

U.S. seeks closer defence ties with Philippines

The United States is seeking an expansion of its military presence in the Philippines, amid growing Chinese influence in the region



Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement (EDCA)

■ Pact signed in 2014 to bolster U.S.-Philippine ties

■ Allows U.S. access to military bases – for joint training, pre-positioning of equipment and building of runways, fuel storage and military housing – but not permanent presence

■ U.S. proposes adding five more EDCA sites to current five

- ★ Philippine bases available to U.S. on rotational basis
- ★ Areas of possible additional bases



South China Sea

LUZON

PACIFIC OCEAN

Zambales

Basa Airbase

Manila

Fort Magsaysay

Mactan-Benito Ebuen Airbase

PHILIPPINES

VISAYAS

PALAWAN

Sulu Sea

Antonio Bautista Airbase

Lumbia Airbase

MINDANAO

MALAYSIA

Celebes Sea

200km
125 miles



Nov 20-22: Visit to Philippines by U.S. Vice President **Kamala Harris** includes stopover at Palawan. Trip reaffirms U.S. support for 2016 international tribunal ruling that invalidated China's extensive claim in disputed South China Sea