

# UNITED STATES ARMY PACIFIC

# USARPA













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AMERICA'S THEATER ARMY FOR THE INDO-PACIFIC

**SEPTEMBER 2023** 



## **FOREWORD**



ome to the world's largest populations, wealthiest economies, biggest militaries, and most consequential political landscape, the Indo-Pacific is likely to remain the geostrategic center of gravity well into 21st Century. However, a rising tide of aggressive and irresponsible behavior by those who oppose a Safe, Stable, and Secure Indo-Pacific is fueling strategic uncertainty.

This strategic uncertainty is largely driven by the Chinese Communist Party's provocations and ambitions to undermine the rules-based international order, which not only endangers regional stability but also increasingly threatens the sovereignty of Indo-Pacific nations, including our own. Consequently, this behavior has reinforced the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation and ensuring access to the global commons so that all may benefit. More importantly, however, it has renewed emphasis on the aspects that free societies value most, such as: protecting our people, preserving our territorial integrity, and defending our homelands. Meanwhile, adverse effects from natural disasters, threats from violent extremists, and increasingly irresponsible behavior by other strategic competitors like Russia and the DPRK add to the strategic uncertainty.

This is why landpower matters in the Indo-Pacific—and why the capabilities that only the U.S. Army provides at scale and at echelon are more important now than ever before. Some may consider the Indo-Pacific an air and maritime theater, but it is not. It is a **Joint theater**, with **Joint challenges**, that require both **Joint and multinational solutions**! Considering the looming implications to national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and homeland defense, land forces will be central to the outcome from this period of strategic uncertainty.

With more than 107,000 Soldiers and Civilians, U.S. Army Pacific is the Nation's largest Theater Army and represents the Total Army – from our headquarters in Hawai'i to permanent bases throughout Alaska, Washington, California, Guam, American Samoa, Saipan, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Moreover, the Theater Army operates on a rotational basis consistently within the sovereign boundaries of regional Allies and Partners including Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, plus several Pacific Island Countries. We do so at their invitation, with their consent, and in ways that demonstrate our **Unity** and **Collective Commitment**. Three of these ways, or Theater Army signature initiatives, represent how landpower supports the 2022 National Defense Strategy's three pillars of *Integrated Deterrence*, *Campaigning*, and actions that build *Enduring Advantage*:

- 1) Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center
- 2) Operation Pathways
- 3) Joint Interior Lines

The Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center, or JPMRC, is the Army's newest Combat Training Center with campuses in Hawai'i and Alaska, along with an exportable capability, that generates readiness in the environments and conditions where our forces are most likely to operate. Operation Pathways is our operational approach to campaigning that applies readiness of combat-credible forces to build joint readiness, strengthen interoperability with our Allies and Partners, and deny key terrain – human and physical – to our adversaries. Finally, Joint Interior Lines is how we gain positional advantage by placing command and control, protection, collection, and sustainment capabilities forward.

We are making tremendous progress to strengthen deterrence, but the urgency to **get in position** with the **right capabilities** is very real. The decisions and actions over the coming years will dictate the outcome of this period of strategic uncertainty—so there is no time to waste, particularly as we anticipate the outcome of regional political events in 2024. We must remain focused, maintain our resolve, and keep pressing. We win on our watch!

ONE TEAM!

General Charles Flynn
Commanding General
U.S. Army Pacific





#### STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

he Indo-Pacific is the most consequential region in modern history. It is the 21st Century's geostrategic center of gravity and epicenter of geopolitics, according to national strategic guidance. Many unfamiliar with the region may ask what the U.S. Army does in a theater defined by so much sea and air, a question that overlooks the fact that 25% of the world's land areas are found in the Indo-Pacific. South Asia is comprised of 10 countries inhabited by 2 billion people, including the most populous country on the planet. Southeast Asia's archipelagos form a land bridge between the continents of Asia and Australia. Tens of thousands of islands form the Pacific Island Countries throughout Oceania, while many of the world's largest armies are found in Northeast Asia. The region features the most rugged, distributed, and diverse terrain on the planet – from tropical rainforests and low-lying coral atolls to arctic plateaus and immense mountain ranges.

Challenges. Large blue swaths on the region's map notwithstanding, 60% of people on Earth live in the Indo-Pacific, which is expected to increase to 2/3 of the global population over the coming years. The people represent potential for progress and growth. Yet as populations increase, so does competition over key terrain that provides economic and security advantages as well as competition for resources such as fresh water, food, energy, and minerals to power factories and industry that sustain our societies.

Climate. Changing climate means sea levels are rising and extreme temperatures are becoming more commonplace, presenting problems where people live. Moreover, nearly 4 out of every 5 natural disasters in the world occur here – cyclones, typhoons, storm surges and tsunamis, floods, droughts, heatwaves, earthquakes, wildfires and volcanic activity. In the last 50 years, natural disasters in the region have affected 6.9 billion people and killed more than 2 million.

Regional Concerns. Coercive tactics, mis- and disinformation operations, border incursions, excessive maritime claims, territorial disputes, river damming, violent extremism, domestic instability, drug and human trafficking, and social inequality present incremental and invasive challenges to the sovereign rights of nations and are profoundly destabilizing.

2024 A CRITICAL YEAR Even while the PRC seeks to advance its totalitarian system and considering other factors such as Russia's unjustified war in Ukraine, upcoming political events will likely shape the next few decades in the region.

#### **General Elections:**

\* Taiwan

Talwai

Bangladesh

Indonesia



🌉 Kiribati

Palau

Sri Lanka

# Regional <u>Allies</u> are Responding to the Strategic Uncertainty

Australia: The AUKUS agreement, signed in 2021, enhances defense cooperation among Australia, the UK, and the US.

Japan: The new National Security Strategy vows to double defense spending; the Self Defense Force is creating a Joint Command in 2024.

New Zealand: Political leaders have adopted tougher policies against the PRC; expanding security activities with Pacific Island neighbors.\*

Philippines: In May 2023, the government announced four new Enhanced Defense Security Cooperation (EDCA) sites in strategic areas.

Republic of Korea: Korean forces are now conducting more multilateral training off peninsula, including with Japan.

Thailand: The Royal Thai military is undergoing a deliberate modernization effort while renewing large scale multilateral training.

\*New Zealand is a FVEY partner but is not a U.S. treaty ally.

Taiwan Contingency. Many of the region's political leaders have expressed concern over the PRC's coercive rhetoric and intimidation tactics such as Japan's late PM Shinzo Abe who said a PRC attack on Taiwan would be "an emergency for Tokyo."

