

U.S. ARMY IN ASIA PACIFIC

ENSURING STABILITY AND SECURITY

“Nothing tells us more about the spread of humans across the Earth than city lights.”

Chris Elvidge, NOAA

November 2013

FOREWORD

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of U.S. Army capabilities and contributions in the Asia-Pacific as we rebalance after more than a decade of war with major deployments to combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Army never left the Asia-Pacific, though during this period it had to place greater emphasis on our warfighting responsibilities in those conflicts. Now Asia-Pacific is the home of the largest Army command. Our deterrent and contingency response capabilities have been greatly increased. Our engagement with allies and friendly nations has dramatically expanded and these interactions promise to strengthen and grow the capabilities and capacity of those countries to meet their own, as well as our mutual, security concerns.

“It may not be evident to everyone, but the fact of the matter is the Army has for decades upon decades been a major presence in the Pacific. The last 12 years have caused us to focus in two theaters of conflict, but as those have begun to wind down in the last year, it allows us to get back to the things we’ve been doing very, very well for a very long time.”

Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh (July 2013)



ASIA-PACIFIC: KEY TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, BUT WITH A COMPLEX SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

Eight of the world's top 20 economies are located in the Asia-Pacific region

- 1 United States
- 2 China
- 3 Japan
- 8 Russian Federation
- 10 India
- 12 Australia
- 15 South Korea
- 16 Indonesia

The global significance of the Asia-Pacific has grown dramatically over the past two decades and it is now recognized throughout the world as a region with incredible economic power and impact. The facts are well-known – six of the world's declared nuclear-armed nations are in the region; the three largest global economies (U.S., China, and Japan) and eight of the top 20 are in the Asia-Pacific, as are eight of the top 10 nations by population. Over half of the world's population lives there. Fully one-third of world trade passes through this region. While there is abundant cultural, religious, and linguistic diversity in the region, the four countries with the largest Muslim populations are there as well.

The economic growth and success across the region are remarkable, especially considering the dire circumstances in which many nations found themselves after World War II and subsequent conflicts. And to reinforce the prosperity that has come, the Asia-Pacific has also been largely at peace with no serious nation-on-nation conflict in the past 30 years.

Peace has predominated in the recent past, but many in the region have long memories of past injustices and hostilities, going back decades and even centuries. While there are several potential trouble spots involving land and maritime border disputes, the Korean Peninsula remains one of the most dangerous places on Earth, where war may be initiated without warning by a nuclear-armed rogue regime in a matter of hours. In addition, the Asia-Pacific frequently suffers the effects of massive natural disasters that often require rescue and recovery support from their defense establishments.

The United States' national interests in this region are clear – peace, stability, and security that will serve as the foundation for greater prosperity among not only the nations of Asia-Pacific, but also throughout the world. U.S. trade with the region is more than \$1 trillion per year. Five of the United States' seven mutual defense

treaties are with countries in the Asia-Pacific – Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, Philippines, and Thailand. The U.S. has underwritten the stability and security in the region for more than 60 years requiring continued U.S. and allied presence. In January 2012, the President and Secretary of Defense set the U.S. on a course to expand and rebalance our focus on the Asia-Pacific region, including our military presence and engagement with friendly nations, to ensure the region's prosperity and security.

The U.S. Army has many historic ties with the Asia-Pacific, going back to the end of the 19th century beginning with the Spanish-American War. Over a third of the Army's 187 battle and campaign streamers have been awarded for actions in the region. During World War II, Army Soldiers conducted the preponderance of amphibious landings and battles throughout the theater from Burma, New Guinea, and Western Pacific Islands to the Philippines and Okinawa. In addition to conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, the Army has provided a primary deterrent force in Korea and around the region throughout the Cold War.

After a decade of conflict, the Army is refocusing and expanding its Asia-Pacific role to support the nation's security interests. Today the U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC) is the Army component of the Joint Force under U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) – dedicated and working every day to implement the U.S. national strategy and to protect U.S. national interests, in coordination with our sister services and other government agencies. Recently the Commander, USARPAC (now a four-star Army General) was designated by PACOM as the theater Joint Force Land Component Commander responsible for all joint and multinational land force operations in future contingencies in the region.

Our interests are clear...

Five of the seven United States' mutual defense treaties are with nations in Asia-Pacific



Six of the nine states with nuclear weapons are located in the region



The Korean Peninsula can arguably be considered one of the most dangerous places on Earth





STABILITY AND SECURITY ARE ACHIEVED ON LAND

When Asian leaders look at their region, they don't see the vastness of the Pacific, they see bodies of water comparable to the Gulf of Mexico.



