



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Formosa Foundation Gravely Concerned about China's Military Threat to Taiwan**

The Formosa Foundation expresses its grave concern about the rapidly growing military capabilities of the People's Republic of China, as outlined and analyzed in the 2005 report to Congress by the United States Department of Defense, which was released to the public on Tuesday, July 19, 2005.

The Pentagon's report, which is issued on an annual basis, concludes that China is spending vast amounts on its military, even though China faces no direct threat from any other country, with the short range goal of forcing Taiwan to capitulate to China's unification demands and the long term objective of projecting its military power all throughout Asia.

The report contains alarming information about China's military strategies and goals with respect to Taiwan. Among other things, the report states that: (a) China's leadership is very focused on forcing unification between Taiwan and China and views failure on the Taiwan issue as a threat to its legitimacy; (b) China has targeted 650 to 730 short range ballistic missiles at Taiwan, with the number and the technological capabilities of these missiles growing each year; (c) China has stationed over 375,000 ground forces in areas nearest to Taiwan, compared to Taiwan's 200,000 total military personnel; (d) Chinese military leaders are planning multiple strategies for a takeover of Taiwan using military force, such as a direct invasion or targeted missile strikes against Taiwan's leadership and military assets, and other forms of coercion, including a high altitude nuclear detonation to disrupt Taiwanese communications and logistics, naval blockades, and asymmetric tactics such as economic sabotage and psychological warfare.

The report clearly states that China's rapid military growth is a unilateral change to the status quo and the strategic balance in the Taiwan Strait. Just as concerning, the report verifies that a critical element of China's overall strategy of overwhelming Taiwan is to deter, delay or repel the involvement of the United States and other nations in a conflict in the Taiwan Strait. The preoccupation of Chinese military leaders with the United States was made clear last week when General Zhu Chenghu, a senior Chinese military official and also a dean at China's National Defense University, declared that China would have to use nuclear weapons against the United States if the U.S. became involved in a conflict with Taiwan.

Moreover, China's ambitions, the report states, go beyond Taiwan. The Chinese political and military leadership views Taiwan as an important stepping stone to extending China's ability to control maritime shipping lanes throughout Asia, which has profound security implications for the United States and other Asian nations.

"The Department of Defense's report is required reading for anyone who is worried about the threat China poses to Taiwan's peaceful and democratic society," said Donald Lee, Chairman of the Formosa Foundation. "Clearly, the Pentagon recognizes that China, by developing a vast and frightening array of weapons and tactics to attack Taiwan, is the party that is unilaterally changing the status quo in the China-Taiwan strategic balance. Taiwan does not pose any threat to China. We hope that political leaders in both Taiwan and the United States heed the warnings contained in this report and find ways to improve Taiwan's defensive capabilities against China. We also urge leaders throughout the Pacific Rim to recognize that, if China is successful in conquering Taiwan, then China will be an even more serious security threat to the entire region."

To read the Department of Defense report on China's military power, please go to <http://www.defenselink.mil>



**About the Formosa Foundation:**

Based in Los Angeles, California, the Formosa Foundation is a non-profit corporation formed in 2001 to promote greater understanding and friendship between Taiwan, the United States, and to preserve and enhance the democracy, human rights and freedom of the people of Taiwan.

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