



The Chinese Navy’s Top Five Accomplishments in 2017

OE Watch Commentary: China’s military is in the process of undergoing some of its most significant reforms since the 1950s. Part of these reforms include a shift in strategy from being ground forces-centric to expanding naval and air capabilities. The changing focus is meant to better meet newer security imperatives, such as enforcing maritime claims and safeguarding sea lanes.

The accompanying passages are from an article summarizing China’s five primary naval accomplishments over the past 12 months. Topping the list is the launching of China’s first home-grown aircraft carrier, the Type 001A, which is expected to go into full service by the end of 2018. The second item on the list is the Type 055 destroyer, which is reportedly the world’s second most powerful destroyer after the US Zumwalt class destroyer. Third is the world’s largest supply ship, followed by the commissioning of the Ezhou, a stealthy guided-missile frigate designed to boost the navy’s capabilities in the East China Sea. The final item is the development of the Zhenghe, a large training ship capable of accommodating 400 sailors at a time. **End OE Watch Commentary (Hurst)**

“China has been keener than ever this year to grow and show its maritime muscle.”

Source: “Home Grown Aircraft Carrier Tops List of Major Additions to China’s Navy in 2017,” *South China Morning Post*, 31 December 2017, <http://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy-defence/article/2125977/home-grown-aircraft-carrier-tops-list-major-additions>

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If you missed them, here are the five major additions to China’s navy over the past 12 months: Home-grown aircraft carrier... Asia’s ‘most advanced’ destroyer... Biggest ever supply ship... Powerful patrol vessel... Floating training center...



China’s second aircraft carrier, the 001A, sitting in Dalian port.

Source: GG001213, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Type_001A_aircraft_carrier#/media/File:%E5%81%9C%E6%B3%8A%E4%BA%8E%E5%A4%A7%E8%BF%9E%E6%B8%AF%E7%9A%84001A.jpg, public domain.