



Biographic Sketch

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CHINA
General XU Huizi
June 1994

~~(CONF)~~ NAME: General Xu (pronounced shoo) Huizi
(1776/1920/3320), People's Liberation Army (PLA).

~~(CONF)~~ POSITION: Deputy Chief of the General Staff (DCOGS), General Staff Department (GSD), since April 1985, and full member of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee (CC), since at least September 1985.



~~(CONF)~~ SIGNIFICANCE: Xu is the senior of three Deputy Chiefs of the General Staff and is the seventh ranking officer in the military hierarchy. He is responsible for operations, intelligence, and foreign affairs and has oversight responsibility for civil defense affairs. Xu is the functional equivalent of the J2/J3 on the U.S. Joint Staff and is generally considered equivalent to the U.S. Chief of Staff of the Army. Because of his military and diplomatic experience, personal ties, and party position, he likely exerts considerable influence on PLA decisionmaking.

~~(S/NF)~~ Xu has substantial combat and command experience. He was probably selected to become a DCOGS because of his successful command of the 39th Army in the Shenyang Military Region. Under Xu's command, the 39th reportedly was the second army in the PLA to become mechanized and to employ combined arms doctrine. Significantly, Xu orchestrated the overall planning and execution of the PLA operation against demonstrators at Tiananmen in 1989, served as deputy of the martial law command, and was actually on the streets directing the troops. Xu's Tiananmen experience was certainly noted in Hong Kong when Xu was appointed to the Preparatory Committee, headed by Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, which will oversee the reversion to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. Xu is also involved in the C³ modernization effort and is working toward reshaping the PLA by establishing new rules and regulations and by adopting some aspects of Western technology and military strategy.

~~(CONF)~~ As DCOGS, Xu has gained extensive diplomatic experience, travelling frequently outside of China. He made an Army Chief of Staff counterpart visit to the United States in October 1988 and has in recent months accompanied Military Commission Vice Chairman General Liu Huaqing to Southeast Asia. In December 1993, he became the highest ranking PLA visitor to India since the Sino-Indian border conflict of 1962. As DCOGS, he met frequently with North Korean delegations to China. His recent official U.S. contacts were with Assistant Secretary of Defense Freeman in November 1993, and with Undersecretary of Defense Wisner and ACJCS LtGen Ryan in March 1994.

~~(CONF)~~ POLITICS: Xu is politically well connected. He is reportedly the son of Marshall Xu Xiangqian, and he has served under former Chief of the General Staff Yang Dezhi and former National Defense University Political Commissar Li Desheng, both influential retired officers. He appears to be supportive of Sino-U.S. relations both for the benefits to the PLA and also to assure peace and stability in the Pacific.

~~(CONF)~~ PERSONAL DATA: Xu was born in 1932 in Shandong Province, according to the official Chinese biography. He speaks English, French, and Russian.

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General XU Huizi

~~(SND)~~ CAREER: Official Chinese publications state that Xu joined the PLA in 1948 (he would have been 16). Unconfirmed reports say he was a KMT (Nationalist) soldier and defected to the PLA after being captured. If true, it has not affected his career success, probably because of his age at the time and his later combat service in the PLA. Xu was cited for merit in the civil war and later served in Korea. In 1953, Xu studied at the Moscow Institute of Dynamics and then joined the faculty of the Frunze Military Academy. Xu returned to China in 1957 and subsequently served as Chief of the Operations Section of the General Staff Department and as a teacher at the Shijiazhuang Senior Army School. He took part in the 1962 Sino-Indian border clash. Xu was Commander of the 349th Regiment, 116th Infantry Division, 39th Army in 1969. He was a deputy chief of staff under Yang Dezhi at the Yunnan Front HQ, which executed the 1979 war against Vietnam. Xu's length of tour on the Sino-Vietnam border is unknown. However, prior to his transfer to Beijing in 1985, he served successively as Deputy Commander and Commander of the 39th Army (later 39th Group Army) in Shenyang Military Region. Xu was selected to be the DCOGS in April 1985. In September of the same year, he was elected a full member of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee. General Xu was promoted to his current rank on 8 June 1994.

Prepared by: (b)(3);10 USC 424; (b)(6)

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