South China Sea

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Former Commander in Chief, JMSDF Fleet
Strategic Value of the South China Sea

- Okinawa
- 2,800km 1,600nm
- No U.S. Military Bases
- Okinawa-Singapore

- 1,300km 700nm
China’s Reclamation!

China’s Strategic Goal:
Monopolistic Control of South China Sea (SCS)

- Northern SCS: Practical Control
  Woody Island in Paracel Islands

Strong Appetite for Reclamation

- Southern SCS: Spratly Islands
  No Foot Print \(\rightarrow\) Fiery Cross Reef

- Eastern SCS: No Foot Print
  No Foot Print \(\rightarrow\) Scarborough Shoal
South China Sea
Strategic Triangle for Sea Control

- Sanya
- Woody Island
- Fiery Cross Reef
- Spratly Is. (V)
- Thitu Is. (P)
- Itu Aba Is. (T)
- Swallow Reef (M)
- Riau Islands (Indonesia)
- Pratas Is. (T)
- Scarborough Shoal

Distances:
- 700km
- 900km
- 650km
- 700km
- 1,100km
Why South China Sea

Strategic Nuclear Power
JL-2 (IOC: 2013)
Why South China Sea

Multi-Trajectories to USA
USA’s BMD: Complicated
PLAN SSBN Hunt: Complicated

Two Patrol Spots
PLAN SSBN vs. USN SSN in SCS
Fierce ASW in SCS: 24 x 7

- Sanya
- Woody Is.
- Fiery Cross
- Spratly Islands
- Scarborough
What should we do?

PRC Typical Characteristics and Behaviors

- Unilateral Action: Challenge against Established Order
  Conditional Compliance/Double Standards
  International Code/Protocol

- Preference: Bilateral Arrangements >> Multilateral Arrangements
  Territorial Issues, Code of Conduct Talks

- Keep USA Out of Area and Use of Power

Direction for Cooperation: Counter China’s A2AD

- Keep U.S. Forces in this Region (=U.S. Presence, Role of Japan)
- Stop China’s Reclamation
- Invite China into Real International Arena