

China hits Pentagon...

eighty, security and territorial integrity and guaranteeing China's peaceful development."

The report to the US Congress on Friday said that China has reclaimed more than 3,200 acres of land in the southeastern South China Sea and was focused on developing and weaponizing the islands it has built in the disputed waters of the South China Sea so it will have greater control over the maritime region without resorting to armed conflict.

It accused China of "increasingly assertive efforts to advance its national sovereignty and territorial claims" and a lack of transparency about its growing military capabilities that are causing tensions with other countries in the region.

Yang said it was the United States that had been "frequently sending military aircraft and warships to the South China Sea to make a show of force."

In its most detailed assessment to date of China's island-building program, the Defense Department said three of the land features in the Spratly Islands now have nearly 10,000-foot runways and large ports in various stages of construction.

And it has excavated deep channels, created and dredged harbors, and constructed communications, logistics, and intelligence gathering facilities.

The report argues that the accelerated building effort doesn't give China any new territorial rights. But it says the airfields, ship facilities, surveillance and weapons equipment will allow China to significantly enhance

its long-term presence in the South China Sea.

"This would improve China's ability to detect and challenge activities by rival claimants or third parties, widen the range of capabilities available to China, and reduce the time required to deploy them," according to the report released Friday.

"China is using coercive tactics short of armed conflict, such as the use of law enforcement vessels to enforce maritime claims, to advance their interests in ways that are calculated to fall below the threshold of provoking conflict," the report adds.

The 3,200 acres only represents China's reclamation in the Spratlys and doesn't include its building in the Paracels, further northwest, including the contested Woody Island, in its estimates. China has deployed anti-aircraft missiles to Woody Island.

The Pentagon declined to release details on the amount of increased reclamation in the Paracels or to provide a more concrete estimate of the increase in building in the Spratly Islands.

US officials have been increasingly concerned China's activities could be a prelude to enforcing a possible air defense identification zone over the South China Sea, similar to one it declared over disputed Japanese-held islands in the East China Sea in 2013.

As noted in previous year's reports, China continues to target US government and Defense Department computer systems through cyber intrusions. The report said that during 2015, China used its cyber capabilities to spy on the US and steal information

from computer networks.

"The information targeted could potentially be used to benefit China's defense industry, high-technology industries, and provide the CCP insights into US leadership perspectives on key China issues," the report said.

PH banking on UN arbitration

In Manila, the Philippine government said it is still hopeful that China will change its mind and join the arbitration proceedings before a United Nations (UN) tribunal on maritime entitlements in the South China Sea.

Presidential Communications Operations Secretary Hermino Coloma Jr. said China's participation would show its compliance to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to help resolve the territorial dispute through peaceful and rules-based means.

"The country's participation in the arbitration proceedings in the international arbitration court is a strong adherence to the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This is part of the country's rules-based approach towards the peaceful resolution of issues on the maritime

entitlement claims in the West Philippine Sea," Coloma said in Filipino over government radio.

"And in our belief as a member of the international community, China can truly show its adherence to UNCLOS, wherein is one of the signatories, and other international laws by participating in the arbitration," he said.

China reportedly asserted that it was seeking to defend, not disobey, the international laws by refusing to participate or accept the results of the arbitration case initiated by Manila.

An editorial published by state-run media Xinhua claimed that Manila's "forceful arbitration" case was an abuse of international law since it failed to meet preconditions set by UNCLOS.

It said the matter of territorial disputes was covered by the UN Charter and general international law, not the UNCLOS. China also supposedly declared back in 2006 that it will not accept compulsory mechanism of UNCLOS in dealing with overlapping maritime claims. It also prefers to settle the conflict through bilateral negotiations.

The Palace official, however, said the Philippines' position on resolving

the maritime conflict via arbitration has been supported by the international community.

"The Philippines is not alone in this reasonable filing of petition before the arbitral tribunal. Many countries including the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan have upheld the principles of peace, security and stability in Asia Pacific region," Coloma said.

He said these countries have also called for an end to "intimidating, coercive or provocative unilateral actions that could alter the status quo and increase tensions" in the South China Sea.

The Philippines has filed an arbitration case before a UN tribunal seeking clarification on the country's maritime entitlements in the South China Sea following aggressive land reclamation and other incursions by China into local waters.

