

[1-1] Pre-crisis: What policies, actions, or activities (e.g. FONOPS, FDO) would have potentially deterred this crisis?

- Understanding what our desired end state is and developing set of actions to support it
- Develop a plan with allies regarding air and naval to overcome blockade
- More bases
- Ending strategic ambiguity in Taiwan to help clarify our resolve
 - There can be consequences to this as well
- Increased and more visible arms sales, especially higher end capabilities that are redundant
- Freedom of navigation exercise/demonstration
- Full press engagement with Japan and Australia and ROK
- We need to reach out to allies and China
- Ask China team: what they've baked in, what are they're assumptions?

[2-1] What outcomes does the U.S. desire and is it achievable?
Is the U.S. willing to go to war over Taiwan?
If not, what is the objective end state desired?

- The focus of US policy should be to avoid war, making sure this doesn't escalate
 - Use it as a Pearl Harbor moment to show China is a threat, get support
- Is it a restoration of status quo, punish, constrain Taiwan?
- Don't think we're willing to go to war, if we can't get them to undo what they've done, is there a way to impose a cost to avoid a shooting war?
- What does Taiwan want to do? They've asked us to come to their assistance, we should talk to Taiwan before forming our own policy
 - What is end state/goal of Taiwan?
 - This gives them a lot of power, but we need to get a feel for them
 - It would be unprecedented to have a public meeting (president-president) but what message would it send,
 - We don't want Taiwanese to entangle us, need to shape how their thinking about this
 - Message: cooler heads to need to prevail, let's not go closer to war

What is the end state desired?

- Go to war or rule out a military response?
 - China has not taken overt military action yet, but they seem to have flooded naval forces into straits to enforce economic zones which makes it ambiguous – we should not plan a military response to plan to respond with military right now, currently doesn't compel us to go to war
 - End state is going to be restoration of status quo without a shooting war, but if we allow this China will likely chip away and get to invading. Key is to get international support and not shoot first but we have to be willing to use military convoys and if China shoots first we will have support. To Taiwan, you're on your own if you take unilateral action.
 - Don't shoot first because of will of the people of US, can't really rule anything else out. We need to be aggressive aside from the fact that we won't be the first military action.
 - Don't want to escalate but willing to do so if needed
 - If china controls Taiwan they have access to more in region
- To Taiwan, please do not take any unilateral actions
- Berlin airlift type response is not on the table, this is more about a political issue, don't want Taiwan to starve
- Start planning, move certain capabilities into area
 - Diplomatic- UN ambassador bring it up forcefully
 - Information/propaganda – aide mission (multinational)
 - Military – cancel overseas leaves, up readiness to signal we're taking it seriously

[3-1] Crisis: What actions are the U.S. taking to deescalate the crisis?
To resolve the crisis to the U.S. benefit?

- Direct Sec of State to engage with Taiwan (deescalate)
 - President-President meeting would escalate
- Enhance deterrence by getting as many countries to join us for a naval convoy and aerial airlift, block goods to China
- Leveraging our better ties to Saudi Arabia to stop oil from going to China (buy it ourselves) and block China from US financial system
- If we want to start shooting we need to get others on board
- Take action to improve our stance militarily in case it gets there
 - Thinking about NK so they cannot take advantage of us
- Develop kind of economic reprisals, economic act of hostility as a way to punish China (escalation)

[4-1] What capabilities and policies are viewed as offering the greatest leverage to achieve U.S. objectives?

- Exhaust China, show we're willing to play the long game
 - Put pressure on them to back down (economic and diplomatic)
- Low volume military prep
- Oil
- Europe
- Asian allies
- Mobilizing ASEAN quad
 - Are some willing to do joint statements, China doesn't like to be isolated
- Get as many international partners as possible
 - If there's a shooting war, it is not just with us (at least visually, countries might not be willing to join a shooting war but it will make China think – are they going to have to attack others first, bring region against you)
- Economics: debt and financial instruments
 - China based companies are listed on US exchanges and lot of them are not complying (disclosure obligations), denying them access would have long-term consequences
 - UK capital markets would also have impact (others if they are willing as well)
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Actions to be taken

- What about the informational aspect?
 - Saturation showing Taiwanese perspective and what the Chinese are doing
 - Why hasn't China taken this path yet? We could respond better if they had a stance out there
 - Cyber: something to think about just like acts of economic pressure, engaging with cyber would be a significant step
 - Feed information to prominent US reporters and local the suffering in Taiwan and other local actors
- Military actions
 - Nothing that is going to damage infrastructure, denial of service and goods
 - High enough to get attention but not enough to be provocative
 - Disperse airplanes
- Space-related actions
 - We have to be careful in space relations
 - Negotiate setting up agreement with allies (Europe)

PRC Off Ramp

- Face-saving way out for China:
 - Taiwan reasserting that they have no intention of declaring independence, Taiwan strongly backed by US and allies
 - What allows them to back off but they have done something meaningful?
 - We're not going to engage in the shooting

Last Takeaways

- Understanding what our desired end state is and developing set of actions to support it
- Develop a plan with allies regarding air and naval to overcome blockade