#### **SOUTH ASIA**

Border Disputes. Long-term border disputes reflect regional tensions, including the world's longest unmarked border between China and India. Following 2020 skirmishes, the PLA increased military presence along the Line of Actual Control.

Refugees. Over 1.2 million Rohingya refugees have fled Burma since 2017 due to civil war. 90% have relocated to Bangladesh and Malaysia, straining government systems and creating the largest refugee camp in the world in the Cox's Bazaar region of Bangladesh.

#### NORTHEAST ASIA

An increasingly aggressive PRC remains the greatest strategic challenge to the region. The PRC seeks to match U.S. global influence, displace alliances and security partnerships, and revise the international order to support Beijing's authoritarian system. The PRC is applying a whole of government approach through mechanisms such as the Belt and Road Initiative, the Asian Infrastructure Bank, Confucius institutes, PLA modernization, unsafe air intercepts, illegal unregulated fishing, and intimidation of Taiwan to pursue both regional and global aspirations.

**Russia**'s unjustified war in the Ukraine has had ripple effects across the Indo-Pacific, while its leaders show signs of expanding a "no limits friendship" with the PRC. Nuclear-armed authoritarian DPRK's belligerent behavior - including increased missile testing - underscores the potential for crisis with clear implications for Counter-WMD and Noncombatant Evacuation Operations.

#### **U.S. PACIFIC HOMELAND**

**Homeland Defense.** Our sacred obligation is to protect the U.S. Homeland and keep the American people safe.

Our Homeland includes Hawai'i, Guam, American Samoa, and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. We also defend Compact of Free Association States: Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

# Malacca Strait Flooding Storm **BRI** Projects Border Dispute Damming **Excessive Claims**

**Sunda Strait** 

Lombok Strait

#### **SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Missle Launch

Mainland Southeast Asia. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or **ASEAN**, is a inter-governmental union of 10 member states that plays a central role in regional cooperation and economic integration. The Mekong River supports millions, so continued economic growth depends on the river's health. Dams expand irrigation, generate electricity, and enable regional trade - but at a cost to agriculture. However, intrusive PRC hydropower projects have major potential to alter the river's ecology.

Maritime Southeast Asia features strategic global transit points for international trade. 50% of global commercial shipping passes through the South China Sea. Overlapping and often excessive claims in the SCS and ECS by China and Russia have led Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam to increase emphasis on their territorial defense.

#### **OCEANIA**

Rising sea levels and increased intensity of natural disasters challenge rapid reaction in crisis and subsequent reestablishment of critical infrastructure and services following a disaster. The recent security agreement between the Solomon Islands and the PRC underscores increased competition for influence in these island nations.

#### THE PACING CHALLENGE

#### The People's Republic of China

he People's Republic of China (PRC) is the "pacing challenge" for the U.S. Department of Defense, because according to the 2022 National Security Strategy, "the PRC is only competitor with both the intent to reshape the international order and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do it." Furthermore, Beijing has ambitions to create an enhanced sphere of influence in the Indo-Pacific and to become the world's leading power.

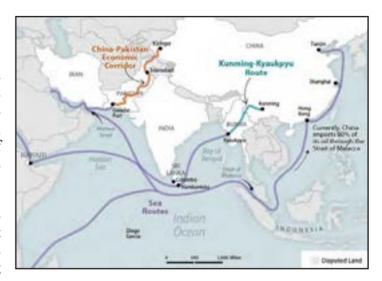
Core interests that the PRC seeks to "resolutely safe-guard" such as sovereignty, security, and development translate into perceived vulnerabilities given the PRC's reliance on the Malacca Strait, security concerns along its southern border, and contentious claims within its ambiguous "nine-dash line" in the resource-rich South China Sea. The PRC uses its Three Warfares and Economic and Diplomatic Approaches to advance increasingly assertive claims.

**Three Warfares.** These methods inform the PRC's approach to core objectives for the last two decades:

- Psychological Warfare. Whole-of-government efforts to intimidate and encourage acquiescence to PRC desired outcomes.
- Public Opinion Warfare. Overt and covert use of established news services, social media, and other web-based content to influence domestic and international perspectives.
- Legal Warfare. Using existing legal processes and introducing modifications to existing laws, to constrain behavior and confuse legal precedent, and contest disadvantages to PRC advantage

The Belt and Road Initiative. BRI is meant to engender economic integration, especially along the PRC's periphery, to align Chinese Communist Party interests, promote stability in the near-abroad, and dilute criticism of the PRC's actions and behavior. In 2016, BRI added a Space Information Corridor, which includes the Beidou satellite navigation system, to "build China into a space power."

A key BRI project is the high-speed railroad along the Kunming-Kyaukpyu Route. This railroad capitalizes on Burma's strategic access to the Andaman Sea, enabling the PRC to bypass the Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok Straits, thereby minimizing its "Malacca Dilemma."



■ The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will likewise increase PRC reliance on overland shipping, offsetting the dependency on the Malacca Straits and the Indian Ocean Region

BRI also creates military advantages, including port access to pre-position logistics support for global naval deployments. Recent agreements with countries such as Cambodia on Ream Port and Sri Lanka on the Port of Hambantota provide strategic positioning and and expanded access to the region's waterways.

Nine-Dash Line. The PRC claims "indisputable sovereignty over the islands in the South China Sea and the adjacent waters, and enjoys sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the relevant waters as well as the seabed and subsoil thereof" defined by the 9DL.





**Fiery Cross Reef** is a feature in the Spratly Islands that the PRC first took possession of in 1988. The satellite image on the left was taken in 2015 and reflects natural undeveloped terrain. The image on the right from 2022 shows a 10,000 ft. runway and other military facilities built by the PRC. (Photos Courtesy CSIS Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative/Maxar Technologies)

**Digital Silk Road.** In 2016-17, the PRC shifted from BRI toward technology-focused investments along its Digital Silk Road. The DSR (announced in 2015) seeks to dominate future markets. PRC investments include digital infrastructure abroad, 5G cell networks, undersea cables, and data centers.

# THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY

he People's Liberation Army (PLA) is the principal military force of the PRC and the armed wing of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). According to the 2022 China Military Power Report (delivered annually to the U.S. Congress) in this decisive decade, it is important to understand the contours of the PLA's way of war, survey its current activities and capabilities, and assess its future military modernization goals.

The PRC is increasingly turning to the PLA as an instrument of statecraft as it adopts more coercive and aggressive actions in the Indo-Pacific region. Having purportedly achieved its 2020 modernization goal, the PLA now sets its sights to 2027 with a goal to accelerate the integrated development of mechanization, informatization, and intelligentization of the PRC's armed forces. If realized, this 2027 objective could give the PLA capabilities to be a more credible military tool for the CCP to wield as it pursues Taiwan unification.

