

# United States Pacific Command Regional Report

## September 2012

*"I have long believed that the United States-China relationship requires a long-term perspective, it is measured less by major breakthroughs, than by slow steady progress over time, to build a relationship and to work on activities in areas of mutual interest."* -- Secretary of Defence, Leon Panetta, quoted from an AP article September 22, 2012.

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**

- Republic of Korea Airmen and Osan Air Base gained insight into each other's emergency management procedures during a combined force exercise at Osan AB, Republic of Korea, Sept. 7. Participants ran through post attack reconnaissance sweeps and decontamination in the afternoon's training. The combined training exercise allowed U.S. and ROK forces hands-on interaction for real-world situations.  
<http://www.pacaf.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123317966>
- The U.S. Army Pacific Contingency Command Post and elements of the 311th Signal Command and 25th Infantry Division deployed to Talia Military Camp on Tongatapu Island, Kingdom of Tonga, Sept. 21-28, 2012, in support of Operation Coral Reef, a week-long training exercise. The multinational, combined and joint exercise involved members of the Australia, New Zealand, Kingdom of Tonga and U.S. militaries. Operation Coral Reef was designed to validate the CCP's capabilities to respond to disasters. Soldiers participated in humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and combat skills training. New Zealand and Australia forces shared their experiences in conducting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. USARPAC Contingency Command Post Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team Soldiers along with an Australian counterpart met with key leaders from the Tongan National Emergency Management Office to discuss details of the first disaster relief exercise held between the U.S. Army and Tonga. The HAST's primary job is to conduct assessments of key infrastructure in order to assist the host-nation government in getting relief supplies and other support into the country as quickly as possible.  
[http://www.army.mil/article/87887/USARPAC\\_HAST\\_meet\\_with\\_Tonga\\_National\\_Emergency\\_Management\\_Office/](http://www.army.mil/article/87887/USARPAC_HAST_meet_with_Tonga_National_Emergency_Management_Office/)

### **PROTECT ACCESS TO THE COMMONS**

- The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), departed its homeport of Bremerton, Wash. Monday, Aug. 27, to begin a deployment to the 7th and 5th Fleet areas of operation. Stennis deployed four months ahead of schedule in order to maintain Combatant Commander Requirements for the presence in each region. Stennis returned in March from its most recent deployment.  
[http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=69160](http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=69160)
- Technicians from the Republic of Singapore Navy, the Royal Australian Air Force, the Royal Australian Navy Andersen Air Force Base Airmen participated with and the U.S. Navy in the biennial multinational EOD exercise called Tri-Crab 2012. Tri-Crab, occurring Aug. 20-31 on and around Guam, is a combined engagement that focuses on strengthening relationships within the Asia-Pacific region through training and information exchanges, enhancing EOD and diving-related interoperability. Additionally, the joint exercise aims to prepare participating nations for counter-terrorism and down-range operations.  
<http://www.pacaf.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123316459>
- Malaysian Armed Forces and U.S. Army Pacific soldiers participated in Keris Strike 12 Sept. 18-28, 2012, near Ulu Tiram and Johor Bahru, Malaysia. This was the 16th iteration of Keris Strike, a USARPAC-sponsored Theater Security Cooperation Program exercise conducted annually with the Malaysian Armed

Forces. Keris Strike contributed to enhancing U.S. and Malaysian defense readiness and tactical interoperability while strengthening multinational relationships and demonstrating U.S. resolve to support the security interests of allies and partners in the region. Major components of the exercise included medical first-responder training, a humanitarian civic assistance medical project, and a brigade- and battalion-level staff exercise focused on peace support operations training based on U.N. training standards. USARPAC's 9th Mission Support Command was the executive agent for Keris Strike.  
<http://www.usarpac.army.mil/krs12/>

### **MAINTAIN MILITARY READINESS**

- After more than eight months of rigorous training in preparation for a deployment across the Western Pacific, the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group began its final certification exercise (CERTX) Aug 15. The MEU had already conducted two other at-sea periods that focused on skill sets pertaining to the missions a MEU may face while forward deployed.
- Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange 2012 tested the capabilities of disaster response organizations and personnel to respond to a catastrophic earthquake in Dhaka, Bangladesh. U.S. Army Pacific and Bangladesh Armed Forces Division participated in the third annual exercise held Sept. 17-20, 2012. More than 180 personnel from 70 organizations participated in a two-day table top exercise to analyze and plan disaster response. More than 1,250 personnel participated in a citywide field training exercise, reacting to real-world scenarios ranging from search and rescue to evacuation of casualties to local hospitals. A field training exercise on the third day of the DREE exercised plans, equipment and U.S. and Bangladesh personnel to increase readiness for disaster response. Led by the USARPAC G-9 Civil-Military Operations and the Bangladesh AFD, the DREE focused on supporting civilian authorities and the government of Bangladesh in a disaster response scenario.  
[http://www.army.mil/article/87743/3rd\\_annual\\_Pacific\\_Resilience\\_DREE\\_a\\_success/](http://www.army.mil/article/87743/3rd_annual_Pacific_Resilience_DREE_a_success/)
- Military and civilian medical professionals from Nepal, Australia, and Mongolia joined Doctors from the U.S. Air Force (PACAF) joined to participate in U.S. Pacific Command's Operation Pacific Angel 12-4, at Nepal Sept. 10. The first-ever Pacific Angel mission in Nepal featured free medical assistance to 4,100 villagers, including pediatrics, optometry, physiotherapy, public health infection control, food safety, women's health and pre-post partum nutrition care. In addition to the thousands of patients receiving care, 80 Nepal Army and U.S. military designers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, painters, and brick-layers enhanced and improved a school hostel, restroom facilities, water tank and pump systems, and school cafeteria at Macchapuchhre primary and secondary schools, and at the Macchhapuchhre district post.

### **U.S. LEADERSHIP FOCUS ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC**

*"Our rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region is not an attempt to contain China. It is an attempt to engage China and expand its role in the Pacific," Panetta said recently. "It is about creating a new model in the relationship of two Pacific powers." -- Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta, speaking on America's Military in the Asia Pacific while on a recent trip to China, DOD article September 19, 2012.*

*"The United States is following through with our strategy to rebalance towards the Asia-Pacific region, throughout the week; it was heartening to hear Allies, friends and partners in the region welcome the Department's renewed focus on Asia-Pacific." -- Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta reflects on his week-long trip to the Asia Pacific in a Defence Professional article, September 27, 2012*