

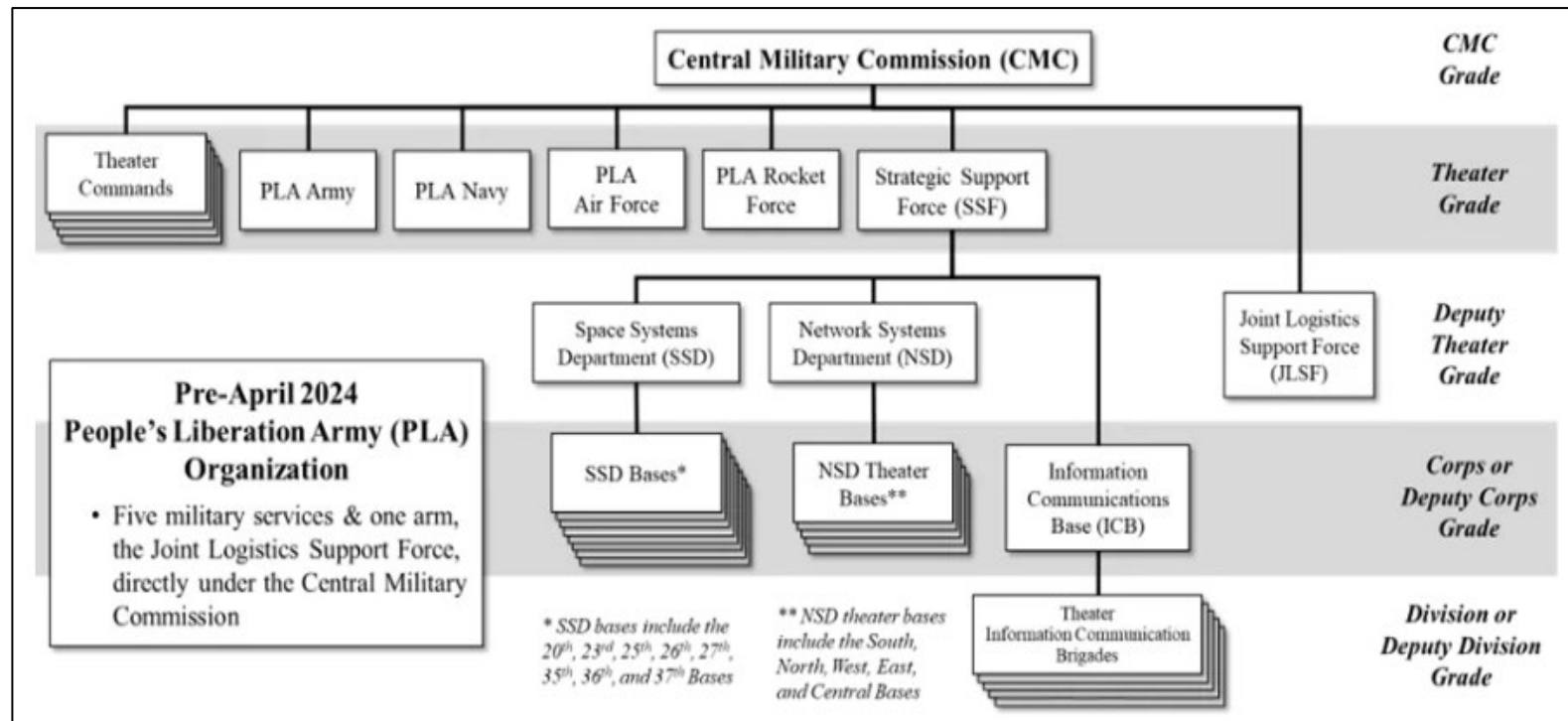


Chinese Military Reform

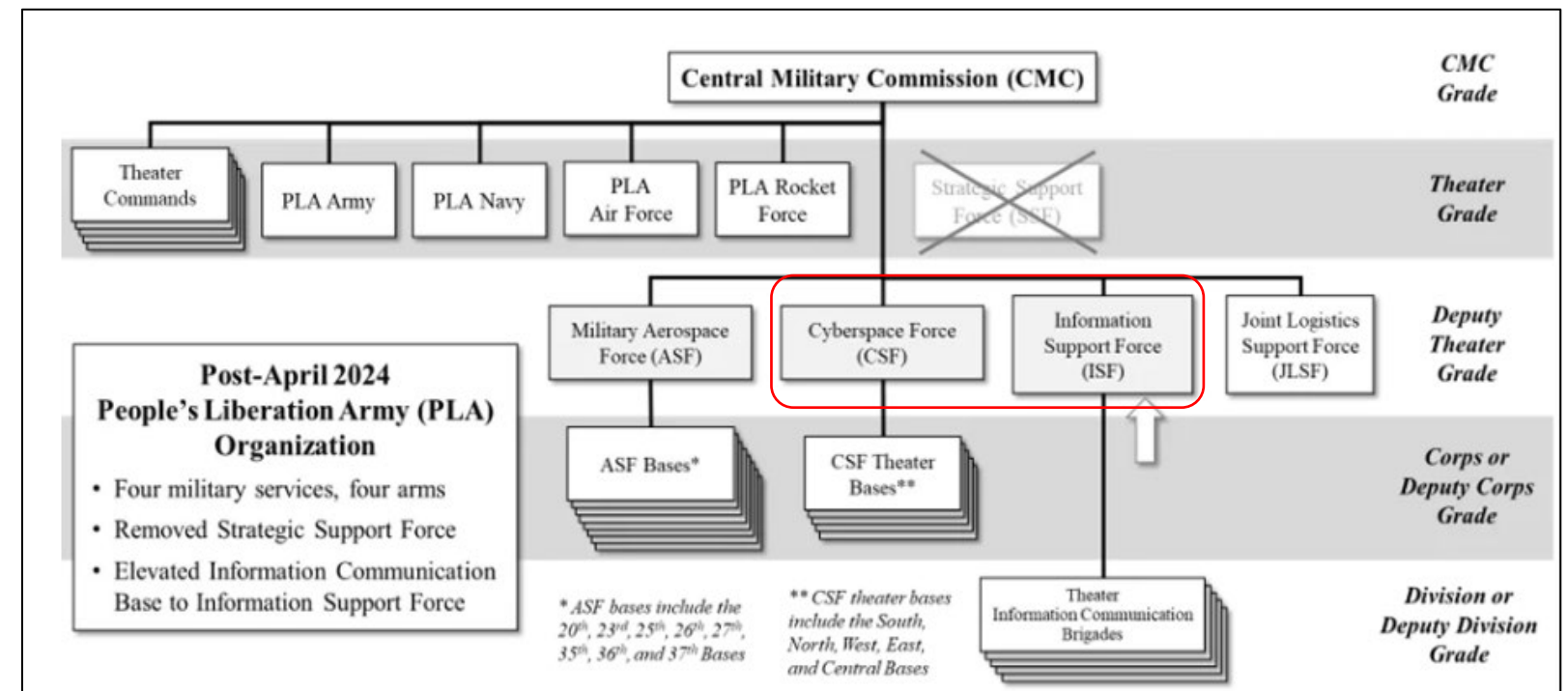
U.S. ARMY

Chinese President Xi Jinping and the PLA dissolved the Strategic Support Force (SSF) to create three parallel divisions, all reporting directly to the Central Military Commission (CMC), of which he is Chairman. This move seems to further consolidate his power as the supreme leader.

Pre-April 2024 People's Liberation Army (PLA) Organization



Post-April 2024 People's Liberation Army (PLA) Organization



Possible Explanations

- Xi is supposed to have been unhappy over how the Chinese surveillance balloon shot down. This was an intelligence failure and lack of synergies across the different divisions within the SSF
- SFF is heavily reliant on cutting-edge technology and was increasingly becoming vulnerable to U.S. efforts to curb hi-tech exports
- Xi's lack of faith in the SSF also needs to be seen in his attempts to curb the rampant and widespread corruption within the Chinese military
- Xi's attempts at cutting out layers of command and enabling him and his closest leaders in the CMC to speak directly to tactical forces

Rationale for SSF Elimination Unclear

It is not entirely clear why the PLA decided to eliminate the Strategic Support Force. Palace intrigue surrounded the potential elimination of the SSF since its commander, General Ju Qiansheng had been missing from public appearances since the Summer of 2023. Ju was rumored to be caught up in ongoing corruption scandals involving the PLA Rocket Force and Equipment Development Department.

Sources: [4 Reasons Why China's Xi Jinping Has Taken 'Direct Control' Of Military & Disbanded 'Much Hyped' SSF](#) (The Eurasian Times)
[Why Xi created a new Information Support Force, and why now](#) (Breaking Defense)
[A Disturbance in the Force: The Reorganization of People's Liberation Army Command and Elimination of China's Strategic Support Force](#) (The Jamestown Foundation)