

**SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS No.84**  
**July 2020**

**ACTS OF CLAIMANTS**

**30 July 2020: Chinese long-range bombers join drills over South China Sea**

China said Thursday that long-range bombers were among the aircraft that took part in recent aerial drills over the South China Sea amid rising tensions between Washington and Beijing over the strategic waterway.

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/chinese-long-range-bombers-join-drills-south-china-72072293>

**30 July 2020: Philippines, Malaysia spar over Sabah ownership, reviving long-standing dispute**

The Philippines' top diplomat this week sparked a row on Twitter by asserting ownership over the Malaysian state of Sabah on the island of Borneo, reviving a long-standing territorial dispute between the Southeast Asian neighbours. Philippine Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr said on Twitter that "Sabah is not in Malaysia if you want to have anything to do with the Philippines", reacting to a US embassy item describing the area straddling both nations as part of Malaysia.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/diplomacy/article/3095297/philippines-malaysia-spar-over-sabah-ownership-reviving-long>

**29 July 2020: China hits back at Australia-US statement on South China Sea, Hong Kong**

"We firmly reject and oppose the unfounded accusations and attacks against China on issues related to Hong Kong, Xinjiang and the South China Sea made in the recent Joint Statement of Australia-US Ministerial Consultations. Their assertions, in disregard of basic facts, violated international law and basic norms governing international relations and grossly interfered in China's internal affairs. We reiterate that the Chinese side is unwavering in upholding national sovereignty, security and its legitimate rights and interests. We are firmly committed to maintaining regional peace and stability. Any attempt to pressure China will never succeed. We urge Australia not to go further on the road of harming China-Australia relations, and truly proceeding from its own interests, do more things that are conducive to mutual trust and co-operation between the two countries."

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/innovation/military/china-hits-back-at-australia-us-statement-on-south-china-sea-hong-kong/news-story/efb2925d910ea9f32af9385ec581a0d3>

**29 July 2020: China appreciates Duterte's remarks on South China Sea**

China appreciated the remarks of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on the South China Sea issue and stood ready to properly resolve maritime disputes with the Philippines through friendly consultations, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said here on Tuesday

<https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2020/07/29/china-appreciates-duterte039s-remarks-on-south-china-sea>

**28 July 2020: Duterte gives in to Beijing's claimed possession of South China Sea**

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday (July 27) admitted that he "cannot do anything" against Beijing's aggressive pursuit of territory in the South China Sea since the country would be no match for the superpower in a war.

<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3975493>

**27 July 2020: Philippines' Duterte says cannot confront China over maritime claims**

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday said he had no choice but to treat disputes in the South China Sea as diplomatic endeavours because the alternative was to go to war with China. Duterte was speaking in defence of his government's decision not to press a 2016 decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which went in favour of the Philippines in a case against China. During his annual address to the nation, Duterte said China was in possession of territory that his country did not have the capability to challenge militarily, adding "we cannot go to war".

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-politics-southchinasea/philippines-duterte-says-cannot-confront-china-over-maritime-claims-idUSKCN24S110>

**22 July 2020: South China Sea: 'no sense' in pushing Philippines' case at UN General Assembly, Locsin says**

The Philippine foreign secretary on Wednesday rejected a call for Manila to press its South China Sea dispute with Beijing at the United Nations General Assembly this September. Teodoro Locsin Jr said it wouldn't "make any sense" to revisit the 2016 ruling of a UN arbitral court that sided with Manila against China's territorial claims as "we won it already". "Why would you want to re-litigate something that you won? You don't like you won?" asked Locsin, referring to a suggestion by the former foreign affairs secretary Albert del Rosario that the Philippines raise the issue of enforcement at the summit.

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3094291/south-china-sea-no-sense-pushing-philippines-case-un-summit>

**21 July 2020: South China Sea: Chinese air force 'sends warning' to US Navy with live-fire drills**

China's air force held live-fire drills and sent more fighter jets to its base on disputed Woody Island in the South China Sea last week, as the US Navy steps up drills and freedom of navigation operations in the region.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3094128/south-china-sea-chinese-air-force-sends-warning-us-navy-live>

**20 July 2020: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei's Statement on the South China Sea:**

Brunei Darussalam reaffirms its commitment to the maintenance of peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. Brunei Darussalam maintains its two-step approach in addressing the South China Sea. Specific issues should be addressed bilaterally by the countries directly concerned through peaceful dialogue and consultations. Brunei Darussalam emphasises that such negotiations on the South China Sea should be resolved

in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the rules and principles of international law. In addition, all countries concerned need to promote a calm, peaceful and conducive environment, building confidence and enhancing mutual trust in the region. Brunei Darussalam stresses the importance of working actively towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC). Brunei Darussalam will continue to engage with all countries and contribute to the maintenance of regional peace and stability.

