

# China-Philippines sea dispute heats up



A rusting former U.S. World War II-era landing ship has sparked renewed tensions over territory in the South China Sea



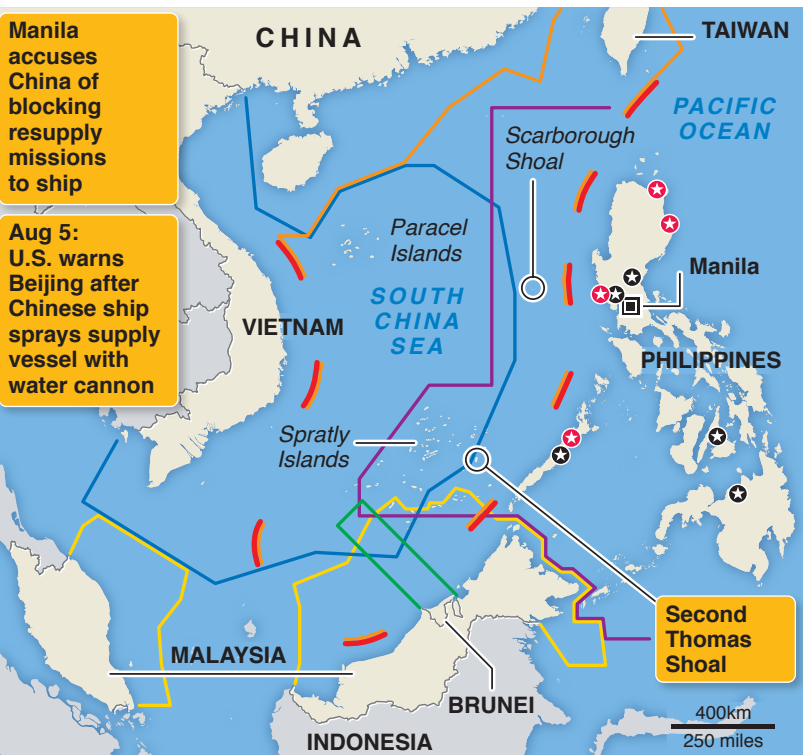
## BRP SIERRA MADRE

■ Acquired by Philippine Navy in 1976. Deliberately grounded in 1999 to reinforce sovereignty claims over disputed **Spratly Islands**

■ China wants ship – housing small contingent of Philippine Marines – towed away from **Second Thomas Shoal**

Manila accuses China of blocking resupply missions to ship

Aug 5: U.S. warns Beijing after Chinese ship sprays supply vessel with water cannon



## RIVAL CLAIMS

- China
- Philippines
- Taiwan
- Malaysia
- Vietnam
- Brunei

## U.S. ACCESS TO PHILIPPINE BASES

- ★ Access granted in 2014
- ★ Agreed Feb 2023