

# Vietnam Increases Fortifications on West Reef In 2020

Analysis By Similarity In Collaboration  
With AllSource  
October, 2020



# West Reef is Just 36 Nautical Miles From PRC Military Base Cuarteron Reef

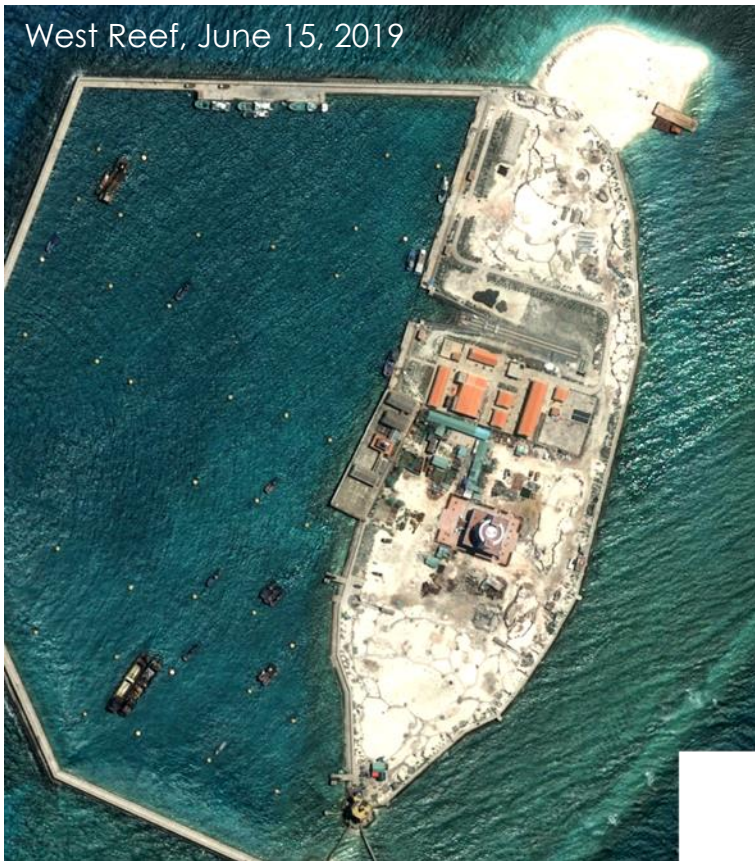


Sources: U.S. government; Reuters. \*Occupation does not signify undisputed sovereignty.  
Staff, C. Chan 25/05/2015

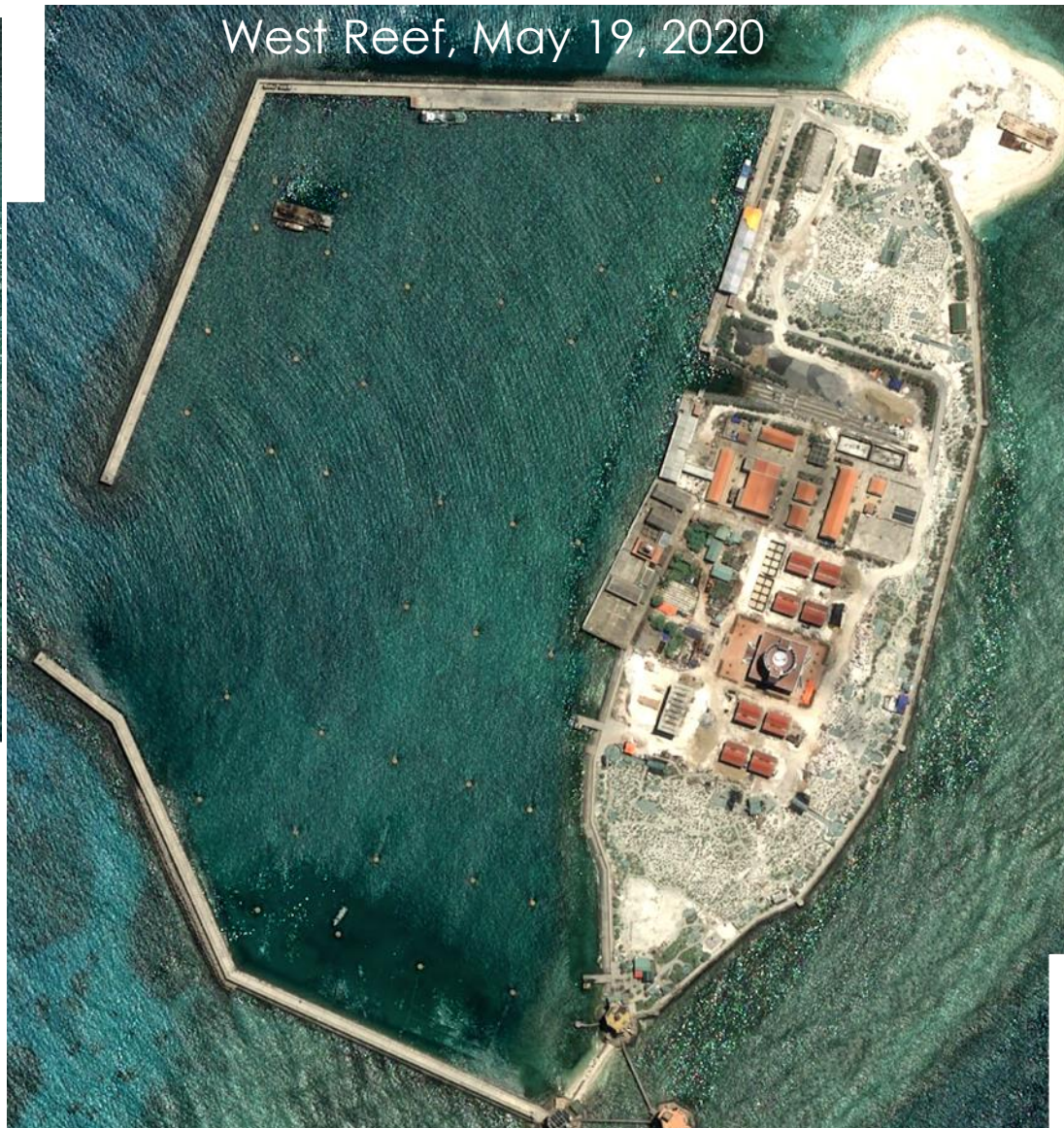


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West Reef, June 15, 2019



West Reef, May 19, 2020



Imagery credit: © CNES 2019-2020,  
Distribution AIRBUS DS



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West Reef, May 19, 2020



By May, 2020 note the appearance of air and/or coastal defense-related infrastructure on the north end (more concrete pads, buildings; possible coastal missile defense or surface-to-air missile air defense).

Imagery credit: © CNES 2019-2020, Distribution AIRBUS DS



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West Reef, June 15, 2019



West Reef, June 15, 2019



West Reef, May 19, 2020



By May, 2020 note the appearance of air and/or coastal defense-related infrastructure on the south end (more concrete pads, buildings; possible coastal missile defense or surface-to-air missile air defense).



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West Reef, May 19, 2020



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credit: ©  
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2020,  
Distribution  
AIRBUS DS

At least 10 new structures on the island have been built since January 2020, including several underground bunker-like structures, possibly a water cistern. Construction is ongoing as of at least June of 2020.