

**SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS No.107**  
**July 2022**

**ACTS OF CLAIMANTS**

**29 July 2022: US Navy Carrier Enters South China Sea Amid Taiwan Tensions**

A US aircraft carrier and strike group have entered the South China Sea as part of what the 7th Fleet said was a scheduled operation amid rising tensions with China over a potential Taiwan visit by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

<https://gcaptain.com/us-navy-carrier-enters-south-china-sea-amid-taiwan-tensions/>

**29 July 2022: CNOOC Finds Shale Oil in South China Sea Exploration Well**

China's CNOOC Ltd has tapped commercial flows of oil and gas from a shale exploration well in the South China Sea, marking the first successfully drilled shale oil well offshore China, state media reported on Thursday. Exploration well Weiye-1, sunk at the southwestern trough of Beibuwan basin in South China Sea, tested daily production of 20 cubic meters (126 barrels) of oil and 1,589 cubic meters of natural gas, Shanghai Securities Journal reported.

<https://www.oedigital.com/news/498399-cnooc-finds-shale-oil-in-south-china-sea-exploration-well>

**29 July 2022: China announces series of exercises in S. China Sea as Taiwan issue raises tensions**

In a show of military might China announced a series of almost-simultaneous exercises in the South China Sea between July 27 and 31, including rare live-fire drills only 125 kilometers (78 miles) from Taiwan, just as reports emerged that the U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi may embark on her Asia-Pacific tour on July 29.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/china-announces-three-exercises-in-s-china-sea-as-taiwan-issue-raises-tensions-07292022031310.html>

**26 July 2022: South China Sea: Taiwan carries out air raid exercises**

The island nation of Taiwan has sought to step up its military capabilities this week. Taipei this week ordered its citizens to stay indoors in several parts of the island as its military carried out air raid exercises. Reuters reports that Taiwan instructed its citizens to clear out the roads and stay indoors in certain areas as the military is conducting an air raid exercise. The air raid exercise is part of Taiwan's efforts to ramp up its defenses in the event of an invasion by China.

<https://www.econotimes.com/South-China-Sea-Taiwan-carries-out-air-raid-exercises-1638080>

**25 July 2022: Wang Yi: South China Sea issue is for regional countries to solve**

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday called on countries in the region to maintain their position in solving the South China Sea issue. Wang made these remarks at a virtual symposium commemorating the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration on the Conduct (DOC) of Parties in the South China Sea. He called for unswervingly practicing the norms and propositions of the DOC, making the South China Sea "a sea of peace, a sea of friendship and a sea of cooperation."

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-07-25/Wang-Yi-South-China-Sea-issue-is-for-regional-countries-to-solve-1bX4BKnrXTa/index.html>

**24 July 2022: China stations permanent 'rescue forces' on Spratly artificial islands**

China has placed permanent rescue forces and maritime authorities on its artificial islands in the South China Sea, according to state-owned China Central Television. Its flying squadron and maritime rescue and administration staff would be stationed at Fiery Cross, Subi and Mischief reefs in the Spratlys to boost rescue operations, says the media report. This would transform a regular on-call rescue ship deployment into a permanent institutional presence that could improve the coverage of the southern area of the disputed waterway, it added.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2022/07/24/463048/china-stations-permanent-rescue-forces-on-spratly-artificial-islands/>

### **22 July 2022: China holds new naval drills as US carrier transits South China Sea**

China has staged another military exercise off the back of a five-day large-scale drill near the Parcel islands—just as the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan docked in Singapore after spending over a week in the South China Sea.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/southchinasea-usa-07222022170014.html>

### **22 July 2022: Acting Philippine defense secretary: China's maritime activities are continuing**

The Philippines' acting defense chief says Chinese maritime activities in the South China Sea have not changed since the new government under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was established. Acting Defense Secretary Jose Faustino made the remark on Thursday, when he gave his first news conference since assuming office. The Philippines and China have territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

[https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20220722\\_11/](https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20220722_11/)

### **21 July 2022: Philippines Defense chief: Marcos administration to boost patrols in South China Sea**

The Philippines is prepared to deploy more coast guard ships to protect its fishermen from harassment by Chinese vessels within Manila's exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea, the new government's acting defense secretary said Thursday.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/philippines-southchinasea-07212022135328.html>

### **21 July 2022: Vietnam protests Chinese drills near Paracel Islands**

Chinese drills near the Paracel Islands violated Vietnam's sovereignty and complicated the situation in the South China Sea, the foreign affairs ministry said Thursday. "We vehemently oppose all activities that violate Vietnam's sovereignty over the Paracel and Spratly islands," deputy spokeswoman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pham Thu Hang said at a Thursday press meet.