1500 miles



Asia-Pacific has eight of the ten largest armies in the world

1 China	6 South Korea
2 India	7 Iran
3 North Korea	8 Vietnam
4 U.S.	9 Turkey
5 Pakistan	10 Burma

Military Balance

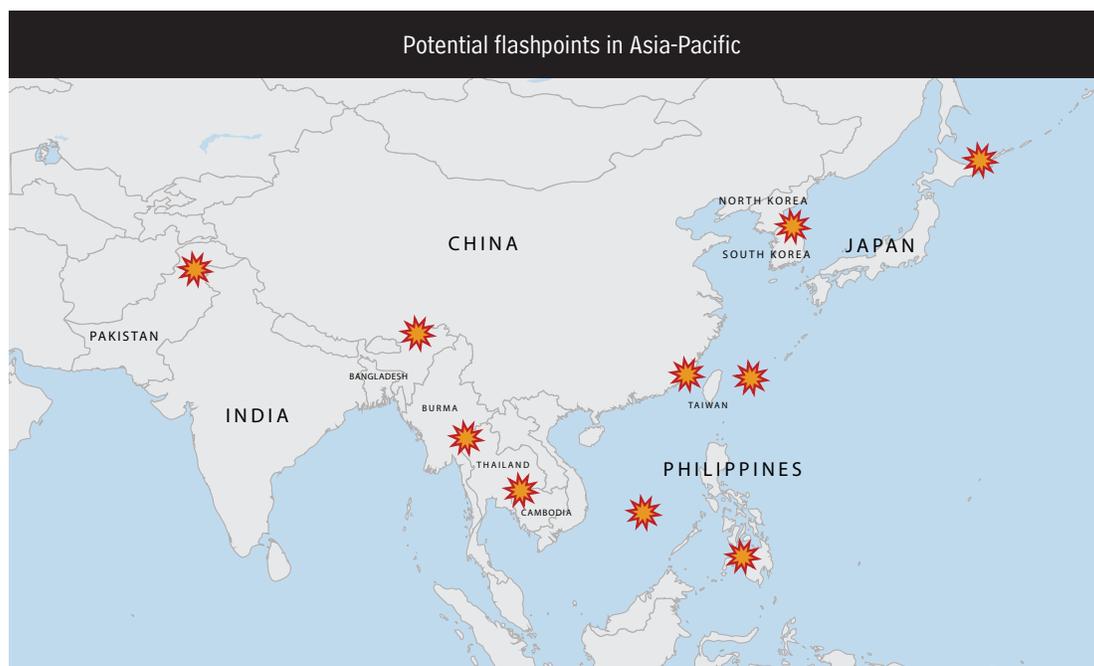
The best starting point for framing the most important security issues in the Asia-Pacific is to understand the perspectives of those nations' political and military leaders. Many in the United States look west across the wide Pacific Ocean, see thousands of miles of water and huge distances that must be crossed to get to the Asian mainland. However, when leaders of Asian countries look at their region, they don't see the vastness of the Pacific. Most of them see a great land mass with tense borders, small and large islands, and strategic waterways. They remember the history of foreign invasions and subjugation and recall past indignities. They look warily at some of their neighbors against whom they have fought in the past. They are concerned about the security of their own homelands – security that is often threatened by terrorist groups and insurgents, or by natural disasters that strike with regularity.

Because their history has been largely influenced by conflicts involving land armies, the defense establishments of most of the Asia-Pacific nations reflect the priority they place on the threats in that domain. This region has eight of the ten largest armies in the world and army officers serve as Defense Chiefs in over two-thirds of the Asia-Pacific militaries, reflecting the importance that armies play in their security, stability, and prosperity. Roughly 70% of the defense establishments of our five treaty allies in the Asia-Pacific are found in their armies. Numerous countries in the region are working to upgrade their navies and air forces, often with the assistance of our sister services. However,

most Asia-Pacific nations will continue to rely predominately on their armies to provide their security. Additionally, it is their armies that most Asia-Pacific military leaders know are the service most capable of aspiring to mirror the U.S. Army's structure, equipment, and training as they strive to develop similar capabilities and be interoperable with U.S. forces, providing U.S. Army leaders and forces significant opportunities to engage and impact the security environment.

