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Introduction to the China Landpower Studies Center

Richard D. Butler

Welcome to the Director's Corner for the China Landpower Studies Center (CLSC). This will be a regular feature in *Parameters* that will discuss critical military and security issues related to China, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and the People's Liberation Army (PLA). It will also highlight the Center's research agenda and key activities. My objective in this first installment is to outline the purpose, organization, capabilities, research agenda, and expected products of the Center.

Purpose and Mission

The Center will open in January 2024, and it is intended to be an approachable organization. It will tackle the complex and pressing questions about China's emergence as a global power and its implications for the US military. It will provide senior leaders and practitioners with a better understanding of the strategies, capabilities, and the integration of the PLA into the CCP's campaign to turn the rules-based international order to its advantage. Further, the Center will share insights and recommendations for developing better deterrence strategies and campaigns for the United States and our allies.

Organization and Capabilities

Internally, the Center will benefit from the great scholarly foundation of the US Army War College on which we will build our research, analysis, and education portfolios. The Center resides within the Strategic Studies Institute—the US Army's think tank—which has always evolved to meet the challenges of the ever-changing strategic requirements of the Army. Our experienced staff of research

professors, intelligence analysts, visiting professors, and foreign fellows will considerably increase our reach and ability to support our stakeholders.

Externally, we will partner with similar centers in the other senior service colleges to coordinate our research and analysis. We will also work closely with counterpart centers in allied and partner nations in the Indo-Pacific region and elsewhere to share perspectives, analyses, and recommendations.

Research Agenda and Products

The Center will focus on Strategic Landpower, which includes Army, Marine, and Special Operations Forces. Strategic Landpower integrates combat power across all domains to seize, control, and defend the “key terrain” where people live and the interests of sovereign nations. We will study how the use of Strategic Landpower relates to the Joint Force and the US government’s many agencies. While the Center will limit its scope to the operational and strategic levels of war, it will include the whole spectrum of conflict from peacetime competition to protracted war.

Our stakeholders, especially the US Army in the Pacific, are asking critical questions to enable campaign planning in support of our country’s policy of Integrated Deterrence. These questions can be summarized from the framework outlined in table 1.

Table 1. Questions to enable campaign planning

Red PLA	Blue US Military	Green Allies and Partners
How does the PLA fight and win?	How can the US military better prepare now?	How do allies and partners help themselves?
How does the PLA support the Belt and Road Initiative (also known as One Belt, One Road)?	What must change in the US Army, the Joint Force, and the interagency?	How can the United States help allies and partners?

The Center will produce “campaign-quality” insights and solicit research and analysis from our staff and affiliates to inform our stakeholders. To that end, the Center will publish short essays aimed at senior leaders and practitioners. We will also collaborate on longer monographs and academic peer-reviewed works that engage in deeper analysis of strategic issues. Additionally, we will promote active dialogue

and commentary on significant events in the global environment relevant to the rise of China and its use of military power.

Another aspect of our research agenda is engagement. The information age has greatly expanded our ability to reach numerous outlets and venues. Our website will be refreshed periodically with new content. The Center will also be active on social media. Most of our publications will be unclassified and easily accessible. We will initiate a podcast series to share our authors' insights, host discussions and panels, and sponsor live webinars. Finally, we will continue to host our capstone Carlisle Conference on the PLA. Look for the next one in fall of 2024.

As the first CLSC director, I look forward to our interaction. I invite you to participate to stay informed. Please contact me if you would like to contribute to our engagements or if you desire to publish an essay on a topic relevant to our charter.

Richard D. Butler

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