

# Changes To Vietnamese Occupied Spratly Islands In 2020

Analysis By Similarity In Collaboration  
With AllSource  
January 2021



In 2020, on the Vietnam occupied islands and installations, we see a significant amount of upgrades, construction, and new potential defensive structures, especially compared with islands occupied by other countries in this same time period.

Many buildings on islands occupied by Vietnam "most likely host a mix of solar electricity and solar hot water heating panels."

# Pearson Reef

April 10, 2020



May 26, 2020



May 2, 2019



Between April 10, 2020 and May 26, 2020, a radar dome was constructed adjacent to the existing one. This is a military-related upgrade. Additionally, in that time period a new building was constructed.

Between May 2019 and April 2020, two new buildings were constructed.



# Increased Fortifications on West Reef In 2020

West Reef, June 15, 2019

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.

West Reef, May 19, 2020

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

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



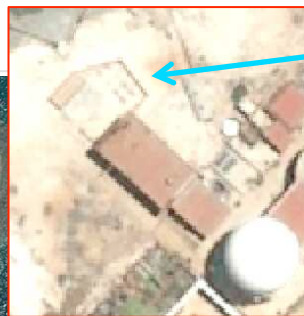
# Namyit Island



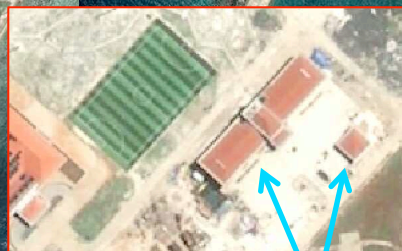


# Spratly Island

April 30, 2019



New separately secured structure



New buildings, probably administration related



New building near runway, connected to it via a small access road. Probably associated with the airport.

May 5, 2020





# Grierson Reef



## New Buildings



Three new buildings were constructed in 2020.

New small structure with likely fenced perimeter.





# Sin Cowe Island

December 16, 2019

August 13, 2020



There is a new structure, probably temporary, attached to an existing building.



There has been removal of several temporary structures



# Central Reef

May 21, 2019



May 26, 2020



Occupied by: Vietnam  
Legal Status: Rock  
GPS: 8° 55' 51" N, 112° 21' 11" E  
Total area of reclamation: 4.13 acres  
between May 21, 2019 and May 26, 2020



Several probably temporary structures along the coast. These structures may be construction related



There is a probable new structure under construction at the following location:  
8.93083  
112.35323



# East Reef East

May 2, 2019



May 12, 2020

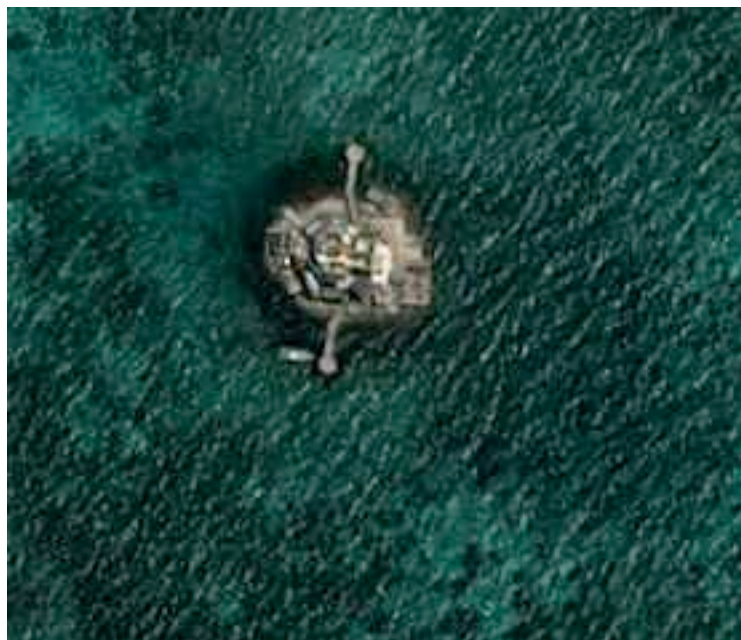


Occupied by: Vietnam  
Legal Status: Rock  
GPS: 8.822569, 112.659314  
Construction of a second platform started some time before May 2019, and was completed by May 2020.



# Alison Reef 1

April 20, 2019



May 1, 2020



Occupied by: Vietnam  
Legal Status: Low-tide elevation  
GPS: 8.825506, 113.992986

New structure built between April 20, 2019 and May 1, 2020. The new structure appears to be identical to expansions built onto Vietnam's other pillbox-like facilities in the Spratlys. Like those expansions, the structure will presumably be connected to the existing outpost by a footbridge.



No Significant changes

There were no significant changes detected on these islands:

- Southwest Cay
- Ambonya Cay
- Barque Canada Reef
- Alison Reef West
- East Reef Center
- Ladd Reef
- Lansdowne Reef
- Sand Cay

No Significant changes

There were no significant changes detected to these DK1 stations:

- Alexandra Bank
- Grainger Bank
- Prince Consort Bank
- Prince of Wales Bank
- Rifleman Bank
- Vanguard Bank