From their perspectives, even the trouble spots in maritime areas are significantly affected by land-based capabilities. To understand their view of Asia-Pacific geography it is worth noting that most of the maritime spaces in Asia, such as the South China Sea, are comparable in size to the Gulf of Mexico rather than the expanse of the blue water Pacific. The distance from Vietnam to the Philippines is slightly farther (650 miles) than from New Orleans to Cancun (643 miles). From Okinawa to Shanghai is only 514 miles. The Taiwan Strait is somewhat wider than the distance from the Florida Keys to Cuba (110 miles versus 93 miles). Land-based air assets provide substantial impact in such relatively modest sea spaces.

Land power, typically operating in integrated multinational and joint task forces, is key to securing the peace, protecting civilian populations, and reducing tension throughout the region. Today and for the foreseeable future, the region's armies will remain the most important actors in the region and the U.S. Army in the Pacific will remain the critical linchpin for U.S. influence and engagement.





BUILDING THE TIES WITH PARTNERS THAT BIND US TOGETHER



U.S. Army Pacific, Commanding General, GEN Vincent Brooks visited Dhaka, Bangladesh during Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise & Exchange. (August 2013)

National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP)

Alaska: Mongolia

Hawaii: Philippines; Indonesia

Idaho: Cambodia

Oregon: Bangladesh; Vietnam

Washington: Thailand

Engagement with allies and emerging partners is one of the cornerstones of U.S. strategy in the Asia-Pacific. The diversity of history, culture, and language among the militaries of the region poses challenges to this demanding task of working with our defense counterparts. However, persistent engagement serves as a significant component of our security cooperation efforts, the objectives of which are quite clear:

“...to build defense relationships that promote specific U.S. security interests, develop allied and friendly military capabilities for self-defense and multinational operations, and provide U.S. forces with peacetime and contingency access to a host nation.”¹

With a significant majority of the Asia-Pacific militaries led by army chiefs of defense and the great majority of the region’s force structure residing in their land forces, the U.S. Army is the natural lead for Department of Defense security cooperation and engagement efforts. Each year, the Army in the Pacific conducts multiple exercises and participates in well over 200 military-to-military activities, such as small unit exchanges, that help to improve Army and partner readiness and interoperability, reinforce our alliance commitments, and strengthen collaboration among partner nations. Senior U.S. Army general officers meet regularly with their counterparts in these countries, both bilaterally and in U.S.-sponsored regional conferences, to build personal relationships over the long term. By our willingness to train together and prepare

for potential crises, we foster credibility, trust, and confidence in U.S. Army, allied, and partner capabilities. The Army’s engagement activities are generally low cost and have a limited footprint. In recent years, the Army has held over 20 large-scale exercises annually with over a dozen countries.

A component of the Asia-Pacific engagement program is the National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP), originally begun in Europe, but now expanding in the Asia-Pacific. While not solely an Army program, the Army National Guard is the major participant. Currently, five state National Guards partner with seven Asia-Pacific nations, to include the program’s expansion in November 2012 with Oregon’s partnership with Vietnam.

The frequency of natural disasters in the Asia-Pacific provides an opportunity to engage potential new partners in non-controversial activities to not only prepare for regional humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) contingencies that will occur, but also promote collaboration and lay the ground work for future engagement. Whether it was the 2004 tsunami that struck Thailand, Indonesia, and other areas, the 2005 Pakistan earthquake, or the 2011 Japanese tsunami, the U.S. military has always responded to support the region, demonstrating our solidarity with and willingness to assist allies and friendly nations in their times of need. Similar disasters will occur again and preparing for this reality is a growing focus of U.S. regional engagement and an opportunity to leverage Army leadership in engaging the armies that will serve as the first responders in most of these nations.

To support and enhance the capabilities of the training centers in the region, the Army is developing the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Capability (JPMRC). This exportable combat training center (CTC) capability provides near-real-time feedback and lessons learned to a wide range of exercises and activities at a much reduced cost. Within five years, this program will be able to support joint and multinational brigade-level training across the Asia-Pacific. A related initiative, the Joint Combined Training Capability, is a bilateral development between the U.S. and Australian armies.

As the nation and our military execute the Asia-Pacific rebalance, enhancing our existing relationships with treaty allies and strategic partners and engaging with other friendly nations will serve as the foundation of U.S. regional strategy. The Army in the Pacific is well-positioned to lead the joint force in developing these partnerships while simultaneously preparing for possible contingencies and crises.

