

HU JINTAO'S GENERALS

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Executive Summary

1. On 19 July 2010, the Central Military Commission (CMC) of China held a ceremony to confer the rank of full general to 11 military officers.
2. This is the sixth time that President Hu Jintao (胡锦涛) has conferred this rank to military officers since he became CMC chairman in September 2004.
3. Among these new generals, three are from general departments: Zhang Qinsheng (章沁生), deputy chief of the General Staff Department; Tong Shiping (童世平), deputy director of the General Political Department; and Li Andong (李安东), chairman of the Science and Technology Commission and deputy director of the General Armament Department.
4. Two are from military academies. They are Liu Chengjun (刘成军), president of the Academy of Military Sciences and Wang Xibin (王喜斌), president of the National Defense University.
5. The rest are from military regions, including Beijing Military Region Commander Fang Fenghui (房峰辉), Lanzhou Military Region Commander Wang Guosheng (王国生), Nanjing Military Region Commander Zhao Keshi (赵克石), Nanjing Military Region Political Commissar Chen Guoling (陈国令), Guangzhou Military Region Political Commissar Zhang Yang (张阳), and Chengdu Military Region Commander Li Shiming (李世明).
6. There are altogether 33 generals promoted by President Hu Jintao in the People's Liberation Army (PLA).
7. This new batch of Hu's generals consists of two groups. One group is made up of officers who are likely to retire by the end of 2012, if not earlier. It is a

golden handshake arrangement. These include Li Andong, Wang Guosheng, Zhao Keshi, and Chen Guoling.

8. The other group consists of rising stars in the military. They are targeted to play very important roles in the military in particular and in Chinese politics in general in the forthcoming Eighteenth National Party Congress in 2012 and beyond.
9. Zhang Qingsheng, for instance, would probably enter the CMC as chief of staff at the Eighteenth Party Congress. Tong Shiping would also likely enter the CMC as director of the General Political Department.
10. The current CMC is still dominated by officers promoted by Jiang Zemin (江泽民), Hu's predecessor. These include two vice chairmen (Guo Boxiong 郭伯雄 and Xu Caihou 徐才厚) and the heads of three general departments of the PLA (Chen Bingde 陈炳德, Li Jinai 李继耐, and Liao Xilong 廖锡龙) as well as the defense minister (Liang Guangliang, 梁光烈).
11. There are four Hu's generals in the CMC currently. They are Xu Qiliang (许其亮) (commander of the PLA Air Force), Wu Shengli (吴胜利) (commander of the PLA Navy), Jing Zhiyuan (靖志远) (commander of the PLA Second Artillery Corps), and Chang Wanquan (常万全) (director of the General Armament Department).
12. Hu's generals would dominate the CMC after the Eighteenth Party Congress when Jiang's generals would have all retired. If he stays on as CMC chairman at the Eighteenth Party Congress, Hu would be in complete control of the military in 2012 and beyond after he steps down from other positions, including the General Secretary of the CCP and the State President.