



IMAGE ACQUIRED: JULY 22, 2015

HOW PLANET MONITORS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

AUGUST 1, 2016

THE SITUATION

An international tribunal in The Hague on July 12, 2016, disputed China's claim of sovereignty over a large portion of the South China Sea. How important is this decision? Here is what the New York Times had to say about it:

“The landmark case, brought by the Philippines, was seen as an important crossroads in China's rise as a global power and in its rivalry with the United States, and it could force Beijing to reconsider its assertive tactics in the region or risk being labeled an international outlaw. It was the first time the Chinese government had been summoned before the international justice system.”

- New York Times



Claims made by countries in the South China Sea. Map by Voice of America

Chinese government officials immediately dismissed the legitimacy of this ruling and reaffirmed Chinese claims to sovereignty over the South China Sea. The Tribunal's ruling has consequences far beyond the disputed Scarborough Shoal. It seemingly invalidates claims made by multiple countries involved in the construction of artificial islands in the region to establish territorial rights to strategic resources, including fisheries, energy deposits, and key shipping lanes. The ruling has far-reaching repercussions across numerous countries and has created friction in a region that's increasingly militarized.

Ongoing debates about the ruling and uncertainty about how regional powers will react reinforce the need for greater transparency and openness in monitoring activities in the South China Sea. In addition to activities related to disputed reefs and islands, there is a need to monitor the movement and location of fishing fleets, oil drilling platforms, and military forces.

Derive Intelligence from Planet Imagery

Daily Monitoring

Planet's 3-5 meter resolution enables the interpretation of large-scale activities of intelligence value, including observing construction or mining activity, monitoring naval vessel presence and movement at ports, conducting battle damage assessments, and observing transport and other aircraft activity at airfields.

Mission Planning & Execution

Planet's data collection, frequent revisit rate, and online access mechanisms allow for informed mission planning and execution.

In-Combat Situational Awareness

Planet's web-enabled delivery tools minimize the need for specialized hardware and can drive critical situational data to key personnel in remote environments.

Maritime Domain Awareness & Monitoring

Planet imagery can be used to monitor and classify shipping behaviors at ports and provides the ability to identify ports as military, civilian, or both, based on large identifiable features like large aircraft carriers, transport, or assault vessels in open water or when docked.

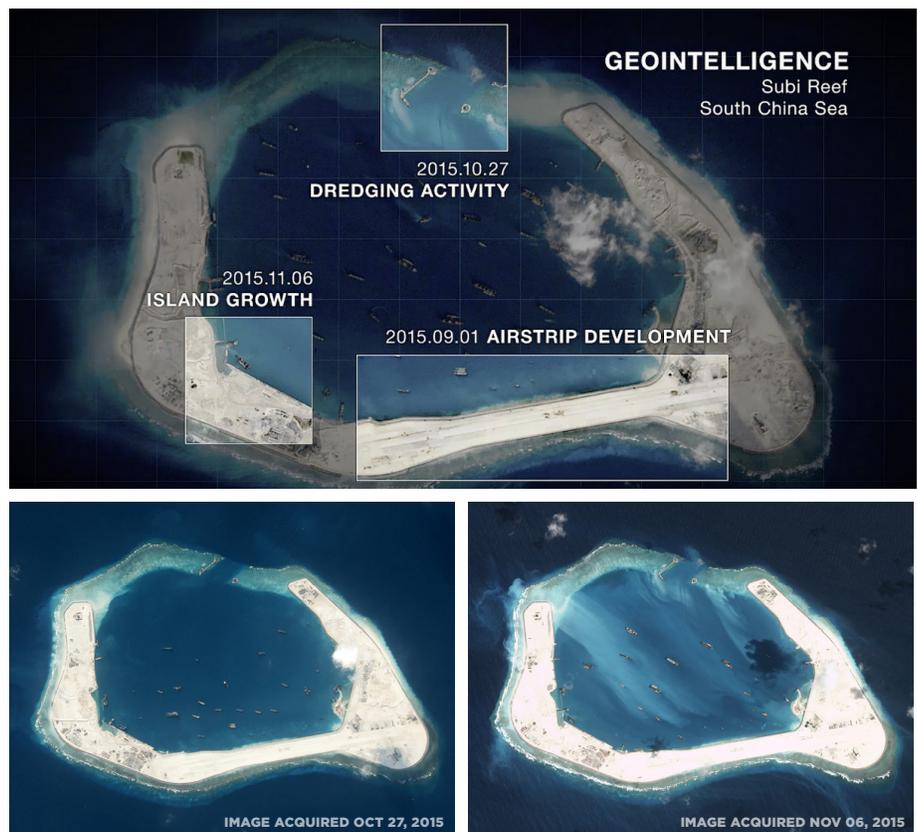
Change Detection & Monitoring

Imagery can be paired with application-specific classification techniques to proactively monitor large vehicle and aircraft activity, environmental tracking, drought and soil moisture analysis, land use, urban sprawl, disaster assessments, and land- water-floodplain boundary mapping.