<http://www.mfa.gov.bn/Lists/Press%20Room/news.aspx?id=841&source=http://www.mfa.gov.bn/site/home.aspx>

### **20 July 2020: China ambassador to London: South China Sea patrol ‘not the way to play an important role’**

China’s ambassador to London said the United Kingdom should not “gang up with the United States on the Chinese” in the South China Sea, according to a report in the London newspaper The Times. Ambassador Liu Xiaoming, in an interview with The Times, expressed dismay over Britain’s plans to send its aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth on patrol to the South China Sea next year, the newspaper reported Saturday. “After Brexit I think the U.K. still wants to play an important role in the world,” he told The Times. “That is not the way to play an important role.”

<https://www.stripes.com/news/china-ambassador-to-london-south-china-sea-patrol-not-the-way-to-play-an-important-role-1.638111>

### **20 July 2020: Defence minister: South China Sea must be managed in peaceful, rational manner**

Malaysia stands firm on its position that the South China Sea issue must be managed in a peaceful and rational manner through dialogue and consultation. The Ministry of Defence in a statement said the matter had been emphasised by its minister, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob during a conversation with Japan’s Defence Minister Kono Taro through a telephone call, today.

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2020/07/20/defence-minister-south-china-sea-must-be-managed-in-peaceful-rational-manne/1886330>

### **20 July 2020: US, Chinese embassies in Myanmar spar over Hong Kong, South China Sea**

In an op-ed written for US Embassy, Myanmar, Ambassador George N Sibley lashed out at China for aggressively cracking down on the independent democratic spirit of Hong Kong. The US embassy also highlighted that Chinese actions in South China Sea and Hong Kong are part of a "larger pattern to undermine the sovereignty of its neighbours". Responding to US' remarks, the Chinese embassy accused the US of "outrageously smearing" China and driving a wedge with its South-East Asian neighbours over the contested South China Sea and Hong Kong, as tensions mount between the superpowers.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/international/article/us-chinese-embassies-in-myanmar-spar-over-hong-kong-south-china-sea/624403>

### **18 July 2020: Indonesian Navy to conduct exercises in the South China Sea**

Indonesia's Navy will today conduct exercises in the vicinity of the Riau Islands. The comprehensive exercises, which will involve forces from the Navy's Western Fleet, Military Naval Command, Marine Corps, and Naval Aviation, will test anti-air, anti-submarine, surface, special forces and amphibious landing capabilities.

<https://foreignbrief.com/daily-news/indonesian-navy-to-conduct-exercises-in-the-south-china-sea/>

**17 July 2020: Filipino fishermen welcome US decision on South China Sea row**

The United States says it is ready to support countries that believe China's territorial claims in the South China Sea are illegal. It comes after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the US does not recognise most of Beijing's claims in the strategically important region. It is a decision that has been welcomed by fishermen in the Philippines who are being pushed out of their usual fishing spots by the Chinese navy. Al Jazeera's Jamela Alindogan reports from Zambales province, the Philippines.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/07/filipino-fishermen-decision-south-china-sea-row-200716105140766.html>

**15 July 2020: Foreign ministers from China, Philippines discuss South China Sea after US statement from Mike Pompeo**

China's foreign minister Wang Yi called on Manila to cherish its hard-won friendship with Beijing and focus on bilateral cooperation, in a Tuesday conversation with his Philippine counterpart Teodoro Locsin Jr that was prompted by an unusually sharp exchange of statements over the 2016 South China Sea arbitral ruling.

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3093327/foreign-ministers-china-philippines-discuss-south-china-sea>

**14 July 2020: Remarks by Spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy on the Statement of the US Department of State on the South China Sea**

On July 13, 2020, the US Department of State issued a statement that disregards the efforts of China and ASEAN countries for peace and stability in the South China Sea, deliberately distorts the facts and international law including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), exaggerates the situation in the region and attempts to sow discord between China and other littoral countries. The accusation is completely unjustified. The Chinese side is firmly opposed to it.

