Sway’s response to Aaron’s post

The proposed U.S. response emphasizes power projection to deter further escalation, aligning with Clausewitz's principle that force must counter opposing force within the constraints of international law. However, incorporating insights from other military theorists could offer a more nuanced approach. Sun Tzu’s guidance to “subdue the enemy without fighting” suggests that asymmetric warfare could de-escalate tensions without provoking conflict (Sun Tzu, [Quotes](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/1771.Sun_Tzu), ~500BC). While joint exercises and presence patrols showcase strength, they should be carefully calibrated to avoid reinforcing Chinese narratives of encirclement, which could escalate tensions further.

Moreover, J.C. Wylie’s cumulative warfare strategy advocates for persistent, smaller-scale actions (James R. Holmes, [Cumulative Warfare: War by Statistics](https://thediplomat.com/2015/01/cumulative-warfare-war-by-statistics/), 2015). Building regional capacity through joint training programs and equipping allies with coast guard capabilities could bolster long-term stability. These measures would complement the Clausewitz's framework, ensuring a response that balances deterrence with strategic restraint, reducing the likelihood of kinetic engagement in the Spratly Islands.