**CJS General Mark Milley says Taiwan needs more potent arms to deter Chinese attack to recover Taiwan.**

**M**ore potent defensive weapons may help Taiwan defend an attack from China, but the size of the PLA and the large number of ballistic missiles aimed at Taiwan, should neutralize any additional defensive weapons we may sell to Taiwan.

The major deterrent to a Chinese attack on Taiwan is the pledge, repeated four times, by our President Biden to defend and fight for Taiwan if China attacks.

Additional F-16s and other state of the art weapons no doubt will help Taiwan defend herself, but the size of Taiwan’s military is quite small compared to the PLA.

If China is determined to send her military forces to attack Taiwan, and we intervene with our military troops and warfare systems, both sides would be hurt, but as long the battle remains conventional, neither side will win. Because both sides have major military weaknesses.

The Chinese haven’t fought major conventional war since 1979, so their inexperienced military is not likely to do great harm to US forces. But US forces have a shortage of manpower and limited munitions - due to our military support to Ukraine.

In war games conducted by Rand Corporation and the Pentagon, we have not been successful due to the constraints and cost of long distant logistics. We lost in Vietnam and N. Korea due to the difficulty of sending reinforcements and weapon systems thousands of miles. We spent 20 years in Afghanistan without victory also related to the constraint of long distant logistics.

China is 4 million square miles, and conquering her conventionally would be impossible, and the U.S. is also 4 million square miles, and our citizens are well armed, 20 milloin with AR-15s, thus, the Chinese cannot hope to conquer us.

Our CJS is only partially correct when he suggests that Taiwan can deter a Chinese attack just by receiving more arms.

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**SOURCE:**

**Top U.S. General Seeks Faster Taiwan Arms Sales**

**GORDON LUBOLD, *The Wall Street Journal* | Page A008, Saturday, 15 July 2023**

**TOKYO**—American arms sales and deliveries of weaponry to Taiwan should be faster if the U.S. is to dissuade Beijing from taking military action against the island, the Pentagon’s top general said Friday.

“I think that’s probably something that needs to be improved,” Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters in Tokyo. “The speed at which we, the United States, or other countries assist Taiwan in improving their defensive capabilities—I think that probably needs to be accelerated in the years to come.”

Milley, in Tokyo to meet with Japanese leaders before leaving Saturday for Seoul, said the U.S. believes in self-determination in the region and opposes military action by China that could compel unification with Taiwan.

“If Taiwan has the military capability to signal to the leadership in Beijing that an attack on Taiwan, the cost, risk, of an attack on Taiwan, would exceed any potential benefit, then theoretically, if the leaders in Beijing are rational, they won’t do that militarily,” Milley said. “They will try some other nonmilitary means of doing it.”

Beijing regards democratically self-ruled Taiwan as a part of Chinese territory and has said it would use military means to take control if necessary. The U.S. acknowledges— but doesn’t endorse— Beijing’s claims over Taiwan.

Congress is obligated by law to help Taiwan defend itself against an attack, though Washington traditionally has declined to say whether the U.S. military would intervene directly in such a scenario.

China has intensified sorties by jet fighters and other military aircraft around Taiwan in recent days as the island prepares to hold annual military exercises later this month.

In the most recent wave on Thursday, 17 Chinese military aircraft flew across the midway point of the 100-mile-wide Taiwan Strait that divides the island from China, according to Taiwan’s Ministry of National Defense.

Taiwan has for years ordered high-profile weaponry from the U.S.—including tanks and jet fighters—but American officials have encouraged Taipei to buy more practical arms for defense against a potential invasion.

Milley said Taiwan needs air defense, air-to-air defensive capabilities and antiship precision munitions, as well as improved command-and-control capabilities.

U.S. officials acknowledged in November a $19 billion backlog of arms deliveries to Taiwan, weaponry that was approved that had yet to reach Taipei.

The Pentagon and State Department, concerned that allies and friends such as Taiwan aren’t getting needed arms in time, are re-examining a bureaucratic system that U.S. arms customers and others have described as sluggish and risk-averse.

A major arms package for Taiwan that would come from U.S. stocks similar to the kinds of arms supplies Washington has provided Ukraine has been delayed. That initiative is expected to be worth at least $300 million, U.S. officials have said.

Milley, who retires in September, is on one of his last trips to the region.