

U.S. Pacific Command

Presence with a Purpose

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"The cornerstone of our efforts is our strong alliances, including our alliance with the Republic of Korea." - President Obama, Joint Press Conference in Seoul with President Lee Myung-bak of the Republic of Korea. 1 April, 2012

This 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

- Airmen from the U.S. Air Force, Royal Thai Air Force and Republic of Singapore Air Force participated in exercise Cope Tiger, a large air force employment exercise aimed at strengthening interoperability between the three nations. Along with launching aircraft together from airfields across Thailand, the Airmen are focused on reinforcing relationships through community outreach programs and cultural exchanges at nearby secondary schools. Cope Tiger aims to enhance readiness and combined interoperability between U.S. forces, allies and partners within the Pacific region. More than 1,600 Airmen and civilians participated in this year's engagement, including approximately 430 U.S. service members and civilians.
<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123294164>
- Indian and U.S. Army Soldiers participated March 5-19, 2012, in exercise Yudh Abhyas 2011-2012 at Majahan and Bathinda, India. Yudh Abhyas, a bilateral training exercise supporting peacekeeping operations, was co-sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and the India Army. Participating U.S. Soldiers were from USARPAC, Fort Shafter, Hawaii; and the 25th Infantry Division,; and the California Army National Guard. Soldiers from India Army's 2nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion and 471st Engineer Brigade participated in Yudh Abhyas. This marked the eighth time the USARPAC-sponsored theater security cooperation exercise was held with the India Army. Yudh Abhyas enhanced cooperation and interoperability during training. Cultural exchanges also helped build skills necessary for peacekeeping operations.
http://www.army.mil/article/76343/USARPAC_Soldiers_train_in_India_during_Yudh_Abhyas_11_12/
- Lt. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski, U.S. Army Pacific commanding general, attended the opening ceremony of Exercise Shanti Doot-3 March 8, 2012, at Rajendrapur Cantonment in Gazipur, Bangladesh. Shanti Doot-3 was an exercise jointly organized by the Bangladesh Army and U.S. Department of State and U.S. Pacific Command that ran through March 22. Also attending the ceremony were U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Dr. James A Schear and U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena. More than 1,000 participants from Bangladesh, Brunei, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, United States and Vietnam took part in the Global Peace Operations Initiative program designed to increase participants' interoperability and peacekeeping skills before deployment to U.N. missions. <http://www.dvidshub.net/image/538970/exercise-shanti-doot-3-trains-troops-peace-keeping-skills>

PROTECT ACCESS TO THE COMMONS

- 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.northwestmilitary.com/news/airlifter-blog/>

- About 11,000 U.S. Forces Korea military members and tens of thousands of Republic of Korea troops are taking part in exercise Foal Eagle, which started March 1 and runs through April 30. The majority of U.S. troops taking part in the exercise are from off the Korean peninsula. The combined forces training exercise spans ground, air, naval, marine, expeditionary, and special operations. The annual exercise is defense-oriented and designed to ensure ROK and U.S. forces are prepared to execute required tasks and missions to protect the Republic of Korea. <http://1.usa.gov/GFeYop>

MAINTAIN MILITARY READINESS

- The Essex Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) embarked more than 2,000 Marines of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and departed White Beach Naval Facility in Okinawa, Japan for the ARG's amphibious integration training (AIT), and certification exercise (CERTEX) March 4. Amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2), amphibious dock landing ship USS Tortuga (LSD 46), and amphibious transport dock ship USS Denver (LPD 9) worked hand-in-hand with the Marines to safely load personnel, equipment and vehicles in support of the upcoming training and exercise. Throughout the AIT period, the MEU conducted various ship-to-shore movements, day and night flight operations, and visit board search and seizure exercises.
- Angkor Sentinel, an annual bilateral exercise sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and hosted by the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, was held March 13-22, 2012, in Kampot and Kampongseu Provinces, Cambodia. Exercise training focused on peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance operations to promote regional peace and security. Medical civic action projects provided vital medical services for about 5,000 Cambodians. Soldiers from the Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team participated with Royal Cambodian Army Forces in the third iteration of Angkor Sentinel, which is designed to enhance U.S. and Cambodian military interoperability and promote regional stability and security cooperation. <http://www.terminalx.org/2012/03/joint-us-cambodia-military-drill.html>

U.S. LEADERSHIP FOCUS ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC

"If I can go to places that not many senior Americans go, you can sometimes make a lot of progress on the partnership-building, on items of mutual interest, strengthening that connection, whether it's Navy to Navy, Marine Corps to their ground forces or military to military,"- Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus told Navy Times, 2 April 2012.

"We're an Asian power... We have interest in that part of the world. And I believe that the Chinese and other people in that part of the world need to recognize that we do have US national security interests there."
- Admiral Locklear during testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee in February 2012.