

# United States Pacific Command Regional Report

## October 2012

*" The Asia Pacific region reflects a fundamental truth — the United States has been, and always will be, a Pacific nation" – President of the United States. Barack Obama. quote from a Stars and Stripes article October 15, 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**

- The Chinese People's Liberation Army (Navy) PLA (N) participated in a counter-piracy exercise with the Guided-missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81) and other U.S. Navy assets elements of near the Horn of Africa, Sept. 17. The exercise, the first bilateral counter-piracy exercise ever conducted between the U.S. and China, paired Winston S. Churchill with PLA(N) frigate Yi Yang (FF 548) to conduct a combined visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) boarding. The focus was on bilateral interoperability in detecting, boarding and searching suspected vessels as well as the ability of both Chinese and American naval assets to respond to pirated vessels. [http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=69643](http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=69643)
- Gen. Eiji Kimizuka, chief of staff of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) visited the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) on Sept. 23 to meet with senior leadership and discuss bilateral training. During the visit to Bonhomme Richard, Kimizuka along with Lt. Gen. Kenneth Glueck Jr., commanding general of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force and Robert S. Luke, minister-counselor for political Affairs, U.S. Embassy Tokyo had lunch, attended a bilateral training brief and took a tour of the ship. The brief focused on Japan Self Defense Force (JSDF) amphibious capabilities and the potential for future JGSDF and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) integration with Amphibious Squadron Eleven and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). Group discussion also focused on training areas in Guam and in the Marianas Islands that are currently being used to increase the proficiency of amphibious operations conducted by the Bonhomme Amphibious Ready Group (ARG). [http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=69750](http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=69750)

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

- Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment hosted French Marines from 8th Marine Airborne Infantry Regiment during Exercise Amercal, which took place 12-26 October at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, on the island of Oahu. Exercise Amercal is an annual, bilateral exchange between U.S. Marines and French armed forces stationed in New Caledonia. The purpose of the exercise is to improve military relationships, enhance interoperability, improve warfighting skills and give service members from both countries an opportunity to train using different tactics, techniques and procedures, as well as allow them to gain exposure to different cultures. <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/96391/strengthening-relations-french-us-marines-train-close-quarters-combat>
- Two of the U.S. Navy's global force aircraft carrier strike groups (CSGs) conducted operations in the vital Asia-Pacific region. Ships of the forward-deployed George Washington CSG, to include the aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73), its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5, the guided missile cruiser USS Cowpens (CG 63) and the guided missile destroyer

USS McCampbell (DDG 85); coupled with the ships of the John C. Stennis CSG, to include the Bremerton, Wash.-based aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), its embarked CVW 9, and the San Diego-based guided-missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay (CG 53); are currently patrolling the Western Pacific. They are providing a combat-ready force that protects and defends the collective maritime interest of the United States and its allies and partners.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/53248/ph-us-execs-hail-mutual-learning-as-war-games-close>

### **MAINTAIN MILITARY READINESS**

- Effective Oct. 1, 2012, Commander, Pacific Fleet established NECC Pacific (NECC PAC) to provide administrative control for Navy expeditionary forces assigned to the Pacific theater. The establishment of NECC PAC is a significant milestone. The standup formalizes a direct administrative relationship between NECC and Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet – a linkage that hasn't existed since NECC's establishment in 2006. Rear Adm. Michael P. Tillotson will serve as commander of both NECC and NECC PAC. <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/95665/necc-pacific-established>

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

*“The U.S. is looking into building longer-term relationships with India and China, as America's primary interests lie with Asia-Pacific countries”~ Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, Adm. Samuel Locklear, quote from an AP article October 16, 2012*

*“Seven of the world's 10 largest armies are in the Asia-Pacific region, the Army will continue to partner and exercise with our allies in the region [and] we will build on those partnerships.”~ Deputy Defense Secretary, Ashton Carter, quote from an AUSA article October 24, 2012 while speaking on the major role of the Army in the Asia Pacific.*