

U.S. Pacific Command

Presence with a Purpose

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"[US/China] cooperation is particularly important to the Asia Pacific region, where both China and the United States are extraordinarily active. We are both Pacific powers. And I think many countries in the region look to a constructive relationship between the United States and China as a basis for continued growth and prosperity." -- President Obama remarks before meeting with China's President Hu Jintao at APEC, Honolulu, Hawaii, Nov. 12, 2011

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

- The Center for Excellence (COE) in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance coordinated a bilateral subject-matter exchange (SMEE) with India's Military Medical University Nov. 1-4. Commanding officers from Naval Medical Research Unit 2 (NARMRU-2) and Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences (AFRIMS) conducted scientific exchanges with their counterparts on vaccines, anti-virals and general research topics related to disease outbreaks and pandemic preparedness. COE presented a whole-of-government model that included military support to national essential services during an outbreak.
- Forty defense and foreign affairs government officials and military officers from the U.S. and Republic of Korea participated in the inaugural Extended Deterrence Policy Committee Tabletop Exercise (EDPC TTX) Nov. 8-9 at U.S. Strategic Command. The EDPC TTX was a bilateral forum for deliberations, consultations, and information exchange aimed at establishing the policy insights and measures necessary to maintain credible deterrence in a changing security environment. The U.S. Department of Defense and ROK Ministry of National Defense identified ways in which the full range of ROK-US Alliance capabilities - including conventional forces, missile defense, nuclear capabilities, and strategy doctrine - can be leveraged to maximize their deterrent effects.
- Seventy-two military and civilian participants from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam gathered in Siem Reap, Cambodia for the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Health Workshop on Nov. 15-18. The workshop was co-hosted by the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance and Cambodia's Ministry of Health's Communicable Disease Division. It focused on civil-military coordination at the borders of LMI nations during an infectious disease outbreak. LMI is a US State Department initiative for which Cambodia has the lead for health issues. <http://coe-dmha.org/>
- The guided-missile destroyer USS Lassen (DDG 82) made an unscheduled port visit to Laem Chabang, Thailand, Nov. 16 to support humanitarian assistance efforts at the request of the Government of Thailand. The dock landing ship USS Tortuga (LSD-46) arrived in Laem Chabang Nov. 25 to assist with drainage operations at Don Mueang Airport.
- The 65th Medical Brigade from USFK deployed a medical team to Thailand on Nov. 16 and conducted a health assessment in support of Thai flood relief operations. <http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/>
- The guided-missile destroyer USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) hosted the signing of the Manila Declaration Nov. 16 in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Philippines-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Ambassador Harry Thomas, Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario and Philippine Secretary of National Defense Voltaire Gazmin signed the joint declaration onboard Fitzgerald while docked in Manila Bay. Over the past summer, Fitzgerald transited with BRP Gregorio del Pilar, the

flagship of the Philippine Navy, on her maiden voyage across the Pacific. The two ships exchanged personnel and held training sessions for 16 days on joint maritime operations. By the end of the transit, the officers and crews of both ships achieved new levels of proficiency and partnership.

- New Zealand Defense Force Command Staff College (CSC) Fellows participated in an Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) workshop Nov. 21-22. to study the nature of regional power shifts, particularly as relating to the U.S., China, and India. They exchanged perspectives on key transnational security trends, especially in the maritime, economic and natural disasters areas; developed collaborative approaches to existing and emerging security challenges; and identified best practices in the functioning of national security institutions. The NZDF CSC team included 45 multilateral course members plus NZDF staff. APCSS was the final stop in a 12-day overseas study tour that included New Caledonia and Vietnam.

