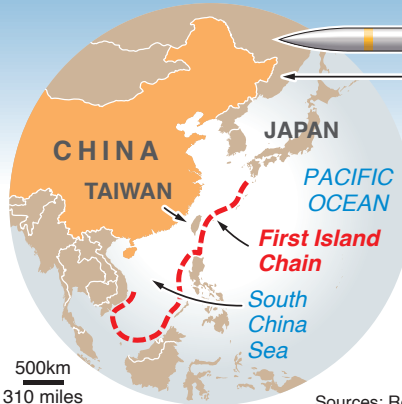
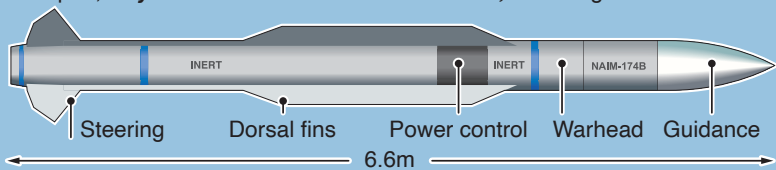


# New missile shifts power in South China Sea

The U.S. Navy's deployment of a new extremely long-range air-to-air missile in the Indo-Pacific region threatens to overcome China's advantage in aerial reach

**AIM-174B:** Developed from U.S.'s primary ship-launched interceptor, **Raytheon SM-6**

**Range: 400km** – much further than next-best U.S. option, **AIM-120 AMRAAM**, with range of 150km



**AIM-174B outranges China's PL-15 missile (above), which can destroy targets at 250km**

In any type of South China Sea conflict, within so-called **First Island Chain**, AIM-174B would allow U.S. jets to keep threats further from aircraft carriers and safely strike "high-value" targets, such as command-and-control planes