

Taiwan: Unofficial Military Websites

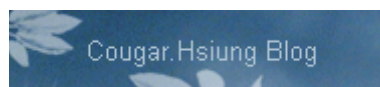
This report details observed unofficial websites and blogs dealing with Taiwan military issues. All information is derived from the individual websites.



Cobra Photo Chronicle (Cobra的攝影記事)

<http://www.wretch.cc/blog/cobra4375>

This Chinese language blog features mostly pictures of aircraft. Posts show multiple images of military aircraft, including a 17 August 2009 post of US military transport aircraft landing in Taiwan with aid in the aftermath of typhoon Morakot. Other posts include pictures and comments related to commercial airlines.



Cougar.Hsiung Blog

<http://www.wretch.cc/blog/hsiung618>

This Chinese language blog deals with a wide range of issues. During November and December 2009 the dominant issue was Taiwan's Air Force. A new posting was observed on an average of every three days, and over half of the posts since November 2006 have dealt with some aspect of the military. These have included pictures, videos, news articles and commentary. In November and December 2009, postings received an average of between nine and twenty comments, including responses to comments by the author of the site, username hsiung618. The Monthly Archives link along the right side of the blog's homepage allows users to view month-by-month postings dating back to November 2006. According to the site, over 400,000 visits had been made to this site as of 31 December 2009.



Defence International (全球防衛雜誌)

<http://www.diic.com.tw/>

This is the website of Defence International (全球防衛雜誌), a commercial monthly military magazine published in Taiwan. The site's homepage displays the table of contents for the

latest issue of the magazine. The site also lists the table of contents for most past issues. Some tables of contents from past issues have hyperlinks to complete articles. A link on the right side of the homepage features sections including an introduction to the site, military focused commentary, military resources archives, and a reader reaction section. The reader reaction section invites users to email comments to james@diic.com.tw or fax comments to 886-2-2367-5827. The same contact information is provided for users to contribute pictures, interviews or weapons' descriptions to the site.



Defense Technology Monthly (尖端科技軍事雜誌)

<http://www.dtmonline.com/>

This is the website of *Defense Technology Monthly* (尖端科技軍事雜誌), a commercial military magazine. The homepage features an image of the current issue of the magazine. A table of contents for the issue is provided alongside the image, and recent military news stories appear at the bottom of the homepage. Sandwiched between the two is a Wisdom and Strategy Forum (智略論壇) section. This section contains reports on recent national and international issues related to Taiwan. Though called a “forum,” there is no mechanism to post a response or comment.

There are two links along the top of the homepage to forum sections on military matters: Military Room (講武堂) and Military Forum (軍武論壇). These sections appear to be identical in content, though the format of their pages is slightly different. These sections contain posts on military issues and responses by users. Posts include articles from Taiwan media, information from official military websites, as well as user opinions. Reading comments on the site does not require logging in. However, registration and log in is required to respond to a post, or to make a post. Other links along the top of the homepage lead to article archives, recent military news, a brief history of the magazine's parent company, photos, music, desktop downloads, an online shop, etc.



jpfu0313

<http://blog.xuite.net/jpfu0313/blog>

The majority of posts on this Chinese language blog are pictures of, or comments on, Taiwan's Air Force. Posts include photos of aircraft taken at museums, photos of model aircraft, links to military related news and information on military books. Most posts have few or no responses. Approximately 150 posts were present on the site 31 December 2009. The About Me link on the main page leads to another blog by what appears to be the same person, "A History of Chinese Aviation: The blog of the book" (<http://blog.xuite.net/jpfu0313/aviation>). This blog features images and ordering information for the book *A History of Chinese Aviation: Encyclopedia of Aircraft and Aviation in China until 1949*.

