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Home of the Brave

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Another incident of China's militarized coast guard ramming a Filipino vessel in the South China Sea hundreds of miles from China ... this time with *60 Minutes* [on board](#).

We are headed toward World War III. People deserve the truth from those who pretend to lead.

Years ago, I would have advocated bringing our troops home. Today, I think it's too late. A military pullout by the United States would be disastrous for both Asia and us. And anything less will require standing up to China. Now or later.

Not to mention that ending the U.S. role in Asia is not even being discussed.

Which means that U.S. assets in the region will eventually be attacked. Already we see the harassment of Taiwan and the bullying of the Philippines and others in the South China Sea. The U.S. has treaty commitments to fight for Japan, South Korea and the Philippines—plus, through the Taiwan Relations Act, we have

pledged to help Taiwan stay free.

I would therefore call for spending more on the military. On weapons of war. On military capabilities half a world away. (Hard to believe it myself.) And I would [prepare](#) the country for the horrific possibility of war.

I think that is the only way to back China down from its aggressions against [just about every neighbor](#) as well as the rule-based international order and, ultimately, us.

The best news on this front is that the U.S. is not having to beg and plead for support for an [alliance](#) to check China or to go it alone:

- Germany just [sent](#) warships through the Taiwan Strait for the first time in two decades.
- Taiwan has nearly [doubled](#) its defense spending.
- Japan is [doubling](#) its military spending and mending relationships in the region to form closer alliances.
- The Philippines has given the U.S. [four bases](#) in strategic territory.
- Even Vietnam has [befriended](#) the U.S.

Why? All fear China.

Right now what the world needs is an *alliance of the free*. And a leader ... to be very brave.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.