

U.S. Pacific Command

Presence with a Purpose

May 2012

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"The U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific has provided the security infrastructure that basically underpins the security environment which has led to an environment that allowed. emerging economies [and] emerging nations to thrive - from Japan to Korea to Australia to the Philippines to China, to the U.S." **Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, Adm. Samuel Locklear III during an interview with American Forces Press Service. May 18, 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

- The San Diego-based Navy hospital ship USNS Mercy deployed May 2 for a four-month humanitarian mission to four Asian nations. Mercy arrived in its first country, Manado, Indonesia, May 30, and will also visit Cambodia, the Philippines and Vietnam. This is the seventh year of the program that focuses on employing the collaborative capabilities of all participants in medical, dental, veterinary, public health services, engineering and disaster response activities that will help to increase confidence, capability and preparedness of host and partner nations to respond to natural disasters and crisis. Military and civilian professionals from Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Peru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Thailand and the United States, along with non-government organizations (NGO) and international agencies, will partner to execute tailored humanitarian and civic assistance projects and subject matter expert exchanges.
<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=116195>
- The Royal Thai Army and U.S. Army Pacific held an Executive Steering Group meeting May 7-10, 2012, at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. Lt. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski, U.S. Army Pacific commanding general, and Lt. Gen. Surasak Karnjanarat, Royal Thai Army deputy chief of staff, chaired the USARPAC-Royal Thai Army Executive Steering Group. At the first ESG between USARPAC and the Royal Thai Army, agreements were signed to strengthen the relationship between senior leaders of both armies, to continue support and participation during Cobra Gold and other exercises, and to develop technical expert-exchanges in the future.
http://www.army.mil/article/79692/U_S_Army_Pacific_and_Royal_Thai_Army_hold_an_Executive_Steering_Group/
- Tentara Nasional Indonesia (Indonesian Army) and the U.S. Army Pacific conducted the Sixth Annual Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Expert Exchange, May 21-24, 2012, at Malang, Indonesia. Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Expert Exchange is an annual USARPAC-TNI civilian-military disaster preparedness and response initiative. The event focused on regional preparedness to all-hazard situations with this year's effort on volcano response. More than 80 delegates representing more than 20 host-nation and international organizations participated. For four days, the two militaries, with other disaster responders and stakeholders, held subject matter expert exchange presentations, problem-solving sessions, a practical exercise and a site visit to Indonesia's civilian-military disaster rapid response team eastern headquarters.
http://www.pacom.mil/web/Site_Pages/Media/News_2012/05/29-CARAT-Exercise-Underway-Indonesia.shtml
- Host nation officers from Thailand, Australia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh spent five days visiting Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, for a multilateral subject-matter expert exchange co-hosted by senior civil engineer and security forces personnel from Headquarters 13th Air Force. This U.S.

Pacific Command's Theater Security Cooperation Program allows participants to experience Andersen's capabilities as part of an effort to combine military information, enhance regional partnerships and showcase U.S. commitment to its allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific region.
<http://www.pacaf.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123301671>

PROTECT ACCESS TO THE COMMONS

- The 18th annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise between the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, Indonesian Navy, Royal Thai Navy and Marine Corps began May 16 with opening ceremonies in Sattahip, Thailand. The exercise is designed to enhance maritime security skills and operational cohesiveness among participating forces, it also focuses on relationship building between military participants through sports and social events, and improving relationships with the community through civic action projects and community service events.
http://www.pacom.mil/web/Site_Pages/Media/News_2012/05/29-CARAT-Exercise-Underway-Indonesia.shtml

MAINTAIN MILITARY READINESS

- The Royal New Zealand Army, along with contingents from the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army, participated April 16 - May 20 in exercise Alam Halfa 2012, in New Zealand. This three-phase exercise was led by 1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment with a purpose of enhancing interoperability and reinitiating military-to-military relations between the United States and New Zealand, creating ties for future partnerships in Oceania.
http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=10798003
- More than 720 Airmen from the U.S. and Republic of Korea participated in Max Thunder 7-18 May. The exercise allowed the U. S. Air Force to work alongside the ROK Air Force through exercise scenarios simulating combined operations against a hostile force. The Air Force added an extra week to Max Thunder this year to offer time for the ROK Air Force to conduct their first air-to-air refueling in a Max Thunder scenario. This extra time also allowed the U.S. Air Force to execute the first combat search and rescue and tactical airlift mission in this bilateral training environment.
<http://www.pacaf.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123303117>

U.S. LEADERSHIP FOCUS ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC

"The United States will continue to work with the Pacific Island nations, especially when it comes to responding to disasters, as we saw with flooding and landslides in Papua New Guinea and Fiji earlier this year." - **Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton Remarks With the Foreign Minister of New Zealand Murray McCully. May 24, 2012.**

[International rules] "These rules include the principle of open and free commerce, a just international order that emphasizes rights and responsibilities of all nations and a fidelity to the rule of law; open access by all to their shared domains of sea, air, space, and cyberspace; and resolving disputes without coercion or the use of force. "—**Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, Shangri-La Dialogue, Singapore, June 02, 2012**

"Our nation is currently refocusing on the Asia-Pacific. The fact is, we never left. This region has been vital to the U.S. economy and security since the 19th century. The world sees Hawaii as even more vital for U.S. military forces." — **Lt. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski, commanding general, U.S. Army Pacific, at the 27th Annual Military Recognition Luncheon May 10, 2012, in Honolulu, Hawaii.**