The PLA continues more than two millennia of Chinese military tradition, because the PRC lays cultural claim to many of the world's most famous works of military strategy and philosophy—most prominently, The Art of War by Sun Tzu. The Chinese take military philosophy, politics, and theory very seriously considering the PLA is considered the vanguard of the Chinese Communist Revolution. The PLA's philosophical underpinnings are important to both its culture and its approach to warfighting at all levels. The PLA also has a deep commitment to the Communist and Maoist philosophy.

#### The Peoples Liberation Army Army (PLAA).

The PLAA has approximately 975,000 active-duty personnel in combat units and is the primary ground fighting force in the PLA. The PLAA is rapidly developing a limited capability to project ground power as an expeditionary force. In addition to protecting national sovereignty and security, the 2020 National Defense University's Science of Military Strategy describes the PLAA as focused on improving precision, multi-functional, and sustained operations capabilities, command and control, and integrated systems to promote ambitions of building a global combat capable army. The PLAA's primary power projection initiatives are mobile, modular combined arms formations, special operations forces, and PLAA Aviation and Air Assault units.

The PRC's history is deeply intertwined with its military—more so than any Western nation and possibly more so than any other country, except North Korea. The PLA's history, from the Chinese perspective, is one of glorious struggle over imperialist and capitalist oppressors. In contrast to Western militaries, the PLA is deeply politicized. It retains significant ties to Maoist and Marxist-Leninist political thought and has generations-deep connections with the CCP.

Presently, the PLA is in the midst of a period of comprehensive reform. Central to this is the evolution of the "big army"—the dominance of the PLA Army (PLAA) at the expense of other services—not only throughout the PLA, but also throughout Chinese politics and society. Reducing manpower and equipment levels and employing a quality-over-quantity approach is central to this effort, as is the expansion of joint integration.

The PRC is seeking to expand its overseas logistics and basing infrastructure to allow the PLA to project and sustain military power at greater distances. A global PLA military logistics network, contrary to international law, could disrupt U.S. military operations and undermine the current rules-based international order as the PRC's global military objectives evolve.



**Major PLA Ground Units.** The PLAA is organized into five Theater Army Commands, the Xinjiang military command, and the Tibet military command that includes 13 group armies which are comprised of multi-combined arms brigades—the PLAA's primary maneuver force.



# WHO WE ARE | THE THEATER ARMY

As a Theater Army, USARPAC is an echelon of command responsible for recommendations of allocation and employment of Army forces to the commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. As a warfighting headquarters, the Theater Army is organized, manned, and equipped to perform four roles:

#### Theater Joint Force Land Component Command (TJFLCC)

Pre-conflict activities to set the theater, assess the theater and threats, develop the joint land operations plan, and conduct joint reception, staging /onward movement, and integration activities for the entire joint land force.

#### **Combined Joint Force Land Component Command** (CJFLCC)

Joint and/or multinational forces during a contingency operation that is responsible for the proper employment of land forces, planning and coordinating land operations, and accomplishing operational missions.

#### Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF)

Headquarters for joint/multinational forces during limited contingency operations. Typically combination of service and functional components.

#### **Army Service Component Command (ASCC)**

The senior Army command assigned to its combatant command. Exercises both administrative control and operational control over assigned and attached Army forces and installations under its command.

#### THEATER ENABLING COMMANDS

Found only at the Theater Army level, theater enabling commands provide unique foundational capabilities to the Joint Force that only the Army can provide. Further, they offer scalable, tailorable, multifunctional, and enduring support capabilities based on mission requirements.



#### 8th Theater Sustainment Cmd (TSC)

- Provides mission command for Army/Joint operational sustainment
- Integrates and synchronizes strategic sustainment capabilities



#### 18th Medical Command (MEDCOM)

- Senior medical command in USINDOPACOM area of operations
- Synchronizes combat medical care and force health protection



#### 311th Signal Command (Theater)

- Enables DOD information network operations
- Provides network extension and reach back for the entire Joint Force



#### 94th Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC)

- Commands all Army Air and Missile Defense units in theater
- AMD coordinator for land component



#### 351st Civil Affairs Command (CACOM)

- US Army Reserve Command that supports civil-military operations
- Deploys civil affairs brigades throughout the theater



#### **9th Mission Support Command** (MSC)

- US Army Reserve (USAR) Command
- Supports <u>security cooperation</u> programs and Reserve mobilization



#### 196th Infantry Brigade

- Trains and mobilizes Army Reserve forces
- Operates the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC)



#### 500th Military Intelligence Brigade

- Conducts multi-discipline collection and analysis across the
- Deploys operational capabilities and sets the theater for Army intelligence



#### 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD)

- Armv's liaison to Pacific Air Forces (PACAF)
- Coordinates and integrates cross-domain efforts and joint

#### U.S. ARMY'S GLOBAL ENABLING COMMANDS SUPPORTING ALL THEATERS



#### 412th Theater Engineer Command (TEC)

- Provides senior theater engineer HQ
- Offers assured mobility, logistics, infrastructure



#### 200th Military Police Command

- Senior law enforcement unit in USAR
- Provides full range of police support



#### 20th Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and **Explosives (CBRNE) Command**

- Provides senior theater CBRNE HQ
- Assesses, protects, and mitigates CBRN and explosive hazards



#### Installation Management Command (IMCOM) - Pacific

- Manages Army installations in theater
- Infrastructure enables mobilization and power projection



# **SUBORDINATE UNITS**



#### OPERATIONAL COMMANDS

8th Army Currently the only of its kind, this Field Army performs operational tasks on the Korean Peninsula and is the Army component to U.S. Forces Korea (USFK). During large scale combat operations, the field army represents the Joint Force's best option to command and control multiple corps-sized formations as part of a joint or multinational command.



The Army Corps is the Army's most versatile headquarters. The corps is deployable and scalable to meet almost every requirement of the combatant commander for senior level headquarters. The corps functions as the principal integrator of landpower into campaigns and is the critical link between the operational and tactical levels of war.

#### SUBORDINATE SENIOR ARFOR COMMANDS



U.S. Army Japan (USARJ)



U.S. Army Hawaii (USARHAW) <sup>1</sup>



U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK)

These commands serve as the Army Force (ARFOR) to a sub-unified command (or other authority) by cooperating with local and regional partners, providing trained and ready forces, exercising tactical command and control, and supporting joint land operations including homeland defense and defense support of civil authorities.

