

What's in a 'Pivot?'

An American Response To China's Military Rise

Prepared for the U.S. China Economic and Security Review Commission

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30 January 2014

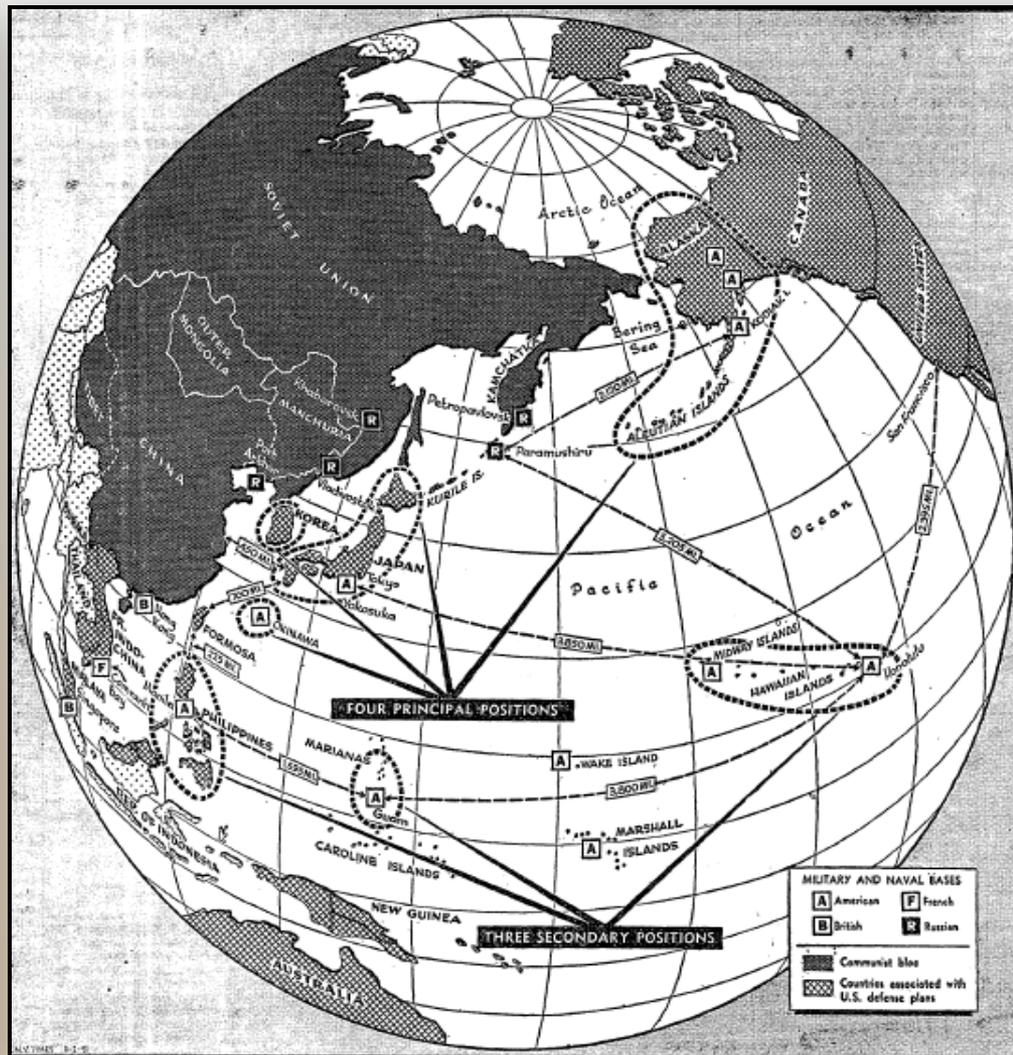


What is the situation in regard to the military security of the Pacific area, and what is our policy in regard to it?