[http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/zmgxss/t1797515.htm?fbclid=IwAR2l8lwnuF1glx3jJZFynMcPjV37hEGa8l\\_acO2ADLdet41Hyr3wV3P4Pbk](http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/zmgxss/t1797515.htm?fbclid=IwAR2l8lwnuF1glx3jJZFynMcPjV37hEGa8l_acO2ADLdet41Hyr3wV3P4Pbk)

**13 July 2020: PH town given power to name sandbars to assert sovereignty vs China**

The municipality of Kalayaan in the West Philippine Sea is taking a step to strengthen the country's claims by naming the three sandbars between Pag-asa (Thitu) Island and Chinese-occupied Zamora (Subi) Reef.

<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/189433/ph-town-given-power-to-name-sandbars-to-assert-sovereignty-vs-china#ixzz6S8UxSc7q>

**12 July 2020: Locsin says South China Sea ruling 'non-negotiable'**

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. on Sunday, July 12, 2020, said the South China Sea arbitral ruling that favored the Philippines four years ago is “non-negotiable”. In a statement, Locsin said it clearly marked out “who would be in the wrong to insist on claims” contrary to the award.

<https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1863280/Manila/Local-News/Locsin-says-South-China-Sea-ruling-non-negotiable>

**6 July 2020: China says U.S. sent ships to South China Sea to flex its muscles**

China’s foreign ministry said on Monday the United States had deliberately sent its ships to the South China Sea to flex its muscles and accused Washington of trying to drive a wedge between the countries in the region.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-usa-china-southchinasea-mofa/china-says-u-s-sent-ships-to-south-china-sea-to-flex-its-muscles-idUKKBN2470Q2>

**03 July 2020: China military exercises in South China Sea will 'further destabilise' the situation: Pentagon**

The Pentagon on Thursday expressed its concern about China's decision to conduct military exercises in a disputed island in the South China Sea, noting the act will "further destabilise" the situation.

<https://www.wionews.com/world/china-military-exercises-in-south-china-sea-will-further-destabilise-the-situation-pentagon-310335>

**03 July 2020: Locsin warns of ‘severest response’ if China’s army drills in SCS ‘spill over’ to PH domain**

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. on Friday warned China that it would be met with “severest response” should its military exercises in the South China Sea “spill over” to the Philippine territory.

<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/189213/locsin-warns-of-severest-response-if-chinas-army-drills-in-scs-spill-over-to-ph-domain#ixzz6R8iMtubq>

**30 June 2020: China announces military drills in East Sea amid escalating tensions**

The Maritime Safety Administration of China's Hainan Province has announced plans to hold military exercises near Vietnam's Paracel Islands from Wednesday to Sunday.

It said on its website that no vessel is allowed to enter the area in the South China Sea, which Vietnam calls the East Sea, when the drills are underway.

<https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/china-announces-military-drills-in-east-sea-amid-escalating-tensions-4123100.html>

**ASEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA**

**19 July 2020: ASEAN appreciates US stance on South China Sea**

Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have thanked the United States for backing international law on the South China Sea. The ambassadors in Washington D.C. of eight ASEAN member nations – Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Thailand, the Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam – have delivered messages of thanks to the U.S. for expressing clearly its stance that international laws, including the

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, should apply in the South China Sea and other water bodies in the region.

<https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/asean-appreciates-us-stance-on-south-china-sea-4132699.html>

## **OTHER STATES AND SOUTH CHINA SEA**

### **28 July 2020: Joint Statement on Australia-U.S. Ministerial Consultations 2020:**

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2290911/joint-statement-on-australia-us-ministerial-consultations-ausmin-2020/>

The Secretaries and Ministers expressed serious concerns over recent coercive and destabilizing actions across the Indo-Pacific. In line with the 2016 decision of the Arbitral Tribunal, they affirmed that Beijing’s maritime claims are not valid under international law. Specifically, they affirmed that the PRC cannot assert maritime claims in the South China Sea based on the “nine-dash line,” “historic rights,” or entire South China Sea island groups, which are incompatible with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). They noted that the 2016 Arbitral Award is final and binding on both parties and emphasized that all claims in the South China Sea must be made and resolved in accordance with international law. They also expressed their support for the rights of claimants to lawfully exploit offshore resources, including in relation to long-standing oil and gas projects as well as fisheries in the South China Sea, free from harassment and coercion. They welcomed the recent ASEAN Leaders statement that a South China Sea Code of Conduct should be consistent with UNCLOS, and emphasized that any Code should not prejudice the rights or interests of States under international law or undermine existing regional architecture, and should strengthen the commitment of parties not to engage in actions that complicate or escalate disputes, notably militarization of disputed features.

