Republic of China (Taiwan) Military Forces in 2017

Background

The total active manpower of the Taiwanese military is approximately 290,000 (Army 180,000; Navy 30,000; Marines 15,000; Air Force 45,000; Special Operations Forces 1,000; and Command and Support forces 19,000). In addition, there are approximately 1,657,000 reservists (Army 1.5 million, Navy 42,000; Marines 25,000; Air Force 90,000) – most of significantly less readiness for operational employment. There are a further approximately 17,000 Paramilitary personnel in active units (e.g., Coast Guard, Border Patrol).

Taiwan’s armed forces are well trained and exercise regularly. However, in some equipment areas Taiwan’s historic advantage over the PLA has been (tanks) or is in the process (air & maritime systems) of being overtaken.

Although the army continues to take delivery of the AH-64E Apache attack helicopter (29 fielded in 2016, with 30 more on order), air and missile defense along with littoral maritime security continue to be the main procurement drivers. The program to field additional Patriot PAC-3 batteries is underway, as are selected upgrades to the air force’s existing F-16A/B combat aircraft (Taiwan continues, thus far unsuccessfully, to try to acquire F-16C/Ds). The installation of UGM-84L Harpoon capability aboard two of Taiwan’s four diesel-electric submarines in 2016 did provide limited improved anti-ship capability.

As part of a long-planned force-reduction, Taiwan was to phase out conscription by the end of 2017, but due to the increasing crisis atmosphere in the region those plans have currently been placed on hold.
# Republic of China (Taiwan) Military Forces in 2017

## Active ROC Forces

The ‘total force’ columns represent the maximum military ground/air/maritime capability resourced by the nation. The ‘max equiv potentially available expeditionary’ columns reflect the portion of the total force which reasonably could be employed outside of the national territory within the next year (taking into consideration reserve mobilization and training times, supportability with available combat service support structure and national logistics, interoperability, commitments to home defense, etc.).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATION</th>
<th>Total Force</th>
<th>Max Equiv Potentially Avail Expeditionary</th>
<th>Total Force</th>
<th>Max Equiv Potentially Avail Expeditionary</th>
<th>Total Force</th>
<th>Max Equiv Potentially Avail Expeditionary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republic of China (Taiwan)</td>
<td>6 BDE, 6 PAC3B, 1 ASMB, 1 UAVS(R), 9 ASFC</td>
<td>1 BDE, 2 PAC3B</td>
<td>3 FS (Mirage), 7 FS (F-16), 4 FS (F-5), 6 FS (F-C1), 1 AWAC</td>
<td>1 FS (Mirage), 2 FS (F-16)</td>
<td>1 SSG, 6 SAG, 3 MCMG, 2 ARG, 2 MEB</td>
<td>4 NSFT, 1 SSG, 3 SAG, 1 MCMG, 1 ARG, 1 MEB, 1 NSFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinmen (Quemoy)</td>
<td>1 BDE, 1 PAC3B, 1 ASFC</td>
<td>1 ASFC</td>
<td>BS = bomber squadron (approx 10-12 planes)</td>
<td>ALS = airlift squadron [C-5/C-17 equiv]</td>
<td>CSG = Carrier Strike Group (incl escorts &amp; aircraft)</td>
<td>SSG = nuclear pwrd atk submarine group (2 boats)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 Short/medium range missiles; see strategic attack chart for long range systems.

2 PAC3 equivalent for countries not aligned w USA.
Republic of China (Taiwan) Military Forces in 2017

Reserve ROC Forces

The ‘total force’ columns represent the maximum military ground/air/maritime capability resourced by the nation. The ‘max equiv potentially available expeditionary’ columns reflect the portion of the total force which reasonably could be employed outside of the national territory within the next year (taking into consideration reserve mobilization and training times, supportability with available combat service support structure and national logistics, interoperability, commitments to home defense, etc.).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATION</th>
<th>Ground Total Force</th>
<th>Ground Max Equiv Potentially Avail Expeditionary</th>
<th>Air Total Force</th>
<th>Air Max Equiv Potentially Avail Expeditionary</th>
<th>Sea Total Force</th>
<th>Sea Max Equiv Potentially Avail Expeditionary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republic of China (Taiwan)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>5 BDE</td>
<td>1 BDE</td>
<td>1 SSG</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinmen (Quemoy)</td>
<td>1 BDE</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penghu</td>
<td>1 BDE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matsu</td>
<td>1 ASFC</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

