

For Immediate Release
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BOOK RELEASE

**“BEYOND THE STRAIT:
PLA MISSIONS OTHER THAN TAIWAN”**

Washington, D.C. -- On April 30, 2009, The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR), the Strategic Studies Institute (SSI) of the U.S. Army War College, and the Texas A&M Bush School of Government and Public Affairs will officially release the new book *Beyond the Strait: PLA Missions Other Than Taiwan* edited by Roy D. Kamphausen, David Lai, and Andrew Scobell.

In praise of the book, Admiral Dennis C. Blair, Director of National Intelligence, called it “an essential read for those seeking to understand the evolving roles of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) in carrying out China’s foreign policy.” This latest volume in the series published annually by SSI represents the culmination of a conference held in September 2008, at which more than 70 leading experts on the PLA convened for a two-day discussion on the military’s missions and objectives.

As its capabilities increase in tandem with China’s rising power and expanding national interests, the PLA is involved in an increasing number and variety of missions in addition to its traditional focus on contingencies in the Taiwan Strait. *Beyond the Strait* explores these other missions and objectives, which include disaster and humanitarian relief, United Nations peacekeeping operations (UNPKO), counterterrorism and border defense, and outer space and cyberspace security. As chapter authors consider the interplay between China's armed forces and its increasingly complex foreign policy and international security environment, they shed light on how these interactions affect China’s policy toward the wider Asia-Pacific region and the implications for U.S. strategic interests.

To mark the release of *Beyond the Strait: PLA Missions Other Than Taiwan*, the Brookings Institution will co-host a book launch event from 2:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. on April 30. Copies of the book will be available at the launch, which will feature PLA experts from government and academia. 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, contact Sarah Snyder at (202) 347-9767.

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.