China outpaces America in sub numbers – US admiral

26/02/2015



The Chinese are experimenting with new geographic location, length of missions and new weapons, Vice Admiral Joseph Mulloy, deputy chief of naval operations for capabilities and resources, told the House Armed Services Committee's Seapower Subcommittee on Wednesday.

*"They may not be the same quality, but their submarine forces are growing at a tremendous rate. They now have more diesel and nuclear attack submarines than we have,"* the admiral told the lawmakers. *"They are producing some fairly amazing submarines and they are actually deploying them."*

Read more? NATO member Turkey to buy $3.4 billion worth of incompatible Chinese antimissiles

The Chinese naval missions included at least three deployments into the Indian Ocean, Mulloy told the committee. They can also send strategic ballistic missile submarines on missions lasting for 95 days.

*"We don't think they have nuclear weapons on board, but we've seen them producing the missiles and testing them,"* the admiral said. *"We know they are out experimenting and looking*

*at operating and clearly want to be in this world of advanced submarines."*

The US Navy reported having 71 commissioned submarines. The Chinese, according to Pentagon estimates voiced last year, has 77 principal surface combatant ships, more than 60 submarines, 55 large and medium amphibious ships, and about 85 missile-equipped small combatants.

Read more [US could permanently base warships in Australia – admiral](#)

Despite having world largest defense budget, the US has been looking wearily at other nations building up their armed forces. China is investing heavily in new technology, seeking to project its military power in the Pacific region.

Washington has repeatedly criticized Beijing, saying it's using its military to put leverage on other regional players, including US allies like Japan and South Korea, in territorial disputes.