



China Develops New Anti-Ship Cruise Missile

OE Watch Commentary: An unidentified aviation regiment recently participated in live-fire exercises in the South China Sea with a new type of anti-ship cruise missile and the accompanying excerpted articles provide insight into China’s development of new missiles. The ship-borne Z-9 helicopters, which typically perform anti-submarine warfare and logistical roles for China’s fleet, were specially equipped to be able to attack high-speed targets. Adding the anti-ship role to the helicopters will help ships better protect themselves against neighboring countries, which are increasingly adopting stealth, speed and swarming tactics to attack larger warships.

Photos of the missile tests accompanying reports of the exercise appear to show a missile similar to the CJ-18 anti-ship cruise missile. China continues to make important advancements in its domestic missile industry, improving their capabilities while reducing reliance on foreign designs and technologies. In January, the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporations’ Third Academy—the primary designer of China’s anti-ship missiles—received a top award for National Science and Technology Advancement for its latest anti-ship cruise missile design. While the designation of the cruise missile was not given, the leader of the design team noted that “it was smaller in size but stronger in capability” than similar foreign designs.

The PLA is expanding the roles of shipborne helicopters. In 2016, images of a Z-10 attack helicopter landing on a Type 072 landing ship were released as part of a report on a joint exercise between the Navy and Army. The Z-10 and Z-19 classes of attack helicopters are currently all operated by the Army. **End OE Watch Commentary (Wood)**

Source: “Anti-ship cruise missile wins award,” *China Daily*, 10 January 2018. <http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201801/10/WS5a556a83a3102e5b17371c1d.html>

The missile, developed by the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp’s Third Academy in Beijing, the biggest maker of anti-ship missiles in China, won the top-grade prize in the National Science and Technology Advancement Awards...The release did not specify the missile’s designation.

It said the new weapon, which can be launched from a ship or a submarine, is a milestone in the academy’s development and will exponentially improve the Chinese Navy’s anti-ship capability...

Source: “南海舰队航空兵某团新型直升机开展海上导弹实射训练 (New Type Helicopters of a Certain Naval Aviation Regiment of the South Sea Fleet Carry Out Maritime Live-Fire Tests),” *PLA Daily*, 5 May 2018. http://nb.81.cn/content/2018-05/11/content_8029252_2.htm

PLA Navy Aviation Regiment Commander Shao Jingshan [邵景山] “In past experience, it takes more than three years for new equipment to be ready to be used operationally. However, in less than two years this new variant of helicopter [capable of launching anti-ship missiles] has already carried out more than 20 important missions.”

Source: “PLA navy tests ship-borne choppers in S.China Sea targets,” *Global Times*, 16 May 2018. http://english.pladaily.com.cn/view/2018-05/16/content_8033124.htm

Flight Group Chief Chen Jingguang [陈景光], “This live-fire exercise tested our ability to detect targets on the sea. It also allowed us to figure out issues and deficiencies, laying a foundation for further realistic training.”

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Chinese Helicopter Lands on HMS Cornwall MOD.

Source: by Owen King, OGL (Open Government License), https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chinese_Helicopter_Lands_on_HMS_Cornwall_MOD_45150752.jpg.