

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
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1. [U.S.-China Military Ties Growing, Pacom Commander Says](#) (07-11-2013)

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 11, 2013 – The military-to-military relationship between the United States and China is deepening in a “quite commendable” way that may help improve overall engagement between the two countries, Navy Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, told Pentagon reporters today.

During a news briefing, Locklear said he has spent the week here taking part in security, strategic and economic dialogues with Chinese officials, the last two gatherings hosted by the State Department.

“I think that the progress that we're making between our two militaries is quite commendable,” the admiral said. “It’s commendable because we are able to have very good dialogue on areas where we converge, and there are a lot of places where we converge as two nations, and we're also able to directly address in a matter-of-fact way where we diverge.”

Those divergences are where the friction points occur, he said.

“And friction points are where militaries that understand each other can maybe not solve the friction,” Locklear added, “but they can manage it so that diplomacy can continue to work.”

Locklear said both China’s military, the People’s Liberation Army, and the U.S. military, starting with his own Pacific-based troops, understand that and are committed to it.

“I think that alone is significant progress,” he added.

Locklear said the growing relationship is evident in events such as a large humanitarian relief exercise in which both nations' navies recently took part.

"U.S. and PLA ships and forces were working side-by-side," he noted. "That's substantial."

Locklear noted the Navy's USS Shiloh, a Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser, completed a port visit in China. Pacom, he added, will open port visits for Chinese ships in the future, though dates have not yet been confirmed.

He noted that China has agreed to participate in the Rim of the Pacific exercise in 2014. "That's a big step for the Chinese military, Chinese navy," Locklear said. "They'll be entering a multinational three-week-long exercise that's basically run by the U.S. from the 3rd Fleet headquarters."

The Chinese sailors will be near Hawaii for the exercise and thus a long way from home, the admiral noted.

"But they're excited about it," he said. "They're excited about coming and participating. And we wish them all the success."

In response to a reporter's question, Locklear said the two nations' forces "have been able to conduct operations around each other in a very professional and increasingly professional manner," especially in areas close to China. As China's maritime capabilities increase, he said, the ongoing dialogue between it and the United States about rules of the road will become more crucial.

Because relatively young and inexperienced troops from both countries will encounter each other more often as China increases its reach and "the U.S. presence in the Asia-Pacific is not going anywhere," Locklear said, "... we have to manage our ability to operate around each other."

The admiral acknowledged China has a sophisticated ballistic missile program, and that it will likely acquire increasingly sophisticated military equipment as its reach continues to grow.

"We're already seeing some examples of that," he said. "We're seeing Chinese operating today in places beyond the first and second island chain that we wouldn't have seen before. We've seen them be able successfully do anti-piracy operations alongside of us in the Gulf of Aden. I think it's a natural thing as their global, economic power grows for them to have security interests that go beyond their backyard."

The Chinese military is not a threat, but an opportunity, Locklear said in response to a question.

"If opportunity is not realized, then, as it would be with any other ... growing military, it potentially could become a threat," he said. "But I certainly view it and approach it as an opportunity. That's really the only best path forward."

Biographies:

[Navy Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III](#)

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[Obama, Xi Emphasize Importance of U.S.-China Relationship](#)

2. Energy Secretary: Moving Toward Peaceful Nuclear Future (07-11-2013)

This op-ed by U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz originally appeared on the U.S. Department of Energy website. There are no republication restrictions for use by U.S. embassies.

During his historic Prague speech in 2009, President Obama challenged the international community to create a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons. Nations took notice, and already we have seen great strides towards that goal. The United States and Russia signed and ratified the New START Treaty, and around the globe, 11 countries have removed all highly enriched uranium with the most recent, [Vietnam, occurring just this last week](#). There have also been challenges, which is why we need to continue to bring scientific tools to bear on addressing this critical problem.

Last week in Vienna, I had the opportunity to visit one of the tools the world is using to work toward a nuclear weapons-free world. Along with my colleague and Ambassador to the United States Mission to International Organizations in Vienna, Joseph MacManus, I toured the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Organization (CTBTO), an organization responsible for monitoring globally for underground testing of nuclear explosions. This state-of-the-art facility represents the global cooperation necessary to succeed at this important mission, and the Department of Energy plays an integral role in its success through our National Laboratories.

