

China “building third airstrip” in Spratlys

Recent satellite images appear to show construction for a third Chinese airstrip on the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea

Chinese claim line

SOUTH CHINA SEA



Mischief Reef: Images show retaining wall around 3,000m-long area of island, suggesting construction of new airstrip

160km

100 miles

Thitu Island
Taiping Island
Subi Reef*

Gaven Reefs

Hughes Reef

Fiery Cross Reef*

Cuarteron Reef

Spratly Islands

Spratly Island

PHILIPPINES

MALAYSIA

ISLAND CLAIMS

- China
- Malaysia
- Vietnam
- Philippines
- Taiwan
- ⊕ Airstrips
- ⊙ China land reclamation

AIRSTRIP COMPARISON (aircraft capabilities)



Transport / surveillance



Fighter jet



Bomber

Spratly Island
Vietnam
Runway length 500m

Thitu Island
Philippines
1,000m

Taiping Island
Taiwan
1,195m

Swallow Reef
Malaysia
1,368m

Fiery Cross Reef*
China
3,000m

