

# Some Thoughts on China's National Defense Mobilization\*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

CHINA IS entering a new and important period of socio-economic development under the background of drastic changes in its domestic and external environments. As we know, China has maintained continuous economic development and overall social stability while managing to avoid the worst of the global financial crisis in recent years, but in the meantime, it has actually been facing many direct and latent threats such as the strategic pressures from other great powers, the conflicts over territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests with some neighboring countries, the domestic security and stability issues, and the challenges to the security of China's overseas interests. So China now is facing a quite complex and severe economic, political and security situation. To safeguard China's national security, the state (government), the military and the people must be well prepared for potential wars, other types of military conflicts or non-traditional security threats. In achieving this, improvement of the national defense mobilization and strengthening of the armed forces are both indispensable. Involving the responsibilities, obligations and

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interests of all Chinese citizens, the national defense mobilization plays a very important role in the preparation and implementation of the national strategies, having a direct bearing on China's overall national security and strategic stability.

On July 24, 2009, at the 15th collective study session of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Hu Jintao, CPC General Secretary, stated, "We must further improve the national defense mobilization system by taking a military-implied into-civil strategy, integrating military with civilian purposes. We must establish and improve the system for organizing and leading national defense mobilization. We must consolidate and improve the working pattern for unifying military and civilian industries, as well as wartime and peacetime preparations. In addition, we must improve the capabilities of the national defense mobilization in dealing with emergencies, and strengthen the ties between national defense mobilization and socio-economic development, so as to create a combined force for the promotion of the national defense mobilization." These remarks have not only defined the present strategic objectives and the major tasks for China's national defense mobilization building, but also designated the direction for its future development.

On February 26, 2010, the National Defense Mobilization Law, the first of its kind since the founding of the People's Republic of China, was adopted at the 13th meeting of the Standing Committee of the 11th National People's Congress, filling a gap in the country's legislation. This law laid the legal foundations for China to declare a state of war without delay in time of peace, adapting to the changing socio-economic situation across the country. In the Proposal of the CPC Central Committee for Formulating the Twelfth Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development, it was clearly stated that China should continue to pursue integrated military and civilian development and the improvement of the national defense mobilization system. This would act as a guarantee for China's national defense mobilization building, in terms of socio-economic planning. In addition to the national policies, legal requirements and development plans, we must make efforts to take full advantage of available opportunities, identify major issues and problems, get our

ideas into shape and work out measures to fulfill the requirements and tasks set by the Party and the state (government) for the national defense mobilization building.

## II. ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHINA'S NATIONAL DEFENSE MOBILIZATION

THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION of national defense mobilization first occurred during the French Revolution. France was able to organize an army quickly from 1793 to 1794 by introducing conscription; it was the first time for a state to mobilize its people in history, thus bringing about a fundamental change to the characteristics of war. The term “*mobilization*” first appeared in 1850, when it was used to describe the Prussian Army’s preparations for deployment. Due to the mobilization plan drawn up by the General Staff of the Prussian Army under the direction of Helmuth Johannes Ludwig von Moltke in peacetime, Prussia was able to expand its armed forces from 300,000 to 1,000,000 as well as appoint commanders at the army level to command the reserve troops in just three weeks before the Franco-Prussian War in 1870. It goes without saying that the main reason for Prussian victory over the French army was the rapid mobilization of its army. After the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War in 1904, Kodama Kentarou, the Chief of Staff of the Japanese army in Manchuria, translated the German word “*Mobilmachung*” into the Japanese characters “动员”. In Japanese, this word means making both plans and preparations for sending troops to the front. Soon afterwards, the word “动员”(dongyuan) was adopted by China.

In modern history, China first mobilized its people during the early period of the Republic of China (1912-1949), the state (government) began to play the main role in mobilization since then. At that time, military administration and military command were separated in the national government. Some affairs related to mobilization, such as military transportation and the aviation and military industries were placed under departments in charge of military administration. However, other mobilization work was put under the control of military command organs, such as

military transport and depots, as well as munitions factories from 1927 to 1928. During the civil war period from 1928 to 1937 (the period of “*maintaining internal security and repelling foreign invasion*,” as it was called by the Kuomintang government), the national government set up the Department of War Industry. In January 1938, the Military Affairs Department was set up, which was responsible for mobilization-related matters, including transportation, military service, service governance, the National Guard, reserve of resources, war industry, manufacturing, ordnance and technology. Civil defense affairs or the so-called passive air defense, were under the control of the Aviation Administration. At the end of May 1946, the national government reshuffled the national defense organizations by setting up a Western-style Ministry of National Defense under the Executive Yuan. Thus, affairs related to mobilization, such as civil engineering, industrial mobilization, procurement and land engineering, were all assigned to the Ministry of National Defense. However, the Bureau of Military Service and the Ordnance Department were placed respectively under the Office of the Chief of General Staff and the Combined Logistics Command.

