

# Zhang Youxia 张又侠

Born 1950

## Current Positions

- Member of the Central Military Commission (CMC) (2012–present)
- Commander of China’s Manned Space Program (2012–present)
- Full member of the Central Committee of the CCP (2007–present)



## Personal and Professional Background

Zhang Youxia was born in July 1950 in Beijing. His ancestral home is Weinan City, Shaanxi Province. He joined the PLA in 1968, but it is unclear when he joined the CCP. His educational background is also unclear, except for the fact that he attended the Jingshan School in Beijing as a high school student (1965–68).

Zhang advanced his military career step-by-step as a soldier, a squad leader, a platoon leader, a company commander, a battalion commander, and a deputy commander in a regiment (1968–84). A veteran of both the 1979 Sino-Vietnamese War and the Battle of Laoshan between China and Vietnam in 1984, he is one of few serving generals in China with wartime experience. He served as regiment commander, deputy division commander, and deputy commander of the 13th Group Army (1984–2000). He was then promoted to commander of the 13th Group Army (2000–05). After that, he served as deputy commander of the Beijing Military Region (2005–07) and commander of the Shenyang Military Region (2007–12). He served as director of the PLA General Equipment Department (2012–16) as well as director of the newly established PLA Central Military Commission Equipment Development Department (2016–17). He was first elected to the Central Committee as a full member at the 17th Party Congress in 2007.

Zhang assumed the rank of major general in 1997 and the rank of lieutenant general in 2007. He has held the rank of general since 2011.

*Compiled by Cheng Li and the staff of the John L. Thornton China Center at Brookings*