

OP-ED

EXAMINING THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF TAOYUAN AIRPORT

By: Geoffrey Fields



In 2023, for the first time in history Taiwan's military conducted a drill designed to repel a Chinese attack at Taoyuan Airport. Largely influenced by the failed Russian attempt to capture Ukraine's Antonov airport in early 2022 – by repelling this attack, Ukraine prevented a day one Russian victory.

While similar simulations had been conducted at other airports, this marked the first time that a military exercise had been carried out at Taoyuan Airport.

Taiwanese to seriously consider immediately bolstering the air defenses in northern Taiwan. One way of dealing with this urgent problem would be to restore the strategic role of the Taoyuan Air Base.

The region has launch sites for missiles, but not for fighter jets.

Taoyuan Airport today is a travel hub for the public estimates place traffic around 6 million per year, leaving little room for military aircraft, any response to a Chinese invasion would rely on flying aircraft from air bases in Hsinchu County or the more distant Hualien County.

“Taipei Times: When it comes to air defense, every second counts, but despite Taiwan’s intrinsic geographical and defensive advantages, northern Taiwan depends on bringing in fighter jets from far away, which leaves too wide a strategic gap.”

Response time

In the event of invasion by China the first 3 hours are critical. Reports suggest that recent hacks in the United States by Chinese cyberhackers would delay US response time. An hour in, China will have targeted critical infrastructure in Taiwan; as US intelligence is just beginning to brief the President. A successful response by Taiwan could be limited or delayed a few hours as the US plots involvement, paving the way for a potential “quick” victory for the CCP.

According to CNN, FBI Director Christopher Wray on Wednesday warned that Chinese hackers are preparing to “wreak havoc and cause real-world harm” to the US.

“China’s hackers are positioning on American infrastructure in preparation to wreak havoc and cause real-world harm to American citizens and communities, if or when China decides the time has come to strike,” Wray told the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party.

“The move by the Justice Department and FBI is part of a broader, government-wide attempt to blunt the impact of a persistent Chinese hacking effort that US officials fear could hinder any US military response in the event of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan, CNN has reported. The hackers are believed to be using access to some of the devices to burrow

further into sensitive critical infrastructure — things like ports and transportation networks.”

China may go for an escalation of relations with Taiwan because of US President Joe Biden's incompetence

The US "is not going to survive" if the Republicans fail to win in this year's general election, former US President Donald Trump claimed