STATEMENT OF

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BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

ON U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND POSTURE

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INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the men and women of the U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM), thank you for this opportunity to testify regarding the posture of our command and security in the Asia-Pacific.

In November, we published the U.S. Pacific Command Strategy. It underscores the fundamental importance of sustained and persistent cooperation and collaboration in times of peace to mitigate situations that could lead to conflict and crisis. While it emphasizes security cooperation and capacity building, it does not signal a departure from our primary responsibility to fight and win. Instead, it acknowledges the complexity of our security environment and the importance of proactively employing forces to strengthen partnerships and support conditions that preclude the necessity for combat operations. It is a strategy in which we collectively seek – with our allies, partners and friends – multilateral solutions, recognizing challenges are best met together. *Ours is a strategy based on partnership, readiness, and presence.*

It is hard to overstate the importance of our engagement in the Asia-Pacific both to our national interests and to the broader interests of all in the region. Having visited most of the 36 nations in our area of responsibility (AOR), I am convinced that our success depends on our ability to understand the complexities and intricacies of this dynamic region.

Please consider the following:

- USPACOM AOR encompasses almost half the earth's surface.
- More than half the world's population lives in our region.

- The Asia-Pacific is home to 36 nations, 3.4 billion people, three thousand different languages, the world's six largest militaries,[1] and five nations allied with the U.S. through mutual defense treaties.[2]
- The region includes the most populous nation, the largest democracy, the largest Muslim-majority nation, and the smallest republic in the world.[3]
- China, Japan, South Korea are three of our top trading partners. About one-third of our total two-way goods trade[4] is with nations in the region.
- Collectively, the region contributes 20% of the world's GDP, thanks to several of the largest economies in the world.[5]
- The Asia-Pacific region is home to 10 of the 15 smallest economies and to several hundred million people who still live below the $1.25 a day poverty line.

Given such diversity, the challenges are many. While the region is characterized by a remarkable level of relative stability, the endurance of the secure and stable conditions that underpin prosperity in the region is not a foregone conclusion. While USPACOM cannot take full credit for this generally favorable environment, the positive contributions of U.S. Armed Forces cannot be disputed. Our strategy is designed to ensure USPACOM remains an engaged and trusted partner committed to preserving the security, stability, and freedom upon which enduring prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region depends.

USPACOM readiness and presence support extensive military and civil cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. In response to several significant natural disasters this past year, our military forces provided aid during a number of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)

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[1] USA, China, India, Russia, North Korea, South Korea (International Institute for Strategic Studies)
[2] Japan, South Korea, Australia, The Philippines and Thailand (Department of State Treaties in Force 2007)
[3] China; India; Indonesia; Nauru
[4] $3.4 trillion (U.S. Census Trade Statistics Data)
[5] #2 Japan, #3 China, #8 Russia, #12 India, #14 Australia, and #15 South Korea (CIA World Fact Book)

operations. Coordinating with U.S. Government Agencies, U.S. embassy teams, and other Asia-Pacific nations, our forces provided support to Burma in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis; in February and in May 2008, our men and women aided China after it was struck first by extreme winter storms and followed by an earthquake in the Sichuan province; and in the wake of Typhoon Fengshen, the USS RONALD REAGAN Strike Group delivered critical supplies to outlying areas of the Philippines. The tradition of non-disaster related humanitarian assistance continued this past summer with the four- month deployment of USNS MERCY. This multinational, civil-military effort resulted in the treatment of more than 90,000 people in five nations: the Republic of the Philippines, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

All five of our alliance relationships are strong and remain critical to stability. Military transformation and realignment continue in Japan with the Defense Policy Review Initiative (DPRI). The transition of United States Forces Korea (USFK) to Korea Command (KORCOM) moves forward with the shift of wartime operational control to the Republic of Korea in 2012. In the Philippines, we are working with our ally to combat violent extremism in its southern region. The 28th COBRA GOLD multinational exercise in Thailand enhances regional interoperability in joint operations. And Australia remains a trustworthy and steadfast ally whose leadership enhances stability within the Pacific.

Our engagement and relationship with the People's Republic of China (PRC) continues to mature. In July, USPACOM hosted the Commander of the Guangzhou Military Region whose responsibilities include the South China Sea and support operations in the Taiwan Strait. We enjoyed a productive visit and developed a relationship that I hope to strengthen in the coming year. Recently, our Senior Enlisted Advisor led a delegation of Non-Commissioned Officers

(NCO) to the PRC to develop a relationship through NCO engagement. In October, his counterparts from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) made a reciprocal visit to USPACOM.

Improving the interaction between USPACOM and China's armed forces is critical to maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and reassures our regional allies, partners and friends. While cautiously optimistic, we seek a mature, constructive relationship with our Chinese counterparts. Through cooperation and candor we aim to reduce the chances of miscalculation, increase mutual understanding, and encourage cooperation in areas of common interest.

In November, we partnered with the Chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces to co-host the 11th annual Chiefs of Defense Conference in Indonesia. Of the 27 nations represented, 22 nations were from the Asia-Pacific. This was a remarkable gathering and the informal setting encouraged candor and constructive dialogue. Discussions during the conference did not focus on terrorism, nuclear proliferation, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, or emerging threats in the region. Rather, the military leaders shared a common concern over the issues surrounding energy, and the impact on the environment and regional security.

For over 60 years, USPACOM has been a force for security and stability within the Asia-Pacific. Nations rely on our leadership and presence – we are an "indispensable partner" to our allies, partners and friends. Furthermore, we will continue to extend an outstretched hand to nations who desire to collaborate in addressing mutual security goals and concerns.

PARTNERSHIP: Northeast Asia

Japan. Our alliance with Japan is the cornerstone of our strategy in the Asia-Pacific region. Despite difficult economic times and changes in administrations, it remains strong. Six weeks

before the elections in the United States, Japan chose a new Prime Minister, Taro Aso, whose government has continued strong support for the U.S. – Japan Alliance. Secretary Clinton's first overseas visit to Tokyo demonstrated the importance of the alliance and our broader ties with Japan. The signing of the International Agreement on Guam reflects our shared commitment to the realignment process.

Japan remains a reliable partner in maintaining regional and global stability. From March 2004 to December 2008, Japanese C-130 aircraft flew missions in support of Iraqi reconstruction. In November 2008, the Diet renewed the law allowing Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force ships to refuel coalition ships supporting operations in Afghanistan. And just this past week, Japan deployed two ships to the Gulf of Aden region for counter-piracy operations. Japan hosts the bulk of our forward-deployed forces in the region, and contributes over $4 billion in Host Nation Support.