Prior to the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the CPC organized and led war mobilization activities in the periods of the Northern Expedition (1926-1927), of the Agrarian Revolutionary War (1927-1937), of the War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-1945) and of the War of Liberation (1946-1949). These activities, however, cannot be counted as examples of national defense mobilization in the real sense, as the CPC had not yet assumed power. In January 1924, the first round of cooperation between the KMT and CPC began, the CPC established the Peasant Department under the leadership of Lin Boqu. This department was under the KMT Central Executive Committee, but its main purpose was to organize a peasant armed force for the CPC in the name of the Northern Expedition. Anyway, it was the earliest mobilization institution established by the CPC.

In the process of creating revolutionary base areas during the Agrarian Revolutionary War, especially after the August 7th Meeting in 1927, the CPC established a department of military affairs under

the direct leadership of its Central Standing Committee, and a section in charge of arming workers and peasants, a department for the general mobilization of armed forces and a department for mobilizing “red” children in the Headquarters of the General Staff under the Central Military Commission. These organs were charged with the responsibilities of mobilizing and arming the masses. Furthermore, the CPC also established Committees on Labor and War and Field Work Committees in local soviet governments.

During the War of Resistance Against Japan, the CPC established people’s armed forces committees and wartime mobilization committees at all levels of local governments. In the armed forces, it established regional military bodies that were specially commissioned for armed mobilization and deployment of the public, which were called the military area command, the military sub-area command and the department of the People’s Armed Forces. In addition, it established the Committee for General Field Work Mobilization of the National Revolutionary War, which was composed of members of various parties and social celebrities.

During the War of Liberation, committees of the people’s armed forces, departments of armed forces and departments for armed mobilization were established in various revolutionary base areas and liberated areas, in addition to committees for supporting the front and the field work committees in hinterland areas. The logistics headquarters of military area commands at all levels established mobilization departments, with the logistics commands at the county level establishing mobilization departments and those at the district level establishing mobilization sections. In the Huai-Hai Campaign, the Beiping-Tianjin Campaign and the campaign to cross the Yangtze River, a mobilization command system combined with the battle command system was established to coordinate mobilization with war operations.

In the 1950s, the People’s Republic of China gradually established various mobilization bodies. A unified mobilization region under the leadership of the Central Military Commission of the CPC, the Northeast Military Command and the provinces and cities in northeast China was established during the Korean War (1950-1953). The state also established other key mobilization-

leading organs, such as the People's Air Defense Commission and military transportation bodies in 1950, the Central Ordnance Committee in 1951, the State Planning Commission in 1952, and the Ministry of National Defense and other mobilization-related institutions in 1954. The national defense mobilization system took initial shape during the 1960s and 1970s. In order to assist Vietnam in its war against U.S. invasion, to fight in the border war against India, to engage in defensive counter-strikes at the Sino-Soviet border, and to counter the threats imposed by other major powers, the state established the Office of National Defense Industry in 1961, the military transport planning groups in the Central Military Commission and various military area commands in May 1963, and the Headquarters and Office of Third-line Construction in 1965.

Since 1980, the national defense mobilization system has developed systemically. In November 1994, national defense mobilization commissions and related working bodies were established at all levels of governments to strengthen unified administration over mobilization affairs, thus having enhanced the role of the government in the mobilization work. The previous situation, in which national defense mobilization was conducted in a single and de-centralized manner, and in which troop mobilization was over-emphasized, has been largely changed to a system by which the work is conducted in an integrated and centralized way, in which troop and non-troop mobilizations were all emphasized. Such a system plays an important role in preparing for war, dealing with major emergencies and coordinating national defense building and economic development.