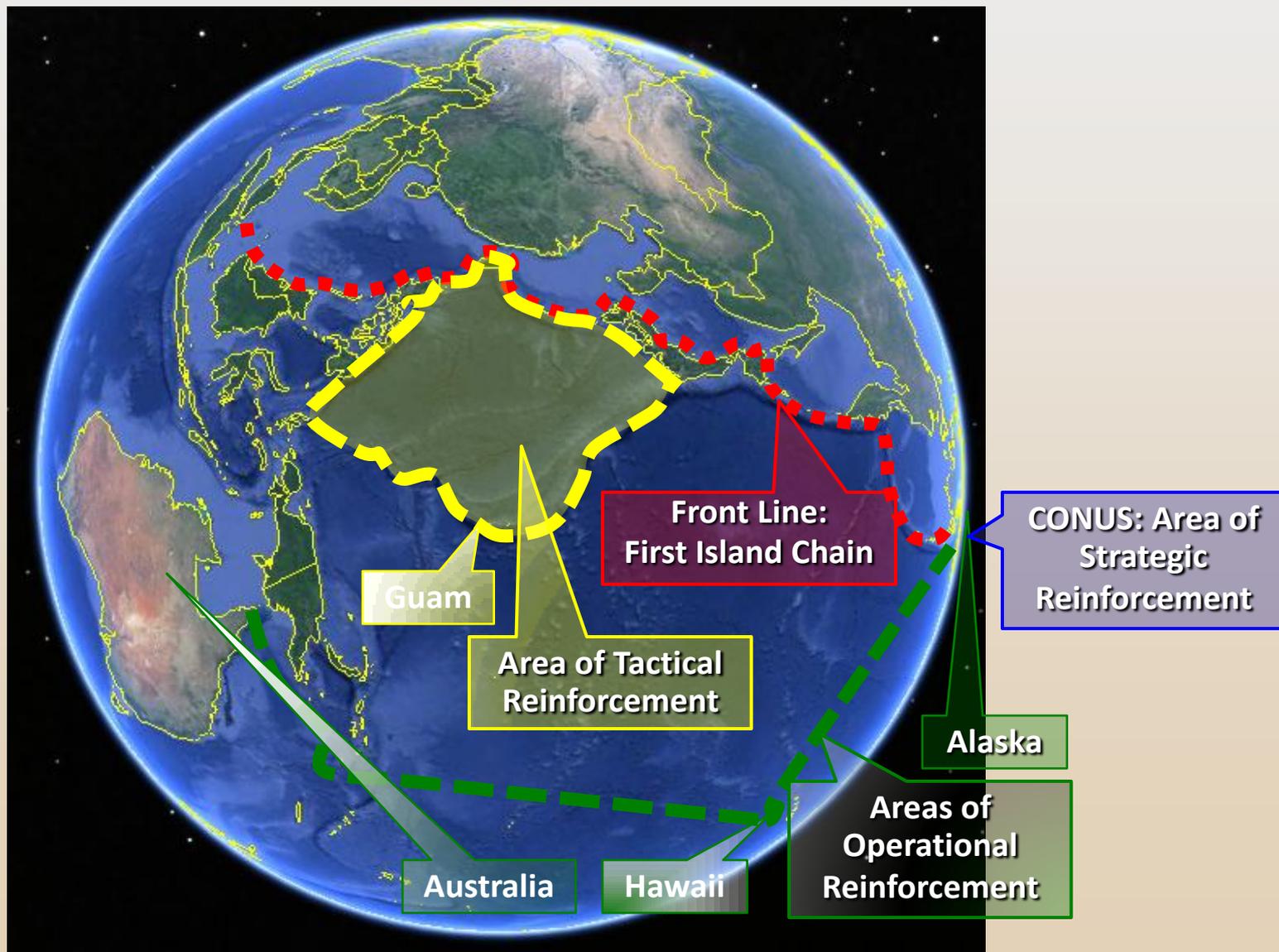
The defensive perimeter runs along the Aleutians to Japan and then goes to the Ryukyus....[T]hey are essential parts of the defensive perimeter of the Pacific, and they must and will be held. The defensive perimeter runs from the Ryukyus to the Philippine Islands.

