmanned aircraft (UA), and other organic surveillance assets. The PLAA employs modernized rocket systems with precision guided munitions.

(U) The PLAA has very capable fire direction, targeting, forward observation, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms to support its fires strike complex. In line with their systems warfare approach, the PLAA use ISR systems to identify key vulnerabilities in their enemy's system and use fires to attack those vulnerabilities. On the modern battlefield, PLAA informationized and intelligentized sensors are expected to make calculations for strike decisions based on target grades and damage criteria.

(U) PLAA COMBINED ARMS BRIGADE

Medium CA-BDE
5,000 x Troops

30 x IFVs
14 x 105-mm assault guns
6-9 x rapid-fire 120-mm mortars/MANPADS/Crew-served wpns

18-27 x 122/155-mm Self-propelled Gun
9 x 122-mm Rocket Artillery
9 x ATGM

18 x SPAAG
8 x SHORAD
1-2 x Radar Systems

12-20 x light armored vehicles
2-3 x UAS

OS — Operational Support (Signals/Engineers/CBRN)

SS — Service Support (Logistics/Maintenance/Transport/Medical)

CA-BDE artillery battalions have fire-finding radars, battlefield surveillance radars, long-range electro-optical and infrared sensors, sound-ranging equipment, and mounted & dismounted forward observers.

(U) CA-BDE FIREPOWER HVT

(U) HQ-9 AD MISSILE RADAR

Typically located in the Frontline or Reserve Zone; has a target detection range of 120km and a tracking range of 90km.

(U) PHL-03 MLRS

Typically located in the Reserve Zone; has 12 launch tubes for 300 mm artillery rockets with ~130km range.

(U) GJ-2 WING LOONG II UAV

Long endurance, with SIGINT, EW, and strike capable; typically used in support of high priority missions.

(U) HIGHER ASSETS THAT MAY SUPPORT PLAA CA-BDE FIREPOWER STRIKE OPERATIONS

PLASSF: PLASSF may provide cyber effects, air- and space-based surveillance, deep ELINT, and tactical-level information operations to support Fires Strike. These high-end capabilities are relatively limited and are expected to support the main effort or priority PLAA units.

PLAAF: PLAAF may support CA-BDE operations with its medium altitude long endurance UAV that can conduct ISR and strike as well as their 4th-generation attack aircraft capable of all-weather operations using precision munitions.

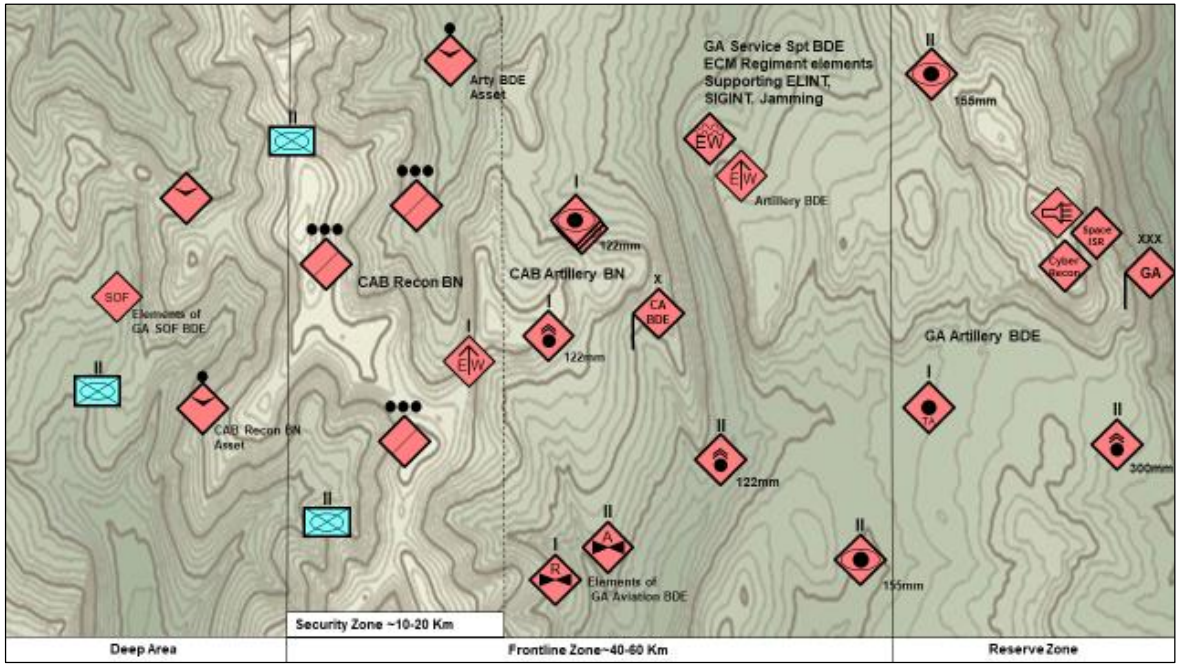
Theater Command: The TC has an organic electronic countermeasures brigade, an information operations support brigade, and a reconnaissance and intelligence support brigade that will likely be task organized to support a TC priority campaign.