Despite a Japanese defense budget that has decreased each year since 2002, the Japan Self Defense Forces remains willing to interact bilaterally with the U.S., and trilaterally with the U.S. and our allies, such as the Republic of Korea and Australia, to enhance regional stability. This year witnessed the completion of several successful milestones in our relationship, including the completion of a year-long study of contingency command and control relationships and the Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) testing of a second Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Aegis destroyer.

Republic of Korea. The U.S. – ROK alliance is also a critical pillar in our regional strategy, and stability in Northeast Asia. The alliance remains focused on the most immediate security threat: North Korea. We do not foresee a near-term, overt challenge by North Korea; however, Pyongyang retains a significant conventional capability with massed forces near the

demilitarized zone and a potent missile arsenal. We remain convinced that a strong U.S. – ROK alliance is the key to deterring North Korea.

The U.S. – ROK alliance continues to transform to better meet security challenges, both on and off the peninsula. ROK is scheduled to assume wartime operational control over its own forces in April 2012, which is a testament to the advanced capabilities of the ROK military and the strength of our alliance. We continue to seek opportunities to build upon our partnership with the ROK to respond to regional security challenges such as counterproliferation and maritime security. The ROK successfully concluded a 4-year deployment in Iraq in 2008, and recently dispatched a ROK Navy warship to the Gulf of Aden in support of anti-piracy and maritime security operations. Also, trilateral security cooperation between the U.S., ROK, and Japan is particularly relevant since our three nations have the shared values, financial resources, logistical capability, and planning ability to address complex contingencies throughout the region.

People's Republic of China. Our policy toward China and Taiwan is based on our one China policy, the three joint U.S. – China Communiqués, and the Taiwan Relations Act.

Our military-to-military interaction with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) fell short of expectations in 2008. This year's engagement was impacted by the Chinese prioritization of Olympic security and their reaction to the U.S. announcement of arms sales to Taiwan in October. I was able to visit China twice before the Olympics and found my discussions with their senior military leaders generally candid. Overall though, we saw little change in PRC willingness to allow port visits in China, reciprocate a mid-level officer exchange, or conduct pragmatic interactions such as safety issues in the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement (MMCA) talks – the activities USPACOM views as most useful in reducing the potential for

miscalculation and misunderstanding between our forces. The unlawful and dangerous behavior exhibited by Chinese vessels against unarmed U.S. special mission ships lawfully operating in the East and South China Seas underscores the importance of these types of interactions.

Our attempts at engagement with the PRC have been complicated by both nations' differing objectives in our military-to-military relationship. We desire engagement to build understanding and create trust, while the PRC emphasizes putting its best foot forward for the outside world to see, illustrated by our experience when attempting to schedule U.S. port calls in China. Chinese ships have had the opportunity to visit all U.S. fleet concentrations over the years with the exception of Norfolk. In return, the Chinese have offered the U.S. access to ports that, although ostensibly military are designed primarily to showcase their modern and prosperous cities while minimizing our access to their operational forces. We continue to strive for reciprocity in our exchanges with the Chinese military and encourage the Chinese to be more open and forthcoming.

A high point in our relationship with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is the emerging military-to-military exchange among enlisted members of the U.S. Armed Forces and PLA. In June 2008, our Senior Enlisted Adviser led 12 Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (SNCOs) on a trip to China. The itinerary included briefings by the PLA Department of NCO Administration and Discipline of the General Staff, Nanjing Military Regional Political and Operations Department, and an NCO roundtable and tour of the 179th Motorized Infantry Brigade (Nanjing). In October, a PLA Delegation reciprocated by visiting USPACOM to continue dialogue between the two countries. Both visits represent positive steps in maturing the U.S. – PRC military-to-military relationship and support the USPACOM goal of promoting operational and tactical level exchanges to influence future PLA leaders. In all cases, our

contacts and exchanges with the People's Liberation Army comply with relevant provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

Taiwan. The foundation of our relationship with Taiwan is based on common democratic values and commitment to peace, stability and prosperity in the Western Pacific. In accordance with legislation and policy, the USPACOM relationship with Taiwan is "unofficial." The USPACOM relationship with Taiwan makes available advice, training, and support for Congressionally-approved equipment necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability. This unofficial relationship results in a range of restrictions on our military-to-military interaction; however, we still maintain a robust engagement schedule. USPACOM and its service components provide a wide range of training and assessment activities including support to Taiwan's annual HAN KUANG (HK) exercise.

President MA Ying-jeou's Administration has significantly reduced cross-Strait tension by following a status quo oriented policy of "3 no's" – no unification, no independence, and no use of force – and by working with China to expand cross-Strait ties in such areas as trade, travel and finance. Military challenges include the rapidly increasing military capabilities of the PRC; and Taiwan's goal of making a transition to an all-volunteer force by 2014. Taiwan continues to balance future capabilities with immediate defense needs, such as hardening, readiness, and sustainability.

Mongolia. Mongolia is an enthusiastic U.S. partner willing to support U.S. policy objectives in the region. While a nascent democracy, it is still burdened with Soviet vestiges, including an unresponsive bureaucracy and remnants of corruption. Mongolia is mindful of the delicate balance between its engagement with the U.S. and maintaining relationships with China and Russia.

We continue to help Mongolia transform its military into a professional, modern force capable of self-defense, border security, participation in international peacekeeping, and HADR response. Mongolia is a staunch supporter of our efforts in the struggle against violent extremism and has contributed armed forces in support of both Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan. To further enhance the professionalism and development of Mongolian Armed Forces, they are included in our hosted and co-hosted multilateral activities and seminars such as the Pacific Army Management Seminar, Non-Lethal Weapons Seminar, the Pacific Rim Air Chiefs Conference, and the Chiefs of Defense (CHODs) Conference. USPACOM conducted several exchanges with MAF to increase defense capabilities, including bilateral exercises, security operations exchanges, and NCO development. Finally, the MAF participated in several multinational exercises to build the proficiencies necessary to operate in peacekeeping environments. These include Multinational Planning Augmentation Team events; Military Law Exercises; and KHAAN QUEST, a premier regional multilateral peace-keeping exercise held in Mongolia.

Russia. The U.S. suspended military-to-military engagements with Russia following their incursion into Georgia and subsequent recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as sovereign nations. USPACOM is prepared to re-engage when activities align with U.S. interests. Prior to Russia's invasion, military-to-military cooperation between PACOM and Russian armed forces was modest with room to grow. The USS STETHEM Guided Missile Destroyer visited Vladivostok in May 2008 and two Russian officers observed the RIM OF THE PACIFIC exercise in Hawaii in July 2008. The U.S. and Russia share common interests in the USPACOM AOR including WMD counterproliferation, counter-terrorism, and regional stability. These areas of strategic alignment are the focus of military-to-military cooperation in the future. Of

note, USPACOM coordinates all Russian security cooperation activities with U.S. European Command (EUCOM) to ensure the efforts of both geographic combatant commands are mutually supportive.