There is a discontinued blog associated with the same user name (jpfu0313 -- <http://tw.myblog.yahoo.com/jpfu0313>) which is linked to this blog. The discontinued blog features a short introduction stating this blog is an "air force and history blog for aviation hobbyists." This site has not been updated since 30 December 2008. It features 187 posts, a large number of which deal with the air forces of Taiwan and other countries around the world.

我的航空人文歷史
歡迎來到我的航空世界

My Cultural History of Aviation (我的航空人文歷史)

<http://tw.myblog.yahoo.com/jw!jK8eXUuTFihrYSRKK9Z9pY8-/>

This Chinese language blog had 81 posts as of 31 December 2009. Posts deal with the military of Taiwan, almost exclusively its air force. Posts consist of pictures, commentary, articles, and information on books on past and present military aircraft and stories related to military service. Most posts received five or fewer comments.



ROC Military Police Reservist Forum (中華民國後備憲兵論壇)

<http://www.rocmp.org/>

This Chinese language site features information and posts dealing with the reserve forces of Taiwan's Military Police. The forum provides opportunities for discussion on a wide range of issues. This includes issues related to policy, military history, and martial arts techniques practice by the military police. According to the site's homepage, 22,045 topics have been discussed resulting in 339,451 posts by a total of 22,018 members.

The most recent posts are accessed on the left side of the homepage via the Recent Articles (最新文章) section. Below this are the most recent comments made in response to previously posted items in the Recent Responses (最新回覆) section. Viewing posts and comments is allowed without registration. However, registration is required for users to post comments. Registration includes agreeing to twelve rules found under the heading Join the Reserve Military Police (加入後憲).

TAIWANAIRBLOG

Taiwan Air Blog

<http://blog.taiwanairpower.org/>

This is the blog of former Taiwan Black Cat Air Squadron (黑貓中隊) Captain Tom Wang Tao (王濤). The entries are made in both English and Chinese. Earlier posts tend to focus on Wang's experiences in the Taiwan Air Force along with news and information on military and air force issues. Wang does not declare his political leaning, however, his entries tend to support the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) pro-independence, anti-PRC camp. For example, the 5 November 2008 entry in response to Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits Chairman Chen Yunlin's visit to Taiwan that month is titled in English "Taiwan Government Sucks Up To Communist China."

Along the right side of the homepage is a Categories tab with different tags used to identify articles. Selectable categories include 34th Squadron, 35th Squadron, Air Force, Aircraft (this category is sub-divided into seventeen different types of aircraft), Army, Base Visits, Missiles, Navy, and US-China Conflicts. Links to multiple Taiwan and Taiwan military-related blogs are also found along the right hand side of the homepage.

As of 31 December 2009, the homepage featured the 2010 Aviation Open House Schedule. This lists dates in June and November 2010 for open houses at the Ching Chuang Kang Air Force Base (台中清泉崗空軍基地), Hsinchu Air Force Base (新竹空軍基地), Hualien Air Force Base (花蓮空軍基地), Hsinshu Army Aviation Base (台中龍翔營區), and the Lungtan Army Aviation Base (桃園龍潭營區). Posts in November and December 2009 primarily dealt with alleged CIA operations in China and North Korea in the late 1960s. October 2009 posts focused on information on mainland China air force bases.



Taiwan Army (挺扁網路軍團)

<http://taiwanarmy.ning.com/forum>

This forum had 306 posts as of 30 December 2009. In addition to military issues, the website also hosts political commentary including one 20 December 2009 post titled "Chinese

Bumpkins!" (中國土包子!). The author of this commentary refers to Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou (馬英九) and his administration in derogatory terms.



Taiwan BBS (軍事茶館)

<http://www.taiwanbbs.org/cgi/index.pl?,b=mil>

Taiwan BBS ("Military Tea House," 軍事茶館) is a forum dedicated to the discussion of Taiwan military issues hosted by the Taiwan Tea Party (台灣茶黨, <http://taiwantp.net/>). The homepage of this site carries the declaration in English "Freedom is never free! China can NEVER shut us up! NEVER!" This is followed by the forum guidelines in Chinese. As of 29 December 2009, this forum had 321 threads, many with hundreds to thousands of comments.