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In response to the 2008 snow and sleet disaster, Hunan, Guangdong and Zhejiang provinces, among others mobilized over 4.2 million militia personnel, reserve soldiers and professional traffic police to perform many tasks such as clearing ice, removing snow, making

emergency repairs to water pipes and electricity lines and evacuating people from disaster-affected areas. In disaster relief efforts following the Wenchuan earthquake of May 12, 2008, over 62,000 militiamen and reserve soldiers and 13,000 professionals in civil air defense, traffic control and communications security were urgently mobilized. They rescued 2,298 survivors, evacuated over 482,000 people from the disaster-affected areas, transported over 300,000 tons of goods and materials, and made immediate repairs to over 1,470 km of roads. Nowadays, the national defense mobilization system and the reserve forces system can be quickly called upon to coordinate with the relevant departments in all emergency response operations, guaranteeing the provision of goods and materials for troops and armed police, as well as ensuring railway and highway transportation and emergency telecommunications to support the troops and armed police. Meanwhile, a large number of militiamen help the armed police all year round to guard bridges, tunnels and railway lines across the country.

### III. MECHANISM OF CHINA'S NATIONAL DEFENSE MOBILIZATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE mobilization refers to strategic preparation, the implementations of these strategies and other related activities undertaken by the state (government) to deal with war and other military threats or emergencies. These activities include emergency measures taken to shift all or some sectors of society to a wartime state, and to turn national defense potential into national defense and emergency response capabilities. With the state (government) playing the predominant role, national defense mobilization is, in essence, aimed at allocating the relevant national resources for war preparation and emergency response. Its key tasks are reserving, exploring and managing mobilization potentials in peacetime, and turning these potentials into national defense capabilities during wartime or in case of emergency in order to win the war or deal with emergency effectively. Therefore, the process of national defense mobilization is usually divided into three main steps of preparation, implementation and demobilization. Mobilization of

course covers a wide range of activities, but the most important ones are those related to the armed forces and national economy, science and technology, preparations for war in the fields of transportation, weaponry, information, and civil air defense, as well as ideological and political mobilization. With the increase in and changes to security threats, as well as in the diversity of military actions, corresponding changes will also take place in the scope and types of mobilization.

National defense mobilization is a kind of socio-military system, which can be divided into several sub-systems of organizational leadership, of resource mobilization, of policies, laws and regulations for mobilization, and of mobilization theories.

**(1) The organizational leadership sub-system is made up of three parts: decision-making, implementation and coordination.** Its basic functions include initiating, controlling and managing mobilization activities, so it is the most active and dynamic part of the national defense mobilization system and constitutes both the main body and the core of mobilization activities in the national mobilization system.

**(2) The sub-system of resource mobilization describes the mobilization platform and mobilization potentials of a country under the guidance of the national and military strategies.** It reflects the capabilities and potentials of the country to implement national defense mobilization. This sub-system constitutes the material basis for mobilization system and represents the main objective that the sub-systems of organizational leadership and of policies, laws and regulations for mobilization are working towards. It also shows the overall effects of the building of the national defense mobilization system and national defense mobilization capabilities. In accordance with the necessary strategic requirements for the handling of potential future wars and responses to security threats, the sub-system of resource mobilization is mainly composed of resources for mobilizing reserve forces, the economic sector, the transportation and telecommunications sectors, civil air defense, and other sectors.

**(3) The sub-system of policies, laws and regulations for mobilization refers to the action strategies used to implement**



**mobilization principles, covering three dimensions of the state (government), policy implementation and society.** The legal system of national defense mobilization refers to the legislation for organization, policy-making and the basic mobilization system. This is mainly used to standardize and adjust the relations between interests and obligations that arise from the national defense activities of the state (government), the communities and individual citizens. Because national defense mobilization is an issue that falls within the scope of the national constitutional government, many other aspects of national defense mobilization, such as its organization and system, guidelines and policies, the interests and obligations of relevant main bodies and the requirements it places upon mobilization-related infrastructure, must be legally defined. In addition, laws should be introduced to ensure that national defense mobilization be prepared and implemented thoroughly.