PARTNERSHIP: South Asia

People's Republic of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is a solid regional partner that continues to address a growing internal extremist threat while they make the transition from Emergency Rule to a democratically elected government. Over the past year, the Bangladesh armed forces played a constructive role in support of democracy as the Caretaker Government prepared for and held national elections in December 2008. Visits by senior USPACOM delegations and military exchanges with Bangladesh military leadership throughout the duration of Emergency Rule assisted in reinforcing the U.S. desire for free, fair and credible elections. The recent mutiny in Bangladesh by the enlisted members of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Bangladesh's border guards, against the Army officers assigned to the BDR demonstrates our continuing need to support defense sector reform. This reform should not only involve units under the Ministry of Defense but should include all security forces, including those under the Ministry of Home Affairs, such as the BDR and the Rapid Action Battalion.

The key USPACOM focus in Bangladesh is the enhancement of their ability to conduct counter-terrorism operations. We also continue to assist Bangladesh's recovery from the 2007 cyclone and flooding by providing humanitarian assistance for the construction of schools and cyclone shelters, disaster mitigation assessments and civil affairs training. Likewise, through the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), designed to build competent and professional peacekeepers worldwide, USPACOM is enhancing Bangladesh's ability to conduct international

peacekeeping. In April 2008, Bangladesh successfully hosted the region's GPOI Capstone Event, Exercise SHANTI DOOT 2, which included participation by 12 additional countries.

India. USPACOM activities are helping to build the solid foundation of the evolving U.S. – India strategic partnership. Due to the increasing maturity and complexity of this relationship, our cooperation in areas of common security interests will continue, regardless of the outcome of the Indian national elections scheduled for April-May 2009. Increased defense sales, advanced multilateral / joint exercises and operational cooperation in areas of maritime security, counter-terrorism and HADR highlight our engagement over the past year. Of special note, the Indian Air Force and the Joint POW-MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) jointly conducted the first ever MIA recovery survey mission in India.

The increased piracy in the Gulf of Aden and terrorist attacks in Mumbai highlight areas of common security concerns for enhanced U.S. – India cooperation. We are working together with U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) to ensure a more formal and synchronized approach to address incidents of terrorism in South Asia and other issues that may cross Combatant Command boundaries

Nepal. The peaceful assumption of power by the Maoist government after the 2008 national elections started to clarify the political environment that influences our military-to-military relationship with the Nepalese Army. The Nepalese Minister of Defense has indicated that the Maoist-led government desires continued military-to-military engagement with the United States. Due to the potential for the current peace to unravel, USPACOM focus is on supporting the peaceful integration of members of the Maoist People's Liberation Army into the Nepalese security forces. Senior level dialogue and defense sector reform events are the primary

means to assist this change. USPACOM will also continue to help Nepal in the development of its peacekeeping operations and training capabilities through the GPOI.

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Even with current restrictions on military-to-military engagement and security assistance to Sri Lanka, our military relationship remains strong with room to grow. In an effort to address alleged human rights abuses and the recruitment of child soldiers, the USPACOM theater campaign identified military justice reform, human rights training and professionalization of the armed forces as top priorities. These will continue to be our focus until the Government of Sri Lanka meets the prescribed international standards.

Another priority is civil-military cooperation and nation building. As the Government of Sri Lanka liberates areas previously controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the Eastern and Northern Provinces, the Sri Lankan military is playing a key role in ensuring peace and stability. In support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of State, USPACOM is providing assistance with small-scale repair and rehabilitation of schools and health centers in Eastern provinces, and with civil-military operations / civil affairs training to the Sri Lankan military.

PARTNERSHIP: Southeast Asia

Burma. The policies and practices of the Burmese government undermine regional security through human rights violations particularly when directed against democracy advocates and ethnic minorities, and widespread jailing of dissidents and pro-democracy protesters. Among threats to regional stability are issues concerning narcotics trafficking, trafficking in persons, and disease. Over the past year, our military-to-military engagement with Burma was limited to

facilitating delivery of aid to the Burmese people during Operation CARING RESPONSE, an HADR operation in response to Cyclone Nargis in May 2008. During Operation CARING RESPONSE, USPACOM supported the USAID in delivering over 3 million pounds of relief aid via 185 sorties.

Cambodia. Our military relationship with the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) continues to progress. In 2008, USPACOM held the first working-level talks to plan future engagement events. Cambodia demonstrated a willingness to cooperate closely on counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, disaster response, and medical and health related activities. Cambodia received peacekeeping training through the GPOI. In addition to being a strong participant in peacekeeping exercises and operations, Cambodia has offered to host the region's premier GPOI peacekeeping exercise in 2010. The U.S. Pacific Fleet has conducted five port visits over the past two years to Cambodia's port at Sihanoukville, reinforcing the USPACOM commitment to continued engagement with Cambodia.

Indonesia. Since the normalization of our military relationship with Indonesia in 2005, we moved deliberately to upgrade our ties with the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI). Sitting astride key sea lanes, Indonesia is the world's largest majority Muslim nation and third-largest democracy. The United States and Indonesia share a broad range of security interests, and our security relationship should reflect that. USPACOM conducted significant military-to-military engagement activity with the TNI in 2008. Two particularly noteworthy events include: the Chiefs of Defense (CHODs) Conference co-hosted by TNI and USPACOM; and the sixth iteration of the multilateral TENDON VALIANT Medical Readiness Exercise. In all activities, and at all levels, the interaction between the U.S. and TNI armed forces was positive, professional, and demonstrated a desire to improve peacekeeping and disaster relief skills.

Consistent with this view, Indonesia has deployed a third and fourth set of military and police troops to support peacekeeping operations (PKO) in Lebanon as well as a 140-person formed police unit to Darfur.

In 2009, we anticipate greater Indonesian leadership and more complex interaction within our theater campaign plan engagement activities. For example, Indonesia has agreed to co-host the GPOI Capstone Exercise and is taking a leading role in the first ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) HADR activity, to include the ARF Voluntary Display of Requirements (VDR) in which 27 nations will participate.

Laos. We steadily build security-related activities with Laos beyond our important legacy activities such as POW/MIA personnel recovery and humanitarian assistance cooperation. In December, Laos officially received the first U.S. Defense Attaché in over 30 years and selected a Defense Attaché for duty at its embassy in Washington. Engagement activities with Laos focused on English language training for mid- and senior-level officers, medical cooperation, avian influenza preparedness, and increased Lao participation in regional conferences and activities.

