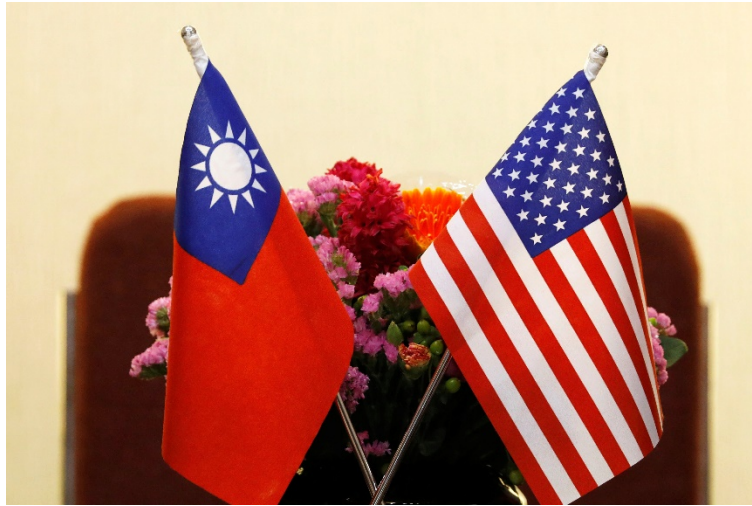


## **Weekly Report**

**National Security Division**

Week ending April 12, 2019



### **The Taiwan Relations Act at 40**

April 10, 2019 marked forty years since the adoption of the Taiwan Relations Act. When President Jimmy Carter announced in December 1978 that the United States would, as part of normalization of U.S.-Peoples Republic of China (PRC) relations, sever diplomatic ties and terminate a mutual security treaty with the Republic of China (Taiwan), the U.S. and Taiwan faced an urgent question: What would the U.S. do to give the government and people of Taiwan some degree of assurance that Washington would not abandon its newly vulnerable longtime ally. A major part of the answer was the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which starts with a statement of purpose that links ongoing support for Taiwan with broad U.S. foreign policy interests: “To help maintain peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific and to promote the foreign policy of the United States by authorizing the continuation of commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan, and for other purposes.” The TRA created a durable foundation for an unofficial relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan, with provisions addressing Taiwan’s security, arms purchases, human rights, and participation in international agreements and organizations.

Relations between the United States and Taiwan have evolved over four decades. Taiwan has transitioned peacefully from authoritarian rule to become a vibrant liberal democracy with a strong record on human rights. The relationship has been notably positive and stable throughout the last decade. At the same time, Taiwan is facing a more formidable challenge from across the Taiwan Strait. A much wealthier and more powerful China has shifted the military balance strongly in its favor, and burgeoning trade and investment ties have given Beijing much potential economic leverage. In recent years, the robustness and reality of U.S. security commitments to Taiwan and the region have faced growing doubts. In these changing contexts, U.S.-Taiwan relations are again moving into a new phase as the TRA turns forty.

USA Today carried an op-ed from the Taiwan Foreign Minister, Jaushieh Joseph Wu, on the occasion. Here it is:

## Taiwan foreign minister: We're celebrating 40 years of good relations with U.S.

*When we mark four decades since the passage of the landmark Taiwan Relations Act, we reflect on the deep relationship we have with the United States.*

Among the numerous anniversaries across Asia in 2019, few are as meaningful as the one that will be celebrated on Wednesday, when we mark four decades since the passage of the landmark [Taiwan Relations Act](#). At the time of enactment in 1979, the TRA codified the U.S. government's determination to protect its significant security and commercial interests in Taiwan following its decision to officially recognize the authorities in Beijing. The TRA has served as the foundation for the deep, robust and comprehensive partnership that Taiwan and the United States enjoy today.

In retrospect, the law has proved to be much more than a blueprint for Taiwan-U.S. ties. By providing the security umbrella that allowed Taiwan to blossom into one of the world's leading free-market democracies, the TRA has also evolved into a key cornerstone of the overall U.S. strategy in Asia.

Taiwan is the [11th-largest U.S. trading partner](#). The extensive integration of Taiwan's world-class [semiconductor industry](#) in the U.S. technology supply chain speaks to decades of close cooperation.

In addition, Taiwan has successfully transitioned from a recipient of U.S. aid during the earliest days of the bilateral relationship to a major provider of development assistance in recent years. We have set up an [official development assistance](#) program to support infrastructure and development projects in neighboring countries.

We are also bolstering our partnership with the U.S. [Overseas Private Investment Corp.](#) with the belief that the combination of American private equity and Taiwanese development expertise can make substantial contributions to enhancing the prosperity of Taiwan's diplomatic allies and regional partners.



**Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, right, arrives in Hawaii on March 27, 2019. (Photo: Taiwan Presidential Office via AP)**

The most remarkable transformation Taiwan has undergone since 1979 is the full embrace of democracy. Through the sacrifices of countless people who never relented in their pursuit of freedom and civil liberties, Taiwan moved away from the martial law that existed at the time of the TRA's enactment and now consistently ranks as one of the [freest](#) and [most democratic](#) countries in the world.

These accomplishments cannot be taken for granted. Rising authoritarian regimes and growing nationalistic movements have cast a shadow over global freedom in recent years. Taiwan is at the front lines of a battle being fought by America, Europe, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other like-minded societies in defense of freedom, democracy and the rules-based international order. We bear the brunt of this battle every day as we face China's intensified efforts to subvert our democracy, undermine our elected government and [interfere](#) with our elections through military intimidation, economic coercion, diplomatic isolation, disinformation and political manipulation.

