

U.S. and Chinese Joint Statement for the Defense Policy Coordination Talks

U.S. and Chinese defense officials met in the Pentagon on Jan.18 for the defense policy coordination talks.

Abraham Denmark, deputy assistant secretary of defense for East Asia, led a delegation for talks with Rear Admiral Li Ji, deputy director of the Chinese Office for International Military Cooperation.

The U.S. delegation included representatives from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Pacific Command, and the State Department, while the Chinese delegation included representatives of the Ministry of National Defense and other military offices.

The meeting is an important component of the broader program of engagements between the two nations' militaries, which seeks to foster sustained and substantive dialogue, deepen practical cooperation in areas of mutual interest, and focus on enhancing risk reduction.

This year's talks emphasized the positive momentum sustained in the U.S.-China military-to-military relationship over the past year, and set a direction for continued success into 2017. Key regional and global issues were also discussed to include maritime issues.

The talks also included the annual meeting of the U.S.-China notification of major military activities confidence building measures working group. Both sides discussed current issues in the military-to-military relationship, reaffirmed commitment to the U.S.-China confidence building measures, exchanged views on the implementation of the existing agreements, and discussed possible future initiatives.