

For Immediate Release
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NBR/SSI BOOK RELEASE: “THE PEOPLE IN THE PLA”

Washington, D.C. -- On September 17, 2008, The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) and the Strategic Studies Institute (SSI) of the U.S. Army War College will officially release a new book titled *The “People” in the PLA: Recruitment, Training, and Education in China’s 80-year old Military* edited by Roy D. Kamphausen, Andrew Scobell, and Travis Tanner.

Fueled by double-digit growth in spending over the past fifteen years, China’s People’s Liberation Army (PLA) has undergone a staggering transformation from an anachronistic, unwieldy vestige of the Mao era to a more mobile and high-tech military force able to engage in an increasing number and variety of activities. As systems become more complex and gaps between PLA service programs widen, the human elements of China’s military—officer training, education, and mobilization—have become an increasingly important part of the modernization equation. Knowing who comprises the PLA’s modern force provides insight into how it is run and its future priorities.

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John M. Shalikashvili (retired) praised the book, stating, “Improving our understanding of the professionalization of the PLA, to which this volume makes a significant contribution, holds tremendously important implications for policymakers and military leaders in the U.S. and across the globe.” This year’s PLA series volume is a culmination of a conference held in September 2007, at which more than 60 leading experts on the PLA convened for a two-day discussion on the military’s human infrastructure, identifying trends in PLA recruitment, education and training, and demographics.

On September 17th, The Brookings Institution will co-host a book launch event from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. featuring PLA experts from government and academia. Copies of the book will be available at the launch. This volume represents the latest in a series of annual publications analyzing the continuing evolution of China’s military and its implications for the United States and the world.

For more information or to request an invitation to the launch visit www.nbr.org

Founded in 1989 with a major grant from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, NBR is an independent, nonpartisan research institution committed to informing and strengthening policy in the Asia-Pacific. NBR also helps train the next generation of scholars who concentrate on Asia.