Manila insisted that China's territorial claims in the West Philippine Sea are baseless and illegal. It said China's nine-dash line claims over the disputed waters "do not exist" under the UNCLOS.

The tribunal is expected to issue its ruling on the case this month.

Poll gun ban...

possibility that some of the more than 4,000 gun violators are criminal elements whom police chanced upon on checkpoints.

"By taking away these instruments of violence from criminal elements and lawless individuals, we were able to preempt imminent danger that may have marred the otherwise peaceful outcome of last Monday's elections and save lives in the process," said Mayor.

Aside from the 4,000 firearms seized since January 10, police authorities also confiscated 37,428 bullets, 281 grenades and 313 explosive devices from

violators.

"The guns and ammunition we confiscated are enough firepower to arm five or six battalions of combat troops," according to Mayor.

"I can't imagine how much damage 37,000 bullets and 500 explosives can do to our lives," he added.

The PNP is the law enforcement agency tasked by the Commission on

Elections to secure the elections. Part of the security preparations for the elections was the implementation of the gun ban which will be lifted on June 9.

Civilians arrested are facing criminal charges while soldiers, policemen, and other government employees will be facing additional administrative charges.

Police have started to subject the seized firearms to ballistics examinations to determine if they were used in any unsolved cases in the past.

H. No. 5953

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Sixteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of July, two thousand fifteen.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10797]

AN ACT RENAMING THE PHILIPPINE PUBLIC SAFETY COLLEGE - REGIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL 7 (PPSC-RTS 7) IN CONSOLACION, PROVINCE OF CEBU INTO THE CAMP JESSE M. ROBREDO REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER 7, NATIONAL POLICE TRAINING INSTITUTE, PHILIPPINE PUBLIC SAFETY COLLEGE

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. The Philippine Public Safety College - Regional Training School 7 (PPSC-RTS 7) in Consolacion, Province of Cebu is hereby renamed the Camp Jesse M. Robredo Regional Training Center 7, National Police Training Institute, Philippine Public Safety College.

SEC. 2. The Department of the Interior and Local Government shall issue the necessary rules, orders and circulars to implement the provision of this Act.

SEC. 3. All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,
FRANKLIN M. DRILON, President of the Senate
FELICIANO BELMONTE JR., Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on August 24, 2015 and February 2, 2016, respectively.

OSCAR G. YABES, Secretary of the Senate
MARILYN B. BARUA YAP, Secretary General House of Representatives

Approved: MAY 10 2016
BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, President of the Philippines

H. No. 2028

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Sixteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of July, two thousand fifteen.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10798]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE CITY OF ANTIPOLO, PROVINCE OF RIZAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. There shall be established a regular district office of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in the City of Antipolo, Province of Rizal.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Transportation and Communications shall immediately include in the Department's programs the operationalization of the LTO District Office in the City of Antipolo, Province of Rizal, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,
FRANKLIN M. DRILON, President of the Senate
FELICIANO BELMONTE JR., Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was passed by the House of Representatives on May 12, 2014, amended by the Senate on January 19, 2016, and which amendments were concurred in by the House of Representatives on January 25, 2016.

OSCAR G. YABES, Secretary of the Senate
MARILYN B. BARUA YAP, Secretary General House of Representatives

Approved: MAY 10 2016
BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, President of the Philippines

H. No. 2606

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Sixteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of July, two thousand fifteen.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10799]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LA LIBERTAD, PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) Main Office in Quezon City, a regular district office of the LTO in the Municipality of La Libertad, Province of Negros Oriental.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Transportation and Communications shall immediately include in the Department's programs the operationalization of the LTO Regular District Office in the Municipality of La Libertad, Province of Negros Oriental, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,
FRANKLIN M. DRILON, President of the Senate
FELICIANO BELMONTE JR., Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was passed by the House of Representatives on June 9, 2014, amended by the Senate on January 19, 2016, and which amendments were concurred in by the House of Representatives on January 25, 2016.

OSCAR G. YABES, Secretary of the Senate
MARILYN B. BARUA YAP, Secretary General House of Representatives

Approved: MAY 10 2016
BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, President of the Philippines

