

# Lawmakers slam military simulation

MND defends exercises, saying armed forces have made remarkable process and 'beaten' China

BY EDWARD CHUNG  
STAFF REPORTER

Legislators blasted the annual computerized military simulation yesterday, saying that the Ministry of National Defense was taking advantage of the military exercises to promote the arms procurement package that is currently languishing in the Legislature.

The MND noted, however, that the armed forces had made remarkable progress and defeated China in the simulation.

## Dissatisfied

MND Deputy Minister Chu Kai-sheng gave a report on the results of the computerized "Hankuang No. 22" military exercises, held from April 24 to 28, to the Legislature's National Defense Committee, but lawmakers were dissatisfied with it.

The MND simulated various scenarios in a five-day military exercise meant to simulate countermeasures against an attack from China's People's Liberation Army.

These included defenses against the PLA employing a shock-decapitative strategy, assassinating President Chen Shui-bian (陳水扁) and disrupting

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Taiwan's governmental communication systems.

MND officials claimed the successful military drill was based on effective coordination between the Air force and Navy, adding that the newly commissioned Kidd-class destroyers from the U.S. had contributed to the computerized military drill.

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Democratic Progressive Party Legislator Huang Wei-cher said the MND did not contemplate the possible effect on Taiwanese morale due to the number of those killed or wounded in the simulation.

Kuomintang Legislator Wu Ching-chih (吳光訓) said that once China had used its some 900 missiles, Taiwan's

citizens would pressure the government into surrendering.

Although Taiwan won against China by narrow margin, he questioned whether the nation would survive.

KMT Legislator Liao Wan-ju (廖萬鈞) criticized the MND for only focusing on how to cope with the PLA's decapitative mission where its forces had been centralized in northern Taiwan in the simulation. If China attacks central or southern Taiwan, the nation would not be able to defend itself successfully, she said.

People First Party Legislator Ku Chung-lien (顧榮廉) said that the MND did not give a detailed explanation of the results of the wargame, demanding the ministry disclose the full details of the drill to the public as soon as possible.

Deputy Minister Chu said the MND had centralized its military

force in Taipei during the drill in accordance with rational military strategy. If China attacks northern and southern Taiwan, he said he was confident of countering the advance, adding that the MND is also ready to deploy its forces in southern Taiwan.

But Chu did acknowledge that the MND did not take morale into account and had not focused on what would happen in the case of continuous attacks during the simulations.

## Inaccurate figures

Chu said the reports about the number of wounded or killed in the simulations were inaccurate, but he did not further elaborate.

The MND said the results of the simulation showed that it is important for Taiwan to purchase the arms package from the United States.

The MND's military procurement plan refers to a package of six Patriot-PAC anti-missile batteries, a squadron of 12 P-3C submarine-hunting aircraft and eight diesel-fueled submarines.

KMT Legislator Ker Chun-hsiung said the MND had flaunted the results of the military drill to urge lawmakers to support the arms purchase.



## Mission possible

Physically challenged Australian John Coutis smiles during a press conference yesterday in Taipei, after announcing he would deliver a speech entitled "Nothing is Impossible" on May 27 in Linkou, Taipei County.

# Transit flap seen linked to NUC

BY EDWARD CHUNG  
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Local scholars contended that President Chen Shui-bian's (陳水扁) dramatic change of plans on his transit stops during his official visit to two nations in Latin America was tied to him scrapping the National Unification Council, though the president has blamed China for putting pressure on Washington to limit transit stops by the Taiwanese leader.

During this trip, his fifth to Latin America since becoming president in 2000, Chen wanted to transit via New York or Miami, but the U.S. turned down the proposals. And Taiwan's government rejected the U.S. offer of a stop in Anchorage, Alaska at the last moment before the president set off.

The president had transit stops on all of his previous visits to the U.S., including in

National Taiwan University Professor Yang Yung-ming said President Chen may have thought the U.S. would separate the NUC issue from a stopover request and allow him to transit through New York, but that Chen had misjudged the situation.

Wu Tung-yeh, a researcher at National Chengchi University (國立政大), said the reason for there were various reasons for the Washington's decision to limiting Chen's potential stopover locations — including interference by China — but the key issue was the NUC.

Wu said the U.S. was dissatisfied with Taiwan's lack of communication over the decision to do away with the NUC, and was using this method to give Taiwan a "soft warning." The U.S. is bound to act to prevent Taiwan from going down the road of de facto independence, he said.

he affected by the stopover issue.

Wu said that Taiwan and the U.S. share common interests, and that the incident is not likely to have a serious impact. Chen would have to step up "fence-mending" with the U.S. in his remaining two years in office, he added.

Huang Chieh-cheng, director of Tamkang University's Graduate Institute of American Studies, agreed that Taiwan-U.S. ties would not be undermined by this incident alone.

Meanwhile, the president's stopover issue has been the source of a great deal of discussion between the ruling and opposition parties.

Taichung mayor Jason Hu (郝志強), a former foreign minister from the opposition Kuomintang, blasted Chen's decision to snub the U.S. offer of Alaska as a trans-

# Asthmatic kids advised not to eat icy goods

CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY

Ice cream or other ice products can affect pulmonary functions, so parents are advised not to allow asthmatic children to consume them, even in the summer, doctors said yesterday.

Wang Li-chieh, an allergy specialist at National Taiwan University Hospital, cited the case of an eight-year-old girl with chronic asthma.

One day, her parents suddenly decided to treat her to a feast of frozen treats. The next day, she was so severely stricken with asthma that she had to be rushed to the hospi-

# Tycoon suggests no limits on PRC tourist numbers

CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY

TOKYO, JAPAN

Taiwan should not restrict the number of Chinese tourists allowed to enter the country to 1,000 per day after they are allowed to make sight-seeing trips to Taiwan, Taiwanese shipping tycoon Chang Jung-fa said in Tokyo yesterday.

Chang, one of the richest people in Taiwan and founder of the

being carried out speedily under a new socialist, rather than communist, system.

Taiwan should maintain "brotherhood" relations with China and should leave controversial issues, such as unification vs. independence, to future generations, according to Chang, who added that all issues can be discussed between the two sides as long as there are no red lines.