

U.S. House China Committee to War-game Taiwan Invasion Scenario

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The House China Select Committee this week will be war-gaming a scenario in which [China](#) invades Taiwan, Axios has learned.

Why it matters: It's a unique opportunity that will allow bipartisan members of Congress to walk through the potential challenges and identify the best legislative responses to deter and combat an invasion.

Driving the news: On Wednesday evening, bipartisan members of the House panel on China, led by Chair Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.), will step into the shoes of U.S. officials in a war-game simulation conducted by the [Center for a New American Security](#), a Washington-based think tank focused on national security.

- The simulation will come just over a week after China's military [conducted live-fire drills around Taiwan](#) in response to Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen's transit through the U.S. this month.
- The simulation will give lawmakers a sense of how a Taiwan conflict would unfold, where U.S. military weaknesses may lie, and the consequences for international trade and American businesses.

The big picture: Gallagher — one of more than [a dozen members of Congress who met with Tsai](#) in California this month — is [focused on shoring up](#) the island's defenses.

- "We need to be moving heaven and earth to enhance our deterrence and denial posture so that Xi Jinping concludes that he just can't do it," [Gallagher told the AP](#).
- That includes the delivery of [\\$19 billion worth of defense equipment](#) that Taiwan has already ordered and the expansion of training and other security assistance that could be included in the National Defense Authorization Act.

What they're saying: "War games really show what happens to our policies after we make contact with a competitor's strategies. It's like that famous Mike Tyson quote, 'Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth,'" a source close to the committee tells Axios.

- "This, in conjunction with other things the committee's doing on Taiwan, really helps crystallize the policies needed and the actions that we need to take to deter an invasion."

The intrigue: In addition to the obvious military component, the war simulation will include economic dynamics that highlight the ways in which an invasion could affect critical infrastructure and impact the business community.

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