

Taiwan extends mandatory 4-month military service to 1 year, raises soldiers' pay

TAIPEI - Taiwan is extending its compulsory military service from the current four months to one year, as part of efforts to bolster the island's combat readiness amid rising cross-strait tensions.

China's threat has become even more severe since Beijing's military drills in August, President Tsai Ing-wen said at a press conference on Tuesday. "Nobody would want a war... but peace will not fall from the sky."

The new requirement is set to start in 2024 and will affect all Taiwanese males born on and after Jan 1, 2005. From that year, conscripts will also receive a higher pay of NT\$26,307 (S\$1,152) a month, a big jump from the current NT\$6,510.

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