

U.S. Pacific Command

Presence with a Purpose

February 2012

www.pacom.mil



"We remain committed to evolving security relationships with the objective of coexisting peacefully and...contributing constructively to regional security."

Admiral Robert Willard, Commander Pacific Command, statement before the Senate Armed Services Committee on US Pacific Command Posture, February 28, 2012

UNCLASSIFIED 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 military presence the United States has in the Asia-Pacific region.

STRENGTHEN ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

- U.S. 7th Fleet command ship, USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19), arrived in Tomakomai, Feb. 3, for a goodwill port visit. During the visit, Sailors from Blue Ridge, and embarked members of the 7th Fleet staff interacted with local children at the Tomakomai Ice Skating Festival and engaged their JMSDF counterparts. <http://navaltoday.com/2012/02/06/u-s-seventh-fleet-command-ship-uss-blue-ridge-arrives-in-tomakomai/>
- The guided-missile destroyer USS Mustin (DDG 89) arrived in Ishikari for a port visit Feb. 6. Mustin's arrival corresponds with the start of the 63rd Annual Snow Festival held in Sapporo. While in port, Mustin Sailors joined tourists from around the world to admire the amazing works of art the festival has to offer in the form of ice. <http://www.c7f.navy.mil/news/2012/02-february/006.htm>
- Sailors from the War Eagles of Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 visited Thailand to build regional cooperation and conduct training Feb. 6-12. War Eagles' aircrew and maintainers conducted two symposiums with service members of the Royal Thai Navy, sharing their perspectives and experiences in operating P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft. http://www.vpnavy.com/vp16_history.html
- U.S. Army Pacific Soldiers participated in a noncommissioned officer mobile training team with soldiers of the Indonesian Army (TNI-AD) Feb. 6-9 at Malang, Indonesia. The USARPAC mobile training team members discussed leadership development, leader styles and instruction, and discussed their combat experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq. The goal of training for the 46 TNI-AD soldiers attending was to develop more responsibility within the TNI-AD.
- The Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies conducted a three-day workshop in Mumbai, Feb. 6-9. The event was co-hosted by the Observer Research Foundation (Delhi) and (Honolulu). Experts came together to discuss "Exploring India-U.S. Cooperation: Safeguarding Prosperity in the Indian Ocean." <http://www.apcss.org/workshop-explores-india-u-s-cooperation/>
- The guided-missile destroyer USS Milius (DDG 69) arrived for a port visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Feb. 7. During their time in Malaysia, crewmembers from the Arleigh-Burke class destroyer competed in a soccer match against the Royal Malaysian Navy as well as numerous events around town to include city tours to see the sights and experience the exceptional culture. <http://www.c7f.navy.mil/news/2012/02-february/009.htm>
- The U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific performed for approximately 11,000 visitors during the Philippines International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta Feb. 9-12 at Clark Field, near Angeles City, Philippines. Air Force participation in the four-day event was part of a U.S. Pacific Command initiative designed to demonstrate the U.S.'s commitment to partnerships between the United States and countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region, enhancing regional stability and promoting security cooperation. The event attracts more than 4,500 aviation enthusiasts and 75,000 spectators annually. 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of aviation in the Philippines. <http://www.bandofthepacific.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123291419>
- The mine countermeasures ship USS Patriot (MCM 7) made various port calls around Japan through the month of February, visiting Hachinohe Feb. 8; Tomokomai Feb. 10; Hakodate Feb. 14; and Yokosuka Feb. 21. In Hakodate,

Sailors visited one of the four Japanese port cities visited by Commodore Matthew Perry and his famous “Black Fleet” in 1854.