**(4) The sub-system of theories on national defense mobilization describes the achievements made in the study of basic and applied theories of Chinese national defense mobilization, historical theories and foreign national mobilization theories.** These theories constitute an important basis for policy making and implementing in national defense mobilization. This sub-system of theories is of the following functions: detailing the role of national defense mobilization in safeguarding national security and handling war or crises; summarizing and theorizing about historical experience; illustrating the inherent relations and operational mechanisms of the internal factors of mobilization, which allows for further analysis of the characteristics and laws of national defense mobilization. Furthermore, these theories enable us to learn more about national defense mobilization in other countries and draw on their experiences, so that we can make relevant suggestions, providing a theoretical basis and intellectual support for the strategic guidance and decision-making on national defense mobilization by the state (government) and the armed forces.

National defense mobilization is linked closely to war mobilization, yet they are in fact different from each other. National

defense mobilization is an act of the state, while war mobilization can be either a state act or a non-state act. Threatened by war, a state mobilizes itself in order to deal with the imminent threat. When faced with a variety of different threats, a state organizes national defense mobilization to respond to both war and emergencies or contingencies. Generally speaking, national defense mobilization turns national defense potentials into national defense capabilities, ensures sustainability in a state's handling of war or other emergencies, and promotes national economic and social development. Its main functions are as follows:

**(1) Acquiring national defense capabilities to deal with war or other emergencies.** First, enlisting new recruits to the standing forces. This will be subject to both the number and quality of the labor force or population of enlistment age as well as of the national defense reserve force. Second, obtaining support from industries, particularly the defense industry, as well as economic resources. This will be determined by the size, structure and the development of both industries and various strategic resources. Third, obtaining guarantees of support in the fields of transportation, telecommunications and information. This will rest with the development and military value of transportation, postal services and telecommunications, as well as information industries. Fourth, obtaining guarantees of support in the fields of science and technology, as well as acquiring the relevant equipment. This will depend on scientific and technological progress, particularly on the level of scientific research into national defense. Fifth, obtaining guarantees of support for national defense education, as a means to enhance citizens' awareness of the importance of national defense and lay an ideological foundation for national defense mobilization. Sixth, obtaining financial guarantees from the state's fiscal revenue, national income and foreign exchange reserve. And finally, obtaining diplomatic guarantees and international support. International influence and support can be obtained by conducting diplomatic activities.

**(2) Deciding upon more effective methods to implement national defense development strategy.** First, national defense mobilization is an important component of national defense

development strategy, so national defense mobilization can be employed to implement this strategy, which is characterized by “combining military efforts with civilian support and integrating military with civilian purposes.” Second, the requirements of both economic construction and national defense mobilization must be met in order to keep balance between national defense development and socio-economic development. This can be achieved by taking national defense needs into consideration while carrying out key projects and developing key products. Third, taking the financial means of the people as the basis of developing national defense mobilization capabilities. In order to do so, we should achieve the organic integration of military needs with civilian uses by way of “combining military efforts with civilian support.” In addition, we should organize and plan the development of the national defense potential for times of need, build a standing army and a powerful reserve force, save strategic national resources and improve the country’s capability for sustainable development. Only in this way can we use less socio-economic resources for mobilization and more for construction in peacetime.

**(3) Building up national defense potentials and strategic deterrent capabilities.** First, this can be achieved by augmenting national economic potentials, consolidating the material and technical basis for national defense mobilization, allowing the country to develop a more highly skilled population, enriching national resources for national defense mobilization, accumulating the country’s cultural potentials, strengthening the people’s spiritual impetus for mobilization, and promoting an increase in social potentials, so as to form a suitable social environment for national defense mobilization. Second, resolving the contradiction between peacetime, when fewer resources are needed, and wartime, when more resources are demanded. This can be achieved by making full use of national defense mobilization, as it allows the state to acquire highly efficient real combat capabilities and powerful potential national defense strength, improve its strategic resilience and sustainability, ensure rapid victories in war, deter real and latent opponents, and create favorable conditions for responding to crises and containing or winning the war.