#### **TACTICAL COMMANDS**



**2nd Infantry Division** 



25th Infantry Division



7th Infantry Division 2



11th Airborne Division

The **Division** operates in tactical environments spanning the range of military operations. A division commands multiple brigades and is the primary tactical headquarters for decisive action.

The Brigade Combat Team (BCT) is the Army's principle ground-maneuver unit of the division. The BCTs have organic combined arms capabilities, including battalion-sized maneuver, field artillery, reconnaissance, and sustainment units. Medical units are also organic to the BCTs.



Armor BCT (ABCT)



Stryker BCT (SBCT)



**Infantry BCT (IBCT)** (Special IBCTs include Airborne and Arctic)

The Multi-Functional Support Brigades (MFSB) complement the BCTs and provide multi-functional capabilities to deployed forces like attack and utility rotary wing, unmanned aircraft systems, self-propelled and towed artillery, and multi-role



Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB)



Sustainment Brigade





The Functional Brigades (and other unique functional units) typically operate under Theater Army control and depend on theater-level elements for signal and other support.

	Air Defense	4	<b>Battlefield Coordination</b>		Civil Affairs		Contracting	<u>LY</u>	Engineer
\$	Finance		Human Resources		Heavy Boat	***	Medical Brigade	1	Transportation
	Military Police	*	Military Intelligence	*	Signal		Support		

#### OTHER THEATER ARMY FORCES



#### 1st Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF)

- Scalable, tailorable and multi-domain
- Expeditionary <u>AI/ML</u>-enabled capabilities



#### 3rd Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF)

- Scalable, tailorable and multi-domain
- Expeditionary AI/ML-enabled capabilities



#### **Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division**

- Infrastructure development support
- Engineer site assessments, design, and planning



#### **Medical Readiness Command-Pacific**

- Provides medical, dental, and public health
- Ready, responsive, relevant Army medicine



#### 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command

- Synchronize Joint Sustainment, distribution Mission command for Corps/ARFOR/JTF



#### 5th Security Forces Assistance Bde (SFAB) Supports theater <u>security cooperation</u>

- Builds partner nation security forces



#### 599th Transportation Brigade

- Surface deployment and distribution
- Project and sustain Army/Joint Forces



#### 402nd Army Field Support Brigade (AFSB)

- Forward expeditionary logistics & materiel
- Logistics Readiness Centers (LRC)



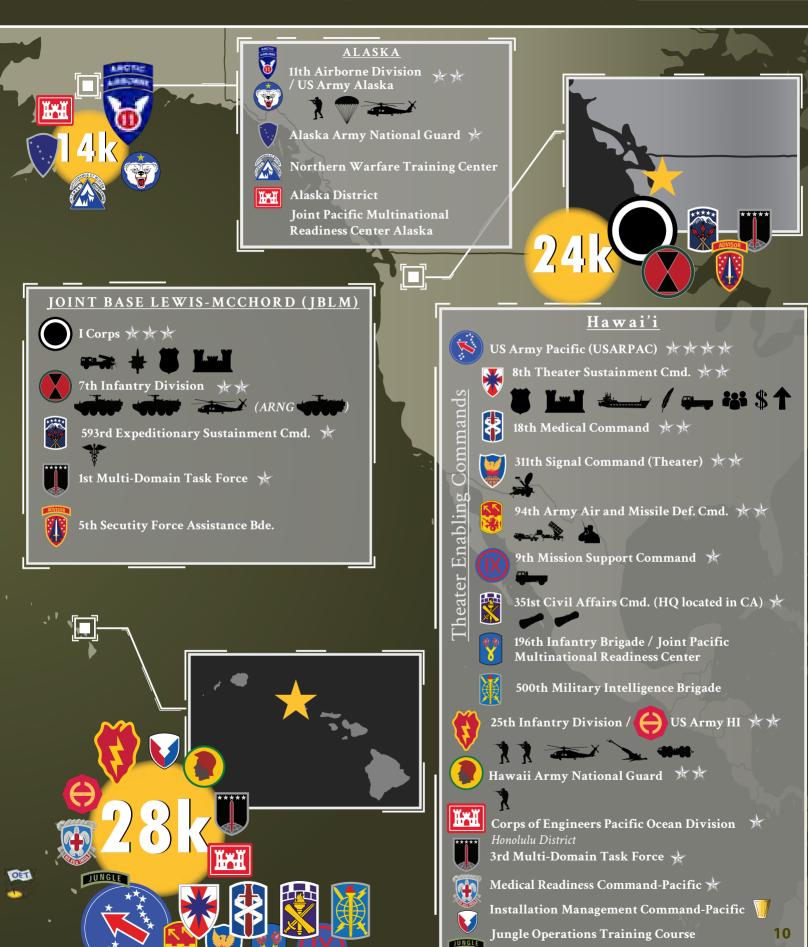
#### 413th Contracting Support Brigade (CSB)

- Operational contingency contracting
- Contracting for Army and Joint Force
- 1. USARHAW is not an ARFOR but the CG, 25ID also functions as the CDR, USARHAW granting him/her tasking authority over tenant units on a shared installation.
- 2. 7ID HQ is a service-retained unit assigned to FORSCOM; however, all 7ID subordinate brigades are assigned to the Theater Army

# UNITED STATES ARMY



# IN THE INDO-PACIFIC



Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center Hawai'i

# **CAMPAIGN APPROACH** | READY FOR WHAT?

## Organizing, Warfighting, Campaigning, and Wargaming

The National Defense Strategy identifies three primary ways the Joint Force advances and safeguards vital national interests: Integrated Deterrence, Campaigning, and Building Enduring Advantages.

- <u>Integrated Deterrence</u> is the sum of our Capabilities, Posture, Messaging, and Will. We deter by developing and combining strengths across instruments of U.S. national power and our network of Allies & partners.
- <u>Campaigning</u> undermines acute forms of competitor coercion, complicates competitors' military preparations, rehearses military operations at scope and scale, and develops joint warfighting capabilities with Allies & Partners.
- **Building Enduring Advantages** for the future Joint Force by gaining and maintaining positional advantages while accelerating force development, getting needed technology faster, and investing in our People.

USARPAC contributes to USINDOPACOM's operationalization of the National Defense Strategy through its Organizing, Warfighting, Campaigning, and Wargaming efforts.

