



Mianyang: The Bellwether in China's Civil-Military Integration Initiative

OE Watch Commentary: Mianyang is not a city name that is well known outside of China; however, the city has become significant for the research and development and production of some technologies critical to China's national security. Often dubbed the "Western Silicon Valley of China," Mianyang, located in the southwest province of Sichuan, is the birthplace of China's atomic and hydrogen bombs and, as the accompanying excerpted article, published in *China Military Online*, explains, is now striving to "become a bellwether" in China's civil-military integration (CMI) program. Mianyang now reportedly has the country's first CMI dual-use technology trading center and is planning to establish 10 industrial parks that will feature military-civilian integration.

One of Chinese President Xi Jinping's top initiatives is to improve the country's capacity for innovation in military technology. One way to accomplish this is through the integration of civilian and military resources. The *China Military Online* article states that in Mianyang there are 18 state-level research institutes, 14 colleges and universities, nine national key laboratories, 28 academicians from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering, and 230,000 professional workers and technicians. Over the past two years, 10,000 patent applications came out of Mianyang annually and in 2017, CMI enterprises in Mianyang accounted for more than 50 percent of the city's total industrial output value at \$22 billion.

Since Xi Jinping took over as General Secretary of the Communist Party of China in 2012, CMI has become a national strategy and a priority. The accompanying article published in a March issue of *China Daily* explains that CMI generally refers to the military and defense industries transferring technologies to civilian sectors, including private companies, on the military's suppliers list. Currently, state-owned defense contractors dominate the research, development, and production of weapons and equipment for the People's Liberation Army. However, according to the article published in *Global Times*, private firms are now catching up with their state counterparts in realizing China's goal of CMI. The article describes one of the overwhelming advantages of private companies as being their ability to stay abreast of the latest scientific developments in the world and having the ability to cooperate with foreign companies and learn from them, which accelerates China's research. The *China Daily* article goes on to conclude that civil-military strategy is key to fostering the sustainable growth of defense sectors, upgrading China's military hardware, and injecting new momentum into the country's private sector. If Mianyang does indeed reach a point of being the bellwether in China's CMI, then it is worth paying attention to what is taking place there. **End OE Watch Commentary (Hurst)**

"...the (civil-military integration) strategy is key to fostering the sustainable growth of defense sectors, to upgrading the Chinese military's hardware and to injecting new momentum into the country's private sector."

Source: "Civil-Military Integration Speeds Up in Mianyang," *China Military Online*, 10 September 2018. http://www.china.org.cn/china/2018-09/09/content_63189301.htm

It has set up the country's first CMI dual-use technology trading center, first large-scale platform for sharing of CMI scientific instrument and is planning to establish 10 industrial parks featuring military-civilian integration.

(Mianyang) is home to 18 State-level research institutes, 14 colleges and universities, nine national key laboratories, 28 academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering, as well as more than 230,000 professional workers and technicians.

In 2017, there were 321 CMI enterprises based in Mianyang Science and Technology City, with the annual output value of 150 billion yuan, accounting for more than 50 percent of total industrial output value.

In statistical terms, in Mianyang last year, the patents granted for every 10,000 of its population reached 9.45. A total of 1,997 patent-based projects were implemented, with an output value of 21.82 billion yuan (US\$ 3.19 billion).

Source: Zhao Lei, "Civil-Military Integration Will Deepen," *China Daily*, 3 March 2018. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201803/03/WS5a99d67ca3106e7dcc13f437.html>

Such integration generally refers to the military and defense industries transferring technologies to civilian sectors and including private companies on the military's suppliers list. So far, State-owned defense contractors still dominate the research, development and production of weapons and equipment for the People's Liberation Army.

Observers said the strategy is key to fostering the sustainable growth of defense sectors, to upgrading the Chinese military's hardware and to injecting new momentum into the country's private sector.

Source: Ma Jun, "Private Firms Catching up with State Counterparts in Realizing China's Civil-Military Agenda: Experts," *Global Times*, 11 September 2018. <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1119159.shtml>

Civil-military integration (CMI) has been a national strategy and a priority within China's leadership agenda since 2012.

China's private firms are now participating more in the R&D of the defense and military industry, and the achievements of civil-military integration (CMI) were on vivid display during the 6th China (Mianyang) Science & Technology City International High-Tech Expo.

The CMI-themed event was held in Mianyang, Southwest China's Sichuan Province - the birthplace of Chinese atomic and hydrogen bombs as well as artificial satellites - from Thursday to Sunday.

CMI generally refers to including private producers on a Chinese military supplier's list and exchanging technologies in the military and defense industries with the civilian sector.

Private firms have an overwhelming edge in high-tech sectors because they are well-informed of the latest breakthroughs in the world and could also cooperate with foreign companies and learn from them to accelerate research, according to Wang.