For example, [Pacific Northwest National Laboratory](#) (PNNL) is supporting projects that reinforce the effectiveness of the International Monitoring System, which utilizes 337 facilities worldwide to monitor for nuclear explosions. By serving as one of 16 CTBTO radionuclide laboratories, PNNL certifies the makeup of materials detected by the CTBTO sensors, a process the lab received an "A" grade for in a 2012 Proficiency Test Exercise. Additionally, the [Idaho National Laboratory](#) is recognized as a world leader in producing reference standards to calibrate noble gas measurements for the detection of nuclear explosions.

The labs are also critical partners in maintaining the 170 CTBTO seismic monitors. [Lawrence Livermore](#), [Los Alamos](#) and [Sandia National Laboratories](#) are providing advanced seismic analysis methods to improve operator efficiency. This includes techniques that allow efficient, rapid, and accurate detection and location of repeating seismic events, with application to large aftershock sequences, as well as to general global monitoring.

Just last month in Berlin, President Obama reiterated his call to action for the world to move away from nuclear weapons and toward a peaceful nuclear future. While there is still much to do, I am pleased to see that from providing calibration of equipment to redesigning analysis software, the national labs are working to answer President Obama's call.

(Ernest Moniz is the U.S. secretary of energy.)

3. Centcom Plans for Broader Regional Engagement Post-2014 (07-10-2013)

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

TAMPA, Fla., July 10, 2013 – Exercises, training exchanges and other military-to-military engagements with partners across the Middle East will become increasingly important as the United States draws down its forces in Afghanistan, a senior U.S. Central Command official told American Forces Press Service.

For the past 11 years, sustained combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have monopolized the United States' focus within the Centcom area of responsibility, Guy Zero, deputy director for training and exercises, said during an interview at the command's headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

This limited the number of forces and assets available to support broader engagement elsewhere in the region, he acknowledged.

Despite these constraints, Centcom has pursued a robust theater engagement strategy ranging from senior leader conferences to tactical-level training and exercises with 18 of the 20 regional militaries in activities, Zero reported.

Now, facing a post-2014 future with a reduced troop presence, Centcom is laying plans to engage more broadly across the region.

"As active combat forces leave the Centcom area, the United States will increasingly depend upon strategic engagement through training and exercises to maintain our strategic partnerships," Zero said.

Recognizing budgetary constraints are affecting operations military-wide, Centcom is exploring ways to cut costs without impacting its engagements, he said. Planners are scaling back some of the expensive field training exercises, while leveraging the benefits of tabletop and command post exercises.

"We will have to make some careful choices and prioritize what training we do, how we do it and whether we do it with forces or command post exercises, bringing staffs together to exercise processes," Zero said.

What's important, he emphasized, is that the engagements continue, and that they continue to grow.

Particularly in light of the defense strategic guidance and its heightened focus on the Asia-Pacific region, the world is watching to see if the United States will live up to its long-term commitments within the Centcom region, he said.

"Our partners in the Middle East, as well as those nations outside the Middle East, are watching very carefully to see what the United States is going to do," Zero said. "They are watching, I believe, to see if the United States is going to turn its back on the partner nations in the Middle East. This is our opportunity to prove them wrong."

Military-to-military engagements help bolster partner capacity throughout the region, increasing interoperability so militaries work together more effectively during multinational operations, he said.

But they serve another vital purpose: building trust between the U.S. and partner militaries, and among regional partners that historically have not worked closely together.

"Ultimately, this enhances readiness, and provides a forum of dialogue so, should crisis erupt, we are not meeting and talking for the very first time," he said. "We are rehearsing concepts so, should they need to be employed, we have done it on some level before."

Reflecting a global trend, many U.S. engagements in the region have evolved into multilateral exercises. “Based on past experience, we see any future conflict as being multinational and multilateral,” Zero said. “And as such, we need to conduct training and exercises and engagement on a multinational and multilateral basis.”

The recent Eagle Resolve exercise, for example, included 18 nations -- every country in the region except Syria and Iran. “Everybody else had representation,” Zero said.