PLANET IN ACTION

The South China Sea is dotted with hundreds of small islands and reefs. The Chinese government has developed some of the reefs into artificial islands by dredging sand from the ocean floor and creating new landmass on which to build military installations and other settlements. Planet's satellites have captured this development extensively.

Because the South China Sea is so large—bigger than the area of Mexico—and because ownership of many of the islands and reefs remains unclear, development on an island or reef can go unnoticed for some time. Understanding what is on each island and the pace at which development is progressing is valuable intelligence for international governing bodies attempting to understand the current state of the region and decide what is legal. This imagery is also useful in monitoring the environmental impacts that result from the building.



Extensive development over three months on the Subi Reef in the South China Sea.

The South China Sea has hundreds of islands, rocks, and reefs that require constant monitoring. Planet's growing capacity to deliver non-stop monitoring of the entire region enables the tracking of arrivals and departures of vessels and aircraft, as well as the documentation of construction and development activity.

PLANET MONITORING

Planet's persistent monitoring recently documented unidentified ships in waters near undeveloped Scarborough Shoal, an event the U.S. government stated was an indication that China was preparing to claim the island.

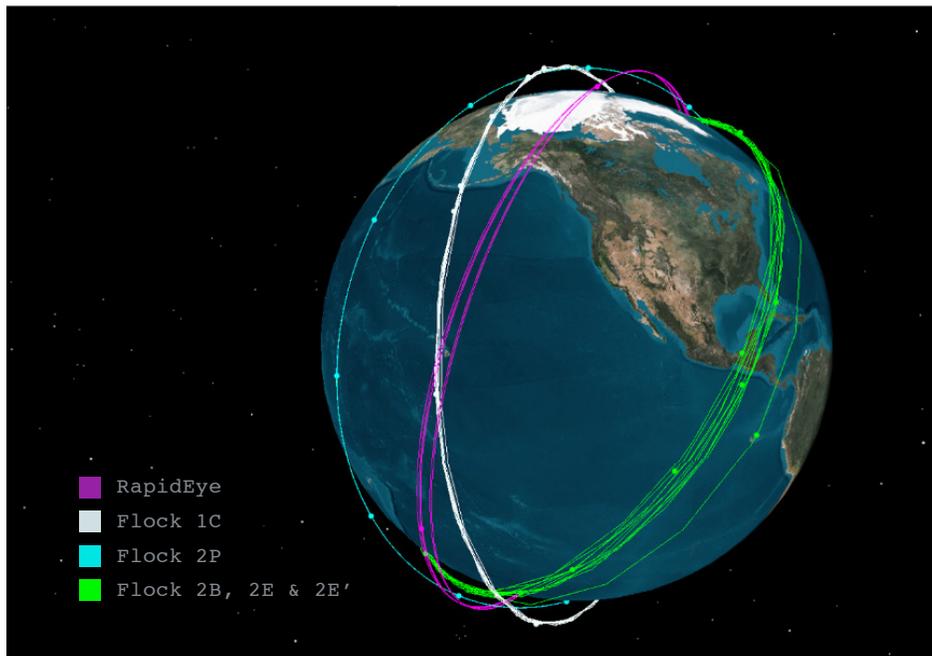


Planet image of Scarborough Shoal on March 12th, 2016 show vessels surrounding the disputed reef.

Planet's satellites are always monitoring. To date, Planet has captured 304,041 sqkm of these islands and reefs—that's a little bit larger than the area of the State of Arizona. Soon, we'll be collecting weekly and daily imagery of the majority of the South China Sea region.

PLANET'S APPROACH

Due to the design of our satellite constellation—which is comprised of many small satellites that are always-on and image everywhere—Planet is uniquely positioned to monitor this rapidly changing region, documenting developments that may have otherwise gone unnoticed.



All of Planet's daily data is immediately processed, optimized for multiple formats, and delivered online in hours for immediate review and analysis.

Planet's remote sensing solutions enable consistent imagery collection for analytics and change detection, and the ability to "cross-cue" or "tip-and-cue" with a variety of different high-resolution sensors for more detailed investigations in areas of interest.

Planet delivers the most up-to-date and complete geointelligence dataset to ensure that you have the right information when and where you need it most. Expand your vision with Planet's global monitoring solution and see like never before your world yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Planet's Solution:

Global Infrastructure Monitoring

- Detect and monitor infrastructure changes globally, including activities of garrisons, ports, and airfields
- Use archive data to understand baseline activity and identify changes or anomalies, and predict future events
- Leverage fast access on web-enabled system to collect intel when and where it's needed



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