Malaysia. Our military-to-military ties with Malaysia remain strong despite the fluid political environment resulting from the March 2008 elections. Malaysia's long-range deployment of three ships to the coast of Somalia in response to the hijacking of two Malaysian-flagged commercial tankers demonstrated a new, impressive capability that prompted discussion with key defense officials on how to develop deeper cooperation in maritime security and counter-piracy. Twenty-one ship visits were made to Malaysia last year, and we engaged with their new Joint Forces Command and submarine forces to increase interoperability. Malaysia is unique in maintaining three challenging border areas: the Strait of Malacca, the border with

Southern Thailand, and the Sulu Sea region with the Philippines and Indonesia. Although the Government of Malaysia opted to end its contributions to the International Monitoring Team in the southern Philippines, it has renewed and increased its contribution of peacekeeping troops to Lebanon.

Republic of Philippines (RP). The Republic of Philippines (RP) is a U.S. treaty ally under the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT). The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) continue to make significant strides in combating the terrorist threat in the southern Philippines. The Government of the Philippines and its security forces are also increasingly effective in their prosecution of operations aimed at marginalizing the ongoing insurgency. Utilizing all elements of national power, the Philippines has worked diligently to reduce the armed threat while creating the conditions for sustained peace and prosperity. The U.S. contributes to this success through the KAPIT BISIG strategic framework. KAPIT BISIG provides U.S. forces with clear guidance to support humanitarian and civic assistance, security assistance and training, and operations while ensuring respect for the sovereignty and legal limitations outlined in the Philippines' Constitution and Visiting Forces Agreement. Moreover, USPACOM participates in the implementation of a successful integrated whole-of-government approach, working with the Departments of State and Justice and USAID in the southern Philippines, contributing to a more stable sub-regional security environment and decreasing ungoverned spaces.

During our annual bilateral defense talks in September, we reiterated our support to the ongoing Philippine Defense Reform program. Increasing professionalism and overall military capabilities are key pillars for this program. In close partnership with the AFP, USPACOM continues to support efforts aimed at institutionalizing Enlisted and Officer Professional Development programs. USPACOM is also actively conferring with the AFP on developing a

National Training Center to enhance opportunities to conduct high quality joint training among their Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps units.

Finally, Philippines' agreement to host the first ever ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) training activity this May represents a significant step forward for the ARF and for improving multinational cooperation in the areas of HADR in the theater.

Singapore. Singapore continues to be one of our strongest security partners in Asia and a key coalition partner. Beyond providing strategic access to ports and airfields for transiting U.S. forces, which includes approximately 100 ship visits and 30,000 service members each year, Singapore cooperates with the U.S. on maritime security, counter-terrorism, and counterproliferation initiatives. Singapore continues to provide niche capabilities, such as engineering and medical teams, to support reconstruction in Afghanistan. Their efforts to enhance maritime security and information sharing in the critical Singapore and Malacca Straits will be realized when their Command and Control Center at Changi Naval Base is completed later this year. In November 2008, the first of Singapore's 24 F-15s deployed to Idaho. Singapore's desire to purchase and maintain U.S. platforms enhances our overall level of cooperation.

Thailand. Thailand remains a critical ally and engagement partner. Co-hosted with Thailand, exercise COBRA GOLD remains the premier USPACOM multilateral exercise with participants and observers from 27 countries. I attended the closing ceremony for this year's COBRA GOLD, and my observation reinforces the value of this event.

We also appreciate Thailand's important global security contributions in the struggle against violent extremism, counter-narcotics efforts, humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping operations, to include a planned 800-troop contingent scheduled to assist the UN mission in

Sudan in the summer of 2009. Regarding the recent changes in Thai political leadership, it is noteworthy that the military has moved beyond the 2006 coup and has affirmed its commitment to using democratic principles to resolve differences.

Timor-Leste. There are several reasons USPACOM remains optimistic about the future of this fledgling democracy. This past year, Timor-Leste's first democratic government managed to maintain control of the country, despite assassination attempts on the President and Prime Minister, strong rallying by the opposition party, and more than 10 percent of the population living in Internally Displaced Person (IDP) Camps. The Timor-Leste civil-military defense establishment is in place, and its Defense Forces operate under the rule of law, despite lacking many basic capabilities. The leadership of Timor-Leste is working with several countries in an effort to begin critical institutional development. USPACOM interaction with Timor-Leste increased significantly. The most notable engagements included two events: an Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) sponsored workshop to assist the military, government, and opposition party in developing a viable National Security Policy (NSP); and a two-week port visit by USNS MERCY focused on providing humanitarian assistance. Additionally, Marine Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC) initiated an annual platoon exercise with the Timorese military that consists of skills exchanges and Humanitarian Assistance activities. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) initiated annual port visits and is conducting a maritime and land assessment survey with MARFORPAC to determine the best way to increase our engagement opportunities with Timor-Leste Defense Forces.

Vietnam. Our military-to-military engagement with Vietnam continues to advance at a measured pace. Vietnam willingly receives humanitarian assistance and has shown a desire to be a regional partner as well. The USNS MERCY, the first U.S. military vessel to visit Nha Trang

since 1975, provided humanitarian assistance in cooperation with the Vietnamese Medical Corps. Vietnam announced its intention to participate in training and other activities for peacekeeping operations. USPACOM is also sustaining an information exchange that allows Vietnam to better prepare for and respond to severe typhoons. This year, we continued our support of the Presidential Emergency Program for AIDS Relief, with DoD contributions exceeding $5 million.

PARTNERSHIP: Oceania

Australia. Australia remains a steadfast ally that works tirelessly to enhance global and regional security and provide institutional assistance in the Pacific. During 2008, Australia continued to lead the International Stabilization Force in Timor-Leste and the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands. The Australia Defence Force works closely with USPACOM on building regional security capacity, and continues to make significant contributions to global security through robust support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM.

Australia places major emphasis on advancing interoperability with the United States through well-coordinated acquisition and training programs. Australia is a Joint Strike Fighter level three partner and has made great progress in implementing Strategic Level and Operational Level Review recommendations to enhance U.S. – Australia interoperability. The biennial Exercise TALISMAN SABER 2009 will test our policies, tactics, hardware, and infrastructure. TALISMAN SABER 2009 will build upon the 2007 exercise, which was very successful and validated the U.S. – Australia Joint Combined Training Capability. We are working to enhance that bilateral capability to inject virtual and constructive forces into exercise and training environments and enhancing our cooperation on Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) and regional HADR response.

Compact Nations. We appreciate our partnership with the three Compact Nations – the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. USPACOM was pleased to host visits from the elected leaders of each of these nations during 2008. In concert with the U.S. Coast Guard, USPACOM fully supports their initiatives to expand capacity and operations to protect their valuable economic exclusion zone resources, and acknowledges the mutual benefit of our bilateral ship rider agreements concluded with each of the Compact Nations over the last year. U.S. Army Pacific Joint Task Force Homeland Defense headlines our special relationship with these nations to ensure our mutual defense, as set forth in the Compacts of Free Association. We also recognize the extraordinary support from the citizens of these nations and acknowledge those who serve with great distinction in the U.S. military and Coast Guard. The Marshall Islands host the U.S. Army's Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site, integral to the development of our missile defense programs and conduct of space operations.