**Secretary of State Dean Acheson
12 January 1950**

The Pivot: What's New Is Old



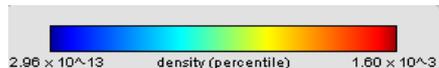
Front Lines, Defense in Depth



Pivot: No Quiet on the Pacific Front

— PRC ADIZ expansion

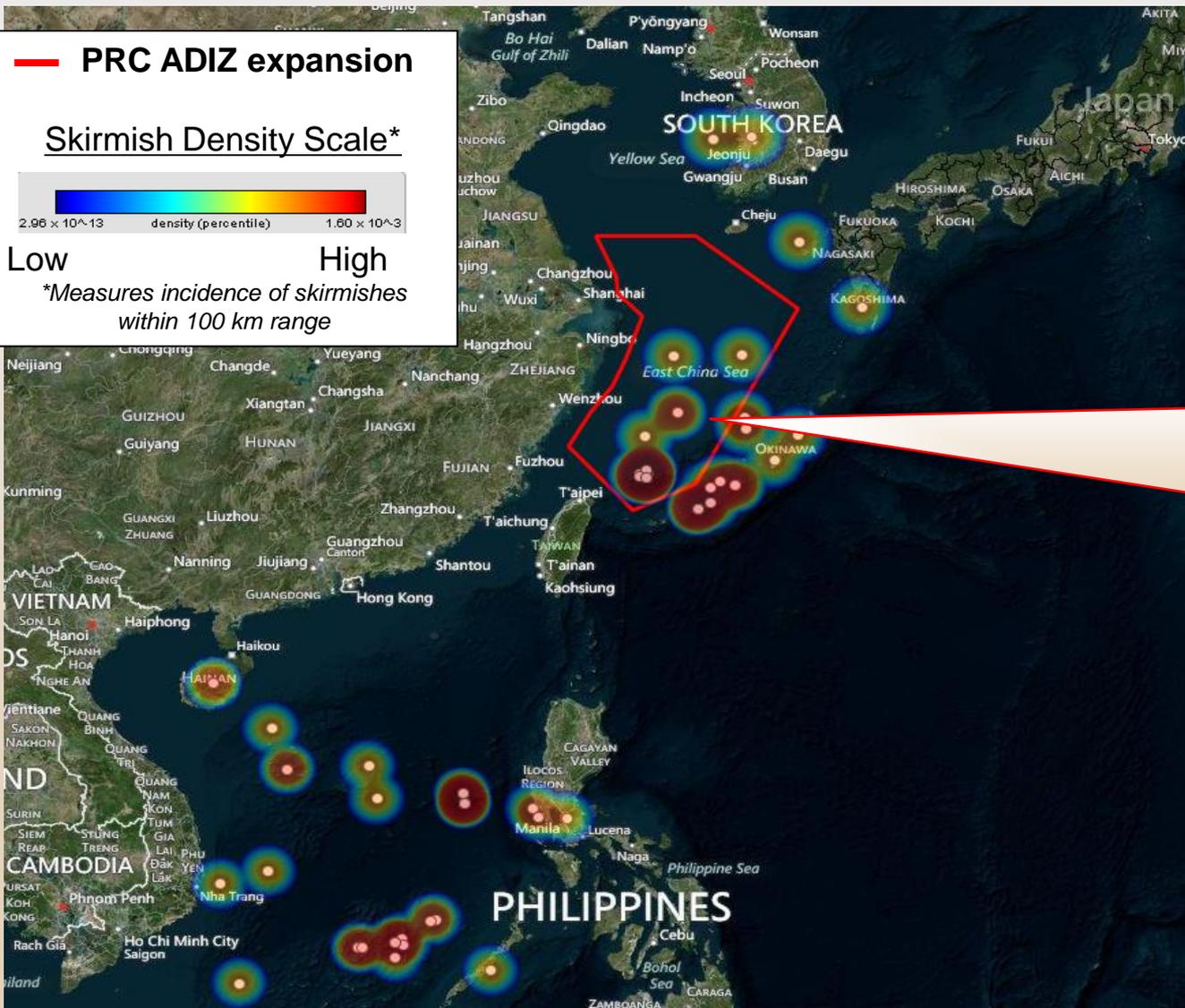
Skirmish Density Scale*



Low

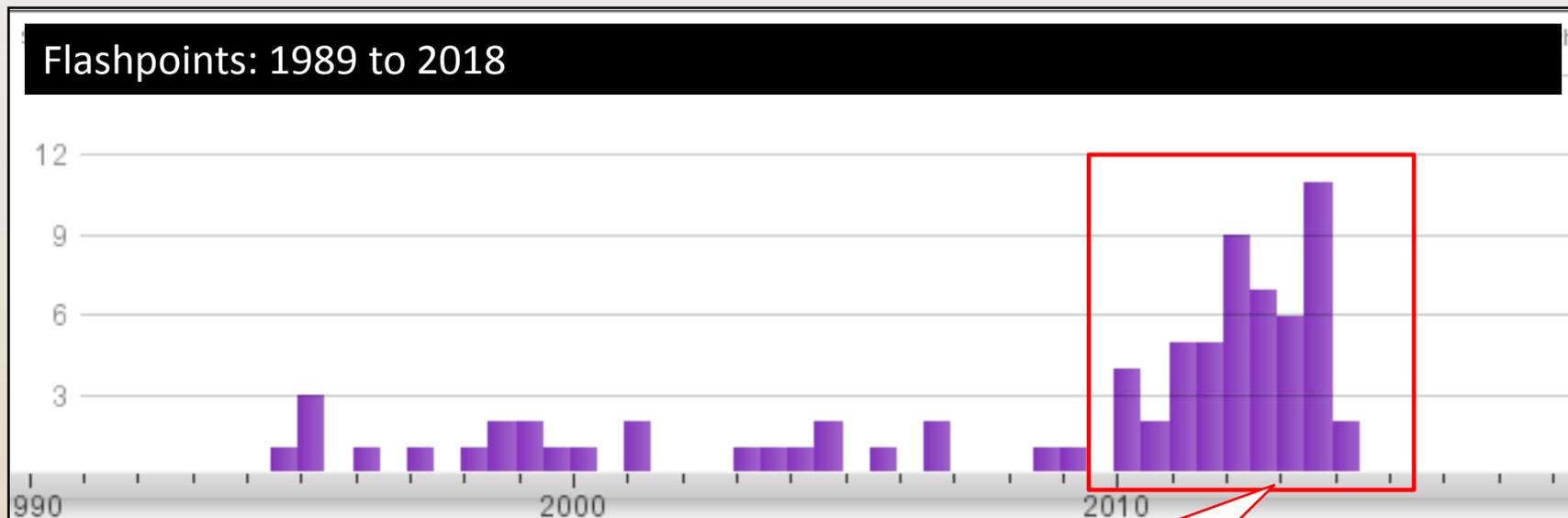
High