### **25 July 2020: Australia labels China's claims to South China Sea illegal**

Australia has rejected China's claim to key parts of the South China Sea, joining the United States in branding the territorial ambitions unlawful at the United Nations. The move could pave the way for increased naval engagement in the area a week after Australian warships encountered the Chinese navy in disputed territory between Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines.

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/australia-labels-china-s-claims-to-south-china-sea-illegal-20200725-p55fde.html>

### **23 July 2020: South China Sea: Australian warships encounter Chinese navy in disputed waters**

Australian warships have encountered China’s navy in the disputed South China Sea at a time of heightened diplomatic tensions between the two countries. The Australian government has played down the encounter – believed to have occurred last week – saying on Thursday that “all interactions with foreign warships throughout the deployment were conducted in a safe and professional manner”.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/23/south-china-sea-australian-warships-encounter-chinese-navy-in-disputed-waters>

### **21 July 2020: US Defense Secretary Mark Esper looking to visit China this year amid tensions**

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper said on Tuesday he hoped to visit China by the end of the year to discuss areas of mutual interest, even as he condemned Chinese maritime activity in the South China Sea.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/us-defense-secretary-mark-esper-looking-to-visit-china-this-year-amid-tensions/articleshow/77086565.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/us-defense-secretary-mark-esper-looking-to-visit-china-this-year-amid-tensions/articleshow/77086565.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

### **21 July 2020: SECDEF Esper: U.S. Will ‘Keep Up the Pace’ of South China Sea Freedom of Navigation Operations**

The U.S. will continue to keep up the pace of freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea, which hit an all-time high in 2019, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said on Tuesday. Esper, speaking at an online event hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said the U.S. policy has always been backed up by its actions like FONOps and other presence operations. Last year marked “the greatest number of freedom of navigations operations in the South China Sea in the 40-year history of the FONOps program, and we will keep up the pace this year.”

<https://news.usni.org/2020/07/21/secdef-esper-u-s-will-keep-up-the-pace-of-south-china-sea-freedom-of-navigation-operations>

### **21 July 2020: MSDF joins exercises with U.S. and Australia on doorstep of South China Sea**

The Maritime Self-Defense Force conducted trilateral military exercises with the Australian Defence Force and the USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group on the doorstep of the disputed South China Sea on Tuesday. The move, the latest show of naval might in the waters, was sure to anger China. The exercises in the Philippine Sea by the navies, which began Sunday, are seen as a chance to emphasize all three nations’ commitment to the so-called “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy” coined by the administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. “I believe strengthening cooperation with the U.S. Navy and Royal Australian Navy is vitally important for Japan, and also contributes to a Free and Open Indo-Pacific in the region,” Capt. Yusuke Sakano, commander of the MSDF’s Escort Division 4, said in a statement. “The experience in this exercise will give us tactical and operational advantages and make our friendships stronger, in addition to our regular joint exercises with both like-minded navies.”

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/07/21/national/msdf-military-exercises-us-australia-south-china-sea/>

### **18 July 2020: South China Sea: Chinese state firms could face US sanctions**

Several Chinese state-owned companies could be hit with US sanctions for their roles in expanding the nation’s presence in the disputed waters of the South China Sea. David Stilwell, the US assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, this week accused China of using its state-owned firms to bully its regional neighbours to secure oil and mineral reserves. He also hinted that the US might respond with sanctions against the officials and enterprises involved.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3093698/south-china-sea-chinese-state-firms-could-face-us-sanctions>

**16 July 2020: US spy drone seen over South China Sea headed for Taiwan, Chinese think tank says**

A US Navy MQ-4C Triton drone was seen flying towards the southeast of Taiwan on Wednesday. A US Navy MQ-4C Triton drone was seen flying towards the southeast of Taiwan on Wednesday. A US Navy MQ-4C Triton drone was seen flying towards the southeast of Taiwan on Wednesday. The United States has sent a high-altitude spy drone over the South China Sea, a Chinese think tank said on Thursday, days after Washington declared most of Beijing's claims in the hotly contested waterway were "unlawful".

The US Navy MQ-4C Triton – a long endurance unmanned aerial vehicle – was seen flying towards the southeast of Taiwan at about noon on Wednesday, according to the SCS Probing Initiative (SCSPI), a Peking University think tank.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3093471/us-spy-drone-seen-over-south-china-sea-headed-taiwan-chinese>

**16 July 2020: U.S. Aircraft Carriers 'Exercising' in the South China Sea Could Spell Danger**

The recent sending of two U.S. aircraft carriers into the South China Sea for military exercises is not unprecedented, but could portend danger in this election season. With history as a guide, nations around the world are usually careful about giving a U.S. president any excuse for military action during an election year, especially a chief executive with weak poll numbers and an especially fervent zeal for re-election.

