

# China flies 38 aircraft, including a combat drone, near Taiwan

A long-range Chinese combat drone capable of carrying a large weapons payload has circled Taiwan, the island's defence ministry said Friday.

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Democratic Taiwan lives under constant threat of an attack by Beijing, which views the island as part of its territory.

Taiwan's defence ministry said it detected 38 Chinese aircraft, including a TB-001 drone nicknamed the "twin-tailed scorpion", around the island between 6 am (1000 GMT) Thursday and 6 am Friday.

The drone's circling flight path saw it cross the median line — an unofficial boundary dividing the Taiwan Strait — to the island's south before flying around its east coast and returning to China, a map released by the ministry showed.

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