Army in the Pacific engagement includes long-standing Army and joint exercise with treaty allies and strategic partners as well as programs with new and emerging partners, to include:

Australia Talisman Sabre	Largest and most complex joint exercise in the Asia-Pacific demonstrating U.S. power projection into the region to include battalion-level airborne drop from Alaska to Australia.
Republic of Korea Ulchi Freedom Guardian	Joint Operation Plan (OPLAN) war fighting exercise enabling U.S. and ROK forces to practice interoperability in the defense of South Korea. One of several U.S.-ROK exercises.
Thailand Cobra Gold	Multinational exercise incorporating six U.S. allies & partners. Demonstrates US regional commitment, enhances interoperability, and builds partner peacekeeping operations and HA/DR capability.
Indonesia Garuda Shield	USARPAC-sponsored exercise enhancing Indonesia’s stability operations and HA/DR capabilities. 2013 exercise included 82nd Airborne Division and Hawaii Army National Guard troops.
India Yudh Abhyas	Bilateral Army exercise enhancing understanding in command and planning procedures as well as exchanging concepts in infantry skills and operations. In 2013, Indian troops traveled to Ft. Bragg.
Cambodia Angkor Sentinel	Bilateral exercise incorporating Cambodia’s SPP partner to enhance PKO and HA/DR capabilities. Similar exercises are held across the region including in Malaysia, Nepal, and Bangladesh, among others.



THE PRESENCE AND COMMITMENT THAT DETER CONFLICT

Rapidly deployable Army airborne forces are able to respond to contingencies anywhere in the world in less than 18 hours' flying time.



U.S. Army and South Korean Soldiers participate in a river crossing exercise in Yeoncheon gun, South Korea. (May 2013)

The Army in the Pacific, now with 80,000 active and reserve troops assigned, is the largest of the military Services in PACOM and the largest overseas command in the Army. Army forces provide the Joint Commander a flexible, tailorable, and rapidly deployable force capable of responding to the full spectrum of threats – from natural disasters, through counter-terrorism support operations, contingency responses, and deterrence to decisive combat.

The U.S. Army's 8th Army and 2nd Infantry Division stand ready on the Korean Peninsula with a powerful force ready to go to war tomorrow, if necessary. If conflict seems likely in Korea, these organizations would be rapidly reinforced by Army forces assigned to PACOM, including I Corps and 25th Infantry Division Headquarters, the seven brigade combat teams (BCTs) located in the region, and multiple supporting units from Hawaii, Alaska, and the West Coast. Movement of such combat-ready organizations, in conjunction with comparable forces from the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps, would send a clear signal of U.S. commitment and determination, hopefully deterring any aggression.

Were tensions to arise in other parts of Asia-Pacific, a tailored package of any or all these Army forces could similarly deploy to reassure allies and partners and constrain the potential actions of hostile powers.

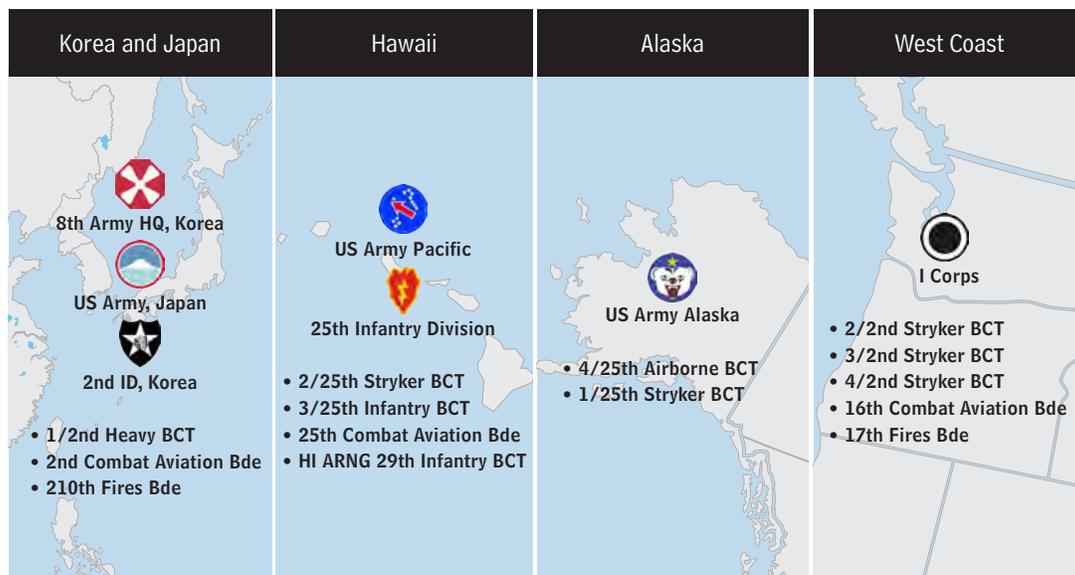
Rapidly deployable Army airborne forces in Alaska are able to respond to contingencies anywhere in the region with unequalled speed – on the ground in less than 18 hours' flying time – backed by the broad mix of heavy, medium, and light follow-on forces that can be tailored to address any operational requirements.