- Airmen and aircraft from Pacific Air Forces represented U.S. military forces at the largest air show in Asia, the biennial Singapore Air Show 2012, Feb. 14-19. As one of the top three aerospace and defense exhibitions in the world, the show drew thousands of people to the Changi Exhibition Centre. Air Force and Navy aircraft on display included a P-3 Orion from Patrol Squadron 16, a KC-135 Stratotanker and an E-3 Sentry (AWACS) from 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base, Japan. In addition to the static displays, there were flyovers by a B-52 Stratofortress deployed to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. A C-17 demonstration team from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam flew a C-17 Globemaster III daily during the air show and also joined other aircraft in the static display corral.
<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123291364>
- The guided-missile Destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) arrived in Darwin, Australia, on Feb. 17 for a port visit as part of the commemoration ceremonies remembering the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin during World War II. The visit to Darwin is an opportunity for Chafee Sailors to engage with their Australian Navy counterparts and to interact with the local community.
<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/ddg90/Pages/USSCHAFEEARRIVESINDARWINAUSTRALIA.aspx>
- U.S. Army Pacific commanding general visited Jakarta, Indonesia, Feb. 19-21, 2012. During his first visit to Indonesia, Lt. Gen. Wiercinski met many Indonesian military officials, including the commander of Army Strategic Reserve Command Maj. Gen. Asmyon Yusri Nasution and the Chief of Army Staff Gen. Pramono Edhie Wibowo. He also addressed students in the Indonesian Defense University and conducted a media interview with VIVAnews journalists in Jakarta.
- USPACOM’s Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE-DMHA) conducted a workshop Feb. 19-23 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The event was co-hosted by U.S. Embassies Bangladesh and Nepal, and the Bangladesh Joint Military Headquarters staff. Over 75 senior-level military and civilian decision makers from four South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries attended a multilateral disaster management workshop focused on infectious disease outbreaks. The event, held in support of building a SAARC regional disaster management framework, focused on public health emergencies with a specific focus on risk communications, essential services support and border issues. The four countries in attendance were Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and for the first time, Bhutan.
- U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander, Adm. Cecil Haney, visited senior government and military leaders in Japan (Feb. 19 - 23) and the Republic of Korea (Feb. 23 - 25). The purpose of the trip is to meet for the first time with his respective counterparts in both the military and government and build on the existing strong relationships between our navies. This is Adm. Haney’s first trip to Japan and Korea since assuming command of US Pacific Fleet Jan. 20.
<http://www.cpf.navy.mil/media/news/articles/2012/jan/jan20-PACFLT-COC.shtml>
- Sailors assigned to the forward-deployed amphibious assault ships USS Tortuga (LSD 46) and USS Germantown (LSD 42) and Marines of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) arrived in Laem Chabang for a port visit Feb. 21. The visits mark the completion of exercise Cobra Gold 2012 with Armed Forces of the Royal Thai Navy and Marine Corps. <http://www.c7f.navy.mil/news/2012/02-february/035.htm>
- Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Amelia Earhart (T-AKE 6) conducted a replenishment at sea Feb. 21 with the light monitoring frigate of the French Marine Nationale, FNS Vendémiaire (F734), while underway in the East China Sea in the 7th Fleet area of operations.
- Two New Zealand soldiers graduated from the U.S. Army Pacific Noncommissioned Officers and Warrior Leaders Course Feb. 24. The two-week course was held at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The New Zealand soldiers were winners of a competition to gain seats in USARPAC’s NCO Academy.
- The U.S. 7th Fleet command ship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) arrived in Busan, Republic of Korea Feb. 24. While in port, Blue Ridge Sailors and the men and women of the embarked 7th Fleet staff met with their ROK Navy counterparts and participated in various community service events.

PROTECT ACCESS TO THE COMMONS

- Friends and families of the crews from USS Louisville (SSN 724) and USS Columbus gathered at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to say goodbye as the Los Angeles-class submarines departed for a scheduled Western Pacific deployment, Louisville departed on Feb. 7 and USS Columbus (SSN 762) on Feb. 22.
http://www.csp.navy.mil/releases/release_12-015.shtml

- Indian Navy and U.S. Navy dive teams conducted a bilateral salvage exchange (SALVEX) off the coast of Hawaii Feb. 7-13. The purpose of SALVEX 12 is to enhance U.S. and Indian bilateral diving and salvage capability in the littoral environment to improve maritime security and humanitarian assistance/disaster response capability.
<http://www.cpf.navy.mil/media/news/articles/2012/feb/feb6-India-SALVEX.shtml>
- Forces from Japan and Australia joined with Pacific Air Forces Airmen and aircraft for exercise Cope North 12, based from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Feb. 12-24. This year marked the first trilateral iteration of the recurring Cope North exercise, which practices multilateral interoperability, and command and control. In a daily report dated Feb. 23, Air Force Magazine reporter Dr. Rebecca Grant, visiting the exercise at the invitation of PACAF, summarized the interoperability:
“Cope North is putting partnership into practice as a real demonstration of the Asia-Pacific pivot. Japan is a long-time player in Cope North. This year, the Japan Air Self Defense Force brought F-15MJs, F-2 fighters, and E-2C Hawkeye command and control aircraft. Joining Cope North for the first time is the Royal Australian Air Force. RAAF F/A-18F “Rhinos,” along with the air arm’s new Wedgetail radar surveillance airplane and RAAF C-130s, are on the ramp here. “The face-to-face time is invaluable,” said Wing Cmdr. Murray Jones, commanding officer of RAAF’s No. 1 Squadron. Air Force and RAAF units are also working hand-in-hand in a humanitarian-assistance and disaster-relief scenario at an expeditionary location near Guam’s Northwest Field.”
- Amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) conducted beach and flight operations Feb. 13, to conclude the seventh annual exercise Iron Fist 2012 off the coast of San Clemente Island, with elements from 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force.
- The amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) departed its homeport of San Diego Feb. 14 for a deployment to the western Pacific Ocean, arriving in the 7th Fleet area of operations Feb. 24. The crew of Bonhomme Richard participated in various exercises within the 7th Fleet area of responsibility, and conducted a hull swap with USS Essex (LHD 2) as part of the Navy long range plan to maintain continuous, highly capable amphibious ready group forward presence in the Pacific Fleet.
<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/lhd6/Pages/USSBonhommeRicharddepartsSanDiegoforWesternPacific.aspx>

