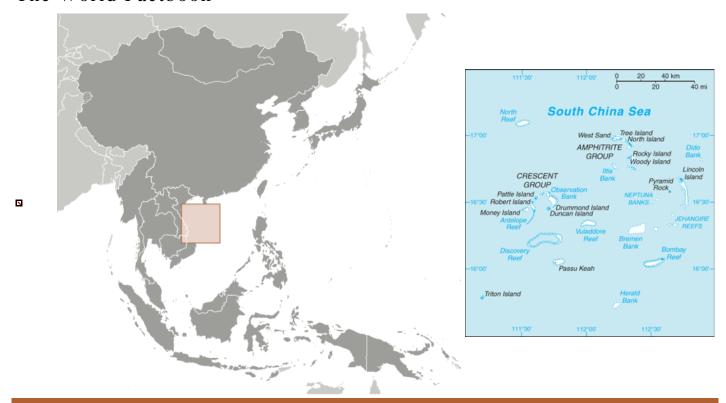
#### The World Factbook



#### East & Southeast Asia:: Paracel Islands

#### Introduction:: Paracel Islands

### Background:

The Paracel Islands are surrounded by productive fishing grounds and by potential oil and gas reserves. In 1932, French Indochina annexed the islands and set up a weather station on Pattle Island; maintenance was continued by its successor, Vietnam. China has occupied all the Paracel Islands since 1974, when its troops seized a South Vietnamese garrison occupying the western islands. China built a military installation on Woody Island with an airfield and artificial harbor. The islands also are claimed by Taiwan and Vietnam.

# Geography:: Paracel Islands

#### Location:

Southeastern Asia, group of small islands and reefs in the South China Sea, about one-third of the way from central Vietnam to the northern Philippines

## Geographic coordinates:

16 30 N, 112 00 E

# Map references:

Southeast Asia

#### Area:

total: ca. 7.75 sq km **land:** ca. 7.75 sq km water: 0 sq km Area - comparative: NA Land boundaries: 0 kmCoastline: 518 km Maritime claims: NA Climate: tropical Terrain: mostly low and flat **Elevation extremes:** lowest point: South China Sea 0 m highest point: unnamed location on Rocky Island 14 m Natural resources: none Land use: arable land: 0% permanent crops: 0% **other:** 100% (2011) Irrigated land: 0 sq km (2011) Natural hazards: typhoons **Environment - current issues:** NA Geography - note: composed of 130 small coral islands and reefs divided into the northeast Amphitrite Group and the western Crescent Group

People and Society:: Paracel Islands

Population:

no indigenous inhabitants

note: there are scattered Chinese garrisons

#### Government:: Paracel Islands

## Country name:

conventional long form: none

conventional short form: Paracel Islands

## Economy:: Paracel Islands

## Economy - overview:

The islands have the potential for oil and gas development. Waters around the islands support commercial fishing, but the islands themselves are not populated on a permanent basis.

### Transportation:: Paracel Islands

## Airports:

1 (2013)

country comparison to the world: 230

### Airports - with paved runways:

total: 1

**1,524 to 2,437 m:** 1 (2013)

#### Ports and terminals:

small Chinese port facilities on Woody Island and Duncan Island

# Military:: Paracel Islands

## Military - note:

occupied by China

## Transnational Issues:: Paracel Islands

# Disputes - international:

occupied by China, also claimed by Taiwan and Vietnam