



Situation Room

**** MONITORING SECURITY IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ****

Period under review: from 17 May 2025 to 17 June 2025

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

Situation analysis recap:

- **(17 May)** The 11th World Radar Expo in Hefei showcased China's latest advanced radar technologies—highlighting anti-stealth systems like the JY-27V, YLC-8E, and SLC-7—designed for rapid deployment, high mobility, and enhanced detection capabilities against stealth aircraft and a range of aerial threats.
- **(19 May)** The British Royal Navy sailed the warship *HMS Spey* through the South China Sea to assert freedom of navigation in accordance with international law, responding to China's territorial claims and underlining the United Kingdom's commitment to a free, open, and stable Indo-Pacific region.
- **(20 May)** China began a three-day live-fire military exercises in the South China Sea on Tuesday, with the China Maritime Safety Administration stating that military vessels are prohibited from entering certain areas until Thursday evening. The Philippines announced it is withholding any new arms deals with Israel until it publicly recognises Philippine sovereignty over its claims in the disputed areas of the South China Sea.
- **(21 May)** A Chinese envoy rejected US accusations over the South China Sea, asserting that the United States is the greatest threat to regional security and stability.
- **(23 May)** China has warned the US against using the Philippines to create tensions in the South China Sea and called on the Philippines to stop provocations near Tiexian Jiao in the Nansha Islands.
- **(27 May)** The Philippine civilian coalition Atin Ito has, with its third peace mission, once again challenged China's territorial claims in the South China Sea despite rising tensions. Atin Ito has sailed two vessels to the Pag-asa island where they performed a concert.
- **(28 May)** China landed two advanced bombers on the disputed Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, which analysts see as a new sign of Beijing's growing military power.
- **(30 May)** Wu Shicun, head of China's maritime cooperation centre, said the disputes in the South China Sea are not the only issues of concern of China-ASEAN relations and that ASEAN-China Free Trade Area ACFTA 3.0 could promote maritime cooperation and help ease tensions. The negotiations of the ACFTA upgrade were discussed during the ASEAN-China summit in October 2024.
- **(31 May)** China's navy conducted combat patrols near the disputed Scarborough Shoal, while South Korea discovered additional Chinese buoys in contested waters of the Yellow Sea.
- **(1 June)** China cautioned the UK's military against sending its carrier through East Asia, claiming it risked miscalculation amid tensions over Taiwan and the South China Sea. The UK sent the carrier *HMS Prince of Wales* along with its strike group into the Indo-Pacific for an eight-month deployment in April.

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- **(5 June)** China urged the EU to stop ‘provoking trouble’. Beijing accused the EU and the Philippines of using illegal, coercive, aggressive measures in the South China Sea, following concern over Philippine maritime operations.
- **(6 June)** The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, led a week-long visit to the Philippines. There the EU’s foreign policy chief expressed concern over China’s illegal, coercive, aggressive, and deceptive measures in the disputed waterway.
- **(8 June)** China condemned recent US-Philippines drills in the South China Sea as provocative and vowed to defend its sovereignty.
- **(15 June)** The People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater held combined air–sea patrols in response to the joint US-Philippines exercises. The PLA stated that stating the Philippines’ joint drills with the US raised security risks and reaffirmed China would defend its sovereignty
- **(16 June)** The US carrier *USS Nimitz* sailed out of the region after a planned port call in Da Nang in Vietnam was cancelled. The reason for the redeployment were increasing tensions in the Middle East.
- **(17 June)** The US stationed additional Typhon missile launchers and redeployed others to new locations in the Philippines. The Typhon launchers can a variety of missiles, including Tomahawk cruise missiles and medium-range ballistic missiles. Manila’s armed forces expressed support for additional US Typhon missile launchers despite strong warnings from Beijing

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