Beijing Olympics special issue

A visual guide to policing and security equipment in China

Recent media reports have highlighted the role of foreign countries and companies supplying the infrastructure for China’s police and security institutions. Much of this infrastructure and equipment will be visible during the Beijing Olympics, providing an opportunity to verify some of these claims, and to determine whether foreign-supplied equipment is used in compliance with human rights standards. This special newsletter is intended to provide a visual reference guide for interested journalists and researchers to identify security and policing equipment which may have been supplied to China, and may be used around the Beijing Olympics.

If you see some of this or other equipment being used around the Beijing Olympics, please get in touch, and we can help you identify the equipment. You may contact us via email at admin@mispo.org.

If you do not have access to the Mispo.org photo identification database and would like to have access, please contact us at admin@mispo.org for a temporary login and password.

About Mispo.org

Mispo.org is a fully searchable, continually updated online databank containing thousands of images of military, security and police equipment. Reference images allow researchers and journalists to identify equipment they see in use, while editorial images show equipment being used around the world, and identify its producers. International photojournalists and human rights organisations regularly upload new images onto the site where experienced arms trade researchers work to identify the equipment displayed.

Mispo.org works on a not-for-profit basis to highlight the processes of arms trading from the manufacturing stage to end-use. We provide a platform for photographers working in conflict zones to showcase their work and increase their exposure.

(A) Foreign equipment recently distributed in China

Long-Range Acoustic Device (LRAD)

The Long-Range Acoustic Device (LRAD), manufactured by American Technology Corporation (ATC), produces a focussed beam of sound at up to 151dB at 1 meter, depending on the model used. The device has received significant publicity following its reported use to repel pirates off the Somali coast in 2005,¹ and in 2007 in breaking up protests in Tbilisi, Georgia, where a researcher for Human Rights Watch observing the demonstration described the noise produced by the device as "unbearable," and interviewed a witness who stated that the noise contributed greatly to the initial panic among protestors.

The LRAD was exhibited at the April 2008 China Police exhibition in Beijing, mounted on a Dong Feng light military vehicle (left). The Asia-Pacific Xuanxhao Group (APX) were also displaying equipment visually

identical to the ATC LRAD. ATC's January 2008 Annual Return to the US Securities and Exchange Commission reported that "During fiscal 2007, we expanded our international marketing activities and shipped LRAD orders to Australia, Singapore, Korea and China, indicating a growing international market for our LRAD product line."

There is some debate as to whether the device is, as ATC recently claimed, a "communications system," or whether it is intended to cause discomfort. ATC press releases up to 2004 described the use of the LRAD for "area denial of personnel", "crowd and riot control" and "psychological operations", acting as "a less-than-lethal first responder acoustic capability to protect high value assets". A company representative has stated in a 2004 CNN interview: "Inside 100 yards, you definitely don't want to be there." Following the China Police 2008 display, a June 2008 Der Spiegel article by Daniel Pepper explored the question of whether these acoustic riot-control devices are "weapons."

Search tip: A “quick search” in Mispo for LRAD will show other pictures from the China Police 2008 exhibition.

Weapon sights and scopes

Since at least 2004 Chinese distributors have been marketing weapons scopes they claim are from two US companies, ATN and L-3 EOTech, at Chinese police and security equipment trade fairs. Sights which appear visually identical to distinctive EOTech holographic scopes have also appeared mounted on standard Chinese police Type 79 submachine guns in Xi’an during 2005, although we are unable to confirm without close inspection whether these are genuine US-produced EOTech scopes or copies.


3 Omega Research Foundation database

4 For examples, search for image numbers 53295802, 52255859 and 52255856 on Getty Images (gettyimages.com).

5 Getty Images newswire photographs taken during police demonstration, Xi’an, China, February 2005 and July 2005
Vehicles: Ford spiked internal security vehicle

This photo (Mispo image refs chinapolice2006030.jpg and chinapolice2006029.jpg) shows an internal security vehicle carrying a ‘Ford’ logo, with gun ports and external spikes, displayed at the China Police exhibition in 2006.