<https://www.independent.org/news/article.asp?id=13192>

**15 July 2020: US Conducts Freedom of Navigation Operation Near China-Held Features in Spratlys**

On Tuesday, a U.S. Navy warship conducted a freedom of navigation operation (FONOP) near Chinese-held features in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. The operation was the first publicly reported FONOP since May 28. USS Ralph Johnson, an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, sailed within 12 nautical miles of Cuarteron Reef and Fiery Cross Reef — the sites of two Chinese artificial islands — in the South China Sea. The operation coincided with the release of an updated position by the U.S. government on the South China Sea.

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/07/us-conducts-freedom-of-navigation-operation-near-china-held-features-in-spratlys/>

**13 July 2020: U.S. Position on Maritime Claim in the South China Sea**

The United States champions a free and open Indo-Pacific. Today we are strengthening U.S. policy in a vital, contentious part of that region — the South China Sea. We are making clear: Beijing's claims to offshore resources across most of the South China Sea are completely unlawful, as is its campaign of bullying to control them.

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-position-on-maritime-claims-in-the-south-china-sea/>

**7 July 2020: Japan, Australian leaders share concern over East, South Chi Sea**



Japanese Key Minister Shinzo Abe and his Australian counterpart, Scott Morrison, shared really serious worries about numerous moves in the East and South China Seas in their video clip conference on Thursday, a Japanese governing administration spokesman stated. Requested at a media briefing if the two leaders' concerns expressed in the assembly have been directed to China, Japanese Deputy Main Cabinet Secretary Naoki Okada declined to elaborate. Australia also did not one out any certain state, while the assembly arrives soon after a number of incidents involving China.

<https://queenscitizen.ca/2020/07/09/japan-australian-leaders-share-concern-above-east-south-china-sea/>

#### **4 July 2020: US Navy to send two aircraft carriers and several warships to South China Sea**

The US Navy will send two aircraft carriers and several accompanying warships to the South China Sea in the coming days to participate in a military exercise. The USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Groups are conducting dual carrier operations in the Philippine Sea and South China Sea," said Lt. Joe Jeiley, a spokesman for the Seventh Fleet. "Operating two carrier strike groups in the Philippine Sea and South China Sea provides advanced training opportunities for our forces and provides combatant commanders with significant operational flexibility should those forces be called upon in response to regional situations. "The presence of two carriers is not in response to any political or world events. This advanced capability is one of many ways the U.S. Navy promotes security, stability, and prosperity throughout the Indo-Pacific."

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/07/03/politics/us-navy-south-china-sea/index.html>

#### **2 July 2020: Lorenzana: India wants presence felt in South China Sea**

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said India has expressed its intent to carry out navigation activities in the South China Sea. In an online forum on Thursday, Lorenzana said navigation in the South China Sea is open to all countries. "We do not prevent other countries from passing through or doing things there in China Sea. The British do passes through the China Sea. The French, all other countries. We do not invite them to come," he said.

<https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/7/2/india-south-china-sea-lorenzana.html>

#### **1 July 2020: Australia seeks long-range missiles in Indo-Pacific defence shift**

PM Scott Morrison pledged A\$270bn (£150bn; \$186bn) to Australia's arms budget over 10 years - a 40% boost. He said Australia would acquire long-range missiles and other capabilities to "deter" future conflicts. It was necessary because the region was the "focus of the dominant global contest of our age", he added. Mr Morrison named several areas of tension including the border between India and China, and conflict over the South China Sea and East China Sea. It follows deteriorating relations between Australia and China - which are widely seen to be at their worst in decades.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-53244752>

#### **30 June 2020: US military aircraft may be flying over the South China Sea to keep an eye on Chinese submarines**

The US Air Force sent military planes to the Bashi Channel en route to the South China Sea for a sixth day in a row on Friday in what observers said was a mission to track mainland Chinese submarines.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/us-planes-over-south-china-sea-to-track-chinese-submarines-2020-6>

**30 June 2020: U.S. aircraft carriers hold joint drills after ASEAN lambastes Beijing over South China Sea**

Two U.S. aircraft carriers kicked off joint exercises in the Philippine Sea on Sunday, a day after Southeast Asian leaders delivered some of their strongest remarks opposing Beijing's claim to virtually the entire South China Sea on historical grounds.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/06/29/asia-pacific/us-aircraft-carriers-south-china-sea/#.Xvws2SgzaUk>