BDE = ground combat brigade  
BS = bomber squadron (approx 10-12 planes)  
FS = fighter squadron (approx 20 planes)  
ALS = airlift squadron [C-5/C-17 equiv]  
AWAC = Airborne Warning & Control Package  
CSG = Carrier Strike Group (incl escorts & aircraft)  
SSG = diesel pwrd atk submarine group (2 boats)  
SSNG= nuclear pwrd atk submarine group (2 boats)  
SAG= surface action and/or anti-sub group  
MEB = Marine/Naval Inf Amphib Brigade  
ARG = amphib lift group (incl escorts)  
UAVS(R) = Unmanned air vehicle squadron (recon)  
UAVS(A) = Unmanned air vehicle squadron (attack)  
NSFT = Naval Special Forces Tm (approx. 20 pers)  
ASFC = Army Special Forces Com (approx. 80 pers)  
SSMB = Surface-to-surface missile Bde (12 launchers)  
ASMB = Anti-ship missile Bde (16 launchers)  
PAC3B = Patriot PAC3 Battery (6 launchers)  
THAADB = Thtr BMD Btry (6 launchers)  
MDSAG = Missile defense surface action group

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3 Short/medium range missiles; see strategic attack chart for long range systems.
4 PAC3 equivalent for countries not aligned w USA.

[continued next page]
Republic of China (Taiwan) Military Forces in 2017

**ROC (Taiwan) Missile Defense and Strategic Attack in 2017**

The following chart depicts national military capabilities for defense against missile threat and for conducting long range/strategic attacks, available in 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATION</th>
<th>Missile Defense</th>
<th>Strategic Attack</th>
<th>Space Systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Republic of China (Taiwan) | none (limited point def vs SRBM) | 36 *Hsiung Feng* 2E LACM  
60 *Cloud Peak* LACM  
10 *Extended Cloud Peak* LACM | 1 ISR Sat  
1 ComSat  
1 MappingSat  
5 GPSSat  
1 Ground station |

BMD = Ballistic Missile Defense suitable vs. ICBMs  
IRBM = Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile  
SSBN = Nuclear Ballistic Missile Submarine  
SSGN = Nuclear Guided Missile Submarine  
ICBM = Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (fixed site)  
MICBM = Mobile Intercontinental Ballistic Missile  
BS = Bomber Squadron (approx 10-12 planes) capable of delivering nuclear weapons  
LACM = Land Attack Cruise Missile

Taiwanese LACM systems are conventional warhead delivery only.

See also map on next page.
Republic of China (Taiwan) Military Forces in 2017

ROC (Taiwan) “Strategic” LACM Range Fan

[continued next page]
Republic of China (Taiwan) Military Forces in 2017

Cyber and the ROC (Taiwan) Military

Although Taiwan has a highly developed civilian IT sector, the Taiwanese government has been relatively slow to exploit this advantage for national-defense purposes.

Responsible authorities for cyber activity include the National Security Bureau (NSB), the defense ministry, and the Research, Development and Evaluation Commission (RDEC).

From 2005 to 2017, Taipei has worked on its Po Sheng – “Broad Victory” – C4ISR program, an all-hazards defense system with a significant defense component located in the Hengshan Command Center, which also houses the Tri-Service Command. The main focus of the military component of this program is countering People’s Liberation Army Information Warfare and Electronic Warfare attacks.

The Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology (a Taiwanese government R&D house) has reported it began significant investments in 2013 in a project to ‘display and confirm’ Taiwan’s latest ‘cyber offensive system,’ among other projects.

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5 Cyber information is from the 2015 Military Balance, Chapter 6, p 289.