New Zealand. New Zealand shares many U.S. security concerns about terrorism, maritime security, transnational crime, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and delivery systems. New Zealand remains supportive of our global efforts in the struggle against violent extremism and extended its lead of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Bamyan Province, Afghanistan through at least September 2010. Although the 1987 New Zealand nuclear-free zone legislative declaration and U.S. defense policy guidelines restrict bilateral military-to-military relations, the New Zealand Defence Force participates in many multilateral events that advance our common security interests. Currently, our Marines are supporting the New Zealand Force integration of their recently acquired multi-role maritime patrol vessel HMNZS CANTERBURY which we expect will enhance HADR efforts in the region.

New Zealand remains active in Pacific Island security initiatives, from stabilization efforts in Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands, to operations in Korea, Sudan, and throughout the Middle East. Additionally, the New Zealand Defence Force supports our National Science Foundation efforts in Antarctica and provides the primary staging area for joint, multinational Operation DEEP FREEZE support.

Tonga. Tonga remains an extraordinarily committed U.S. partner in the struggle against violent extremism and is a regional leader in peacekeeping operations. The Royal Tongan Marines returned to Iraq in September 2007 for two six-month rotations and the Government of Tonga renewed their mandate for an additional year. With changes in the Iraq mission, the Tongan Marines returned home in December 2008. We look forward to the possibility of the Tongan Defence Service joining the international efforts in Afghanistan at some point. USPACOM security cooperation with Tonga supports their efforts to expand the peacekeeping capacity of the Tongan Defence Service through our annual Marine-led Exercise TAFAKULA and through Tongan participation in the region's GPOI capstone exercise.

READINESS

USPACOM is a Combatant Command committed to being a trusted partner and preeminent warfighter. We are a force ready and a force present. Within Asia and throughout the Pacific, in coordination with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, our U.S. Ambassadors and other government agencies, we work with and through our regional partners to combat violent extremism and transform vulnerable environments. We have made progress but must remain actively engaged.

Operation Enduring Freedom – Philippines (OEF-P). With U.S. Government (USG) assistance, the Government of the Philippines (GRP) reduced transnational terrorist organizations' capability, mobility, resources, and popular support to conduct attacks against U.S. and Philippine interests. Although these transnational terrorist threats are substantially diminished, they have not been eliminated, and the underlying conditions for a stable and secure southern Philippines have not been fully achieved. Success will require a persistent interagency approach.

NDAA Sections 1206 & 1207. With authority provided by Congress in Section 1206 of an amendment to the FY 2006 NDAA,USPACOM supported/managed/oversaw more than $62 million to increase security capacity in Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Bangladesh. By reducing unmonitored waterways, these countries restricted the freedom of movement of terrorists in the region.

We continue to work with our partners at the Department of State and USAID to formulate and integrate a Section 1207 proposal that enhances stability and reconstruction efforts across the theater. Section 1207 allows us to complement USAID and other U.S. government efforts in good governance and law enforcement unit capacity building.

Executed in full cooperation with the Department of State and our regional Ambassadors, Sections 1206 and 1207 authorities are effective tools to build regional capacity and deny safe havens to terrorists in Southeast Asia. USPACOM thanks the Congress for supporting these authorities.

Joint Interagency Task Force West (JIATF West). JIATF West is a USPACOM standing task force authorized to use Department of Defense (DoD) resources to advance regional interagency and multilateral cooperation against illicit drug-related transnational

criminal organizations threatening U.S. interests and regional stability. JIATF West partners with and supports U.S. law enforcement agencies, as well as host nation counterparts, to conduct this work. As the USPACOM Executive Agent for regional counter-drug efforts, JIATF West maintains strong programmatic continuity within the following lines of operation: training security forces, building security force infrastructure, and providing analytic and other intelligence support to U.S. law enforcement agencies and host nation counterparts.

JIATF West and our U.S. law enforcement partners recently supported the following national security elements: the Indonesian National Police & Counter Narcotics Bureau; the Royal Thai Police, the Royal Malaysian Police & Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency; and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, National Police; and National Bureau of Investigation. Specific examples of JIATF West successes include fostering closer Indonesian and Philippine cooperation through an October 2008 formal agreement to share information on transnational crime between respective national fusion centers. JIATF West established these centers in both countries with strong U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) support and sponsorship. In September 2008, Philippine security forces with recent JIATF West interdiction training disrupted a major trafficking operation in the Southern Philippines Sulu Sea region, where local Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sub-commanders conduct illicit activities to obtain weapons and supplies.

Communications System. The DoD communications infrastructure continues to be vulnerable to cyber exploitation and attack. USPACOM faces significant challenges to proactively counter cyber threats and maintain freedom of action in cyberspace. We work daily with Joint Task Force Global Network Operations to defend the Global Information Grid against cyber threats. We must proactively defend our critical Command and Control (C2) networks to

ensure confidentiality and integrity of the information. The mitigation of computer network vulnerabilities is a top priority.

USPACOM relies heavily on Military Satellite Communications (MILSATCOM) which shows increasing degradation and vulnerability. Many of the projected replacement systems have suffered funding cuts and schedule delays. USPACOM is engaged with our national satellite community to ensure SATCOM programs remain synchronized and availability gaps are addressed.

Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR). USPACOM needs "pervasive and persistent surveillance," defined as having the right assets able to observe and understand potential adversary's plans and intended actions, especially in denied areas. The expansive size of the Asia-Pacific region, combined with finite available assets, means we must prioritize our ISR activities.

Advocacy of programs critical to USPACOM. USPACOM remains a theater of opportunities and challenges requiring the United States to maintain a credible warfighting capability. The trend toward new regional powers and presence of unpredictable actors necessitates that USPACOM maintain preeminence in military capability and understand the emerging threats to deter or defeat any aggression. To this end we must continue to advance our capabilities to better gauge intentions, enhance our ability to operate in an advanced electronic warfare environment, and continue to develop a ballistic missile defense system capability that will protect our high value assets and our territories.

As a theater dominated by the maritime environment we must maintain maritime superiority in a time of conflict. Undersea warfare capabilities of regional players in our theater are continuing to improve, and we must retain the competitive edge we now enjoy. The vast

distances encountered in USPACOM have the potential to stress critical air and sealift capabilities; we continue to look for ways to improve our ability to operate throughout the USPACOM AOR.

