

LTG Mixon
Closing Remarks
Garuda Shield/Global Peace Operations Initiative 2009
29 June 2009

Good Morning.

It gives me great pleasure today to be able to address such a large gathering of Soldiers from so many different nations, all dedicated to a common, noble goal of propagating peace and security for the world's citizens. The challenges we face in an interconnected world yield unprecedented opportunities for cooperation. Our nations continue to demonstrate the willingness to develop unified responses and bring together diverse governmental agencies and military capabilities to work closely on a range of shared interests. Exercises like Garuda Shield, better prepare us to address both traditional dilemmas and unconventional threats that transcend national borders.

In 2007 & 2008, Garuda Shield consisted of primarily Indonesia-US bilateral activities. This year's exercise was expanded to include a Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) focus. As a result, all the participants at this year's GARUDA SHIELD have become more prepared to participate in international peacekeeping operations. The training accomplished during this exercise developed the capability, capacity, and effectiveness to establish and sustain peace and security operations.

Another key objective of Garuda Shield 2009 was to enhance professional relationships and improve readiness and interoperability. The challenging training for checkpoint operations, patrolling distribution sites, convoy operations, cordon and search, and disarmament enhanced teamwork and bettered friendships.

And speaking of friends, I would like to especially thank our host nation. Indonesia has taken significant steps to strengthen its democracy and its role in the region. I would also like to highlight the Armed Forces of Indonesia support to ongoing peace keeping efforts throughout the world. By contributing over 1,000 personnel, Indonesia is Southeast Asia's largest provider and the world's fourth largest provider of troops to United Nations peacekeeping missions. This includes a mechanized infantry battalion deployed to Lebanon in support of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and personnel deployed in support of United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). Thank you again for hosting this event and congratulations on your country's ability to demonstrate that citizens of a vibrant, pluralistic society are able to live harmoniously.

Multiple transnational challenges call for greater cooperation between all nations. US strategy places greater emphasis on increasing the capacity of our partners. US Army Pacific's goal is to further fortify security in the

Pacific Rim through strengthened partnerships. Together we have made substantial progress in helping secure peace for peoples in Asia and beyond.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the participants in this important exercise and we look forward to building on stability and enhanced security in the future.