<https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/vietnam-protests-china-s-illegal-drills-near-paracel-islands-4490551.html>

### **20 July 2022: China builds first unmanned offshore oil rig in South China Sea**

China has completed installation of its first unmanned offshore oil and gas platform in the Enping oilfield in the eastern South China Sea. The platform was made by the CNOOC with standardized design and construction, the company said. It is the first of its kind made by the company and can save the maintenance cost by more than 10 million yuan each year.

<https://english.cctv.com/2022/07/20/VIDEyoFubGUK6V34SDAzgq6220720.shtml>

### **20 July 2022: China says US patrols raise tensions in Taiwan Strait**

China's Ministry of Defence has accused the United States of taking "security risks" and disrupting the stability of the Taiwan Strait when it sailed a guided-missile destroyer through

the waterway earlier this week. Colonel Shi Yi, a spokesperson for the People's Liberation Army Eastern Theatre Command, said in a statement on Wednesday that China had tracked the USS Benfold from the US 7th Fleet from the sea and the sky during its trip on Tuesday. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/20/china-says-us-patrols-raise-tensions-in-taiwan-strait>

### **20 July 2022: China holds 5-day military exercise in disputed South China Sea**

China announced a large-scale military exercise in the South China Sea after an American aircraft carrier sailed near the contested Spratly Islands and a U.S. Navy destroyer conducted consecutive sail-throughs. The Hainan Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) issued a navigation warning on Friday, saying military drills would take place from Saturday to Wednesday in a large area overlapping the Paracel Islands, an archipelago contested by China, Taiwan and Vietnam but controlled entirely by China.

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/chinese-naval-drills-07182022114149.html>

### **18 July 2022: 'Abusing China's restraint': Beijing accuses Australia of provocation at sea**

China has accused Australia of provocation in the South China Sea and said Australia – along with the United States and Canada – must “refrain from abusing China’s restraint”. Foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin was responding to a question about recent military encounters in the South China Sea, including reports in Politico that a Chinese fighter jet had an “unsafe” and “unprofessional” interaction with an American C-130 aircraft.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/18/abusing-chinas-restraint-beijing-accuses-australia-of-provocation-at-sea>

### **14 July 2022: China claims arbitral ruling on South China Sea 'seriously violates int'l law'**

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin in a press conference on Wednesday said: “The so-called award of the South China Sea arbitration seriously violates international law including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It is illegal, null, and void.” He reiterated that China’s position on the matter is “consistent and clear.” “China neither accepts nor recognizes it and will never accept any claim or action based on the award. By doing so, we are upholding international rule of law,” he added.

<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/205272/china-claims-arbitral-ruling-on-south-china-sea-seriously-violates-intl-law#ixzz7Z4oRKg3a>

### **13 July 2022: China says it 'drove' away U.S. destroyer that sailed near disputed isles**

A U.S. destroyer sailed near the disputed Paracel Islands in the South China Sea on Wednesday, drawing an angry reaction from Beijing, which said its military had "driven away" the ship after it illegally entered territorial waters. The United States regularly carries out what it calls Freedom of Navigation Operations in the South China Sea challenging what it says are restrictions on innocent passage imposed by China and other claimants.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us-destroyer-sails-near-disputed-schina-sea-islands-china-says-it-drove-ship-2022-07-13/>

### **12 July 2022: Philippine Foreign Secretary Hails South China Sea Ruling on 6th Anniversary**

The Philippines’ newly appointed Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo has pledged to uphold the landmark arbitral ruling that found most of China’s claims in the South China Sea invalid, describing its findings as “conclusive” and “indisputable.”

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/07/philippine-foreign-secretary-hails-south-china-sea-ruling-on-6th-anniversary/>

### **11 July 2022: Marcos told to assert sea claim against China**

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. should veer away from his predecessor's foreign policy and assert the country's claims in the South China Sea, a coalition said on Monday, a day before the sixth anniversary of the Philippines' arbitral victory in its sea dispute with China. "If he decides to follow the Duterte administration's defeatist policy on China, and if he crumbles before Beijing's bullying and abandons our fisherfolk, the Filipino youth will make sure that he regrets it," the West Philippine Sea Coalition said in a statement.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2022/07/11/460428/marcos-told-to-assert-sea-claim-against-china/>

### **4 July 2022: 12 bodies found after South China Sea typhoon shipwreck**

Twelve bodies have been found following a shipwreck in the South China Sea over the weekend that left the crew of 30 missing, Chinese authorities said Monday. The announcement came days after an engineering vessel 160 nautical miles (296 kilometres) southwest of Hong Kong suffered substantial damage and broke into two pieces during a typhoon.

<https://www.thesundaily.my/world/12-bodies-found-after-south-china-sea-typhoon-shipwreck-BD9410627>

### **1 July 2022: Chinese vice-president urges better South China Sea approach with Philippines as Marcos takes the reins**

Chinese vice-president Wang Qishan called on China and the Philippines to improve their relations by properly handling South China Sea disputes. "The Chinese side has always placed the Philippines as a priority in its neighbouring diplomacy, and looks forward to working with the new Philippine government to carry forward friendship, enhance mutual trust, and continue cooperation, so as to usher in a new 'golden era' for China-Philippines relations," Wang was quoted as saying by Xinhua.