By increasing the capabilities of our partners in the theater, we will ensure that the relationships exist and the capability is present to facilitate current and future coalition support and multi-nation operations.

Undersea Superiority. The continued improvement of air, surface, subsurface, Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (C4I) systems, acoustic modeling and navigation charts, and cooperative training and operations with partners and allies enhances our ability to operate effectively in the maritime domain. However, with the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) modernization and their expanding area of operations, anti-submarine warfare remains a challenge and is the number one priority for U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT). Maintaining an operational advantage also requires rigorous training at sea before deployment in the AOR. Without the recent Supreme Court ruling overturning two restrictions placed on the use of active SONAR in the waters of Southern California, our maritime force would have faced significant training challenges in preparing for deployment in the Western Pacific.

Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction. The centerpiece for our activity remains the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), which aims to build global capacity to disrupt the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, delivery systems, and related materials among states and non-state actors of proliferation concern. Fourteen nations within the AOR have endorsed the PSI (Australia, Japan, Singapore, New Zealand, the Philippines, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Mongolia, Marshall Islands, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Russia and Samoa). We

continue to work towards expanded participation during regional military-to-military engagements.

While a common commitment to counterproliferation is important, we also made gains with the essential next step – exercising counterproliferation capabilities. In September 2008, USPACOM participated in the PSI Exercise MARU hosted by New Zealand. DoD personnel participated in a Boarding Operations demonstration, followed by U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) personnel providing in-port demonstrations. In November 2008, USPACOM participated in a Singapore-hosted Table Top Exercise to assess Singapore's current capability and capacity for dealing with a WMD event. USPACOM, in coordination with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, conducted Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Defense and Consequence Management bilateral working groups with Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore with the intent of improving interoperability and mutual response capability and capacity. These activities will become increasingly multilateral.

Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). USPACOM fully supports the Maritime Domain Awareness process. MDA ties the whole-of-government approach and regional partnerships together to maintain a coherent picture of our AOR. The end result of the MDA process is the ability to locate seaborne smugglers of weapons of mass destruction, terrorists, combatants, and other criminal activity.

While there have been growing pains in the process, we have seen success in integrating partner countries. Our traditional allies continue to collaborate with us while we work to add more partners to the collective. Building Partner Capacity (BPC) program funds have created opportunities for us to improve the capability throughout the AOR.

Pandemic Influenza (PI). USPACOM supports our national strategy for a pandemic influenza response with a robust plan and is prepared to support lead agencies (Department of Homeland Security, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture, and Department of State) at the national level. Exercise LIGHTNING RESCUE 08 tested the State of Hawaii's pandemic influenza response and the domestic linkages to the USPACOM pandemic influenza plan and response. Exercise TEMPEST EXPRESS 15 tested our coordination mechanisms, at both the strategic and the operational civil-military levels, in the event of a foreign pandemic influenza outbreak. Over 20 countries, along with members of the United Nations and several Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), participated.

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE-DMHA) executes workshops for civil-military influenza cooperation in the AOR. The COE and Malaysian Armed Forces Health Services hosted a Senior Leader Pandemic Influenza Capstone Seminar last August with 15 countries attending. USPACOM collaborates with Centers for Disease Control, World Health Organization, World Food Program, Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N., and conducts "Laboratory and Rapid Response" train-the-trainer workshops. We are working to improve our cooperation with U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) which will bring additional opportunities for regional engagements in 2009-2011.

Quality Of Life. The USPACOM partnership, readiness and presence goals require well-equipped, well-trained professionals who are sustained by programs that enhance their quality of life. Exceptional support by Congress has provided consistent pay raises, enhanced compensation and benefits, expanded medical and dental services, derived lasting care and

treatment for veterans and wounded warriors, and secured comprehensive support for our military dependents.

The education of our children remains paramount to sustaining military families, retaining our service members, and, ultimately, our future. Congressional appropriations and initiatives enriched our educational programs, built new schools, and aided the ongoing transformation of our forces. Efforts like the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, the Hawaii Joint Venture Education Forum, Tripler Army Medical Center's "Project Assist," and the Department of Defense Education Activity's "Partnership Pilot Program for Hawaii Public Schools" all reflect the sincere dedication of Congress to our military children and their teachers. Specifically, I appreciate the military construction funding which provided two state of the art facilities for our military children on Guam. Looking at the sweeping transformation and force posture changes throughout the Pacific theater, I request your continued support and dedication to military child education, the number one priority for our families.

PRESENCE

Our current level of force presence and posture is essential to maintain stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Our presence reassures our allies and partners and dissuades those who would threaten the security of the region. We will sustain our warfighting readiness and credible combat power through programs that support training, education, and quality of life for USPACOM personnel.

The Defense Policy Review Initiative (DPRI). DPRI, initiated by the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense with their counterparts in December 2002, will significantly impact our

forces in the Japan posture realignment. This agreement was codified by Secretary Clinton during her recent visit to Tokyo. Major elements of the Realignment Roadmap with Japan include relocating two U.S. air bases from urbanized to rural areas; transferring approximately 8,000 Marines from Okinawa to Guam; co-locating U.S. and Japanese command and control capabilities; deploying U.S. missile defense capabilities to Japan, in conjunction with Japan's own deployments; and improving operational coordination between U.S. and Japanese forces. Both the Governments of Japan and the U.S. remain committed to the provisions of the DPRI.

USMC Relocation to Guam. The rebasing of 8,000 Marines and their dependents from Okinawa to Guam enhances the flexibility of the forward-based Marine presence in the USPACOM AOR and eases the burden on the people of Japan. The Joint Guam Program Office, led by the Department of the Navy, continues to manage all aspects of this relocation effort. We plan to begin upgrades to the military infrastructure, housing, and training facilities on Guam in 2010.

U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) Transformation. We continue to support transformation on the Korean Peninsula with the full cooperation of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Government. U.S. forces will consolidate into two enduring hubs south of the Han River, resulting in a less intrusive U.S. military footprint. To increase readiness and boost the quality of life for Korea-based forces, the Department of Defense (DoD) approved "tour normalization" resulting in longer family accompanied tour lengths. This aspect of transformation is good for our service members and reinforces our commitment to our alliance with South Korea.

The Secretary of Defense and the ROK Minister of National Defense confirmed, during the 40th U.S. – ROK Security Consultative Meeting in October 2008, that we are on schedule to transfer responsibility for wartime operational control (OPCON) from the U.S. to the ROK in

2012. As part of this transition, the U.S.-led Combined Forces Command (CFC) will be deactivated and U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) will become a U.S. joint warfighting command, provisionally-titled Korea Command (KORCOM). The new command is charged to support the ROK military in defense of their nation. The robust combined training and exercise program is the primary mechanism to validate the new command relationship which will see the U.S. military in a supporting role to the ROK military. One of two major theater-level exercises in Korea, Exercise ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN in August 2008, was the first test of the future command structure with two separate, but complementary ROK and U.S. warfighting headquarters. The exercise was a success and demonstrated the capabilities of the ROK military to lead the U.S. – ROK combined forces.

