

## France, China stage naval exercise

*by UPI*

TOULON, France -- Two Chinese warships headed for home port Wednesday after completing a joint exercise with the French Navy in the Mediterranean Sea. The guided missile destroyer Guangzhou and supply ship Weishanhu arrived at the port city of Toulon on Friday, and Tuesday, worked jointly with French ships in five search and rescue operations, China's state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Major General Su Zhiqian, commander of the two Chinese naval vessels, said the exercise had explored ways to jointly respond to "unconventional security threats" and increased their capability to deal with security crises. Prior to visiting France, more than 500 Chinese officers and sailors aboard the two ships had docked in St. Petersburg, Russia; Portsmouth, England and Cadiz, Spain, in an 87-day voyage, the report said.

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