



Situation Room

**** SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE ****

Period under review: from 24 June 2021 to 30 June 2021.

[This report is based on publicly available sources to describe a changing situation. Information subject to change.]

Situation analysis recap:

- The US State Department approved the potential sale of F-16 fighter jets as well as Sidewinder and Harpoon missiles to the Philippines in three separate deals with a combined value of more than 2.5 billion dollars.
- India's warships and fighter aircraft had a joint drill with the United States Navy's *Ronald Reagan* Carrier Strike Group, which recently conducted maritime security operations in the South China Sea.
- Indonesia and the United States agreed to build a new 3.5 million dollars maritime training centre in the strategic area of Batam, in the Riau Islands.
- The United States has committed itself to continuing to support Indonesia as a friend and partner in the role of maintaining regional peace and security in the fight against domestic and transnational crime.
- Malaysia announced it intended to purchase 36 new light military aircraft. The decision was made amid growing pressure from China, which is violating Malaysia's maritime sovereignty. Recently, several Chinese military aircraft invaded Malaysian airspace, further motivating Malaysia to invest in air force modernization.
- China has deployed its supposedly most advanced stealth fighter jet (J-20) to air force units monitoring the Taiwan Strait and the East China Sea. The new brigade equipped with upgraded J-20s was deployed in a ceremony as a part of the celebrations of the centenary of China's Communist Party.
- The Philippines have yet again reported a large increase in the number of mysterious ships sailing into the disputed waters around Union Banks in the Spratly Islands. The ships are believed to be Chinese maritime militia vessels, despite the Chinese seasonal ban on fishing in the region.

Sources/Further Reading:

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