

Taiwan Begins Anti-Invasion Drills Amid China Threat

Taiwan's military on Monday launched the 2024 edition of its annual Han Kuang series of war games aimed at resisting an invasion from an increasingly aggressive China.

This year's exercises have been updated to include what Taiwan's Defense Ministry has called "unscripted" scenarios to better simulate wartime conditions, a change one defense analyst told *Newsweek* was adopted after the "wake-up call" of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

The drills, which will take place through Friday in strategic areas across Taiwan, come as Taipei faces increasing pressure from Beijing. China claims Taiwan as its territory, though Beijing's Chinese Communist Party-led government has never ruled the island.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has stressed that eventual unification with Taiwan is inevitable, through force if necessary. Chinese forces encircled Taiwan with major air, ground, and sea-based drills in May after the inauguration of Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te, a critic of Beijing who emphasized Taiwan's sovereignty in his inaugural speech.

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