

STATEMENT OF
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U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND
BEFORE THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE – MILITARY
CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE
ON U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND POSTURE
15 APRIL 2015

Chairman Kirk, Senator Tester, and distinguished members, thank you for the opportunity to address the sub-committee. I am Major General Michael Dana, USPACOM J5, Director for Strategic Planning and Policy. In concert with ADM Locklear's testimony provided to the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, I am prepared to discuss how USPACOM FY16 military construction (MILCON) requirements support National strategic objectives.

Strategy

USPACOM Strategy reflects our contribution to U.S. efforts to rebalance in the region. In accordance with national guidance, our desired end state is that the Indo-Asia-Pacific is secure and prosperous, underpinned by U.S. leadership and a rules-based international order. To this end, we will strengthen alliances and partnerships, maintain an assured presence in the region, and effectively communicate our intent and resolve to safeguard U.S. national interests. Proceeding from a hierarchy of national level planning guidance, the strategy provides the Commander's vision for resourcing in light of national level emphasis on the Indo-Asia-Pacific.

Through supporting the development of strong regional institutions and partnerships capable of supporting common solutions, we will attempt to shape China's behavior as its regional and global influence grows. In addition, we will encourage the outlook of key external powers to promote cooperation with the U.S. in the region by strengthening U.S. and regional partner capacity to meet emerging challenges. By supporting democratic development through the promotion of good governance, human rights, and inclusive participation, USPACOM will pursue denuclearization and reduce the risk of weapons of mass destruction proliferation from North Korea.

Background

The U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) area of responsibility (AOR) encompasses approximately half the earth's surface and more than half of its population. The 36 nations that comprise the Asia-Pacific include: two of the three largest economies and five of the smallest; the most populous nation; the largest democracy; the largest Muslim-majority nation; and the smallest republic in the world. The region is a vital driver of the global economy and includes the world's busiest international sea lanes and nine of the ten largest ports. By any meaningful

measure, the Indo-Asia-Pacific is also the most militarized region in the world, with seven of the world's ten largest standing militaries and five of the world's declared nuclear nations. Under these circumstances, the strategic complexity facing the region is unique.

Forward Presence

Fundamental to USPACOM's mission is the ability to deter aggression and prevail in crisis. USPACOM maintains forward-deployed ready forces as credible deterrents, to support and defend national security interests, while providing assurance and protection to allies and partners. Assured forward presence is supported through posturing the right capabilities (forces) at the right locations (footprints) with the right host nation access (agreements) to ensure forward deployed forces can support National objectives. USPACOM strives to maintain a force posture that effectively communicates U.S. intent and resolve, safeguards U.S. national interests, strengthens alliances and partnerships, maintains a politically sustainable presence in the region, prevents conflict, and if necessary, is able to respond rapidly and effectively across the full range of military capabilities.

MILCON

USPACOM comprises over 21 percent of the entire joint force, to include approximately 100,000 service members, not including dependents, forward deployed to Japan, Korea, and Guam. The size and scope of the forward deployed forces and the emergent security environment require recapitalization and capability improvement in the AOR. To that end, the FY16 MILCON projects largely reflect requirements that support the fielding of new capabilities in the AOR, to include the Joint Strike Fighter, CV-22, C-130J, and the F-22. Additional investments support resiliency initiatives and infrastructure recapitalization on Guam and Hawaii, critical munitions throughput recapitalization in California (MOTCO), and quality of life investments for our force's dependents in Korea and Japan.

Host Nation Contributions

The Department appreciates the significant host nation investment made by key partners and allies as we look to expand our access and operations in the USPACOM AOR, providing mutual benefit to our partners' and our interests. Our strategy seeks to provide the correct level of

capital investment to support established posture initiatives and commitments, including efforts in Korea (Yongson Relocation Plan (YRP) and Land Partnership Plan (LPP)) and Japan (Okinawa Consolidation (OKICON) and the Defense Policy Review Initiative (DPRI)). In support of these initiatives, the Government of Japan has committed up to \$3.1 billion to help realign U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam and other locations and \$4.5 billion to expand the airfield and associated facilities at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. In addition to these specific programs, Korea and Japan maintain robust Host Nation Funded Construction (HNFC) programs which play vital roles in supporting U.S. presence and enduring capabilities in the region.

Our legacy installations in Northeast Asia date from the cold war and are showing their age. During these times of austere budgets, the services struggle to maintain infrastructure Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (SRM) accounts at appropriate levels. As we look to the future, we do not anticipate creating large footprint US installations throughout the theater. Rather, by working in concert with our partners in the region, we can deploy capabilities through agreed upon locations requiring only modest levels of infrastructure improvement.

Conclusion

It has been over three years since the President announced the U.S. Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific. The Rebalance is focused on modernizing and strengthening treaty alliances and partnerships through cooperative agreements, building partner capacity, and increasing regional cooperation, interoperability, and security capabilities. Through assured forward presence, the Department will continue to maintain its momentum and commitment to the Rebalance while simultaneously achieving objectives defined in national level planning guidance. Thank you for your continued support to USPACOM and our men and women, and their families, who live and work in the Indo-Asia-Pacific.