

# Philippines Defence and Security Report Q3 2014

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## **Abstracts**

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BMI View: The highlight of US President Barack Obama's recent trip to East Asia was without doubt the Philippines leg of his tour. The announcement of a defence agreement between the United States and the Philippines left the world in no doubt that President Obama's Pivot to Asia (P2A) policy was alive and kicking. The so-called Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement (ECDA) will see the US moving its ships and planes to the Philippines more frequently, engaging in more training exercises with the Filipino military and renewed US access to Filipino military bases.

The ECDA comes at a time when the Philippines relations with China re rapidly deteriorating. Following the fallout over Bejing's declaration of an Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) during the previous quarter, in Q214 a number of direct confrontations between the Philippines and China have escalated tensions. During May the Philippines Navy apprehended a Chinese fishing vessel reportedly carrying a large number of endangered species near the Half Moon shoal, a sandbar in the disputed Spratly islands in the South China Sea. The Chinese Foreign Ministry called upon the Philippines to release the apprehended fisherman and refrain from further provocative actions.



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