It is not clear whether this vehicle was produced in China or by Ford in the USA; and whether the spikes and gun ports were added by the manufacturer, or after supply. Ford has established two manufacturing joint ventures in China, Chang’an-Ford Automobile Corporation Ltd (later renamed Changan Ford Mazda Automobile Co., Ltd) and Changan Ford Mazda Engine Company Co., Ltd; and also owns a 30% share in Jiangling Motors Corporation Ltd which produces the Ford Transit commercial vehicle.6

Other Ford police vehicles in China: There are also several examples of police vehicles based on Ford vans, which have been photographed in training exercises or in use. You can search for “Equipment type  Vehicles” AND “Manufacturer Name  Ford Motor company” AND “Country Taken  China” to find them.

Beit Alfa Water Cannon

This water cannon vehicle, produced by Israeli company Beit Alfa Technologies Ltd, was displayed by a Chinese distributor at the China Police exhibition in Beijing in May 2006. Note the distinctive rear profile and raised lines along sides.

In August 2006 it was reported that “Beit Alpha Technologies, of Kibbutz Beit Alpha and [an] unnamed Chinese company will jointly develop and market vehicles for riot control and dispersal. The vehicles will be included in the deployment of Chinese security forces ahead of the Olympic Games….  

The company also sent a vehicle to Chinese police in order to demonstrate its innovative technologies.

**Surveillance cameras and equipment**

Make a note of logos and company names on CCTV cameras, security passes, biometric scanners and other security equipment.

Several reports have recently focussed on large-scale surveillance installations for public security authorities in China, often with the technical assistance or products of US and European companies.

This involvement has a long pedigree: after the Tiananmen Square massacres in 1989 it was reported that surveillance cameras installed in the Square, and reportedly used to identify protesters whose pictures were circulated on Chinese television, were produced by CCTV manufacturer Pelco (USA), as part of a UK-supplied Scoot surveillance system.

Pelco lists a number of Chinese government and penal institutions in a June 2007 “sample list of installations” on its website, including the “Shanghai Execution Ground”; “Shanghai Re-Education-through-Labor Camp”; “Shenzhen 2nd Re-Education-through-Labor Camp”; “Shenzhen Futian Detention Center”; “Zhongshan Prison” and numerous other prisons; the “Zhongnanhai”, the main complex of government buildings in Beijing; the “Alarm Center of Qinghai Police”; “Command Vehicle of Shanghai Police”; and several state security bureaux.

Foreign companies are more broadly involved in supplying software and for surveillance systems in China. For example, Chinese company HikVision promote themselves as the largest producer of CCTV cameras in China, and suppliers of Digital Video Recording (DVR) equipment to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

According to Hikvision’s advertising materials, Hikvision have been involved in the Chinese Ministry of Public Security’s “3111 Project,” which aims to integrate surveillance systems in several Chinese cities.

US companies Texas Instruments (TI) and ObjectVideo have reportedly entered into cooperative agreements allowing Hikvision to adopt TI’s “DaVinci” package of digital signal processing chips and software, and to use ObjectVideo’s “intelligent video analysis” software.

The Hangzhou government claims that Hikvision “is a subsidiary of the 52nd Research Institute of China Electronics Technology Group Corporation [CETC], as a Sino-

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1 'Israeli company sells anti-riot vehicles to China ahead of Olympics’, Ha’aretz, 22 August 2006
5 HikVision marketing materials, June 2007
6 HikVision advertisement, October 2007
Foreign joint venture”. CETC is a state-owned corporation; its 52nd Research Institute, according to industry news sources and the US Defense Department, is focused on military research and make digital video recorders with military-standard anti-shock protection for tanks and military vehicles. 

(B) Domestic products

China’s domestic arms and security industries also produce a wide range of weapons and security equipment for China’s police and security forces. The details below show you how Mispo.org can produce sets of reference images to identify Chinese-made or foreign-supplied equipment.