*Measures incidence of skirmishes
within 100 km range



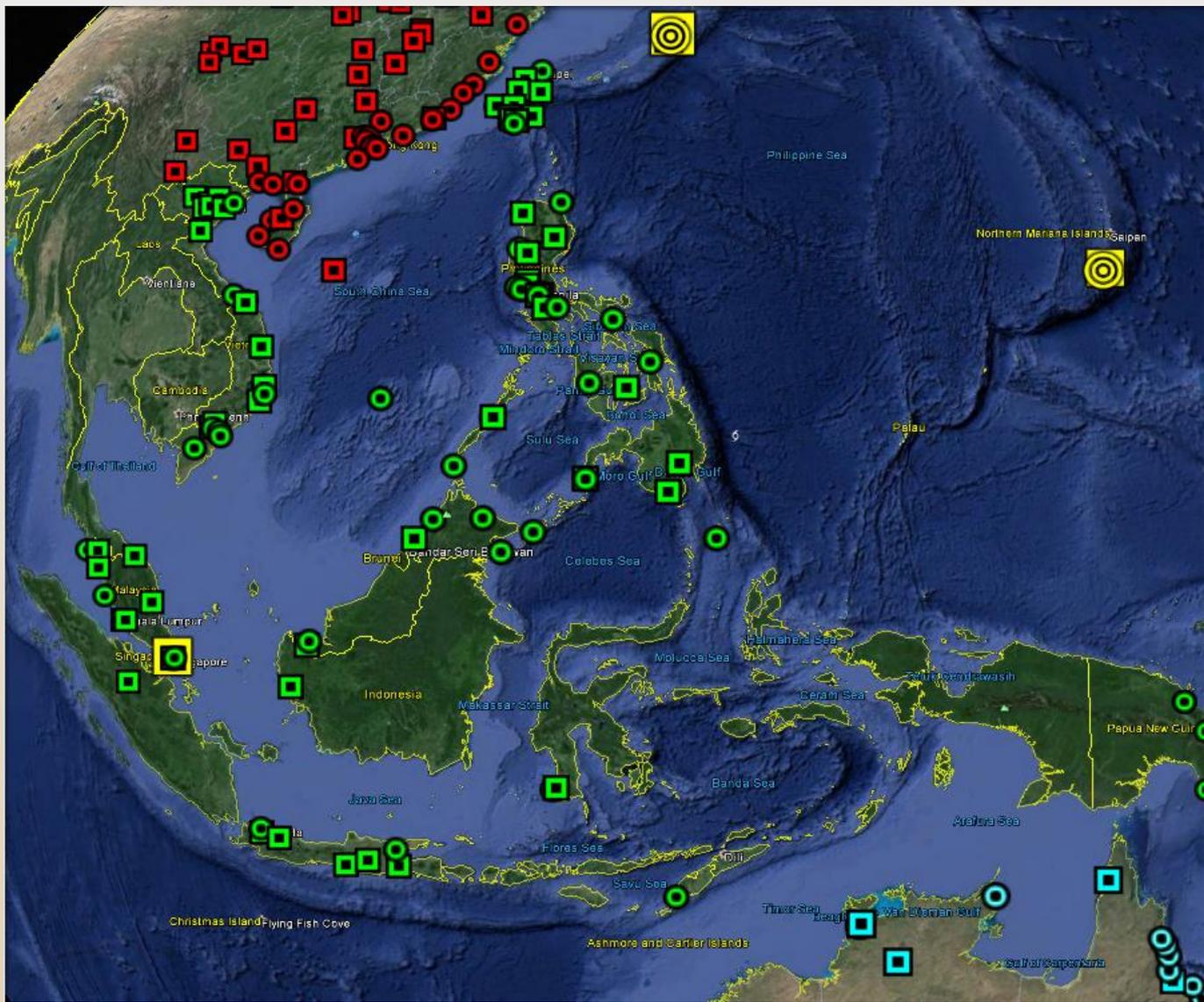
Recent PRC ADIZ
declaration covers
area with high
density of past
flashpoints

