

U.S. Pacific Command

Presence with a Purpose

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www.pacom.mil



The Secretary of Defense said it best: We are a Pacific power, an Asia-Pacific power, and will remain so. This vast region that covers half the earth is unique in its size, diversity and importance to the future of every other nation in the world, and we are vested there in every way. From a security standpoint, it's in our interest to be there. From an economic standpoint, it is certainly in our interest to be there. PACOM will continue to enable engagement and the transactions that occur between the U.S. and this part of the world. We are not going anywhere.

Adm. Robert Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, Oct. 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 recent key examples of the ongoing engagement and presence the United States has in the Asia-Pacific region.

STRENGTHEN ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Seventy-three senior military and civilian government leaders from 30 countries and territories graduated Oct. 12 from Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies Advanced Security Cooperation course. The four-week executive course focus is on building relationships among mid-career leaders and decision makers within the region. Its curriculum emphasizes the non-war fighting aspects of security and international relations, and challenges Fellows to develop regional and transnational perspectives. Security is examined as a comprehensive mix of political, economic, social, military, diplomatic, information and ecological dimensions. Attendees included: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Uruguay, United States, and Vietnam. www.apcss.org
- Twenty-six Chiefs of Defense from Asia-Pacific and other countries attended the 14th annual Chiefs of Defense Conference (CHOD) Oct. 17-20 in Honolulu, Hawaii, hosted by Adm. Robert Willard, commander of U.S. Pacific Command. The conference brings together senior military leaders from nations in the Asia-Pacific region to meet and discuss mutual security challenges, improve mutual relationships and foster security cooperation.
- Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta made his first trip to the Asia-Pacific Region, Oct 21-28. with stops in Bali, Tokyo, and Seoul. He attended a series of Cabinet-level meetings, met with defense ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and conduct annual security consultative meetings. He emphasized "the Asia-Pacific region, will remain a central part of U.S. national security strategy."
<http://www.defense.gov/News/NewsArticle.aspx?ID=65762>
- The Lao-Mongolian Hospital in Xieng Khouang, Laos, opened Oct. 25. The hospital is part of U.S. Pacific Command's Humanitarian Assistance Program, providing clinics, schools and other infrastructure projects since the late 1990's in provinces where U.S. Pacific Command has ongoing JPAC POW/MIA cooperation. The largest emergency medical facility in a three-province area still impacted with unexploded ordinance, the hospital has benefited from multiple other donors including United States Agency for International Development (USAID) providing various facilities.
- Military leaders of the United States and Republic of Korea reaffirmed commitment to build a comprehensive strategic alliance and to broaden and deepen alliance cooperation during the 43rd Security Consultative Meeting/Military Committee Meeting in Seoul, Korea, Oct. 27. U.S. Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff met with their counterparts in the annual meeting.
- III MEF's Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team (HAST) deployed to Thailand to assess flood damage and possible U.S. support for Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response (HA/DR) operations. USS MUSTIN (DDG 89) made an unscheduled port visit to Laem Chabang, Thailand, to conduct community service events and military-to-military engagements. <http://www.defense.gov/News/NewsArticle.aspx?ID=65808>

PROTECT ACCESS TO THE COMMONS

- Submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) arrived in Sepangar, Malaysia, Oct. 11, followed by fast attack submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771) Oct. 13, for a goodwill visit. During the visit, the tender and submarine conducted a coordinated mooring which allowed Emory S. Land to provide maintenance services to Columbia. http://www.cpf.navy.mil/media/news/articles/2011/oct/oct12_Malaysia_Land.shtml
- The four-ship George Washington Carrier Strike Group arrived in Singapore for a port visit Oct. 13 after operating in the South China Sea. The ships were the aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73), guided-missile cruiser USS Cowpens (CG 63) and guided-missile destroyers USS Wayne E. Meyer (DDG 108) and USS Dewey (DDG 105). http://www.cpf.navy.mil/media/news/articles/2011/oct/oct13_Singapore_GW.shtml

MAINTAIN MILITARY READINESS

- Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) bilateral exercises between U.S. military and Brunei ended Oct. 6. CARAT contributes to regional maritime security in areas such as maritime interdiction, amphibious operations, information sharing, anti-piracy & anti-smuggling, logistics, HA/DR planning, and combined operations at sea.
- The guided missile destroyers USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) and USS McCampbell (DDG 85) joined Russian Federation Navy (RFN) forces to conduct Exercise Pacific Eagle 2011, Oct. 13-15. The exercise is conducted to improve the U.S. Navy (USN) and RFN maritime relationship. This exercise consists of a series of maritime activities during two phases: an in-port phase in Guam and an at-sea phase in the Philippine Sea. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/us7thfleet/6279248101>
- Amphibious Landing Exercise 2012 (PHIBLEX 12) began Oct. 17 in the Philippines. U.S. Marines and Sailors conducted mechanized assault, boat raid, combined arms and small arms live-fire, helicopter insertion and airborne operation training, and Civil Military Operations (CMO) activities with the Armed Forces of the Philippines Navy and Marines. Training ended Oct. 28. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/seawavesmag/6269975632>
- Members of Mumbai Police's Quick Response Teams (QRTs), along with other senior Indian and Australian officers, attended a week-long course on Critical Incidents and Tactical Response at the Los Angeles FBI Academy. The exchange was a joint effort involving senior Indian and Australian officers and U.S. organizations (FBI, U.S. Department of Defense, LA Police Department and LA County Sheriff's Department) and focused on police planning and tactical responses to critical and violent situations.
- Exercise HABU NAG, an exercise that typically focuses on the naval aspects of amphibious operations, has increased in scale and complexity, and was conducted this year in conjunction with Joint Exercise India (JEI) to leverage the natural complementary nature of amphibious and HA/DR operations.

U.S. LEADERSHIP FOCUS ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC

"The Asia-Pacific has become a key driver of global politics. Stretching from the Indian subcontinent to the western shores of the Americas, the region spans two oceans – the Pacific and the Indian – that are increasingly linked by shipping and strategy. It boasts almost half the world's population. It includes many of the key engines of the global economy, as well as the largest emitters of greenhouse gasses ... At a time when the region is building a more mature security and economic architecture to promote stability and prosperity, the U.S. commitment there is essential."

--America's Pacific Century, SECSTATE Hillary Rodham Clinton, Foreign Policy magazine, Oct. 11, 2011.

Link to article: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/10/175215.htm>

"I've got a very basic message that I'm sending, and the basic message is this: The United States of America is a Pacific power. We are a Pacific nation. We will not only remain a Pacific power, but we will strengthen our presence in this area. We are here to stay. And that's an important message to send to the region and to send to all of our allies."

--Aboard USS BLUE RIDGE, Yokosuka, Japan, SECDEF Leon Panetta, Oct. 26, 2011.

[On Republic of Korea alliance] "I can tell you that [Gen. Jung Seung-jo and I] both agreed that this is a critical time in our friendship and alliance. We're moving ahead toward transition. We've got many issues. But the relationships we've built and settings like this are a great opportunity to help us continue to strengthen what is already an extraordinarily healthy alliance."

--Seoul, Korea, CJCS Gen. Martin Dempsey, Oct. 27, 2011