MAINTAIN MILITARY READINESS

- Approximately 600 Marines and Sailors from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, I Marine Expeditionary Force along with sailors from the 3rd Fleet, U.S. Navy began exercise Iron Fist 2012 with 200 soldiers from the Western Infantry Regiment, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, Jan. 23 at Camp Pendleton, Calif. IF12 is a bi-lateral amphibious training exercise between the American and Japanese forces. This exercise focused on amphibious operations as well as USMC-JGSDF interoperability. This is the seventh iteration of the exercise in southern California and concluded Feb. 15.
- Sailors from the "War Eagles" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 conducted a training exercise with the Singapore Armed Forces in Singapore Jan. 29 – Feb. 2. http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=65264
- The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Lassen (DDG 82) participated in a demonstration of interoperability and humanitarian assistance between the U.S. and the Japanese Self -Defense Forces (JSDF) during the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Drill (TMG) by providing transportation stranded Japanese citizens out of the area, Feb 3.
- The guided missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) conducted a passing exercise (PASSEX) with the Republic of Korea Navy ship ROKS Munmu the Great (DDH 976) Feb. 3, which included stationing and signal drills.
- Approximately 6,900 U.S. service members participated in Cobra Gold 2012, beginning Feb. 7, with 3,400 foreign forces from Singapore, Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and representatives from other countries. CG12 is a recurring multinational and multiservice exercise hosted annually by the Kingdom of Thailand and developed by the Kingdom of Thailand and the United States militaries. CG12 is the 31st iteration of the exercise and is designed to

advance regional security by exercising a robust multinational force from nations sharing common goals and security commitments in the Asia-Pacific region, and concluded Feb. 17.

- The guided missile destroyer USS Milius (DDG 69) conducted a passing exercise (PASSEX) with the Royal Malaysian Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel KD Kelantan (175) Feb. 10. During the PASSEX the two ships trained in signals and stationing.
- The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE-DMHA) held a Humanitarian Assistance Response Training (HART) course for 41 participants for USARPAC Contingency Command Post (CCP), February 21-23. The HART course focuses on improving the military's international disaster response by providing practical information and training on how to work with and support the international humanitarian community.
- The mine countermeasures ship USS Defender (MCM 2) participated in a passing exercise (PASSEX) Feb. 27 off the coast of Sasebo with a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force escort ship and the light monitoring frigate of the French Marine Nationale, FNS Vendémiaire (F734).

U.S. LEADERSHIP FOCUS ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC

"USPACOM's has focused its engagement on advancing the self-sufficiency of the partner militaries in the region. Programs such as International Military Education and Training (IMET) are vital to enhancing the education level of military leaders and promoting a network of military-to-military relations that contribute to broader security cooperation in SEA."

-Admiral Willard, SASC Testimony, 28 Feb 12

"I'm very impressed with the Indonesian Army (TNI AD), especially with the leadership. For us, it is the perfect time to open more engagements opportunity with TNI AD including to conduct exercises and trainings with our troops. Every time we hold joint exercises, both parties learn from another and it's not only us who give lessons. We also learn much from the TNI AD for inputs. That is the most valuable point of having engagements with other parties, which is to see the best and to get the lessons. We hold joint exercise in Indonesia, namely Garuda Shield. Both parties now agree to increase numbers of soldiers involved in this exercise. We also seek to increase the goals of partnership between soldiers."

--Lt. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski, Commanding General, U.S. Army Pacific, during an interview with VIVAnews journalists Feb. 20, 2012, in Jakarta, Indonesia.

"The sergeant major of the New Zealand Army and I have a great relationship and will continue to work together to build on a great friendship that I categorize into three phases: building a relationship, building a partnership, that will grow into a long enduring friendship. As the USARPAC command sergeant major, I will continue to ask and request international students to attend WLC to expose them to the way we train and develop the future leaders of our Army."

--Command Sgt. Major Frank M. Leota, U.S. Army Pacific Command Sergeant Major, during a visit Feb. 22, 2012, to the USARPAC Noncommissioned Officers and Warrior Leaders Course at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.