Pivot: No Quiet on the Pacific Front



Significant increase of flashpoint
incident frequency since 2010

South China Sea Battlespace



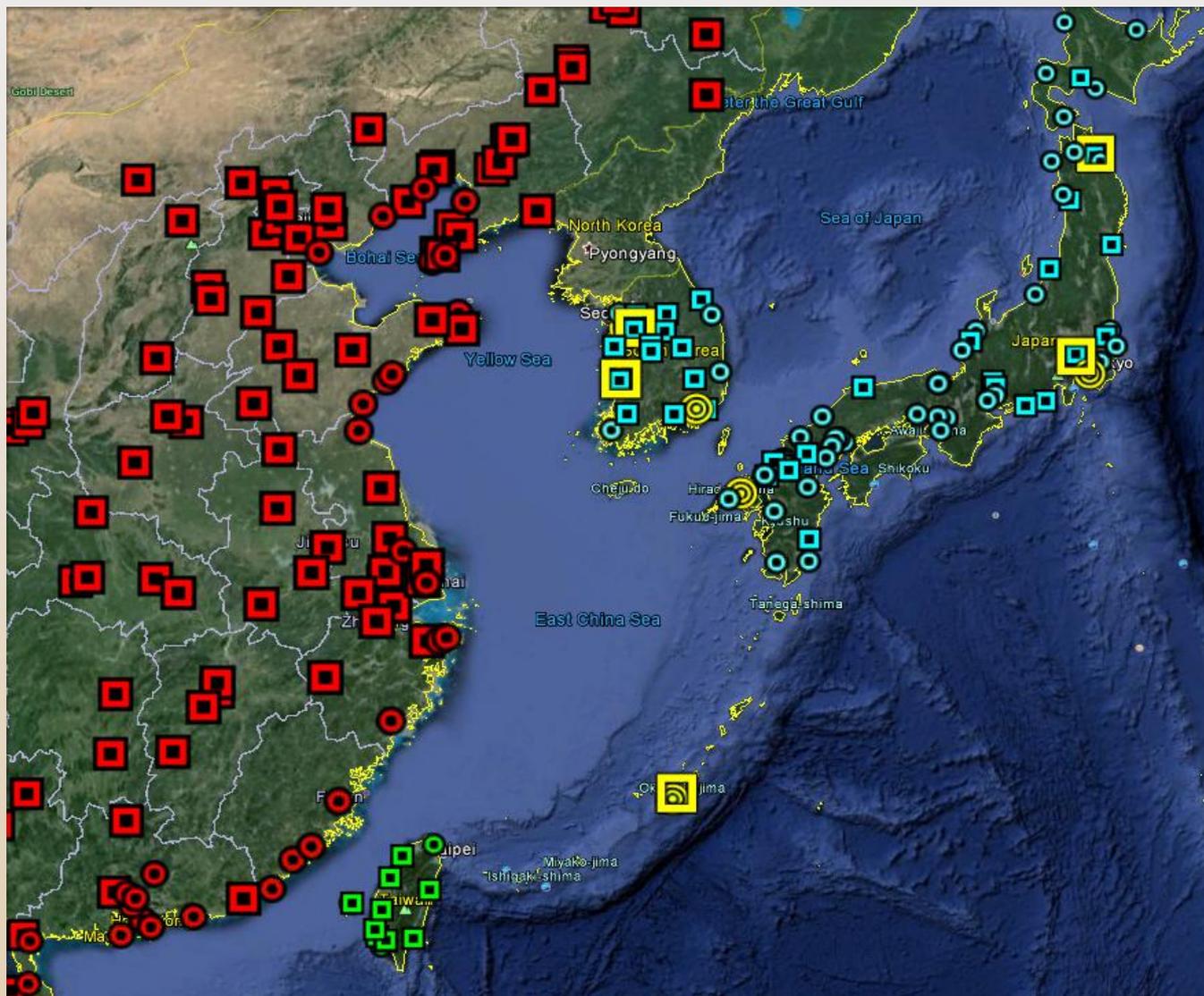
Air Bases

-  US Bases
-  Treaty Partner Bases
-  Friendly Bases
-  Chinese Bases

Naval Bases

-  US Bases
-  Treaty Partner Bases
-  Friendly Bases
-  Chinese Bases

East China Sea Battlespace



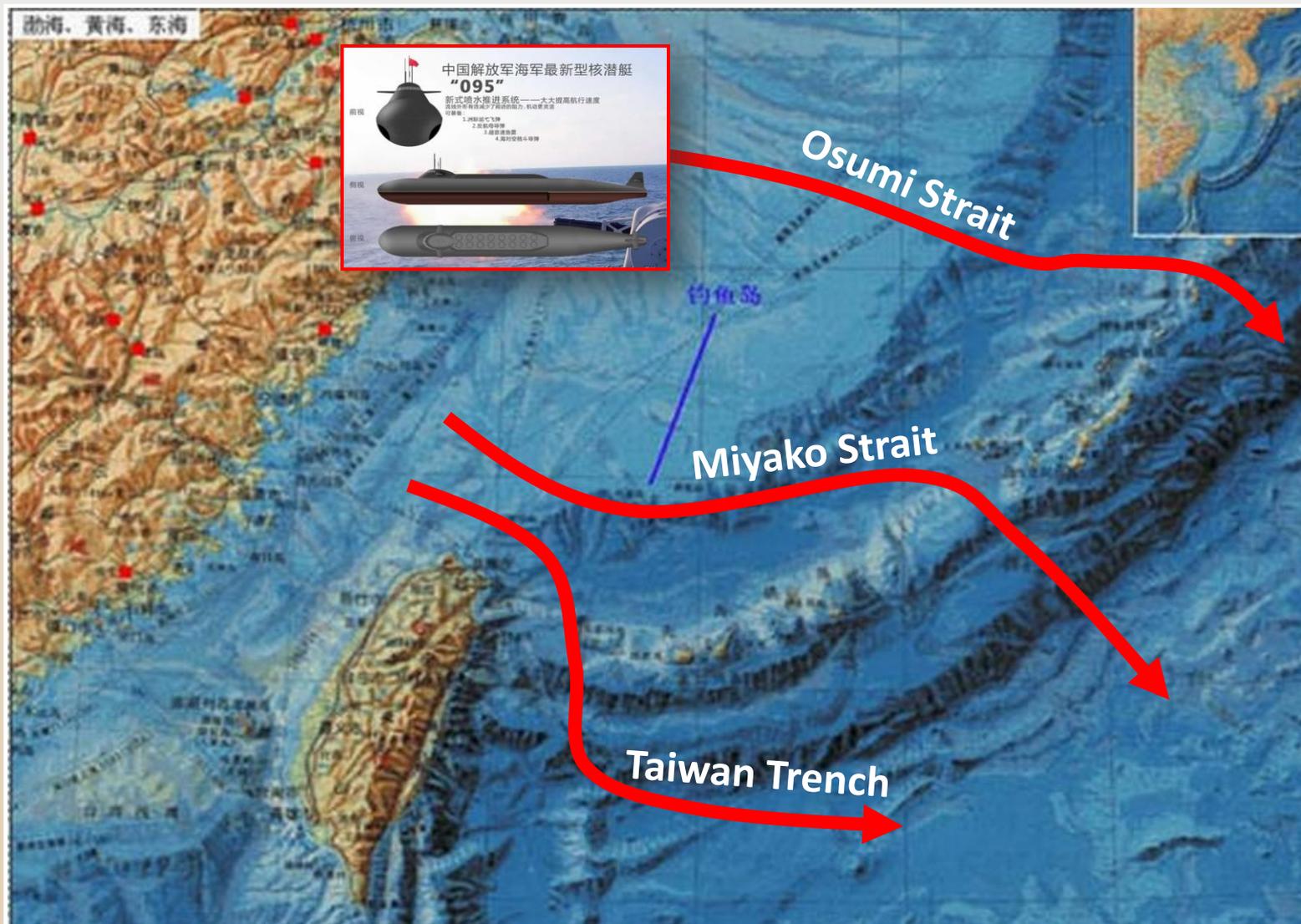
Air Bases

- US Bases
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- Chinese Bases

