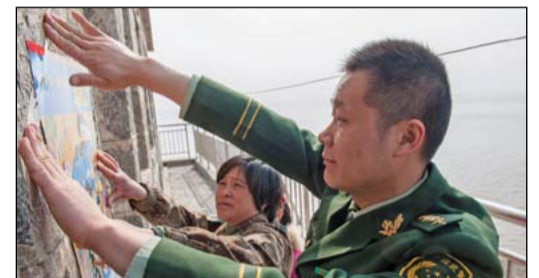# SNAPSHOTS

WANG JICAI salutes the national flag on the easternmost hill on Kaishan Island.

WANG SHIHUA sorts the coastal defense log books.

SON WANG ZHIGUO helps hang an inscription on either side of the door.

AFTER a patrol, the couple find their dogs are hungry.

SEA SENTRIES

Married to the job: A dedicated couple have kept a proud watch from a remote island outpost in the Yellow Sea for three decades

PHOTOS AND TEXT by HAN YUQING and **LI XIANG, XINHUA**

Covering an area of only 0.013 square kilometer, Kaishan Island sits in the Yellow Sea, near the junction of Japanese, South Korean and international waters. It is about 12 nautical miles from Yanwei Port, in East China's Jiangsu province.

The island is virtually inaccessible, with extremely difficult living conditions.

Wang Jicai and his wife have been living there for 30 years. They are known as the island's "border guard". In 1986, the Kaishan Island militia sentry was set up and the People's Armed Forces Department asked militia member Wang to guard it. He accepted the task without letting his family know. Later, his wife Wang Shihua quit her job as a primary school teacher and joined her husband.

The couple raise the Chinese national flag every day, monitor sea and air conditions, rescue distressed people from the sea and maintain a coastal defense log. Driven by a sense of responsibility, the couple have only reunited with their family during five Spring Festivals in the past 30 years.

In September 2014, they received a Models of the Times award from the government.

Kaishan Island now serves as a patriotic education base and has so far received more than 5,000 visits.

"We will overcome difficulties as long as we are still here. We will keep letting our national flag rise and fly high on the island," Wang Jicai said.

THE COUPLE REUNITE with their son and daughter on the island on Feb 13, 2015.

ABOVE: An aerial photo of Kaishan Island in the Yellow Sea.
RIGHT: Wang Jicai and his wife have lived on the tiny island for 30 years.