[https://sg.news.yahoo.com/chinese-vice-president-urges-better-043610866.html?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAANJUHC-tYa7M9VFXx2\\_01AMlnPIFHfPzbHVobJB-QxbpodMWNwWXMHiWIUBMr3LFclyOx-dbi0fmEO6C5Zx2Nf7iyLAjvoCyKyLnq\\_j-OcX50qk69TK-XxSqwJbwX0POAZVaUTSLAepmuhqwZIJGXVF8-1ySTdBuEcVc1Uh0WJ8](https://sg.news.yahoo.com/chinese-vice-president-urges-better-043610866.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAANJUHC-tYa7M9VFXx2_01AMlnPIFHfPzbHVobJB-QxbpodMWNwWXMHiWIUBMr3LFclyOx-dbi0fmEO6C5Zx2Nf7iyLAjvoCyKyLnq_j-OcX50qk69TK-XxSqwJbwX0POAZVaUTSLAepmuhqwZIJGXVF8-1ySTdBuEcVc1Uh0WJ8)

## **ASEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA**

### **25 July 2022: China, ASEAN call for protecting peace and stability in South China Sea**

China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations' (ASEAN) countries expressed their hope for a swift signing of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) in order to better protect regional peace and stability.

<https://tvpworld.com/61474433/china-asean-call-for-protecting-peace-and-stability-in-south-china-sea>

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

### **26 July 2022: U.S. Says Beijing's South China Sea 'Provocations' Risk Major Incident**

The United States on Tuesday accused China of increased "provocations" against rival claimants in the South China Sea and said its "aggressive and irresponsible behavior" meant it was only a matter of time before a major incident or accident. Jung Pak, deputy assistant secretary for East Asia at the State Department, told a U.S. think tank there was "a clear and

upward trend of PRC provocations against South China Sea claimants and other states lawfully operating in the region,” referring to the People's Republic of China.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2022-07-26/u-s-accuses-china-of-increased-south-china-sea-provocations>

### **19 July 2022: USS Benfold Transits Taiwan Strait Following South China Sea Freedom of Navigation Ops**

USS Benfold (DDG-65) transited the Taiwan Strait Tuesday, less than a week after its freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea irked the Chinese government. Benfold's transit comes three days after it sailed near the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea as part of a freedom of navigation operation, U.S. 7th Fleet said in a press release last week. “This freedom of navigation operation (“FONOP”) upheld the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea recognized in international law by challenging restrictions on innocent passage imposed by the People’s Republic of China (PRC), Vietnam, and Taiwan,” according to the 7th Fleet statement.

<https://news.usni.org/2022/07/19/uss-benfold-transits-taiwan-strait-following-south-china-sea-freedom-of-navigation-ops>

### **16 July 2022: US Navy ship again sails near disputed South China Sea islands**

A US Navy destroyer sailed near the disputed Spratly Islands on Saturday (Jul 16), the US Navy said, its second such "freedom of navigation" operation in a week in the South China Sea. On Wednesday, China's military said it had "driven away" the same ship, the USS Benfold, when it sailed near the disputed Parcel Islands.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/asia/us-navy-ship-again-sails-near-disputed-south-china-sea-islands-2814861>

### **13 July 2022: US Navy destroyer performs freedom of navigation exercise in South China Sea**

A US Navy destroyer sailed near a disputed South China Sea island chain on Wednesday, challenging the restrictions imposed by China and others on transit through the area. Lt. Nicholas Lingo, a spokesperson for the US Navy's 7th Fleet headquartered in Japan, said it was the second so-called freedom of navigation operation in the Parcel Islands -- known as the Xisha Islands in China -- so far this year, and the third targeting Beijing's "excessive maritime claims" in regional waters during the same period.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/07/13/asia/us-navy-south-china-sea-freedom-of-navigation-intl-hnk-ml/index.html>

### **12 July 2022: U.S. urges China to end 'provocative' behaviour in South China Sea**

Washington will defend treaty ally the Philippines if its forces are attacked in the South China Sea, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said, urging China to follow international law and cease "provocative behaviour" in the busy waterway.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/us-urges-china-end-provocative-behaviour-s-china-sea-2022-07-12/>

### **9 July 2022: Several Asian Countries Increase Military Budget amid Aggression in South China Sea**

A number of Asian countries, including Japan, South Korea, Australia and Singapore, are increasing their military budgets, according to sources, amid escalations by Chinese military aggression in the South China Sea.

<https://www.khaama.com/several-asian-countries-increase-military-budget-amid-aggression-in-south-china-sea/>