### **Taiwan values freedom from China**

Polls consistently demonstrate that the 23 million people of Taiwan aspire to maintain the [status quo](#) that Taiwan is not ruled by the authoritative China, which is exactly what the administration led by President Tsai Ing-wen is committed to. President Tsai has continuously reiterated her willingness to engage in constructive dialogue and exchanges with China, while holding firm on the principles that matter most to the Taiwanese people: freedom and the democratic way of life free from coercion and interference by others.

Taiwan's democracy, as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has [recognized](#), serves as an example to the international community. Our successful democratic transition has also infused new life into our cooperation with the United States. As we commemorate the 40th anniversary of the TRA, we should not only reflect on how this unique partnership is rooted in shared values of democracy, human rights, the free-market economy and the rule of law, but also showcase how this multifaceted relationship is evolving in every aspect possible.

### **TRA stand for our shared values with US**

A yearlong program of events under the [Taiwan-U.S. Global Cooperation and Training Framework](#) will highlight Taiwan's leading expertise in a wide range of fields, including the digital economy, energy security, indigenous language preservation, law enforcement, media literacy, public health, humanitarian assistance and women's empowerment.

Last month, together with the United States, we announced the establishment of the [Indo-Pacific Democratic Governance Consultations](#), demonstrating Taiwan's determination to play a proactive role in ensuring that the region remains free and open. Also in March, we hosted the "[Civil Society Dialogue on Securing Religious Freedom in the Indo-Pacific Region](#)," attended by Sam Brownback, the U.S. ambassador for International Religious Freedom. As these innovative new platforms make clear, the inherent mutual trust between two societies that share fundamental values is the key that unlocks even greater collaboration across so many diverse fields.

Forty years after its passage, the TRA stands as an enduring statement of the core values shared by Taiwan and America, with a vibrant and democratic Taiwan highlighting the beneficial outcomes of U.S. leadership around the world. Moreover, the commitment to Taiwan embodied by the TRA has been carried forward in the U.S. Congress. Recent examples include the [Taiwan Travel Act](#) and the [Asia Reassurance Initiative Act](#), which were passed and signed into law last year.

We trust that these new laws can chart a path to ever-closer ties between our two peoples in future decades. Taiwan stands ready to share the responsibility of tackling common challenges and to serve as a reliable and robust partner of the United States in advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific.

### **Relevant Legion Resolutions:**

[Resolution No. 38: Taiwan Straights Dialogue](#)

[Resolution No. 37: Taiwan Defense Arms Sales](#)

[Resolution No. 118: Sustaining United States Commitments in the Indo-Pacific](#)

### ***German army leads thousands of multinational troops at US training area exercise***

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Germany’s 1st Armored Division is spearheading a “unique” multinational exercise bringing together thousands of U.S. and allied troops in a training area in the southeast, officials said.

Exercise Allied Spirit X is a series of training exercises where countries rotate as the brigade headquarters to lead the exercise. Thus, “all participating nations gain experience working together in, and for, a multinational effort,” the U.S. Army said in a statement.

One focus is testing each nation’s ability to communicate during a fight, officials said.

Approximately 5,600 participants from 15 nations, including 1,300 Americans, are taking part in the drills at the U.S. Army’s Hohenfels training area from March 30 until April 17.

During the exercise, soldiers are also developing a variety of skills, such as house-to-house combat, where soldiers clear rooms against a fictitious enemy force. They are also conducting large-scale mock battles, complete with a slew of fighting vehicles from the participating countries. The exercise also serves as a way for participants to test out modern warfare techniques in a multinational setting, like deploying small drones to scout for enemy positions.

Allied Spirit X is “unique in its ability to provide hands-on experience and testing of secure communications between NATO allies and partners,” according to a U.S. Army statement.

The enemy forces are played by some of the 1,300 U.S. troops involved. Other participants include allied and partner nations such as Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Turkey and Israel.

“It is a great opportunity to exercise in Hohenfels, since with the exception of the German army training area in Letzlingen, there would be nothing equivalent in Europe,” German Maj. Gen. Juergen-Joachim von Sandrart said, according to the news portal Onetz.de.

He said he would like to send one of his four brigades to Hohenfels every year.

### ***Staff Activities***

- This week, staff continued planning for the National Commander’s upcoming Europe travel tentatively scheduled for May 25-June 11.
- Monday, National Security staff met with representatives of the European Parliament Liaison Office to pursue meeting opportunities for the commander during his European travels.
- Tuesday, National Security staff attended a special event at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) on the Taiwan Relations Act at Forty and U.S.-Taiwan Relations. Event information and video are available [here](#).
- Wednesday, National Security staff met with officials from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO). TECRO represents the interests of Taiwan in the U.S. in the absence of formal diplomatic relations, functioning as a de facto embassy. Wednesday marked the official 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. Discussion focused on participation of a high level delegation from Taiwan at The Legion’s national convention in August.
- Thursday, National Security staff held a conference call with the chairs of the National Security Commission and Committees to provide updates on the Divisions activities.
- Friday, National Security staff accompanied DC Executive Director Lou Celli to a Pentagon desk briefing with the Poland desk. Potential future Legion travel to the area was explored.

### ***POW/MIA Update***

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency made 1 new announcement. Click on the links to read more:

04/08/19: [Airman Accounted For From World War II \(Stone, W.\)](#)

Rhonda Powell, Director, National Security Division