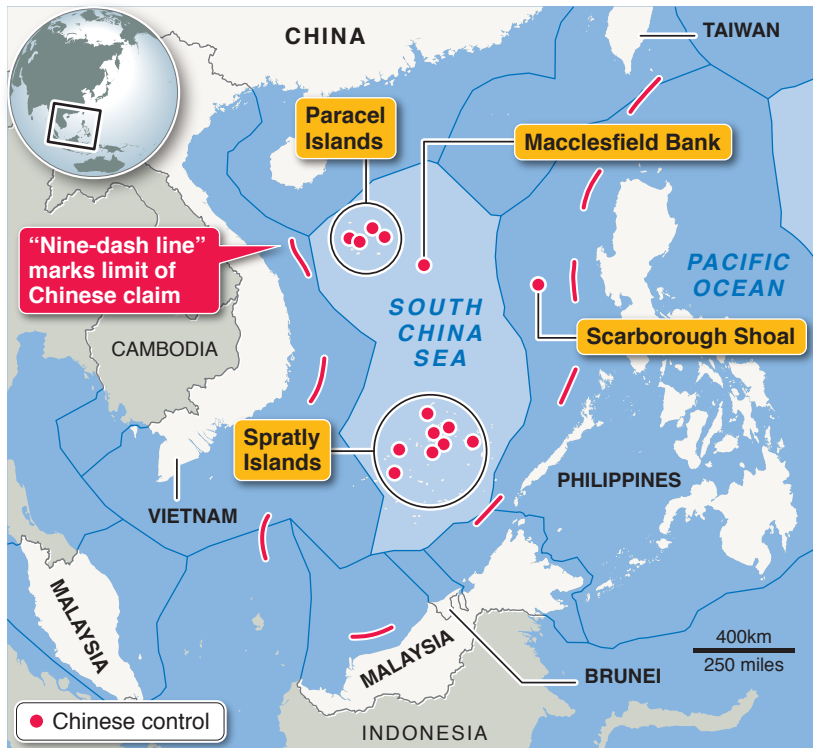


Beijing “hits back” over South China Sea

China has warned Washington that it will not back down over its claims in the disputed South China Sea, after the Trump administration pledged to defend U.S. and international interests in the region

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ): Each country has economic rights within 200 nautical miles of its coastline, according to UNCLOS*



Paracel Islands: Occupied by China, also claimed by Taiwan and Vietnam. Sansha city established on Woody Island in 2012 as permanent base for administering China's claims

Scarborough Shoal: China gained control over partly submerged chain of reefs in 2012. Also claimed by Philippines and Taiwan

Spratly Islands: Claimed in whole or part by China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines and Brunei. Several islands occupied by claimant countries. China occupies eight islands and is building military facilities to back up its claims

Macclesfield Bank: Sunken atoll claimed by China and Taiwan