

Wake Island

(territory of the US)

Geography

Location: Oceania, island in the North Pacific Ocean, about two-thirds of the way from Hawaii to the Northern Mariana Islands

Area:

total area: 6.5 sq km

land area: 6.5 sq km

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 19.3 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: tropical

Terrain: atoll of three coral islands built up on an underwater volcano; central lagoon is former crater, islands are part of the rim; average elevation less than 4 meters

Natural resources: none

Land use:

arable land: 0%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 0%

forest and woodland: 0%

other: 100%

Environment:

natural hazards: occasional typhoons

Note: strategic location in the North Pacific Ocean; emergency landing location for transpacific flights

People

Population: 302 (July 1995 est.)

Government

Names:

conventional short form: Wake Island

Type: unincorporated territory of the US administered by the US Army and Strategic Defense Command since 1 October 1994

Capital: none; administered from Washington, DC

Independence: none (territory of the US)

Flag: the US flag is used

Economy

Overview: Economic activity is limited to providing services to US military personnel and contractors located on the island. All food and manufactured goods must be imported.

Transportation

Railroads: 0 km

Ports: none; two offshore anchorages for large ships

Airports:

total: 1

Note: formerly an important commercial aviation base, now used by US military, some commercial cargo planes, as well as the US Army Space and Strategic Defense Command for missile launches

Defence Forces

Note: defence is the responsibility of the US