

## Taiwan: US Issues Report on Chinese Project to Force Unification



**The US Office of Naval Intelligence released a report entitled "The PLA Navy: New Capabilities and Missions for the 21st Century". This document focuses on the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) and its priorities for the future. According to the US Office, Beijing plans to forcefully annex Taiwan if a political resolution to the issue is not found soon enough.**

*Below is an article published by the [Taipei Times](#):*

The US Office of Naval Intelligence has released a new report on the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) saying that its "central priority" is to force the "unification" of Taiwan and China.

Given the pace of Chinese military modernization, the gap in military capability between Beijing and Taipei will continue to widen in China's favor over the coming years, the report said.

Entitled "The PLA Navy: New Capabilities and Missions for the 21st Century", the report is the first of its kind issued by US Naval Intelligence in six years.

“In addition to improving the traditional destroyer and frigate backbone of its fleet, the PLAN is on the verge of incorporating very different platforms that will greatly influence the operations of its future fleet,” the report found.

Nuclear-armed Jin-class submarines are poised to begin strategic patrols in the near future, putting Chinese intercontinental ballistic missiles to sea for the first time, it said.

“Against this backdrop of increasing military capability, China’s leaders appear increasingly willing to assert China’s maritime claims, even when such actions risk exacerbating tension with China’s neighbors,” the report said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping (习近平) continues to emphasize the importance of maritime power to enable China’s development, it added.

“Taiwan ‘reunification’ remains the main driver for military modernization,” it said.

According to the report, China views unification with Taiwan as an “immutable long-term goal and hopes to prevent any third party from intervening in what China asserts is an internal matter.”

China’s leaders have long emphasized their preference for peaceful unification, but also say that China is not prepared to wait indefinitely for a political resolution, the report said.

“For several decades, China’s naval investments have focused heavily on capabilities to deter Taiwan’s moves toward independence, to successfully reverse Taiwan’s actions should deterrence fail and — if necessary — to force ‘unification,’ even if the United States were to become militarily involved,” it said.

To achieve unification, the report says that China has built or acquired a wide array of advanced platforms, including submarines, major surface vessels, missile patrol craft, maritime strike aircraft and land-based systems employing new anti-ship cruise missiles and surface-to-air missiles.

China has also developed the world’s first anti-ship ballistic missile, specifically designed to attack enemy aircraft carriers.

“Chinese leaders hope that simply possessing these military capabilities will deter pro-independence moves or — should deterrence fail — permit a range of military options that can be tailored to the specific situation,” the report said.

It concludes that in contrast to its narrow focus of just a decade ago, the PLAN is evolving to meet a wide range of missions, including conflict with Taiwan, enforcement of maritime claims, protection of economic interests as well as counter piracy and humanitarian missions.

“In the next decade, China will complete its transition from a coastal navy to a navy capable of multiple missions around the world,” the report said.

Although being prepared to “forcibly reunify [sic] Taiwan with the mainland” will remain a “driving force” behind China’s naval modernization, the report says the PLAN is simultaneously focusing resources on a growing array of other challenges.

It says: “Friction between China and its neighbors appears increasingly likely as Beijing seeks to deter rival activities and assert its own claimed rights and interests.”