

Taiwan Options: Winning through Denial

<45km

- M109A6 with *Excalibur* and PGK-M. U.S. has ~500 units in storage; send 250 of them plus 2,000 shells per gun
- Find a way to drop *Quickstrike* or other mines from small Fast Attack Craft Iran-style
- Keep B-1/B-2 aircraft with stocks of *Quickstrike-ER* at Diego/Wake/RAAF Amberley to allow rapid closure of ingress routes into Taiwan ports/landing beaches

50-to-100km range

- Maximize, surge deliveries of *Switchblade 600* loitering munition
- Push for acquisition of six dozen HIMARS launchers, substantially increase number of GMLRS rounds transferred



100-to-250km range

- Accelerate transfer of ATACMS rounds, including via Presidential drawdown (port interdiction asset)
- Ensure rapid, numerous production and deployment of ground-launched Small Diameter Bomb (SDB), including possible integration of GBU-53 StormBreaker
- Transfer hundreds more AGM-84 rounds. Encourage Ukraine-style integration of AGM-84 with low-cost truck launchers, help train Taiwan personnel
- Provide longer-range loitering munitions capable of ship/port interdiction, potentially including/akin to: Rheinmetall HERO-900/1250 & IAI Harpy, Harop + Mini Harpy (<https://www.iai.co.il/p/mini-harpy>)

Civil Defense/Insurgency

- Hold 60 days of liquid fuel stocks in hardened, dispersed locations
- Establish distributed arms caches with at least 1 million small arms, 100 million rounds ammo, 20,000 anti-tank weapons, and IED manufacturing components

Asymmetric

- Maximize ability to deliver JASSM-ER, etc. with at least six dozen units of C-17 Cleaver Palletized Munitions System (<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/10/30/air-force-moves-forward-plan-turn-giant-cargo-planes-bomb-trucks.html>).
- Build/deploy numerous small missile Fast Attack Craft akin to Iran's *Peykaap III*-class (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peykaap_III-class_missile_boat).
- Build/deploy numerous unmanned anti-ship explosive vessels, akin to Houthi drone boats (<https://www.conflictarm.com/perspectives/anatomy-of-a-drone-boat/>).
 - Unit cost less than ASCMs, 4-10x the explosive power, hard to defend against, and could distract PLAN/CCG/PAFMM/amphibious invasion forces like TB2 enabling Neptune strike on Moskva. Can also use semi-submersible design (<https://warontherocks.com/2020/07/cocaine-logistics-for-the-marine-corps/>)
- Charter old bulk carriers and anchor near approaches to key ports so they are pre-positioned for scuttling to block ingress routes. Panamax bulkers can currently be chartered for the equivalent of ~\$5.5 million annually.
- Flood potential landing beaches with steel hedgehogs and concrete obstacles. Low-cost, scalable, hard to defeat.

Notes

Core Intent:

Focus on systems that can (1) be procured from existing stocks, (2) be surge produced with (ideally) single-digit months of lead time, or (3) creatively and rapidly integrate/combine proven existing systems and components as has been done for Ukraine with AGM-84G and AGM-88, among others or has been done domestically with the SM-6 missile system.

<https://news.usni.org/2016/03/07/navy-sinks-former-frigate-uss-reuben-james-in-test-of-new-supersonic-anti-surface-missile>

Sources:

<https://www.avinc.com/resources/press-releases/view/aerovironment-introduces-family-of-loitering-missile-systems-featuring-new>; <https://www.ibtimes.com/taiwan-now-wants-himars-that-stopped-russians-can-they-survive-chinese-missile-barrage-3608185>; <https://www.ssyonline.com/free-charts/bulk-carrier-time-charter-rates/#> ;

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/how-the-u-s-rushed-harpoon-anti-ship-missiles-to-Ukraine>; IISS 2021 Military Balance (M109A6 data), <https://warontherocks.com/2020/07/cocaine-logistics-for-the-marine-corps/>;

<https://www.saab.com/products/ground-launched-small-diameter-bomb-glsdb>;

<https://www.raytheonmissilesanddefense.com/what-we-do/air-warfare/air-to-surface-missiles/stormbreaker-smart-weapon>; <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2021/december/use-loitering-munitions-against-ships>