

CREATE A “TAIWAN RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP” TO STRENGTHEN TAIWAN’S CIVIL DEFENSE

<p>ISSUE</p>	<p>Taiwan faces growing threats of a People’s Republic of China (PRC) blockade, quarantine, or even military assault. While its military has appropriately focused on asymmetric capabilities through the “Overall Defense Concept,” Taiwan’s civil defense infrastructure remains badly underdeveloped. In a crisis, Taiwan must sustain its population, infrastructure, and services to endure the critical period before U.S. and allied assets can be put into place.</p>
<p>SIGNIFICANCE</p>	<p>Taiwan’s ability to “buy time” is essential. Stockpiling resources including liquified natural gas, oil, medicine, and ammunition, as well as training civilians for emergency response, is critically important. Lessons from Ukraine demonstrate the value of civilian resilience in resisting aggression and maintaining national morale. Failing to prepare adequately for civilian resilience risks enabling Beijing to quickly overwhelm Taiwan before the international community can respond.</p>
<p>EXPECTATIONS IN THE REGION</p>	<p>A stronger civil defense will reassure the region and deter Beijing by demonstrating Taiwan’s determination to resist coercion.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION</p>	<p>The Trump administration should push Taipei to prioritize civil defense and press Taiwan’s opposition-controlled legislature to allocate sufficient funding for critical stockpiles and civilian training programs. The United States could launch the Taiwan Resilience Partnership (TRP), mobilizing expertise from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), USAID’s Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Energy to provide guidance and training on emergency preparedness, medical infrastructure, and energy resilience. Local U.S. agencies, including state emergency management and public health departments, can contribute. Joint civil defense exercises would deepen U.S.-Taiwan collaboration and readiness.</p> <p>TRP should also prioritize securing Taiwan’s electrical grid and undersea cables by providing expertise on hardening infrastructure, building redundancy with backup systems, and developing rapid repair capabilities to ensure uninterrupted power and communications during a crisis. These measures will enhance Taiwan’s ability to deter or endure aggression, bolstering regional stability and U.S. strategic interests.</p>