

《聚焦“两会”：2017年中国军费增长7%，将首次破万亿元！》

导读:3月4日，十二届全国人大五次会议召开首场新闻发布会，全国人大新闻发言人傅莹透露，2017年我国国防预算增幅在7%左右。2016年我国国防预算为9543.54亿元，这意味着今年将首次突破万亿元。



China says it will increase military spending by about 7% this year, just days after Donald Trump outlined a boost to the US defence budget.

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The scheduled announcement was made ahead of the annual National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing.

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China has been modernising its armed forces recently as its economy expands.

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China's announced defence budget remains smaller than that of the US. But many China observers argue the real figure could be much higher.

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It means that total spending will account for about 1.3% of the country's projected GDP in 2017, the same level as in recent years, said government spokeswoman Fu Ying.

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The precise figure for the country's military spending will be provided by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang when he addresses the NPC on Sunday.

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Earlier this week, US President Donald Trump said he was seeking to boost defence spending by 10% in his proposed budget for 2018.

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China's military build-up - and projection of naval power - has caused concerns in the region, where it has taken an increasingly assertive stance in territorial disputes.

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Beijing has been building artificial islands on reefs in waters also claimed by other nations in the South China Sea.

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Images published late last year show military defences on some islands, a think-tank says.

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Defending its right to build, China has said in the past that it has no intention of militarising the islands, but has acknowledged building what it calls necessary military facilities for defensive purposes.

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There have been sporadic incidents between US and Chinese ships in the South China Sea. Late last year, a Chinese ship seized a US navy underwater drone off the Philippines, but later agreed to return it.

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Chinese ships have also been involved in clashes and stand-offs with ships from Vietnam and the Philippines.

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Japan signed off a record defence budget last December in the face of territorial disputes with China in the East China Sea and North Korea's nuclear and missile threats.

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In Beijing, Ms Fu said on Saturday that China advocated "dialogue for peaceful resolutions, while at the same time, we need to possess the ability to defend our sovereignty and interests".

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