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U.S. EAST ASIA POLICY MARITIME ISSUES UPDATE

February 10, 2014



Daniel R. Russel, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

"As a maritime nation with global trading networks, the United States has a national interest in freedom of the seas and in unimpeded lawful commerce. From President Thomas Jefferson's actions against the Barbary pirates to President Reagan's decision that the United States will abide by the Law of the Sea Convention's provisions on navigation and other traditional uses of the ocean, American foreign policy has long defended the freedom of the seas. And as we consistently state, we have a national interest in the maintenance of peace and stability; respect for international law; unimpeded lawful commerce; and freedom of navigation and overflight in the East China and South China Seas. [Full text of the remarks.](#) [Watch the video.](#)

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