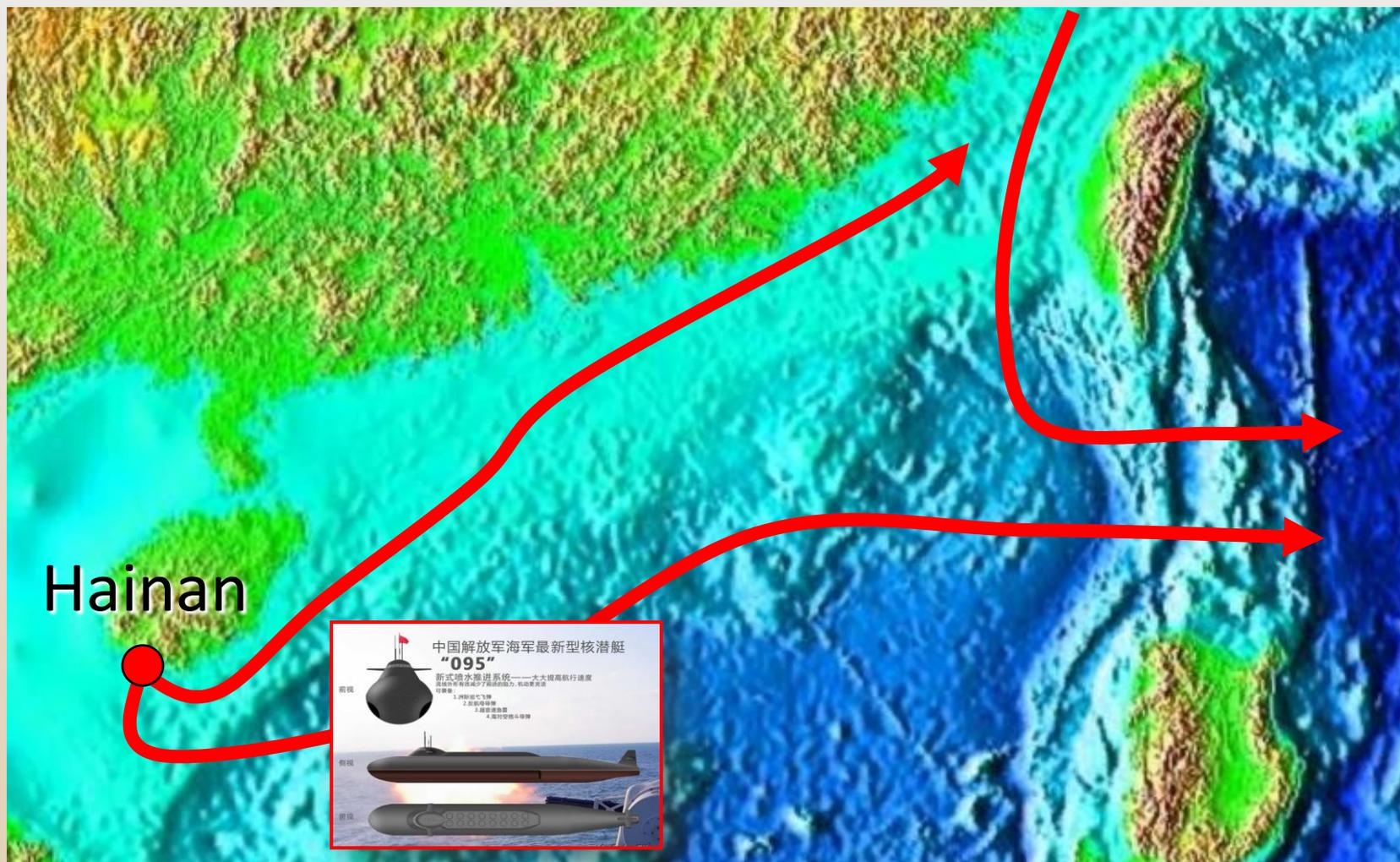
Naval Bases

- US Bases
- Treaty Partner Bases
- Friendly Bases
- Chinese Bases

Exit PLAN: To the Ryukyu Trench



Exit PLAN: To the Luzon Strait



Minimal Military Musts: Presence, Depth

Politics: Four drivers

- Deter conflict, assure commerce
- Defend allies' interests and democratic governance
- Build new strategic partnerships
- Ensure U.S. access in theater and to theater

Military posture: Four echelons

- Tactical presence: surveying, patrolling perimeter from north to south
- Tactical depth: Reinforce perimeter from Guam through Philippine Sea
- Operational depth: Support from positions in Australia, Hawaii, Alaska
- Strategic depth: Reinforcement from CONUS

Understanding reality: Three scenarios

- South China Sea: Constant surveillance, patrolling; rapid response; escalation dominance
- East China Sea: Ditto
- Undersea warfare: Responding to Chinese 'penetration'