

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [US War Games Touch Nerve in Philippines as Tensions Flare With China](#)

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Summary: This past weekend, Batan hosted exercises where Philippine and US troops defended against an aggressor, part of the allies' largest joint drill in more than 30 years as they seek to strengthen military ties in the face of an increasingly assertive China. As part of the effort, hundreds of Marines and soldiers from the US and Philippines were airlifted on to a grassy plateau to practise securing the terrain against a potential invader. Below, a US Army amphibious landing craft surveyed the beach for suitability to unload Himars mobile rocket systems, which have played a forceful role in the war on Ukraine, to keep enemy ships at bay. It is the first time Balikatan, the annual US-Philippine exercise, includes manoeuvres in the strategically located islands off northern Luzon. Last Friday and Saturday, the two militaries staged similar air assault drills on the neighbouring islands of Fuga and Calayan.

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