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**OUT OF THE BLUE: RISING TO THE CHALLENGES OF AUSTRALIA'S MARITIME SECURITY**

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The Diplomat (19 December 2023)

Tom Bamforth, Tom Barber, and Grant Wyeth

*Australia has an opportunity to play a more proactive role in coordinating a regional framework to address security concerns across numerous domains.*

In recent weeks ongoing tensions within the South China Sea have flared up. The contest over Second Thomas Shoal between the Philippines and China has led to Beijing sending more than 100 coast guard and other government-linked ships to the area to prevent the resupply of Philippine military personnel stationed on the Sierra Madre – a deliberately grounded ship that serves as an outpost on the shoal and a symbol of Philippine maritime claims.

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