Although we have seen significant progress, a great deal of work remains for the transformation of the U.S. – ROK alliance. USPACOM is actively engaged with USFK to ensure that the structure, function, and capabilities of the future KORCOM will make our enduring U.S. – ROK alliance stronger.

Preferred Munitions / Prepositioned Stocks. Due to time-distance challenges in the Pacific theater, our forces require readily available and properly maintained preferred munitions and prepositioned stocks at the outset of any conflict. Over the past year, USPACOM Service Components made steady progress in improving inventory levels of preferred munitions.

Missile Defense. To defend U.S. forces, interests, and allies from short, medium range and intermediate range ballistic missiles, USPACOM seeks a forward-deployed, layered, and integrated air and missile defense system that is capable of intercepting threat missiles throughout the entire time of flight. USPACOM established an initial missile defense capability by forward deploying the Standard Missile 3 (SM-3) aboard U.S. Navy Aegis ships, integrating a

forward-based X-band radar into the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) architecture, conducting BMD exercises and training with key partners, and refining the tactics, techniques, and procedures required for coordination with U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) and other Combatant Commands. Increased inventories of both PATRIOT PAC-3 and SM-3 interceptors, continued development of far-term sea-based terminal and boost phase interceptor capabilities and enhanced non-kinetic offensive and defensive capabilities would effectively build on the initial missile defense capability already deployed in the USPACOM AOR. Additionally, basing an air and missile defense capabilities in Guam would increase our BMD forward presence. The Army continues to work with the Joint Guam Project Office to set the conditions for air and missile defense on Guam.

As the Government of Japan fields its own national Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) consisting of PATRIOT PAC-3 Fire Units, Aegis SM-3 capable ships and new search and track radars, USPACOM will continue to work closely with our Japanese allies to maximize our bilateral planning efforts to achieve the most effective bilateral employment of this combined capability. As we grow the overall BMD architecture, interoperability will play an even greater role. Accordingly, it is vital to mission success to have communication systems capable of integrating across the joint spectrum as well as with our partner nations.

Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreements (ACSA). ACSAs are bilateral agreements for exchange of logistics support, supplies, and services. They are used to enhance interoperability and readiness, and provide a cost effective, legal mechanism for mutual logistics support between U.S. and allied or partner military forces. USPACOM forces that participated in FY07/08 exercises such as COBRA GOLD, TALISMAN SABER and BALIKATAN were able to reduce their logistics footprint by using ACSAs. Furthermore, ACSAs have been

particularly helpful in conducting operations in the struggle against violent extremism. For example, we have made extensive use of the current agreement with the Philippines to support Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) operations against terrorist cells in that country.

USPACOM has twelve ACSAs in place. We are negotiating with Australia to renew the current ACSA. We continue work on concluding agreements with the following countries: India, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Brunei and Timor-Leste. These agreements will yield positive results and are viewed as vital in maximizing our interoperability and increasing the readiness of coalition partners in the Pacific region.

Security Assistance. Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and International Military Education and Training (IMET), executed in partnership with the Department of State and our embassy country teams, are critically important features of the USPACOM Theater Campaign Plan and are powerful engagement tools for building security partnerships with developing countries. FMF continues to prove its value in equipping and training regional partners to more effectively contribute toward common security goals and is vital to supporting U.S. partners such as the Philippines, Indonesia, and Mongolia in combating violent extremism.

IMET is the program of record where defense and diplomacy join to advance U.S. interests by educating participants in essential principles of a professional military force, creating trust and influence, access and interoperability. IMET provides lasting value to the individual participants, the respective nations and the United States. The program is a modest but highly effective investment that yields productive personal and professional relationships, fostering a more secure and stable region.

Enlisted Leader Development -- Partner Nation Enlisted Development. We place a premium on developing the enlisted leaders of partner nations in the Asia-Pacific. To that end,

we are assisting selected militaries as they work to create a professionally-committed, competent, and empowered enlisted force. The operational success across the full spectrum of security interests of these nations is enhanced through professional enlisted forces that directly contribute to the struggle against violent extremism, global peacekeeping initiatives, and humanitarian assistance. For example, we are currently supporting the transformation efforts of Indonesia, Republic of the Philippines, Mongolia and Taiwan.

Joint Exercise Program (JEP). The USPACOM Joint Exercise Program remains a productive and tangible part of our Theater Campaign Plan and joint training plan. The Joint Exercise Program continues to mature and advance the USPACOM partnership, readiness, and presence while improving interoperability with allies and partner nations. USPACOM is currently undertaking a thorough review of its program to realize greater efficiencies, mitigate strains on the force, and seek opportunities for expanded engagement with allies and partner nations.

To maximize the important engagement opportunities afforded by the Joint Exercise Program, it is a USPACOM priority to increase multinational participation in the exercises, and we are realizing success. In 2008, Exercise COBRA GOLD expanded to include 24 participating nations with Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, and Singapore participating in all of the exercise events for the first time, and China observing. Additionally, the United Nations (UN) Force Headquarters was completely manned and operated by partner nations, representing a major advancement in partner nation capability. Interoperability is also stressed in exercises, including BALIKATAN and TALISMAN SABER. We continue to advance our ability to plan and operate successfully in an "integrated" environment.

This past year marked the first year of executing our training and exercise programs under the Combatant Commander Exercise Engagement Program (CE2). By almost every measure, CE2 has fulfilled its charter. It has provided USPACOM an effective and adaptable means of funding for our joint, multinational, and "whole-of-government" training programs, at all levels.

CE2 funding enables a wide range of priorities for USPACOM, including force readiness and interoperability, partner nation capacity building, multinational training, and military-to-military engagements. Continued Congressional support acknowledges the critical role training and engagement activities play in providing security and stability in the Pacific.

Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI). GPOI is an initiative in support of a G-8 action plan to build competent and professional peacekeepers worldwide. Within the Asia-Pacific region, the USPACOM implementation of the GPOI program continues to leverage existing host-nation programs, institutions, policies, and exercises. This program is one of our key components for fostering military-to-military relationships and meeting theater campaign objectives among nations within the Asia-Pacific region. We encourage long-term sustainment of qualified peace support operations forces through a train-the-trainer approach, ensuring standardization and interoperability, and working within the framework of United Nations guidelines. To date, USPACOM has produced over 3,256 tactical peacekeepers, 1,097 qualified staff officers, and 499 trainers available for immediate worldwide deployment.

