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On the cover:

The People's Liberation Army Navy (PLA Navy) currently possesses approximately 77 principal surface combatants (65 of which are modern), more than 60 submarines, 56 medium and large amphibious ships, 42 mine warfare vessels, over 50 major auxiliary ships, and roughly 85 missile-equipped small combatants. Even if order-of-battle numbers remain relatively constant through 2020, the PLA Navy, according to a testimony on 30 January 2014 before the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, will possess far more combat capability due to the rapid rate of acquisition coupled with improving operational proficiency. At least 15 "Jiangkai II" class (Type 054A) frigates (pictured) are now operational, with more under construction. They have proven instrumental in sustaining the People's Republic of China's counter-piracy presence in the Gulf of Aden.

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