The Army currently has a sizeable contingent of special operations forces working as part of a joint team with Philippine counterparts in Operation Enduring Freedom – Philippines (OEF-P) to counter al-Qaeda affiliated terrorist groups. This decade-long effort has incorporated every aspect of U.S. strategy and Army action in the region to include annual bilateral exercises, forward presence, civic works projects among the population, and advising and assisting the Armed Forces of the Philippines in its campaign against terrorist groups. OEF-P has greatly reduced the terrorist threat in the Philippines, and has reinforced the U.S.-Philippine security ties and cooperation that had declined during the 1990's.

In addition, the Army has substantial air defense and missile defense capabilities, including the Patriot Advanced Capability (PAC)-3 system and newly fielded Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system, both of which can be deployed by U.S. Air Force C-17 aircraft anywhere in the world. Often these Army systems would be stationed where they could operate in a mutually reinforcing manner with Aegis systems aboard U.S. Navy ships.

The Army is enhancing its prepositioned stocks in Japan, Korea, and afloat to not only meet existing land operations support requirements, but also to more effectively support regional engagement with partners – reducing our forward stationed footprint and the cost of exercising across the region – and enhance responsiveness to natural or man-made crises.

While the Army engages its counterparts to reinforce existing relationships and build new ones to shape the region, it maintains the demonstrated capability and command structure to project combat power as part of the joint force.





THE LANDPOWER NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS IN PEACE AND WAR

Typical Army support to a Joint Force

- Ground Combat Forces
- Operational C2
- Communications
- Force Protection
- Logistics
- Stability Operations



U.S. and Indonesian Army paratroopers exit a C-17 Globemaster during the USARPAC-sponsored annual Garuda Shield exercise in West Java, Indonesia. (June 2013)

When engagement and regional presence fail to ensure peace and stability, the Army will fight as part of the joint force – both in a leading role employing all the land forces and capabilities discussed above and in a support role with enabling capabilities for sustaining joint and multinational operations. After more than twelve years of deployments to combat zones in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Army’s leaders, Soldiers, and organizations in the Pacific are the most experienced, combat-proven, and ready land force the region has seen in decades.

Should conflict break out in the Asia-Pacific, the Army would respond first with those divisions, BCTs, and supporting units currently assigned to PACOM and then would be reinforced by additional divisions, combat brigades, and support forces as needed, using our designated command structures. The Army-led land campaign, augmented by combat and support forces from our regional allies and partners and working cooperatively with U.S. Navy and Air Force assets in a joint and multinational operation, would act to contain the aggression of hostile powers and then decisively defeat the adversaries’ ground forces, secure the land and population, and restore security and eventually stability to the area of operations.

In preparing the theater for U.S. and allied action, the Army leverages its relationships to enable access and enhance host nation support, provides extensive human intelligence capabilities on the ground, communication nodes and networks,

as well as extensive foreign language capability. Additionally, the Army provides the missile defense and satellite communications integral to the success of air and maritime operations as part of the joint force response to adversary anti-access and area denial strategies.

The Army through its Title 10 responsibilities provides critical functions for our sister Services to include securing theater lines of communications and supply, defending forward operating bases, ensuring the movement of food, water, fuel, and other essential services, and chemical decontamination, among many others.

In the post-conflict environment, Army forces provide expertise in stability operations to include civil affairs officers capable of interacting with local and national officials and rebuilding civil governance functions, as well as the engineering capacity to support and expand essential services and infrastructure.

The primary objective of U.S. military strategy in the Asia-Pacific is to prevent conflict and support regional prosperity through engagement and relationship building, developing our allies’ and partners’ capabilities and interoperability with U.S. forces, and the deterrence our presence and military capability provide. Victory and sustainable peace are only certain in the Asia-Pacific with the land power of the U.S. Army as a critical component along with the capabilities and power provided by our joint force partners.



The U.S. Army in the Pacific is committed, engaged with allies and partners, acting as a deterrent to conflict, ready for combat if necessary, and serving as an essential part of the U.S. strategy to maintain stability and security in the Asia-Pacific.

Endnotes

1. JP 1-02, *DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms* (amended as of 16 July 2013), definition of “security cooperation,” p. 249.



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