#### **ORGANIZING**

#### **NEW STAFF SECTIONS MULTI-DOMAIN UNITS** ARMY WATERCRAFT PERSISTENT ENGAGEMENT **❖ 5th Composite Watercraft** ❖ Theater Fires Element ❖ FY19: 1st MDTF est, at Joint **♦ 5th SFAB provides scalable** Company activated in Japan **Base Lewis McChord** and tailorable teams Chief Data Office **Regular rotation of Army** ❖ FY23: 3rd MDTF est. at Fort Oceania Engagement Teams \* Theater Information Watercraft in Australia in Pacific Island Countries Shafter, Hawaii **Advantage Directorate** \* TBD - 4th MDTF (location Maneuver Support Vessel Two new State Partnerships Concepts and Wargaming (Light), MSV(L) prototype (Samoa, Timor-Leste) TBD)

#### **WARFIGHTING**

#### PACIFIC SENTRY

Certifies USARPAC, the
Theater Army for the
Indo-Pacific, as a 4-star
Combined Joint Task Force for
the Joint Force Commander

#### WARFIGHTER EXERCISE

Trains C<u>orps & Divisions</u>
Experiments with warfighting
capabilities/concepts

WFX 23-1 introduced the first Asia-Pacific scenario outside the Korea Theater

#### **JPMRC**



Keeps trained, ready forces aggregated and available in theater for Joint/Combined Training

#### **EXPERIMENTATION**

Contributes to Future
Readiness by partnering with
Army Futures Command's

Project Convergence in support of USINDOPACOM's

**PMTEC** to experiment in regional environments

#### **CAMPAIGNING**

#### **OPERATION PATHWAYS**



Linking tactical actions – exercises, experiments, and theater security activities – to **solve operational and strategic challenges** 

Conducting <u>rehearsals</u> with the Joint Force and other nations on key terrain during critical periods

Operating together with our Allies and Partners demonstrates our UNITY and COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT

#### **JOINT INTERIOR LINES**



- > Command & Control thru distributed mission command nodes
- > **Collection** to See, Sense, and Understand the environment
- > **Protection** to defend critical areas, assets, and people
- > **Sustainment** to provide the Joint Force with operational reach

#### WARGAMING



#### UPWS 22 and UPWS 23 identified & validated gaps to inform Army Force Design / Development.

- Countering PLA Mass / Interior Lines
- Joint Interoperability / Converging Effects
- Intelligence Support to Joint Targeting
- Joint Theater Logistics and Sustainment
- Joint Protection and Survivability
- Strengthening/Leveraging Allies & Partners
- Posturing for Integrated Deterrence and Joint Campaigning



# **LANDPOWER** IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

andpower in the Indo-Pacific is critical. It is the glue that binds the region together and is influenced by our Treaty alliances, bilateral relationships, our people and our borders, multilateral partnerships such as AUKUS and the Quad, and regional groupings like ASEAN.

"The relationships, readiness, and responsiveness of the landpower network gives us a fingertip feel of of the region."

We secure and defend our borders. We understand the region's dynamics and challenges in a way that only comes when Soldiers work together on the ground. Our measure of success is no war. Our network of Allies and Partners is the greatest counterweight to destabilizing activity.





Soldiers from 14 Nations participate in the Super Garuda Shield 2022 opening ceremony in Baturaja, Indonesia

U.S. landpower is a strategic variable that presents asymmetric advantages. It is survivable in conflicts where adversary Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) networks are designed to counter Joint Force advantages in the air and maritime domains and, secondarily, to deny, disrupt, and degrade space and cyber power. These networks are not designed to find, fix, or finish land forces that are distributed, mobile, lethal, meshed, and networked. In crisis, landpower provides the Joint Force Commander options. In campaigning, it presents targeting dilemmas that impose costs, undermine coercion, and complicate competitors' military preparations. In conflict, armies seize, hold, and defend terrain.

USARPAC contributes to Integrated Deterrence by bolstering nations' respective defense and building confidence in their abilities. Together we demonstrate our unity and collective commitment to preserving a 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific.'

### Defending U.S. Treaty Allies

The United States maintains defense treaties with five Allies in the Indo-Pacific: Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Philippines, and Thailand. Treaties are binding agreements between nations and become part of international law, which, if enacted, would likely require all forms of U.S. military power. However, land forces, particularly the U.S. Army, would figure centrally in defending national borders and preserving the territorial integrity of its Allies. This is because victory in an interstate war typically depends on control of key ground, with its corresponding abundance of resources, food supplies, wealth, and populations.

# JPMRC | WARFIGHTING

#### **GENERATING READINESS**

PMRC is the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center - the Army's first Regional Combat Training Center in the Indo-Pacific. It is also the Army's contribution to USINDOPACOM's Pacific Multinational Training and Experimentation Capability, or PMTEC, one of the Combatant Command's top priorities since the early 2010s. PMTEC is an initiative to link live, virtual, and constructive training across training ranges in the Western Pacific from South Korea to Australia.

#### JPMRC's Strategic Contributions

- Keeps trained & ready forces aggregated & available to the Combatant Commander
- Generates ready, combat credible forces to project west of the IDL via Operation Pathways
- Trains in the environments and conditions where Soldiers are most likely to operate
- Rehearses warfighting at echelon with Joint Teams and Multinational Partners
- Experiments with system prototypes, emerging organizations, and multi-domain operations
- Trains alongside Allies & Partners in environments that reflect their home nations
- Integrates Joint and Service warfighting concepts with Multi-Domain Operations

JPMRC consists of 3 components: JPMRC-Hawai'i, JPMRC-Alaska, and JPMRC-X (an exportable capability that builds partner training capacity). At JPMRC, leaders and Soldiers train in the environments and conditions they are most likely to operate in: from archipelagos, jungles, and tropic heat to high altitudes and extreme cold weather in the Arctic. The locations also take advantage of specialized training at the Army's Jungle School and Northern Warfare Training Center.





JPMRC executes 3 rotations each year: one each in Hawai'i, Alaska, and in a partner nation west of the International Date Line (IDL). Each rotation includes several joint and multinational training units, other multinational observers, opposing forces, multidomain experiments, an exercise control group, and an operations group comprised of observer/coach trainers.



Recap of FY23's Rotations in Hawai'i and Alaska. Entering its fourth year, JPMRC's contributions to the Army, USINDOPACOM, and the region continue to grow.



Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division train to live, operate, and fight alongside regional Allies and partners in Hawaii's jungle terrain.

#### JPMRC-HI (October '22)

Spanned five Hawaiian Islands. USARPAC, PACFLEET, SOCPAC, PACAF, and USCG contributed forces including a brigade combat team, a host of Theater Army enablers, Multi-Domain Task Force, naval surface vessels, and the new Marine Littoral Regiment. Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand sent infantry companies (6 other nations sent observers).

