

Country Briefing - United States of America

Political Briefing

Introduction

The United States is a major strategic power in the Pacific given its extensive military presence, economic investments, and diplomatic commitments. While it does not explicitly recognize Taiwanese independence it implicitly does, and the United States continues to make available defense articles and services to Taiwan to ensure self-sufficient defense capacities. Following news of the Chinese seizure of Pratas Island and Minami Kojima Island, PACCOM was put on high alert in order to prepare to protect economic maritime pathways and fulfill security commitments to regional partners. The President has already authorized the construction of an airbridge into Taiwan to keep it alive while under the Chinese blockade.

Strategic Objectives

The United States historically has maintained a policy of “strategic ambiguity” policy in order to ensure continued balance of power in the region. Limited by the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the United States has not formally recognized Taiwan as an independent state. The main strategy of this approach has been to avoid provoking China via an explicit recognition of Taiwan, which would cause a Chinese attack and force the United States to support Taiwan militarily.

National Strategy

Any act which threatens the status of peace in the Western Pacific is of serious concern to the United States' security. Our diplomatic and military strategies are based on the ideal of preserving the status quo of peace and security between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. As a nation, ensuring security for our economic investments is of critical importance. As the most important sea-lane in the world, approximately 6% of our trade passes through the South China Sea. While this may seem low, much of our regional allies' trade flows through the same area, and many critical components like semiconductors are manufactured in Taiwan. Militarily, these sea-lanes are vital to global naval projections, particularly with the Seventh Fleet which regularly frequents the area around the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

The Seventh Fleet can be readily activated with approximately 70 ships, 300 aircraft, and 40,000 Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel. Larger support forces from the overarching PACCOM includes the West Coast based 3rd Fleet, as well as other military forces. Military action requires congressional approval, which would likely take the form of honoring formal or informal security agreements with Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Australia, Singapore, and New Zealand. Diplomatically, the Six Assurances Guidelines of 1982 make clear the United States will not act as a mediator between Taiwan and the PRC nor end its arms deals with the island. Military sales are expected to continue in addition to sustained cultural ties as carried out by the American Institute in Taiwan (the de facto Embassy). We reject the use of force to settle regional disputes, and strongly implore the international community to maintain calls for diplomatic settlements.

Special Orders

Special Order: DEFCON

Any movements up or down the DEFCON (Defense Condition) levels must be relayed to Control. Changing your DEFCON is a public act and will be known by all other countries. At the start of the game you are at DEFCON 4.

Readiness Condition	Description	Readiness Level
DEFCON 1	Nuclear war is imminent or has already begun	Maximum readiness. Immediate response.
DEFCON 2	Next step to nuclear war	Armed forces ready to deploy and engage in less than six hours
DEFCON 3	Increase in force readiness above that required for normal readiness	Air Force ready to mobilize in 15 minutes
DEFCON 4	Increased intelligence watch and strengthened security measures	Above normal readiness
DEFCON 5	Lowest state of readiness	Normal readiness