IV. PREPARATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATIONS  
OF NATIONAL DEFENSE MOBILIZATION

As mentioned above, the entire process of national defense mobilization is composed of three phases: preparation, implementation and demobilization. Preparation is the most important one of the three phases of national defense mobilization, it includes:

**(1) Establishing an organizational leadership system.** The organizational leadership system is a basic guarantee for mobilization activities. China's national defense mobilization leadership system is composed of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the President of the People's Republic of China, the State Council and the Central Military Commission. At the local level, the national defense mobilization leadership system is composed of governments and relevant military establishments. The state (central government), the military area commands and the local governments at different levels establish national defense mobilization commissions. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress makes decisions about the initiation of full or partial mobilization across the country. The President of the People's Republic of China then issues mobilization orders following the decisions of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. After that, the State Council and the Central Military Commission jointly lead the national defense mobilization activities across the country. The local governments and relevant military organizations are responsible for the implementations of national defense mobilization. In the meantime, the national defense mobilization commissions at all levels are responsible for organizing, directing and coordinating the national defense mobilization work.

**(2) Determining the principles and policies.** The principles of national defense mobilization define the general orientation and objective of mobilization activities, they are also the guidelines for the mobilization activities. The principles China adopts for national defense mobilization are "combining peacetime needs with wartime needs, integrating military with civilian purposes and combining military efforts with civilian support." In other words, national

defense mobilization aims to link up and combine peacetime and wartime needs in terms of the leadership system, planning and deployment, laws and regulations, infrastructure construction and working procedures. It also aims to combine military needs with civilian uses and base national defense potentials on economic and social development. In addition, national defense mobilization in China is conducted on the principles of “unified leadership, participation of the whole population, long-term preparation, key construction, overall planning and all-around consideration, and order and high efficiency.” Based on this, the state (government) exercises a unified leadership over national defense mobilization, mobilizes its citizens to support and participate in national defense mobilization activities, makes sure that the mobilization work go smoothly and sustainably, highlights mobilization priorities, and ensures overall planning for and coordinated development of national defense mobilization and socio-economic development.

**(3) Conducting surveys into mobilization potentials.** These surveys involve the collection, analysis and management of data concerning the human, material and financial resources in all the fields of society that can be mobilized. The purpose of these surveys is to gain a deeper understanding of the potentials of national defense mobilization in a timely, comprehensive and accurate manner. Thus, it provides a basis for peacetime mobilization preparation and mobilization implementation in case of war or emergencies. Mobilization potentials include the amount, quality and distribution of various resources that the state has at its disposal. The statistics authorities of governments at all levels are required to provide relevant data to the working bodies of the national defense mobilization commissions of the same level, and the working bodies of the commissions have the right to organize special statistical surveys anytime when necessary.

**(4) Formulating mobilization plans and emergency-response programs.** These plans and programs form the basis for both peacetime preparations and wartime implementations of national defense mobilization. The mobilization plans comprise long-term, mid-term and annual plans, which are formulated to advance the preparations for mobilization, to exploit and accumulate

mobilization potentials, and to improve the country's capabilities to shift from peacetime to wartime needs. The emergency programs for the implementations of national defense mobilization are ones that are worked out in advance to respond to any war or emergency, and include both comprehensive and special plans. These plans are formulated to make comprehensive arrangements for the objectives, tasks, procedures and methods of the implementation of mobilization activities, to avoid delays in response or disorganization in case of emergency. The emergency programs for implementations of mobilization should be linked closely to the emergency programs for the control and allocation of resources in the fields of command, use of force, information, and so on. For this reason, the mobilization plans and emergency programs should be jointly formulated by the working bodies of the national defense mobilization commissions at different levels and the relevant government and armed forces departments. The governments at all levels should then incorporate the relevant contents of national defense mobilization into their national social and economic development plans. Following this, the relevant departments of the armed forces should include the emergency programs for implementations of national defense mobilization into their war preparation plans.

**(5) Strengthening infrastructure and financial guarantees for national defense mobilization.** This includes defining the size, distribution and objectives of infrastructure construction related to national defense mobilization, paying more attention to the construction of key transportation and telecommunication facilities, strengthening the information construction of national defense mobilization, organizing efforts to aid national defense mobilization in state economic construction projects, increasing reserves of strategic materials and goods, and enhancing preparations for preventing war and disasters and for rescue. The expenditures on national defense mobilization must be included in the fiscal budgets of the state and local governments, so as to ensure the smooth operations of national defense mobilization at both the state and the local levels.