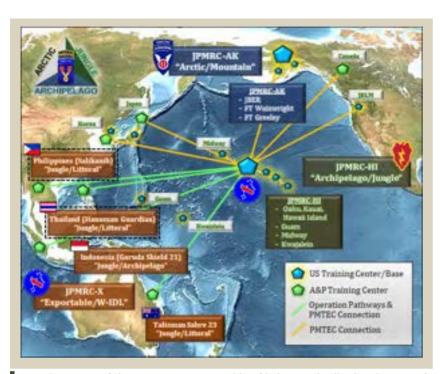


A heavy weapons squad from the 11th Airborne Division participates in the force-on-force training following a joint forcible airborne drop.

#### JPMRC-AK (March '23)

Included an airborne rotational training unit from the 11th Airborne Division, medium and heavy lift support from the US Air Force, plus multinational forces participating from Australia, Canada, and Italy (6 others sent observers).

# JPMRC | WARFIGHTING



JPMRC consists of three components capable of linking with Allies' and Partners' combat training centers and U.S. simulation centers throughout the region.

The JPMRC Instrumentation System is an Army mission command "system of systems" that includes integrated computer software and hardware, work stations, databases, voice and video recording, production and presentation equipment and interfaces capable of providing CTC training. The system brings PMTEC to life by:

- Supporting exercise planning, exercise management, training performance feedback and data collection
- Creating live, virtual, and constructive training environments from the squad level up to a Corps Joint Task Force
- Providing a transportable and selfsupported instrumentation system that provides training for brigades and below overseen by higher echelons.

# JPMRC-X | Talisman Sabre 2023, Australia

Talisman Sabre is a biennial field training exercise held every odd year in Australia. TS23 was the largest to date including 30,000 service personnel from 13 nations.



- First-ever Combined <u>long range firepower</u> demo with anti-ship live fires
- Largest-ever sustained <u>land combat</u>
   maneuvers: amphibious & airborne ops
- Operational Combined/Joint <u>Command & Control</u> led by I Corps as CJTF 660



M1A2 Tanks, moved to Australia by Army Watercraft and crewed by 1st Armored Division, conduct field training with ADF counterparts



As the first-ever Joint Logistics Command, 8th TSC oversees the U.S. Army's largest Joint Logistics Over the Shore in two decades

- ➤ Large-scale <u>sustainment rehearsals</u> including amphibious logistics offload
- Major <u>fuel offload</u> with Joint Petroleum Over the Shore
- First operational employment and multinational integration of 3rd MDTF

# **OPERATION PATHWAYS** | CAMPAIGNING

#### **APPLYING READINESS**

peration Pathways is the evolution of *Pacific Pathways*, an effort begun in 2014 to increase USARPAC's regional presence and reduce transportation costs. As our operational design for campaigning, Operation Pathways contributes to Integrated Deterrence by projecting tailored combatcredible forces and capabilities west of the International Date Line during windows of increased risk. Deliberate changes - to exercises, experiments, and theater security activity - have resulted in modified exercise windows, increased multilateral participation, progressively long-term bilateral training goals, and participating units. Collectively, **Operation Pathways combines individual and tactical actions to solve operational and strategic problems.** 



U.S., Japan, South Korea, and Australia Soldiers conduct a combined firepower demonstration during Talisman Sabre 23 in Queensland, Australia.



Soldiers from the 7th Infantry Division conduct combined field training with Strykers from the U.S. and Royal Thai Army during Cobra Gold 23.

The increasing scope, duration, and multinational participation during Operation Pathways exercises is a prominent trend emerging from ongoing changes in the strategic environment. Countries throughout the region and across the globe are expanding their contributions to regional security and focusing more deliberately on defense cooperation activities, including territorial defense.

"The increasing scope, scale, duration, and multinational participation during Operation Pathways exercises is a prominent trend"

#### **UNIQUE OFF-AXIS APPROACHES**

#### SECURITY FORCES ASSISTANCE BRIGADE (SFAB)

These highly experienced Soldiers provide persistent and scalable presence and engagement by training with foreign militaries on fundamentals of warfighting, combined arms warfare, comm-and and control, battle staff, and communications.



#### **OCEANIA ENGAGEMENT TEAMS (OET)**

OETs promote consistent, meaningful, and enduring relationships with the people of Pacific Island Countries. Soldiers within these specialized teams, often with cultural or linguistic ties to the region, work with U.S. State Department and host-nation governments to support social programs, multilateral activities, infrastructure projects, and humanitarian assistance / disaster relief efforts.

#### STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (SPP)





SPP links a state's National Guard with military or security forces of a partner country in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship that supports theater campaign plan objectives.

# **OPERATION PATHWAYS** | CAMPAIGNING

As part of Operation Pathways, USARPAC Soldiers annually participate in nearly 40 exercises with over a dozen countries, including the five U.S. treaty Allies in the INDOPACOM AOR. **Operation Pathways links these events and off-axis approaches to**:

- » <u>Deny Key Terrain</u>, human and geographic, to adversaries throughout the entire region.
- » <u>Bolster Confidence of Allies / Partners</u> by bringing together like-minded countries to support one another's ability to conduct territorial defense.
- » Build Joint Readiness by training at scale, with all components, across all domains, and west of the IDL in strategic locations.

- » Posture USARPAC Forces to respond agilely in crisis or contingency – an improvement over concepts reliant on fixed bases and static force levels.
- » <u>Strengthen Defense Relationships</u> by increasing partner interoperability.
  - *Human Interoperability* between Soldiers when they train together
  - *Technical Interoperability* when we bring nations' systems and platforms together
  - Procedural Interoperability among commands and staffs interacting together
- » <u>Increase Experiments</u> so every exercise contains an experiment, and every experiment an exercise.

#### FEATURED EXERCISES

**Cobra Gold** is a <u>Thailand</u>-U.S. led multilateral joint exercise - longest running in SE Asia - consisting of a staff exercise, HA/DR, and field training with upwards of 10,000 troops from 30 countries.

• Hanuman Guardian is an Army-to-Army exercise that occurs on the bookends of Cobra Gold.



**Balikatan** is the most prominent joint exercise between the U.S. and the <u>Philippines</u> with nearly 18,000 troops conducting a wide range of training from long range strike to urban operations.

• Salaknib is the Army-to-Army exercise that occurs on the front and back end of Balikatan.

**Talisman Sabre** is a biennial field training exercise held every odd year in <u>Australia.</u> Talisman Sabre in 2023 was the largest to date including 30,000 personnel from 13 nations.

**Ulchi Freedom Shield** is a computer simulated, defense-oriented training event designed to enhance the <u>ROK</u>-U.S. combined defense posture on the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia.