To encourage the broadest possible participation, Centcom typically builds the scenarios around non-offensive operations. In many cases, they involve air and missile defense, counterterrorism operations or humanitarian assistance and disaster response, he said.

“The themes are very similar across the area of responsibility,” Zero said. “What we do in training is not directly connected to world events.”

Eagle Resolve, conducted in April in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, brought together U.S. and Gulf Cooperation Council partners to address integrated air and missile defense, consequence management, critical infrastructure protection, counterterrorism, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear-passive defense, and interdiction and border security.

Eager Lion, held in Jordan in June, focused on humanitarian assistance and disaster response and air and missile defense.

Regional Cooperation, an exercise currently underway and being hosted by Kazakhstan, typically involves scenarios related to acts of terrorism or natural disasters.

Although the scenarios aren’t directed at any particular nation, capacity built through the exercises could be applied to a combat operation if the situation demanded it, Zero said.

“If you practice humanitarian assistance and disaster response, you are going to be exercising the same types of systems, doing decision-making and executing very similar to what you would do in conflict,” he said. “But by removing the specter of a scenario of conflict, you can really get down to the root of practicing our business practices and the roles and functions of how we operate.”

This puts potential aggressors on alert, he said. “As these countries look out across their portico, they see a collection of countries coming together for a purpose. It is hard to ignore the resolve that is demonstrated by those nations coming together and that sends: that we are here together,” he said.

“That, in and of itself, is a deterrent,” Zero noted.

Related Sites:

[U.S Central Command](#)

[4. President Reviews Options for U.S. Presence in Afghanistan \(07-09-2013\)](#)

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 9, 2013 – President Barack Obama is reviewing options from his national security team on what the possible U.S. footprint in Afghanistan will look like after 2014, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said today.

The president has the “time and space” to make the decision, Little told reporters at the Pentagon.

“Any potential U.S. military presence beyond 2014 will focus on two basic missions: targeting al-Qaida and its affiliates and training and equipping the Afghan security forces and partners,” Little said.

The size of U.S. forces will be covered under the Bilateral Security Agreement, which is under discussion between the United States and Afghanistan.

The United States supports a full, fully sovereign, democratic, and united Afghanistan, Little said.

“We’re committed to peace and reconciliation in the country,” he said. “And we remain prepared to negotiate with our Afghan partners to conclude the BSA, one that supports our shared objectives.”

These discussions continue, and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel continues talks with Afghan partners and with the NATO/U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., on the subject.

“We will continue to work through these issues,” Little said.

He emphasized there is plenty of time for the two nations to negotiate the security agreement.

“It’s July of 2013, and our drawdown won’t be complete until December 2014,” he said. Discussions will be influenced by intervening events and issues, including the Afghan elections next April.

The United States is not frustrated with the progress or lack of progress on the agreement, Little said.

“We continue to work through issues,” he said. “We realize that there are going to be points of contention from time to time. That’s natural of any partnership. But we think we can get through them.”

All options are on the table in regards to a post-2014 U.S. presence in Afghanistan, Little said. This includes the so-called “zero-option” that White House official Ben Rhodes spoke about in January, Little said. This option, he said, is a possibility.

Afghan forces now lead the security effort throughout the country, and U.S., NATO and partner-nation troops are working with, training and equipping the Afghans, Little said.

“And we’re seeing progress being made by the Afghan forces,” he said. “They are making great sacrifices on behalf of their own country. They have demonstrated great resolve to take the fight to the enemy, and we’re impressed by what we’ve seen.”

Biographies:

[Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr.](#)

Related Sites:

[NATO International Security Assistance Force](#)

5. Security Conference in Russia Reviews Aviation, Finance (07-05-2013)

Vladivostok, Russia — Enhancing aviation security and combating illicit finance were among the issues discussed at the 4th Annual International Conference on Security Matters hosted by the Russian Security Council July 3.

“In our globalized era, threats transcend national borders, impacting the security and economic prosperity of the entire international community,” U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano said. “Today’s conference underscores the importance of collaboration with our international partners as we develop global transportation security standards to make our transportation systems more secure, while facilitating lawful travel and trade that drives economic growth.”

