

United States Pacific Command Regional Report

August 2012

"We hope to partner with [India] to share the strategic landscape as it applies to how we apply security to the globe that allows prosperity and peace, freedom of movement and prosperity in the world," – Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, during an interview with American Forces Press Service on Camp Smith, Hawaii, Aug. 14, 2012.

This product is designed to inform our audiences about U.S. military activities that support U.S. Pacific Command's mission of protecting and defending, in concert with other U.S. Government agencies, the territory of the United States, its people, and its interests. With allies and partners, U.S. Pacific Command is committed to enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific region by promoting security cooperation, encouraging peaceful development, responding to contingencies, deterring aggression, and, when necessary, fighting to win. Items below provide key examples of the ongoing engagement and presence the United States has in the Asia-Pacific region.

STRENGTHEN ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Australian and Cambodian engineers, along with U.S. Navy Seabees, unveiled a new addition to a Cambodian medical center in Sihanoukville during Pacific Partnership 12 on Aug. 10. The team worked a total of more than 30 days to accomplish the mission of building the new facility, which helped build a relationship that will last for years to come. http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=68958
- More than 1,000 soldiers from South Korea, India, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, France, United Kingdom, United States, and Germany participated in Khaan Quest 2012, Aug. 12-23 at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Operations Training Center near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Khaan Quest 2012 is a U.S. Army Pacific-sponsored exercise designed to strengthen the capabilities of U.S., Mongolian and other international forces in the Asia-Pacific region to enhance peace-support operations and increase interoperability and planning capabilities among the participating nations. Russia and China also sent observers to the exercise. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the regionally significant exercise that reinforces U.S. resolve to support the security interests of friends and allies in the region. <http://www.usarpac.army.mil/kq12/>
- South Korean and U.S. Army forces trained with Soldiers from the 1-27th Wolfhound Infantry Battalion, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, during Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2012 in August in South Korea. Training ranged from platoon live-fires to combined live-fire with enablers such as close-air, unmanned aerial vehicle and indirect fire support provided by the 98th Republic of Korea Army Field Artillery Battalion and the 2nd Infantry Division. <http://www.army.mil/article/86230/>

PROTECT ACCESS TO THE COMMONS

- Ships from the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF), the Republic of Korea (ROK) Navy, the guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73), the guided missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), and the Military Sealift Command dry cargo ship USNS Matthew Perry (T-AKE 9) and the U.S. Coast Guard cutter USCGC Galveston Island (WPB 1349) conducted a trilateral exercise with off the coast of Hawaii Aug. 7-8 following the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise. The exercise was intended to increase interoperability, operational proficiency and readiness. The participating forces conducted a visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) exercise; a counter-piracy event; search and rescue exercises (SAREX); communication drills; ship maneuvers; divisional tactics; liaison officer exchanges; and a photo exercise. <http://www.cpf.navy.mil/news.aspx/030039>
- Soldiers from the U.S. Army Pacific Contingency Command Post tested theater Army capability Aug 14-30, 2012, in South Korea during exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian. The U.S. Army Pacific Contingency Command Post deployed to Camp Walker to participate in the annual command post exercise designed to increase readiness of South Korean and U.S. forces. The CCP assumed command and control over the U.S. Army's supporting forces, the logistics and transportation units needed to support combat forces, and the reception, staging, onward movement and integration of forces coming in to the peninsula. The Fort Shafter, Hawaii, -based unit provides USARPAC's theater-army expeditionary capability with a 96-person cell representing, but not duplicating, the major staff functions of the theater-army headquarters. http://www.army.mil/article/86731/U_S_Army_Pacific_Contingency_Command_Post_participates_in_Ulchi_Fr

MAINTAIN MILITARY READINESS

- U.S. Army Pacific Soldiers from Alaska, Hawaii, South Korea and Guam teamed up with the Australian Army July 30-Aug. 10, 2012, for the 12-day Australian Army Junior Leader Jungle Training Course at the Australian Combat Training Center in the country's northeastern state. The course trained U.S. Soldiers on close-combat jungle tactics and helped build relations between the U.S. and Australian armies.
http://www.army.mil/article/86659/Alaska_Soldiers_train_Down_Under/
- Medical Exercise 2012 demonstrated U.S. commitment and partnership with Japan by showcasing U.S. Army Pacific's mass casualty capabilities. MEDEX 12, held Aug. 27-Sept 3 at Sagami Depot near Sagamihara, Japan, was a U.S. Army Pacific multicomponent, joint-service, bilateral exercise hosted by the 18th Medical Command (Deployment Support). Also participating were more than 200 active, Reserve and Guard Soldiers from U.S. Army Japan, 325th Combat Support Hospital, 139th Medical Brigade and the 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support). This was the first time in more than a decade that a combat support hospital has been set up during the medical exercise.
http://www.army.mil/article/86651/Samurai_spirit_prevails_during_MEDEX_12/
- The Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force's 41st Infantry Regiment, along with approximately 300 Marines and Sailors from Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, and 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, took part in Exercise Forest Light 12-01 from Aug. 19-30, 2012, at the Hijudai maneuver Area, Oita, Japan. The exercise consisted of a noncommissioned officer exchange, a JGSDF-led historic tour and home visit, and field training events to include light infantry tactics, combat lifesaver training and helo-air assault training. The overall purpose of Forest Light 12-01 is to enhance the partnership between the U.S. and Japan, enhance regional security agreements, increase interoperability of forces, and improve individual and unit-level skills in a bilateral environment.
<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/94018/bilateral-training-commences-with-forest-light>

U.S. LEADERSHIP FOCUS ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC

"We have consistently protected the Pacific sea lanes through which a great deal of the world's commerce passes. And now we look to the Pacific nations in a spirit of partnership for your leadership on some of the most urgent and complex issues of our time." – **Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton at Cook Islands, Aug. 31, 2012**

"We hope to partner with [India] to share the strategic landscape as it applies to how we apply security to the globe that allows prosperity and peace, freedom of movement and prosperity in the world," – **Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, during an interview with American Forces Press Service on Camp Smith, Hawaii, Aug. 14, 2012.**

"When we talk about the United States' interest in the Pacific region, our concern is peace and stability and economic opportunity. We don't view that as an America-only objective; we think it's critical that we work with all the nations of this region to pursue what I hope are the goals that everyone shares." – **Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh during a media conference on Fort Shafter, Hawaii, Aug. 22, 2012.**