



China's Focus on Upgrading its Civil Air Defense

OE Watch Commentary: The accompanying passages from Chinese sources discuss some of China's recent efforts to upgrade its civil air defense capabilities to become more integrated and "smarter." As the first passage notes, China's civil air defense department is a government organization and depends on civil-military integration to achieve its technological objectives. The country's civil air defense operations fall under the theater command and the relevant military organs.

According to the first passage from the website of the Chinese Ministry of Defense, the Shanghai municipal civil air defense department joined forces with multiple scientific research institutions and enterprises to upgrade its civil defense equipment. During a recent civil air defense exercise in Shanghai, 100 "sets of new (protective) equipment, including the 'Low-altitude Magic Shield' UAV defense and control system and firefighting robots" were unveiled, demonstrating some of the technological advancements.

The second article, published in *China Military*, explains that Shanghai has been stepping up the construction of new-type professional civil air defense teams in the areas of information network, electronic protection, psychological protection, drone reinforcement, and air rescue. It has used science and technology in its upgrades and has integrated the Internet, big data, and artificial intelligence with civil air defense to create a "smart civil air defense" that goes "above and beyond." The purpose of all the added security and upgrades, according to the article, is to protect "important economic targets." **End OE Watch Commentary (Hurst)**



China's Ministry of Defense.

Source: Netson via Wikimedia, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:ChinaDOD.jpg>, CC BY-SA 4.0

“Civil air defense has undergone significant changes in various aspects, including investigation and reconnaissance, evacuation mode, protection subject, and application of means under the new situation.”

Source: Zou Dongmei, “聚力提高人防科技含量 (Focus Efforts on Raising Technological Elements in Civil Air Defense),” *Jiefangjun Bao*, 28 June 2019. http://www.mod.gov.cn/jmsd/2019-06/28/content_4844717.htm

According to media reports, in a recent civil air defense action exercise conducted in Shanghai, more than 100 sets of new equipment, including the “Low-altitude Magic Shield” UAV defense and control system and firefighting robots, made a shining public appearance in the spotlight, greatly boosting the comprehensive defense capability. In recent years, the Shanghai municipal civil air defense department gave full play to the local advantages of possessing enormous technological resources, joined hands with multiple scientific research institutions and new high-tech enterprises in driving the upgrading of civil defense equipment, laying a solid foundation for forging an impregnable shield in the cause of civil air defense.

Source: “Creating the Municipal ‘Smart Civil Air Defense System,’” *China Military*, 31 May 2019. http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-05/31/content_9520011.htm

In recent years, Shanghai has stepped up the construction of new-type professional civil air defense teams in terms of information network, electronic protection, psychological protection, drone reinforcement, and air rescue; advanced the construction of a stronger civil air defense based on science and technology; and promoted the in-depth integration of Internet, big data, artificial intelligence (AI) with civil air defense, in an effort to enhance the construction of “smart civil air defense” to go above and beyond.

Against the backdrop of the large city's air defense operations in the context of informationization, based on the complex conditions faced by Shanghai civil air defense, and centered on the procedure of civil air defense organization at wartime, the drill was an in-depth study of various topics, including peacetime preparation and wartime readiness, civil air defense command and overall coordination, as well as the issues such as from what and how to prevent the important economic objectives. It highlighted the use of new equipment, new measures, and new methods of operation, putting the pilot ‘smart civil air defense’ project to the test in all aspects.

Civil air defense has undergone significant changes in various aspects, including investigation and reconnaissance, evacuation mode, protection subject, and application of means under the new situation. “Defense” has no longer been the only subject of the civil air defense training. The Municipal Civil Air Defense Office not only trained with new equipment, but also displayed 110 sets of protective equipment in five series of command, defense, resistance, elimination and rescue in the drill. The drill has not only put more equipment into practice, but also focused on the building of core capacity of fighting against air defense attacks, set up the subjects in accordance with the actual procedures in handling air defense attacks, and effectively fulfilled the mission of “wartime air defense, peacetime service, and emergency support.”