**(6) Organizing mobilization drills.** National defense mobilization drills are an important means to test whether the

national defense mobilization preparations made in peacetime are targeted and effective. They aim to test and evaluate the feasibility of plans and programs for implementing mobilization, to link implementation plans with the armed forces' war preparation plans, and to enhance organizational, managerial and rapid response capabilities. In line with the requirements for responding to war and emergencies, governments at all levels, the relevant departments of the armed forces and social organizations are responsible to conduct various drills in accordance with the implementation plans of mobilization.

**(7) Strengthening education about national defense mobilization.** Education about defense mobilization is to be organized and implemented "under government direction with assistance from military organizations." The aim is to enhance the public's awareness about the importance of national defense and encourage people to both show concern for and support national defense mobilization. This will also enhance citizens' awareness of their obligations to cooperate in national defense mobilization in accordance with the law, and enable state organs, social organizations, enterprises, public institutions, and other mass organizations to gain the necessary knowledge and skills in national defense mobilization so that they can perform their obligations to the best of their abilities.

The measures adopted for implementing national defense mobilization include:

**(1) Making decisions on mobilization.** When facing the threat of war, the State Council and the Central Military Commission put forward a motion to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for a full or partial national mobilization; the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress makes a decision as to whether to introduce a general or partial mobilization; the President of the People's Republic of China issues the mobilization order accordingly; and the State Council and the Central Military Commission lead the national defense mobilization activities. When necessary, the State Council and the Central Military Commission can take mobilization measures first and then report these to the Standing Committee of the National

People's Congress. Local governments are responsible to organize the implementations of national defense mobilization activities within the areas under their jurisdiction, in accordance with the tasks set for the national defense mobilization.

**(2) Strengthening organizational leadership.** This means improving the system of wartime national defense mobilization, reorganizing the leading organs at various levels, clarifying their functions and powers regarding mobilization, increasing the responsibilities of mobilization organizations, and revising and improving plans for national defense mobilization. In addition, this also involves changing the decision-making procedures for major mobilization issues, adopting wartime mobilization policies and systems, and adjusting domestic and foreign policies accordingly.

**(3) Mobilizing the armed forces.** This includes cancelling leave and holidays as well as the demobilization of service people, issuing conscription notifications, assembling reserve personnel, converting reserve forces into active service forces, enlarging the active service troops, and mobilizing the public to offer support to the frontline.

**(4) Strengthening military economic activities.** Emergency reserve funds come to be used, military appropriations increased, research into and the manufacturing of new-type weaponry stepped up, civilian enterprises mobilized to manufacture military products, civilian resources requisitioned, and imports of strategic goods and materials augmented.

**(5) Planning and organizing wartime publicity and education.** This aims to organize various forms of publicity, educate the people about war, encourage people to offer support to the frontline, conduct activities in support of the army, give preferential treatment to the families of soldiers and martyrs, strengthen the management and control over public opinion and security work, and strive to win international support at the same time.

**(6) Strengthening unified management over socio-economic activities.** This is to control the flow of commodities, practice monopoly for the purchase and marketing of important goods and materials, bring transportation and telecommunication systems



into the wartime state plans, freeze bank deposits, restrict foreign exchange transactions, and strengthen the control over commodity prices.

**(7) Providing protection for common people and important objects.** This involves adopting various measures to safeguard important objects, evacuate the population, goods and materials to safe places, strengthen the systems of medical assistance and rescue, ensure people to have a neatly ordered life, and organize the public to guard against air raids.

**(8) Promptly eliminating war damage.** This involves initiating emergency relief mechanisms and wartime management systems, providing aid for the injured, managing and rehousing disaster victims, protecting public and private properties, organizing immediate and effective repairs and construction, and eliminating the war or disaster consequences to the greatest extent.

**(9) Organizing civilians to perform wartime duties.** This involves organizing citizens and public institutions to support the armed forces in their combat operations, to participate in efforts to repair war damage and in disaster-relief activities, and to give assistance in the maintenance of social order.

**(10) Adopting emergency measures.** This includes imposing controls in certain areas, departments and industries, enforcing martial law or introducing curfews in some places, making a fair distribution of important daily necessities for each person, mobilizing people to practice strict economy and start saving activities, restricting movements of the population, and limiting or banning profit-making entertainment activities.