台灣將軍

Taiwan Generals (台灣將軍)

<http://taiwangenerals.spaces.live.com>

According to the introduction of this Chinese language blog, it is a list of Taiwan Generals specifically focused on those promoted after the death of President Chiang Ching-kuo in 1988. The author states that his information comes from books by Chang Yu-hua (張友驊) and Lin Hung-chan (林弘展), major news websites, the Armed Forces Museum, Taiwan's Military News Agency, and Google. The author acknowledges the possibility of errors in his materials.

Posts deal with the promotions of generals, appointments of Ministry of National Defense ministers and Director Generals of the National Security Bureau, as well as, military academy heads, among others. Current and former positions, including branch of service and dates of service, are present for many of the individuals listed.

The dates on this site appear to be inaccurate. Although the information on the site is relatively up-to-date, including specific dates for new members of the Executive Yuan Cabinet-reshuffle in September 2009, the date of the last post is given as 30 December 2007.

Taiwanmilitary.org

for the free exchange of information about Taiwan

Taiwan Military Org

<http://www.taiwanmilitary.org/phpBB2/>

Taiwan Military Org is an English-language on-line forum created for the "free exchange of information about Taiwan," particularly on military matters. The site states that as of 31

December 2009, 25,609 registered users have posted 38,599 articles. However, the member list shows only 165 registered users having posted a comment. Of these, only 85 have posted ten or more comments and the most registered users on the site at one time were 70. Over 99% of users have not posted comments. The site does not require user registration to view its threads. The two most active areas of the site are the “Taiwan” and “Others” forums under the Military section. The former is for “discussions related to Taiwan's military,” and the latter is for “discussions related to the militaries of nations other than Taiwan.”



u2dh

<http://tw.myblog.yahoo.com/u2dh/>

The most recent post on this Chinese language blog is from 19 December 2009 containing pictures and information on the Black Cat Squadron (黑貓中隊). The squadron reportedly flew surveillance missions in U2 spy planes over China in the 1960s and 1970s (Air Force Command Headquarters website, 30 December 2009). The post features photos of pilots in various non-combat scenes, including photos labeled as being taken while the soldiers were in the US receiving U2 training, as well as with former President Chiang Ching-kuo.

A similar entry on the Black Bat Squadron (黑蝙蝠中隊), also known as the 34th Squadron, was posted on 23 November 2009. The Black Bat Squadron reportedly flew reconnaissance missions over China in the 1950s and 1960s, allegedly in connection with the US Central Intelligence Agency. This entry features photos of the opening of Black Bat Squadron Memorial Hall located in Hsinchu City. According to a photo from the memorial hall explaining the background of the squadron, the CIA set up a special operations unit “tasked with intelligence gathering and secret missions concerned with Communist China.” Additional posts also deal with this squadron, as well as other military and non-military related topics.



The View From Taiwan: Commentary from Taichung, Taiwan

Military Round Up

<http://michaelturton.blogspot.com/2009/07/military-round-up.html>

Military and Defense

<http://michaelturton.blogspot.com/search/label/military%20and%20defense>

Military Villages

<http://michaelturton.blogspot.com/search/label/military%20villages>

This series of English language military-related blogs is hosted on expatriate Michael Turton’s main blog (<http://michaelturton.blogspot.com/>) on life in central Taiwan. Posts include news articles and commentary by the blogger. November and December 2009 posts on the Military and Defense page focused mainly on US arms sales to Taiwan and specifically the issue of F-16s. Last updated on 4 March 2008, the Military Villages blog shows pictures with brief

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captions detailing the fate of former military villages around Taiwan. The site also presents personal photos and commentary from trips to these villages.

This OSC product is based exclusively on the content and behavior of selected media and has not been coordinated with other US Government components.