Napolitano was joined at the conference by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorist Financing Daniel Glaser. While in Russia, Napolitano also met with Chinese State Councilor Meng Jianzhu, Korean Senior Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Security Ju Chul-Ki, Russian Federation Security Council Secretary General Nikolai Patrushev, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Executive Director Yury Fedotov and other international counterparts to discuss a range of security related issues including aviation security, counterterrorism, and international collaboration to ensure global security, the Department of Homeland Security said.

Napolitano delivered remarks on transportation security and international cooperation, DHS said, where she highlighted the importance of multilateral, risk-based approaches to enhance security while facilitating legitimate travel and trade. In 2010, the International Civil Aviation Organization General Assembly adopted a Declaration on Aviation Security, providing a unified vision for strengthening security in areas of information collection and analysis, information sharing and passenger vetting, and the development of security standards.

Napolitano also wished the Russian government a successful 2014 Olympic games in Sochi, and reaffirmed the United States’ commitment to working with the games’ Russian hosts to ensure a secure event.

6. Dempsey Calls on Americans to Discuss Civil-Military Relations (07-05-2013)

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 5, 2013 – America’s all-volunteer military has been a success, but society at large and service members must ensure a shared understanding exists between them, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote in a commentary in the Washington Post today.

Dempsey described the all-volunteer force as one of America’s finest achievements. The military is so good, he wrote, that many Americans take it for granted.

“The last decade of war has affected the relationship between our society and the military,” Dempsey wrote. “We can’t allow a sense of separation to grow between us. As the all-volunteer force enters its fifth decade, civilians and the military need to maintain the shared understanding necessary for a healthy relationship.”

Dempsey wrote that the nation needs to discuss the military-civil relationship, as well as the nation's relationship with its service members.

"As a nation, we've learned to separate the warrior from the war," he wrote. "But we still have much to learn about how to connect the warrior to the citizen."

Since the end of conscription in July 1973, those entering the military have served as volunteers. In his commentary, Dempsey urged America's civilians to establish a dialogue with their fellow citizens who serve in the all-volunteer force.

"As citizens, we must listen to our veterans," the chairman wrote. "If we do, we'll hear stories of pride and courage, anger and pain, laughter and joy. We'll hear of actions that humble and inspire us. We'll also hear of moments that break our hearts. These stories represent the best of our nation."

Service members also bear a responsibility to communicate with their fellow citizens, Dempsey wrote. "We should tell our stories and recognize that those who aren't in uniform might not know what to say or ask," he added. "We also have a duty to listen. Our fellow citizens may have different perspectives that we need to hear and understand."

The services as well as veterans understand the need for fiscal change, the general wrote. Cuts in funding, he added, are not an attack on veterans and their families.

"Modest reforms to pay and compensation will improve readiness and modernization," Dempsey wrote. "They will help keep our all-volunteer force sustainable and strong. Keeping faith also means investing sufficient resources so that we can uphold our sacred obligations to defend the nation and to send our sons and daughters to war with only the best training, leadership and equipment. We can't shrink from our obligations to one another. The stakes are too high."

Service members and veterans must remember that public service takes many forms, Dempsey wrote.

"Across our country, police officers, firefighters, teachers, coaches, pastors, scout masters, business people and many others serve their communities every day," he added. "Military service makes us different, but the desire to contribute permeates every corner of the United States."

The nation cannot afford allowing the military to disconnect from American society, Dempsey wrote.

"We must guard against letting military service become a job for others," he added. "Children of those in the military are far more likely to join than the children of those who are not. And young men and women in some areas never even consider the military as one of many ways to serve our nation."

Some fault for this, Dempsey said, lies with the military. Service members, he added, cannot just stay on bases and remain in their own world.

"But we didn't stop being citizens when we put on the uniform," Dempsey wrote. "We came from small towns and big cities across our country, and we'll go back one day. Civilians aren't an abstraction; they're our parents, grandparents, siblings and friends."

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An all-volunteer force is actually the norm for the United States, the chairman wrote, noting that since 1787, the nation used conscription for only 35 years.

“Except in times of great crisis, we have relied on a tradition of selfless service,” Dempsey wrote. “The all-volunteer force continues that tradition. It has served our nation well for the past 40 years. To do so for the next 40, we’ll have to work at it together.”

Biographies:

[Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey](#)

Related Articles:

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