When the war or other emergencies are over, the state will lift national defense mobilization and organize demobilization, that is, it will restore the wartime military, political, economic and social life to peacetime status. This mainly involves restoring the national administration system as well as the orders of society, production and life to the peacetime state of affairs, conducting the demobilization of people, and returning or compensating for requisitioned goods and materials.

V. SUGGESTIONS

To strengthen the current national defense mobilization, we must pay attention to the following issues:

**(1) Enhancing awareness of national security and the public's sense of responsibility for national defense mobilization.** China now has a very complex security environment and is facing a huge number of challenges. Consequently, the possibility of wars or conflicts can certainly not be ruled out.

At the same time, China has to deal with increasingly frequent emergencies caused by various non-traditional security factors. The tasks of national defense mobilization complement those involved in the handling of wars or other emergencies, and form an important part of national defense building and combined military operations.

Governments and military leadership organs at all levels, as well as all public institutions and citizens should be aware of their respective responsibilities for national defense mobilization, study and implement the Law of National Defense Mobilization, and learn the relevant knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill their obligations in the preparations and implementations of national defense mobilization.

**(2) Improving the quality of reserve forces.** It is a principle to keep both a streamlined standing army and powerful reserve force. In the mean time, we should promote the building and reform of the militia and reserve forces, in an effort to keep a small number of armed forces during peacetime, while retaining the ability to increase the numbers of troops in times of war or emergency. So it is necessary to gain a good understanding of current trends, China's basic national conditions and the needs of national defense mobilization in order to fully explore new ways to improve the militia and reserve forces. It is also necessary to reduce the size of the reserve forces, readjust their structures and functions and improve their quality in line with the readjustments and reforms of armed forces on active duty. It is also very important to both further

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develop and implement the laws, regulations and policies regarding the building of the reserve forces.

**(3) Improving the connections between the national defense mobilization system and the emergency-response mechanisms.**

It is necessary to encourage more people to participate in the national emergency activities by making full use of the advantages of the national defense mobilization system, which is characterized by a large number of personnel, a closely knit structure, good training, well-equipped facilities, and rapid and effective actions. Meanwhile, it is necessary to fit the government emergency system into the national defense mobilization system to respond to war and emergencies. It is also necessary to actively explore the organic linking issues between the national defense mobilization system and the government emergency response mechanism in terms of its organization and command, use of force, information assurance, and other aspects.

**(4) Strengthening the information construction for national defense mobilization.** With regards to the role and tasks of national defense mobilization, it is necessary to strengthen the overall planning and management of information construction for national defense mobilization, while attaching greater importance to the key links between them. First, it is imperative to promote the information construction for more convenient and effective surveys of mobilization potentials. This will enable us to learn more about dynamic changes in mobilization potentials in a comprehensive, accurate and timely manner. Second, it is necessary to build a national defense mobilization database to support the analysis of national defense mobilization capabilities. Third, it is necessary to develop a decision-making-support system for national defense mobilization, which would make decision making more scientific and effective for national defense mobilization at all levels. Fourth, it is necessary to integrate the resources of the military and civilian networks to create an integrated online platform for national defense mobilization. Fifth, it is necessary to strengthen the protection for cyber security to improve the reliability and stability of the information system of national defense mobilization. Finally, it is necessary to make greater efforts to train professionals in the

information technology industry for national defense mobilization, and build up abundant human resources in this field.

**(5) Strengthening research in and preparation for overseas mobilization safeguard measures.** As a responsible power, China is tasked with a number of military operations other than war outside its territory. These operations include emergency rescue missions, peacekeeping, naval convoys, protection of one's own legal rights and evacuation of overseas Chinese nationals. These operations expand the scope and requirements of national defense mobilization and other related efforts. Hence, it is necessary to foster cooperation among the military, the government and other social actors, to work hard to coordinate in response to wars or emergencies, to reinforce the social support for the military forces, and to consolidate the achievements in the field that the military forces can utilize social resources when necessary. It is necessary to strengthen the construction of key projects that can serve both military and civilian purposes, as well as to enhance cooperation in guaranteeing domestic and international mobilization by relying on the potentials of overseas resources. Finally, It is also necessary to improve the system of policies, laws and regulations regarding guarantees for military operations outside China's territory, to improve the functions of mobilization bodies, to strengthen preparations for mobilization and relevant safeguard measures abroad, and to make sure that military operations other than war outside of China should go on wheels.