Group Army:

- Arty BDE with its Target Acquisition Battery (ELINT and FO capable) and UAS CO
- Service & Support BDE with its EW regiment that has cyber capability; a jamming and electromagnetic attack section, a long-range electronic surveillance section, an electromagnetic protection section, a network operations section, and a communications operations section. The EW regiment works closely with the artillery and air defense brigades to target enemy long-range artillery.
- Aviation BDE with Scout/ Light Attack Helicopters
- SOF BDE equipped with organic surveillance UAS, likely to aid target acquisition in support of heavy artillery and rocket fires

(U) PLAA CA-BDE FIREPOWER STRIKE OPERATIONS

Expected Firepower Strike capabilities of CA-BDE: 1) Employ effective fire throughout their area of responsibility; 2) Conduct time-sensitive targeting fire missions; 3) Execute reconnaissance-fire missions while on the move; 4) Employ precision-guided as well as conventional munitions; and, 5) Conduct counter-battery maneuver.



The deep area is the territory past which a unit's organic sensors and weapons can operate. For a CA-BDE, this typically means the area past which its rocket artillery and targeting support can operate.

The frontline zone is the territory in which the main offensive action is to take place. Typically, first-line objectives and the enemy's main defensive position are located in the frontline zone. It typically contains a security zone on its forward edge, where reconnaissance, and counter-reconnaissance activities take place.

The reserve zone is the territory just to the rear of the frontline zone that typically houses depth attack groups, command groups, firepower groups, and forward logistics bases. The reserve zone also serves as a defensive bastion against enemy counterattacks and as a secure location through which follow-on forces and supplies can move into frontline and deep areas.

(U) **The PLAA employs the Firepower Strike concept in both offense and defense.** PLAA ability to employ their precision munitions relies heavily on the capabilities of their sensors and the communications between sensors and shooters.

(U) PLAA sensors are primarily reconnaissance assets. PLAA CA-BDE radar and unmanned aerial systems are the critical enablers for effective employment of their SPG, MRLS, and MRBM. Without which, the range and versatility of PLAA CA-BDE fires systems are severely limited.

(U) PLAA shooters include a variety of fire support systems with precision and near-precision munitions. However, the cost and complexity of these munitions limit their usage to high-priority missions. Precision munitions use a variety of guidance methods, including laser targeting, inertial, satellite, imagery, and radar. High-end ballistic missiles employ multiple methods to enhance accuracy at extreme ranges. The PLAA process for mensurating a target is not well known, but is likely less precise than U.S. processes. The decision-making process supporting targeting, however, is likely well-rehearsed and meticulous..

References:

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