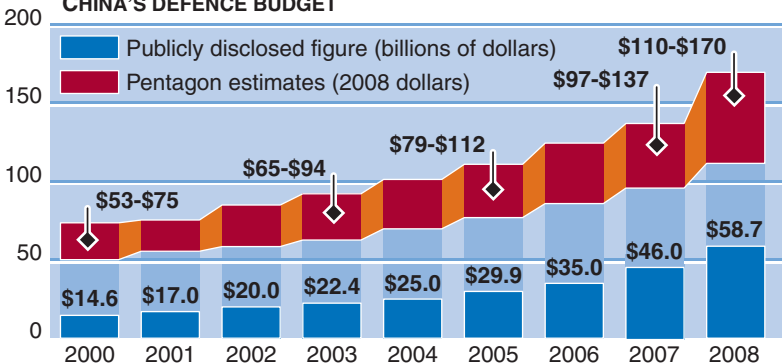


U.S. concern as China's military grows

China's sharp increase in military spending is fuelling unease that Beijing is contesting Washington's air and maritime supremacy in the Western Pacific. The actual level of spending is hotly debated, with many analysts estimating it is two to three times as great as the officially disclosed figure

CHINA'S DEFENCE BUDGET



Nuclear arsenal

Operational warheads:

250-320

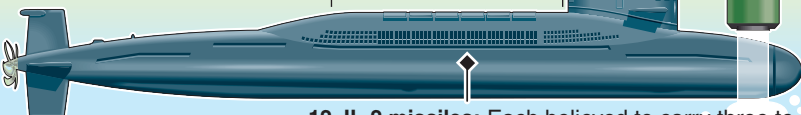
Chengdu J-10: Next-generation fighter programme was top-secret until 2006

PLA Navy

240 ships with 62 submarines. One aircraft carrier under construction

Type 094 Jin class: Nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine

Length: 133 metres



Third and fourth Jin class boats under construction

People's Liberation Army (PLA)

Personnel:

1,600,000

Air force

Personnel:

250,000

6,000 aircraft including 1,762 combat capable

Personnel:

255,000

JL-2: Comparable to U.S. Trident C-4 nuclear missile



12 JL-2 missiles: Each believed to carry three to six warheads or single warhead with yield of up to one megatonne. Range of about 8,000km