

Chengdu Military Region

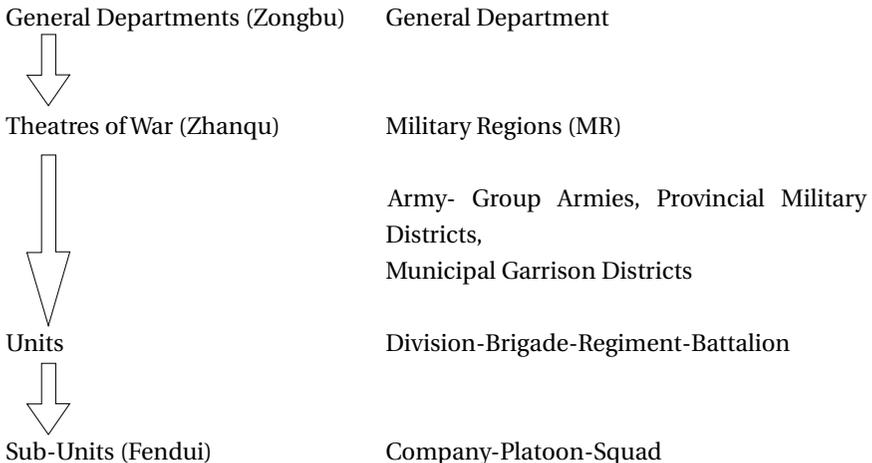
CLAWS RESEARCH TEAM

The PLA Ground Forces account for nearly 70 % of China's Armed Forces. The Ground Forces consist of 18 Group Armies (GAs) organised under seven Theatres of War or Military Regions.

Organisation of Ground Forces

Command and Control for Ground Forces originate from the Central Military Commission (CMC), passes through the General Staff Department (GSD), and is exercised through a series of Regional and Operational Headquarters including Military Regions, Provincial Military Districts, Garrison Headquarters, Military Sub-Districts, and local People's Armed Forces departments.

The Organisational Structure of PLA Ground Forces is as under.



Military Region

Military Region (MR) is the highest regional administrative and operational headquarters. Each MR covers several provinces and its headquarters is directly responsible for the Ground Force Units stationed in these provinces.

Chengdu MR

Chengdu Military Region is located in the southwest of China, covering Chongqing, Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou, and Xizang/Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR). It includes some of the area previously within the Kunming Military Region and has its Headquarters in Chengdu city of Sichuan Province. The Military Region is bordered to the south by Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar, and to the southwest by Nepal and India. This is an inland military region with no coastline.

During the 1985 reorganisation, the Kunming MR was absorbed into the Chengdu MR. Both these MRs have witnessed two major border conflicts ever since the inception of the People's Republic of China (PRC). This includes the 1962 border conflict with India and a series of border conflicts with Vietnam in 1979 and throughout the 1980s.

The Chengdu MR is regarded as the weakest among PLAs seven MRs. Its ground forces include two Group Armies (13th and 14th), The Chongqing Garrison District, and four provincial Military Districts (MD): Sichuan, Yunan, Guizhou and Tibet. The 13th GA is specialised in highland operations, while the 14th GA stationed near the Sino-Vietnam border is specialised in Jungle warfare. The Tibet Military District enjoys more autonomy than most other Provisional MDs.

Organisation



13th Group Army (GA)

The 13th GA HQ in Chongqing Municipality, is one of the two Gas subordinated to the Chengdu MR. The GA serves as a Strategic Reserve, ready to be deployed to Tibet to reinforce the Sino-Indian border, or to the Southern border with

Vietnam in Yunan Province. One of PLA's seven "Class-A" Group Armies in the 1980s, the 13th GA is said to specialised in mountain and highland operations.

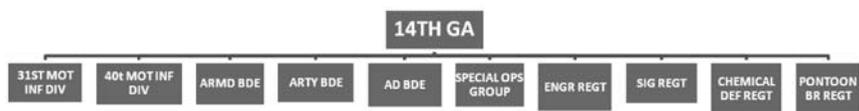
The 13th GA was formed in 1985 on the basis of the PLA 13th Corps, which consisted of three Infantry divisions (37th, 38th and 39th). Upon its establishment, the GA lost its 39th Infantry Division but received the 149th Infantry Division previously organic to the 50th Corps, a tank Brigade, an artillery Brigade and an AAA Brigade. In the early 1990s, the 149th Motorised Infantry Division became of the PLA's "Rapid Reaction Units" (RRU), ready to mobilise withing 24-48 hours. In 1996 the 38th Motorised Infantry Division was transferred to the People's Armed Police (PAP). In 1998 the tank brigade of the Group Army was reorganised into an Armoured Brigade. The 2nd Army Aviation Regiment was formed in the late 1990s. At the same time, the 10th Tank Division was reorganised into the 10th Armoured Division, and the AAA Brigade was reorganised into an Air Defence (SAM/AAA) Brigade.

The Special Operations Group previously under the direct command of the Chengdu MR was reassigned to the 13th GA around 2003. Known as the "Falcons of the Southwest", the SOF unit was formed in 1992 as an experimental unit for digitized army and airborne mechanical troops technologies.



14th Group Army (GA)

The 14th GA HQ in Kunming (Yunan) Province is deployed near the Sino-Vietnam border. It was formed in 1985 on the basis of the PLA 14th Corps, which originally consisted of three Infantry Divisions (40th, 41st and 42nd). Upon its establishment, the GA lost its 42nd Infantry Division, but received the 31st and 32nd Infantry Divisions previously organic to the 11th Corps., the 4th Artillery Division, a Tank Brigade and an AAA Brigade. The 41st Motorised Infantry Division was transferred to the People's Armed Police (PAP) in 1996. In 1998, the 32nd Motorised Infantry Division was deactivated to reserve force. The Tank Brigade was reorganised into an Armoured Brigade. The 4th Artillery Division was downsized to an Artillery Brigade.



Chengdu Military Region Air Force (MRAF)

The Chengdu Region Air Force (MRAF) HQ in Chengdu, is one of the seven MRAFs under the PLA Air Force. It is the air component of the Chengdu MR, responsible for the air defence of China's southwest region. The Chengdu MRAF is under the dual leadership of the Headquarters Air Force (HQAF) and the Chengdu MR. The commander of the Chengdu MRAF is concurrently a Deputy Commander of the Chengdu MR. The Chengdu MRAF is the smallest in term of aircraft number and strength. Its aviation element consists of only two fighter divisions (33rd and 44th) and an airlift division (4th). The 4th Airlift Division was formed in 2005. Aircraft deployed by the Chengdu MRAF includes the j-10 (one regiment), SU-27UBK (one regiment), and J-7B (two regiments). The 4th Air Division is only equipped with few MI-17V7 helicopters for search and rescue mission. Russian made IL-76 MD transport and il-78 Aerial tankers are being procured from Russia. There is no air defence element in the Chengdu MRAF. Command and Control elements of the Chengdu MRAF include the Kunming Command Post and a Radar Brigade. The major bases include Baishiyi (Chongqing), Mengzi (Yunnan), and Kunming (Yunnan).