



MIMA Conference on the South China Sea

Recent Developments and Implications Towards Peaceful Dispute Resolution

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CHINA'S NAVAL DIPLOMACY IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

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CURRENT SITUATION IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

- China being the most powerful and having the largest claim in South China Sea holds the key to any settlement of the dispute
- PLA Navy primarily used to stake her claim by showing presence and use of force where necessary
- PLA Navy expansion and modernization acts as a deterrent force

AIM

To discuss the role of China's PLA Navy (maritime forces) as an instrument of diplomacy in the South China Sea Dispute

Navy's Mission

- **War fighting**
- **Constabulary**
- **Diplomatic**



Naval diplomacy – the pursuit of foreign policy with the aid of conspicuous display of naval activities

ROLE OF CHINA'S PEOPLE LIBERATION ARMY (PLA) IN FOREIGN POLICY

- **Growing role of PLA in overall Chinese foreign policy process**
- **Observers claim PLA as conservative, highly nationalistic and behind assertive actions taken by Chinese govt such as:**
 - **Deployment of large numbers of ballistic missile opposite Taiwan**
 - **Cyber attacks on US Govt sites**
 - **Criticism of US exercises in Western Pacific**
 - **Vigorous challenges to US military surveillance along China's maritime periphery**
 - **Testing of new weapons during visits by US officials to China**

Essential Conditions for Survival and Development of Nation

- **National Unit**
- **Stability**
- **Sovereignty**

DENG XIAPING “24 CHARACTER STRATEGY” – DIRECTIVE FOR SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

“Keep cool headed to observe, be composed to make reactions, stand firmly, hide our capabilities and bide our time, never try to take the lead, and be able to accomplish something”

“Adage purpose is to downplay China’s ambition and affirm China’s long term strategy to build up China’s CNP to maximize China’s options in the future”.

CHINA'S SECURITY POLICIES

- Focus on periphery including greater periphery encompassing Central Asia and Middle East
- Security goals:
 - to secure China's borders and territorial claims
 - maintain access to natural resources and markets
 - pursue 'counter containment' strategy by establishing regional presence
 - step up bilateral military and economic relations and greater multilateral engagement in South East Asia
- Direct dialogue with ASEAN through 10 + 3 format and ARF to strengthen regional influence

NAVAL OPERATIONS

- Increasing emphasis given to PLA navy to defend offshore areas
- Shift to open ocean operations
- Plan to develop a balance force to protect claims including Taiwan, Spratlys/Paracels, Diaoyutai/Senkaku Islands

PLA NAVY

Manpower – 255,000

3 Fleets – North Sea, East Sea and South Sea

Surface Force:

Destroyer 26

Frigates 49

Large Landing Ship 27

Medium Landing Ship 31

Fast Attack Crafts 200+

Submarine Force :

SSBN – 3

SSN – 5 – 7

SSK – 56

Naval Aviation :

Manpower – 26,000

Aircraft – 400 – 500

Marine Corp. Manpower - 10,000

PLA NAVY

Luyang II DDG, carry YJ62 anti-ship cruise missiles

CSSS – Range 1500 km anti-ship ballistic missiles

Army artillery (ashore) – shore to ship variant Chang Jian 10 cruises missiles can counter Carrier Battle Group

Air-Launch version range 2000-2200 km carried on board Xian 11 – 6K strategic nuclear bomber.

Over the horizon targeting using sky wave and surface wave OTH Radars.



PLA NAVY

Carrier program – pilot being trained in the Ukraine.

PLA Navy has stepped up naval diplomacy completing first round the world cruise in July 2002.

PLA Navy also have a task group deployed in the Gulf of Aden area to protect China's shipping against pirates.



NAVAL DIPLOMACY ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

China's naval diplomacy not solely by navy.

Other maritime agencies are also involved e.g., Coast Guard, Maritime Safety Agency, China Marine Surveillance, China Fisheries Law Enforcement Command

PLA Navy conducts patrols and surveillance within the claimed U-shaped lines.

Conduct port visits and show of flag missions

Conduct exercises

Deter foreign civilian and military intrusions

Establish presence on occupied features and protect them

THE WAY FORWARD

- **Settlement of dispute will take a long time**
- **Meanwhile tension must be reduced**
- **China can play an important and leading role**
- **Less emphasis on “war-war” but more on “jaw-jaw” by all parties**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NAVAL DIPLOMACY (INCLUDING ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES)

- Every effort taken towards cooperation in following activities:
 - combating transnational crime such as people trafficking, piracy, armed robbery and smuggling.
 - safety of navigation
 - search and rescue at sea
 - marine environment protection
 - protection and management of marine resources
 - capacity building and technical cooperation
 - humanitarian assistance and disaster relief
 - information sharing of maritime domain

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NAVAL DIPLOMACY (INCLUDING ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES)

- **Every effort taken towards cooperation in following activities:**
 - **Reduce tension by not conducting live firing exercises close to disputed features, if exercises have to be conducted, due notification is given**
 - **Invite observers to witness exercises**
- **Conduct frequent engagement amongst leaders to address issues and “get to know”.**
- **Establish guidelines on “do’s and don’ts” (a form of code of conduct) for maritime assets at sea.**

CONCLUSION

- **The tension in South China Sea can be reduced by less hard-line talks and display of naval supremacy**
- **More cooperative activities needed to build trust and confidence especially amongst claimants**
- **There should be guidelines for conduct of activities**

THANK YOU