In 2009, USPACOM will fully implement the GPOI program in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Tonga, and will begin implementation in the Philippines and Vietnam. We expect to train 5,000 peacekeepers this year. Also, in June 2009 and in conjunction with Indonesia, USPACOM will host the largest

multinational peacekeeping capstone exercise conducted in the Asia-Pacific region, with all 11 current regional GPOI partner nations participating.

Multinational Planning Augmentation Team (MPAT). The MPAT is a multinational program established in 2000 by the Chiefs of Defense of the countries in the USPACOM AOR. In a part of the world where there are no comprehensive regional security arrangements like NATO, MPAT was set up to develop procedures to facilitate the establishment of a multinational task force headquarters, focusing on military operations other than war -- from humanitarian assistance through peace operations, including aspects of counter-terrorism. This entails training a cadre of military planners in each of the participating MPAT nations who are available to support or augment a multinational response.

Thirty-one nations' militaries are part of the MPAT program, which is supported by United Nations humanitarian agencies (for example, the World Food Program and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and numerous Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO). USPACOM provides the MPAT Secretariat that supports and coordinates the activities of the program. By developing and practicing common operating procedures, developing possible responses to natural disasters and other humanitarian crises, and working with the various civil, relief, and international organizations, the MPAT cadre and the countries they represent are enhancing regional security cooperation and increasing our collective capacity to respond to crises in the Asia-Pacific region. As part of the program, the MPAT nations have developed and use a Multinational Force Standing Operating Procedures (MNF SOP) to enable multinational operations in the theater.

Recent MPAT events have focused on building capacity for responding to humanitarian crises, reflecting one of the most likely contingencies in the Asia-Pacific region. The MPAT

program continues to serve as an excellent tool for regional engagement and building capacity. It is our most productive multinational program.

PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP. USNS MERCY deployed to Southeast Asia and Oceania for 150 days from May to September 2008 to perform public diplomacy. The mission consisted of humanitarian assistance and theater campaign plan activities focused on improving regional stability, building partner capacity, and demonstrating U.S. commitment. Pacific Partnership enhances strategic partnerships through public diplomacy and goodwill established during its previous missions in 2005, 2006, and the USS PELELIU mission in 2007. The Pacific Partnership 2008 team of regional partners, NGOs, military engineers, doctors, dentists, veterinarians, and the Pacific Fleet Band provided support to the Philippines, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, and Micronesia. Together they conducted 128 Medical Civic Action programs, seeing 90,963 patients. In addition, they treated 1,369 surgical patients, 14,866 dental patients, 6,665 veterinary patients and completed 26 engineering civic-action projects for the betterment of the host nation populace. In 2009, the USS Dubuque, a smaller ship with reduced medical capability, will conduct PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP with a shift from on-board medical care to an increased emphasis on primary care ashore and long-term capacity building efforts.

PACIFIC ANGEL. PACIFIC ANGEL employed the exceptional capabilities of the Pacific Air Forces International Health Services to conduct humanitarian assistance and public diplomacy in Southeast Asia. This unique C-130 based humanitarian assistance operation helped increase public health capacity as well as cooperation and understanding among the armed forces and peoples of Cambodia, Thailand, and the United States. In just 17 days, from May to June 2008, 6,880 medical patients, 966 dental patients, and 978 veterinary patients were assisted by U.S., partner nation, and NGO medical personnel providing health care, building health care

capacity, and increasing cooperation. In the future, USPACOM will continue similar missions using the unique capability of the C-17 to bring assistance to remote, generally isolated locations in the Asia-Pacific region to foster regional cooperation and build host nation capacity.

Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE-DMHA). COE-DMHA is a direct reporting unit to USPACOM and is the principal organization to promote stability, security and resiliency in the Asia-Pacific region. COE-DMHA facilitates education and training in disaster management, humanitarian assistance, societal resiliency, and health security to develop domestic, foreign, and international capability and capacity. In FY08, COE-DMHA participated in multinational capacity-building efforts throughout the AOR, including international disaster management, civil-military coordination and humanitarian resiliency educational workshops, seminars, and conferences to promote effective management of complex contingency situations. COE-DMHA efforts to create, enhance, and broaden regional partnerships are an integral part of the USPACOM effort to foster a secure, stable region while improving responsible governance and promoting universal individual liberties.

Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS). APCSS supports USPACOM multinational security cooperation and capacity-building efforts through its programs of international executive education and tailored assistance on important security challenges that educate, empower and connect key regional security-practitioner leaders. FY08 witnessed continued expansion of this critical international network, with 12 newly-formed alumni associations added throughout the region. APCSS workshops and other outreach events produced significant actionable outputs addressing key security issues facing Indonesia, Mongolia, Timor-Leste, and others, collaboratively developed by participants with APCSS facilitation. Transformational progress achieved during FY08 in the areas of educational

technology and services that enrich the APCSS learning environment is already paying dividends in terms of enhancing participant-centered learning and connection to global audiences. These initiatives will continue to build a community of interest and action to advance progressive change in specific security-cooperation areas.

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). JPAC has an important and honorable mission: achieve the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing from our nation's conflicts. JPAC successfully accomplished 69 missions globally last year. The JPAC Central Identification Laboratory identified 82 unaccounted Americans from the Vietnam War, Korean War, and World Wars I & II. In conducting its recovery and investigation mission during 2008, JPAC relied upon cooperation from Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Republic of Korea, India, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Canada, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Hungary, Germany, France, and Indonesia. We anticipate similar results in the coming year. JPAC conducted one mission to India in October 2008 with the second mission ongoing from February – April 2009. JPAC continues to engage with the People's Republic of China on details attendant to a mission there. Operations in North Korea remain suspended, but we are prepared to resume discussions on the resumption of operations when conditions permit and upon interagency approval.

In FY09, the Navy programmed $8.4M for design plans for a new JPAC facility located on Hickam AFB, Hawaii, with construction scheduled to begin in FY11 and continue with the final increment in FY12. I appreciate support for this new facility that reinforces America's commitment to those that have honorably served and gave their lives in the ultimate sacrifice, and to those that continue to honorably serve the nation.

SUMMARY

USPACOM is a force for peace and a steadfast partner throughout the Asia-Pacific. Our long-term priorities promote a region that is stable, secure and at peace. We are engaged extensively throughout the AOR to advance our theater campaign goals through partnership, readiness, and presence. We are committed – along with our allies and partners – to turn the promise of a stable and secure region into reality and transform challenges into opportunities that strengthen regional relationships and cooperation. We are fortunate to have traditional allies, and both existing and emerging partners, who are willing to promote conditions for security and stability, and collaborate for the well-being of the people in the Asia-Pacific.

We are very aware that without the unwavering support of the Congress and the American people, we cannot succeed. I am proud and honored to represent the men and women of the U.S. Pacific Command and, on their behalf, thank you for your support.