**Yama Sakura** is the largest <u>Japan</u>-U.S. bilateral and joint command post exercise allowing for the exchange of techniques and experience while exercising simulated capabilities in defense of Japan.

**Bersama Warrior**: Malaysia

Cartwheel: Fiji

**Croix du Sud:** New Caledonia **Dalan Ba Dame:** Timor Leste

Khaan Quest: Mongolia Keen Edge: Japan **Keen Sword**: Japan **Keris Strike**: Malaysia

Ksatria Warrior: Indonesia

North Wind: Japan Orient Shield: Japan

Pahlawan Warrior: Brunei

**Southern Jackaroo:** Australia **Tenacious Archer:** Palau

Tamiok Strike: Papua New Guinea

Tiger Balm: Singapore
Tiger Lightning: Bangladesh

Yudh Abhyas: India



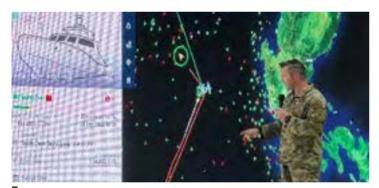
**PROJECT CONVERGENCE.** U.S., U.K., and Australia will conduct Capstone 4, a Project Convergence capstone experiment in 2024 hosted by Army Futures Command. **Capstone 4** will build upon the collaborative successes of PC22 by integrating increasing numbers of Australian, British and American data platforms.

# **JOINT INTERIOR LINES | POSTURE**

#### **GAINING POSITIONAL ADVANTAGE**

Army's most comprehensive posture efforts in the region. They describe the Lines of Movement, Communication, and Supply that are shorter inside an area than on the outside. An 'inside force' can more easily supply, communicate, and more quickly and unpredictably move forces. Joint interior lines are necessary to enable distributed all-domain operations at scale and at every echelon.

Understanding the theater's 'tyranny of distance,' wargames since 2015 show that in acute crisis, forces west of the IDL will impact a fight in the INDOPACOM AOR. They also contribute to deterrence. This has long posed a major challenge for U.S. land forces: to counter key adversaries, the U.S. Army, as part of the Joint Force, must minimize Exterior Lines - or create Interior Lines - through posture.



A Soldier from 1st MDTF reviews unclassified Automatic Identification System (AIS) data to improve maritime domain awareness in the Philippines

Often shorthanded as "Forces, Footprints, and Agreements," military posture refers to the personnel and materiel that can affect the Joint Force's capacity to fight a war. Posture is not the need for permanent basing, rather it is a need for ready forces and capabilities in the right locations. Built from relationships of mutual trust, new approaches to posture underpin the strategic readiness to meet the operational demands.

With no NATO-like organization and limited permanent basing, posture in the Indo-Pacific requires an agile approach to place the right Theater Army capabilities forward, in the right locations.



Australian armored vehicles aboard a U.S. Army Logistics Support Vessel; Army Watercraft will soon begin regular rotational deployments to Australia

The Theater Army's Joint Interior Lines largely consist of the following **four warfighting areas**:

#### Command and Control

- ✓ **Distributed forward command posts** for strategic, operational, and tactical echelons
- ✓ Forward-staged **equipment sets** for operational and tactical headquarters to rapidly fall in on
- Resilient, redundant, and accessible communications networks

#### **Sustainment**

- ✓ **Joint Theater Distribution Centers** to provide operational endurance to the Joint Force
- ✓ **Army Watercraft Systems** to perform intratheater distribution and inland/shore operations
- ✓ Persistently forward and persistently utilized Army Prepositioned Stocks and Activity Sets

#### Collection

- ✓ **Terrestrial Sensor Layer** allows us to See, Sense, and Understand the environment
- ✓ Combined Information Effects Fusion Cell(s) to improve a partner nation's domain awareness
- ✓ Joint Processing Exploitation and Dissemination support at the **Pacific PED Center**

#### **Protection**

- ✓ Upper, mid, and lower tier Integrated Air and Missile Defenses to defend critical areas
- ✓ **Engineering, counter-mobility** and survivability to enable freedom of action
- ✓ **Defensive cyber** capabilities and network hardening to safeguard critical networks

# **JOINT INTERIOR LINES | POSTURE**

# Examples of **Command & Control**, **Sustainment Collection**, and **Protection** initiatives that are part of USARPAC's *Joint Interior Lines* ...

**Distributed Command and Control** developed by I Corps, the Army's operational headquarters in the region, is a nodal mission command construct tailored to the region's vast noncontiguous environment. The corps is deliberately placed in space and time, task-organized, and purpose-built by mission and available resources. The distribution is a necessary condition for operations in the Indo-Pacific, making the corps agile, resilient, scalable, and most importantly - survivable.





Joint Theater Distribution Centers (JTDC) are nodes established by 8th TSC in the joint distribution network. The JTDC consists of sustainment activities necessary to support operations in a specific area, which are anchored by a modular distribution hub—the standardized minimum requirement for a JTDC. The JTDC reduces the cost of operations west of the IDL by providing capabilities such as a multi-class warehouse storage and a central receiving and shipping point augmented with motor transport and container management.

**Guam Defense System** includes steps to place ballistic missile defense capabilities on the island. 94th AAMDC is working with stakeholders, including the Government of Guam and the Missile Defense Agency, to install and/or upgrade ballistic missile defense, hypersonic missile defense, and cruise missile defense capabilities on Guam, a U.S. territory. The integration of those capabilities into a command suite with command and control management is another key component.





**Combined Information Effects Fusion Cell (CIEFC)** is a new information-sharing center setup by 1st MDTF during Balikatan 2023 on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. The CIEFC provides a venue to integrate U.S. joint service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps alongside their counterparts in the Armed Forces of the Philippines by promoting maritime domain awareness and synchronizing bilateral military operations.

# U.S. ARMY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC (1898-1945)

124 years of U.S. Army contributions in the Indo-Pacific underscore the role of the American Soldier, landpower's significance, and the Army's war-and-peace legacy in this joint theater.

The U.S. **Army's** Early Years in the Indo-Pacific

#### 1898.

Spain's defeat and U.S. annexation of the Philippines required forward military presence; the conflict with Spain included a land campaign in Manila.

#### 1907.

The Army and Navy made Pearl Harbor the principal American naval base in the Pacific. The Army established a headquarters on Fort Shafter that year, and in 1913, USARPAC's forerunner, the Hawaiian Department becomes an independent command under the War Department.

#### 1900.

The Army deployed forces under the China Relief Expedition to rescue American citizens and other foreign nationals during the Boxer Rebellion.

#### 1905-1920.

Pacific-based Soldiers deploy to crises in the Philippines (1905-16) and Russian Siberia (1918-20) – to protect American citizens and interests.

