## **FLUIDS**

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## **Philippine Supreme Court Approves Return of U.S. Troops**

The Philippine Supreme Court on Tuesday approved an agreement to allow United States troops to return to the country. BEIJING — The United States won a significant victory on Tuesday in its efforts to counter <u>China</u>'s rising influence in the South China Sea, as the highest court in the <u>Philippines</u> cleared the way for American troops to return to the country.

Philippine Supreme Court, in a 10-to-4 decision, approved an agreement that would allow the American military to lawmakers in Manila voted to expel American troops in a show of anti-colonialism. The decision seemed likely to heighten tensions between the United States and <u>China</u>, which is seeking to establish itself as a dominant power in the region by building military facilities on top of submerged reefs in the South China Sea, a major shipping **route."The South China Sea will be more crowded, and the risk for a military conflict will continue to rise," said** Zhu Feng, the executive director of the <u>China Center for Collaborative Studies of the South China Sea</u> at Nanjing University.