Chemical irritants/tear gas munitions

For pictures of chemical irritant/tear gas munitions, go to the search page and search on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment Type</th>
<th>Less than Lethal Weaponry</th>
<th>Grenades/Canisters – CS OR Grenades/Canisters - other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplier Country</td>
<td>China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or, you may click on this hyperlink to go directly to the search results.

Identification note: Tear gas canisters can be identified by a combination of shape, colour, markings and surface detail. Initially compare the shape of the canister. Because some canisters appear visually similar, it is important also to compare the colouring, markings and/or serial numbers on the canister. These markings may also contain information about where or when the canister was produced.

Mispo.org provides markings and labelling of equipment where possible. For instance, the 48mm grenades above (Image Ref hubeichems5.jpg) are marked:

(Latin Characters only, clockwise from top left):

- Paper-wrapped canister:
  - DQK91
  - DQK91
  - __ __ 604
  - __ __ 604

- Yellow canister:
  - DSQ91
  - __ __

For assistance with identification, feel free to contact us at admin@mispo.org
Chinese armed police also typically carry submachine guns such as the Type 79 light submachine gun – see picture provided by photo-agency OnAsia [here](http://www.onasia.com) or on Mispo.org (image ref cmc00084c.jpeg).

Small arms

China’s state arsenals produce a range of small arms. To the left is a selection of Chinese small arms on display on stand of distributor China Jing An at the Milipol 2005 exhibition in Paris, November 2005.

Top to bottom:

- 6-shot revolver type anti-riot launcher
- 5.56mm Butt Extendable Automatic Rifle [Chinese copy of M16 rifle]
- 5.56mm Automatic rifle with underbarrel grenade launcher
- Model AK - 2000 Group 5.56mm automatic rifle

Chinese police have been seen with 6-shot launchers of this kind, and 5.8mm QBZ rifles which are visually similar to the 3rd-from-top rifle here.

Small Arms/Light Weapons: Two sample searches

(click on hyperlink or enter the search terms below)

**Assault rifles**

- **Equipment Type** ➔ Small Arms
- Light Weapons ➔ Rifles - assault

**SALW (general)**

- **Equipment Type** ➔ Small Arms
- Light Weapons

AND

Any ➔ China
Vehicles: Mobile execution vans

This picture (right) is a Nanjing Iveco PowerDaily Minibus on display at China Police 2008. Although this van itself is not an execution van, it is the same type of van reportedly equipped for executions in Yunnan Province in 2003.

The newspaper USA Today reported about another type of mobile execution van in 2004.

Note: Mispo image ref is 2nanjingivecopowerda.jpg.

Other vehicles

In addition to foreign-made police vehicles, China has a significant domestic vehicle manufacturing industry. Below are examples of Chinese-manufactured police vehicles:

- Dongfeng Motor Co.: ‘Eastwind’ EQ2050 Menshi. Image Ref: chinapolice2006089.jpg
- Wheeled armoured vehicle with logo of Jincheng Auto; Image Ref: chinapolice2006072.jpg
- Water cannon manufactured by Chongqing Hongyan Motor Co., Ltd.; Image Ref: chinapolice2006068.jpg
- Guangzhou Huakai Vehicles Equipment Co., Ltd. riot control vehicle with water cannon; Image ref: 15riot.jpg
- Wheeled armoured vehicle from Shaanxi Baoji Special Vehicles; Image Ref: shaanxibaojiapc.jpg
- ZFB05 - ZFB05A Light type wheel armoured vehicle manufactured by Baoji Special Vehicles Manufacturing Co Ltd; Image Ref: dsa2006002.jpg

Note: Mispo image ref is 2nanjingivecopowerda.jpg.
Vehicles: Two sample searches
(click on hyperlink or enter the search terms below)

Vehicles (general)

Equipment Type ➔ Vehicles
AND
Any ➔ China

Vehicles (for IDs)

Equipment Type ➔ Vehicles
AND
Any ➔ China

More sample searches
(click on hyperlink or enter the search terms below)

General 'Less than Lethal' weapons

Equipment Type ➔ Less than Lethal Weaponry
AND
Any ➔ China

Electroshock weapons

Equipment Type ➔ Electroshock equipment
AND
Any ➔ China