#### World Warll

The U.S. Army's experience in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater (1941-1945) highlights Army roles and the enduring value of landpower in the Indo-Pacific.

Alongside British Commonwealth Allies, the Army transformed Australia into a vast forward logistics node, supply base, and training area, to enable offensive Allied thrusts in Oceania and the Western Pacific. The Army supported all forces in South Asia with foundational capabilities, including troop life support, overland transportation, communications, intelligence, forward medical, evacuation, and rear-area health care. Support was often buttressed by – or reliant on – local populations, as in Papua and Java.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Army Soldiers during the Pacific War comprised the 3rd largest armed force ever fielded by the United States
- The Army used 3 Field Armies, 6 Corps,
   & 21 Divisions in the Pacific/Asia theater
- Army forces earned 21 campaign streamers during the Pacific War
- The Army fought the only arctic campaign of WWII in the Aleutian Islands
- The fighting in Alaska was also the only campaign fought on U.S. soil

The U.S. Army supported an enormously complex unified force, contributing to victories like Guadalcanal, Buna, Okinawa, and the liberation of the Philippines.

The Army's 3 Field Armies, 6 Corps, and 21 Divisions fought 24 campaigns (it fought 19 campaigns in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East combined). In every campaign, Soldiers fought alongside Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Allies, including British Commonwealth troops, Indian and Malayan units, Aussies, Kiwis, Filipinos, Dutch, Chinese, and other indigenous people.

Army support underpinned the massive buildup and movement of personnel and war materiel. After 7 December 1941, Hawai'i expanded as the strategic hub to coordinate U.S. resources for the Pacific Front. To meet wartime demands, the Hawaiian Department soon evolved into U.S. Army Pacific Ocean Areas.

Military construction and engineering support built thousands of miles of roads, and hundreds of bridges, warehouse, airfields, and port facilities..

Army leaders exercised extensive command and control. Tenth Army – formed to oversee the invasion of Formosa (now Taiwan) – commanded a tactical air command and multiple Army & Marine corps-sized elements during the Okinawa campaign.

# U.S. ARMY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC (1945-2022)

ince WWII, the Theater Army has continued to contribute to the Joint Force through its dual warfighting and Army Service Component Command (Title 10) roles.

USARPAC in the Indo-Pacific

#### 1950-1953.

The Theater Army resourced, trained, and sustained forces on the Korean Peninsula while Army forces fought as part of a combined coalition during the Korean War. Since Armistice, thousands of U.S. Army forces remain on the Peninsula, preserving peace alongside the Republic of Korea Army.

#### 2001-2023.

In the two decades following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, USARPAC supported counterterrorism and counterinsurgency operations worldwide with tactical unit deployments to the Middle East and Central Asia in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

#### 1955-1973.

The Theater Army provided trained combat forces, intra-theater sustainment, and logistical support for U.S. forces in the Vietnam War.

#### 2020.

In response to the global pandemic, USARPAC was designated a TJFLCC and coordinated with joint and interagency partners to provide support to Americans, Allies, and Partners.

Post WWII, the U.S. Army transitioned from an invasion force to consolidate gains and demobilize. During the Occupation of Japan, the Theater Army commanded and controlled, trained, and directed more than 1 million American Service-members.

Throughout the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, the Theater Army contributed to the Korean and Vietnam Wars. In the late 1980s, near the end of the Cold War, the Army added U.S. Army Alaska (1989) and U.S. Army Japan (1990) as subordinate commands. Temporarily renamed "U.S. Army Western Command," the Theater Army supported the Joint Force Theater Security Cooperation program.

Post-Cold War, USARPAC supported global peace-keeping on the Sinai Peninsula, in Haiti, East Timor, and Bosnia, and in increasing support to Humanitarian Assistance / Disaster Relief across the Indo-Pacific. Beginning in the early 2000s, USARPAC units maintained a high operational tempo supporting the Global War on Terror. Beginning in 2020, USARPAC served as a TJFLCC responding to the global pandemic.

Today, the Theater Army continues to provide and sustain decisive landpower to the Joint Force in the Indo-Pacific by performing foundational roles and missions that only the U.S. Army performs at scale.

# "The United States Army has earned more campaign streamers in the Indo-Pacific than in all wars, contingencies and expeditionary operations outside the North American continent combined."

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# SIGNIFICANT THEATER ARMY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023

New Approaches, New Opportunities

- USARPAC conducted the second iteration of the Unified Pacific Wargame Series which included two discrete events. The first examined <u>Indications and Warnings</u>, and the second investigated <u>Joint Contested Logistics</u> in the Indo-Pacific.
- JPMRC was officially recognized as part of the Joint National Training Center program by the U.S. Joint Staff J7. Recognition as a JNTC program and subsequent accreditation and certification avails JPMRC (and the Joint Multinational Simulation Center, Indo-Pacific) to joint resources.



Land forces of the U.S., Japan, and Philippines held a first-ever trilateral conference in Tokyo. Like-minded nations, even those with historical tensions, are increasingly banding together to promote a safe, stable, and secure region.



The largest Land Forces of the Pacific, or LANPAC, and the largest Indo-Pacific Army Chiefs Conference in history brought U.S. Army senior leaders together with Allies, partners and industry to discuss regional security issues.

During Talisman Sabre 23, the U.S. Army conducted its largest Joint Logistics Over the Shore in the past two decades. Further, the U.S. Army offloaded equipment sets for the first time in Australia for the persistent presence required to support growing AUKUS-driven defense activities.



USARPAC was recertified as a Joint Task Force by the Commander, USINDOPACOM after completing its biennial command post certification exercise, Pacific Sentry. The exercise also provided an opportunity to test cyber protection capabilities and information advantage elements.



I Corps' Pacific-Focused Warfighter Exercise
23-1 featured an Indo-Pacific scenario off the
Korean Peninsula for the first time, designed by the
Army's Combined Arms Center – Mission
Command Training Program. Corps and Divisions
conduct this capstone training every two years.

7



Designed in 1944, USARPAC's insignia reflects the axis of advance across the Central Pacific then underway. A blue disc symbolizes the heavens, with twelve white stars that show Polaris (the North Star), seven stars of the Big Dipper, and four stars of the distinctive Southern Cross. Polaris's siting above the horizon indicates the latitude of Hawai'i. Cutting across the star field is a red on white Arrow of War, unsupported in the sky, signifying the Armed Forces is self-reliant. The colors red, white, and blue are symbolic of our national flag, and decoding the stars (12 total-7-4-1) reveals a key date—December 7th, 1941.





https://www.usarpac.army.mil/





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