www.apcss.org

PROTECT ACCESS TO THE COMMONS

- The aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) returned to its forward operating port of Yokosuka, Japan Nov. 22 wrapping up the ship's 2011 patrol. The patrol consisted of four port visits and two major exercises while cruising more than 50,000 nautical miles across the western Pacific Ocean. George Washington conducted operations with Australia, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Korea.
- The Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) arrived in Pearl Harbor Nov. 21 for a scheduled port visit before deploying to the western Pacific. The Makin Island ARG is comprised of the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), which serves as the command ship for Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 5 and the 11th MEU, as well as the amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans (LPD 18) and amphibious dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52).
- Guided-missile frigate USS Ford (FFG 54) returned to Everett, WA Nov. 17 after a six-month deployment to the western Pacific. During deployment the ship participated in the multinational Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise that included coastal patrol, mine countermeasures, amphibious assault, and maritime patrol and interdiction training. Ford Sailors made port calls in Guam, Malaysia, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, India, and Sri Lanka.
- The forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) and the guided-missile destroy USS Stethem (DDG 63) conducted a pass in review exercise with Indonesian Navy ships in the Indian Ocean with a follow-on port visit to Bali. The Bali visit provided Essex and Stethem Sailors and Marines of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) an opportunity to experience the local culture and participate in several exchanges in the local community.
- Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Texas (SSN 775) and its crew of approximately 140 personnel arrived in Yokosuka Nov. 22 for a port call over the Thanksgiving holiday. Texas is currently on its first deployment to the western Pacific.

MAINTAIN MILITARY READINESS

- More than 9,000 people, 14 ships and 69 aircraft. from the U.S. 7th Fleet and Japan Maritime Self Defense Forces participated in ANNUAL Exercise 2011 (AE11) Oct. 27 to Nov. 4. The bilateral maritime field training exercise is designed to increase the defensive readiness of Japanese and American forces through training in air and sea operations by improving interoperability between the two countries' forces.
- Units from 7th Air Force participated with the Republic of Korea in a ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed field training exercise, Hoguk. The ROK-led exercise, held Oct. 27-Nov. 4, included air interdiction large force exercises and mobile interdiction sorties. Hoguk is one of

the largest joint, combined military drills in Korea, and one that involves all branches of the ROK military at multiple locations peninsula-wide.

- Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) submarine JS Mochishio (SS 600) arrived in Hawaii Oct. 31 for annual training exercises with U.S. Navy submarine forces. The Oyashio-class submarine conducted both in-port and at-sea training on undersea tactics, anti-submarine warfare and wartime strategies designed to enhance the tactical proficiency of warfare capabilities in a variety of sea operations and strengthen their knowledge in joint training operations.
- Eighth Army, Republic of Korea Army, and U.S. Army units at Fort Lee, Va., and Fort Leavenworth, KS, participated in exercise Warpath III from Oct. 31 to Nov. 11. The command post exercise allowed participating unit is to hone their ability to command combat operations from a mobile headquarters as well as train for full-spectrum combat operations. Warpath III was the third round of the computer-simulation exercise. Warpath II took place in October and Warpath I occurred in August.
- 7th Air Force and Republic of Korea service members demonstrated base defense procedures and their ability to survive and operate in a simulated hostile environment during Beverly Bulldog 11-03, a Korean Peninsula-wide operational readiness exercise from Nov. 13-18.
- U.S. Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) ships returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Nov. 17-18 after completing a week of dynamic training during the latest Koa Kai exercise in Hawaiian waters. Helicopter destroyer JS Kurama (DDH 144) participated in the exercise that began Nov. 10 and marked the first time U.S. Navy ships were joined by a JMSDF surface ship for a Koa Kai exercise. Guided-missile destroyers USS O'Kane (DDG 77) and USS Chafee (DDG 90); frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37); and Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Washington Chambers (T-AKE 11) participated in the exercise. Also participating in the exercise were assets from Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Helicopter Squadron Light 37, Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2, and the Royal Canadian Air Force 407 Long Range Patrol Squadron.

U.S. LEADERSHIP FOCUS ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC

"President Obama and myself are encouraged by the steps that you and your government have taken to provide for your people." -- **SecState Clinton comments during first trip to Burma, Dec. 1, 2011**

"What we've seen in this trip is the implementation of a substantial and important reorientation in American global strategy. That is, the rebalancing of our efforts towards the challenges and opportunities in Asia on the part of the United States." -- **NSA Tom Donilon comments during President Obama's visit to Bali, Indonesia, Nov. 19, 2011**