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U.S. Forces' Operations in the Asia-Pacific Region
Based on the Quadrennial Defense Review
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Good evening, and thank you for that kind introduction. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this year's Japan America Air Force Goodwill Association Convention; it is a truly prestigious event for Air Force officers here in Japan. I especially want to thank retired General Yoshida, the President of JAAGA, for inviting me to speak before such a distinguished audience. I would also like to congratulate retired General Hokazono on his election as the new President of JAAGA. General Hokozono and I are old friends, and I look forward to working with him as we continue to strengthen the bonds of the U.S.-Japan alliance.

I feel particularly honored to be invited today. As some of you may know, when the JAAGA was formed in 1996, I was on my first assignment here in Japan as the Aide to the Commander of U.S. Forces Japan and Fifth Air Force. Now on my 5th assignment to Japan, I have come to truly appreciate the tremendous honor to work with JAAGA.

As stated in the introduction, I am going to touch on some thoughts on U.S. Forces operations in the Asia-Pacific Region based on the Quadrennial Defense Review.

However, I would like to begin with a few thoughts about President Obama's recent visit to Japan. I had the privilege to meet President Obama and his comments made a strong impression on me while he was a state guest here last month.

During President Obama's visit he emphasized the importance of the U.S.-Japan alliance; specifically pointing out that "our alliance is the foundation of the regions security and economic progress." The president, along with Prime Minister Abe, stressed that among other things, our relationship is founded on mutual trust and a common vision for a rules-based international order.



The Alliance remains “the cornerstone for regional peace and security as well as a platform for global cooperation.”

The two leaders agreed to continue deepening our security cooperation; and the president said “the forces in Japan will (continue to) include our most advanced military capabilities.” He also said “we will continue to stand together, calling for disputes in the region to be resolved peacefully and through dialogue.”

President Obama made it very clear that he is dedicated to supporting U.S. Forces’ operations in the Asia-Pacific Region; and the QDR further highlights how we, as a Pacific nation, will continue forward with our friends, partners and allies in this vitally important part of the world.

The United States has helped ensure peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in the past six decades, through our commitment to free and open commerce, promotion of a just international order, and maintenance of open access to shared domains. U.S. economic, security, and people-to-people ties with the region are strong and growing.

The Asia-Pacific region is increasingly central to global commerce, politics, and security. It is also the most militarized in the world, and defense spending in this region continues to rise. As nations in the region continue to develop their military and security capabilities, a wide array of challenges here could lead to an unintended, and deadly, conflict, reversing the trends of rising regional peace, stability, and prosperity. But it also presents new opportunities for cooperation.

For example, a multilateral security architecture – composed of groups such as the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and regional actors collaborating on issues ranging from humanitarian assistance to maritime security to counterterrorism – is emerging to help manage tensions and prevent conflict.



Additionally, traditional anchors of regional security such as Australia, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, and growing powers such as India and Indonesia, are taking on additional leadership roles to foster increased communication and shared understanding.

As many Asia-Pacific countries seek to further the security environment and achieve even greater prosperity, the United States remains committed to being a leader and partner in the advancement of our shared global interests. This includes:

- U.S. security and that of our allies and partners;
- a strong economy in an open economic system;
- respect for universal values;

and an international order that promotes peace, security, and opportunity through cooperation.

Protecting and advancing these interests, consistent with the National Security Strategy, the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review embodies America's 21st century defense priorities. These priorities include rebalancing to the Asia-Pacific to preserve peace and stability in the region.

The 2014 QDR builds on our priorities and incorporates them into a broader strategic framework. The Department's defense strategy emphasizes the following three pillars:

- *Protect the homeland*, to deter and defeat attacks on the United States and to support civil authorities in mitigating the effects of potential attacks and natural disasters.
- *Build security globally*, in order to preserve regional stability, deter adversaries, support allies and partners, and cooperate with others to address common security challenges.
- *Project power and win decisively*, to defeat aggression, disrupt and destroy terrorist networks, and provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.



Our posture here in the Asia-Pacific Region plays a vital role in supporting these three strategic objectives, and will remain critically important in the years to come. But it will not be easy. Then again, the most worthy endeavors are rarely the easy ones to achieve.

The United States faces many internal challenges as we continue our efforts. We are coming out of more than twelve years of conflict; our readiness has suffered due to the implementation of sequestration in FY 2013; and the force as a whole has not kept pace with the need to modernize. We will need time and funding to reset and reconstitute the Joint Force.

The President's FY 2015 Budget proposal outlines a range of realistic and responsible adjustments in specific areas the Defense Department believes must be made in the near term to restore balance in the Joint Force.

As a whole, the force will become smaller in the next five years; however, we will gradually become more modern as well, with readiness improving over time.

These adjustments may not be evident in the Asia-Pacific region because our footprint is unlikely to change. Modernization, including bringing our most advanced weapons here, will continue to move forward; however, our decreased presence will be evident in other parts of the world.

Taking the prudent steps outlined in the QDR in the near term will improve the U.S. military's ability to meet America's national security needs should the fiscal outlook not improve.

The longer critical decisions are delayed in the hope that budget caps will be raised. The more difficult and painful those decisions will be to implement, and the more damaging they will be to our ability to execute our military strategy if no additional resources are made available.



To give you a brief idea of some of the end strength and force structure decisions the QDR includes:

- We will sustain a world-class Army capable of conducting the full range of operations on land; including prompt and sustained land combat as part of large multi-phase joint and multinational operations by maintaining a force structure that we can man, train, equip, and keep ready. To sustain this force, our military will rebalance within the Army, across the Active, Guard, and Reserves. The active Army will reduce from its war-time high force of 570,000 to 440,000-450,000 Soldiers. The Army National Guard will continue its downsizing from a war-time high of 358,000 to 335,000 Soldiers, and the U.S. Army Reserve will reduce from 205,000 to 195,000 Soldiers. If sequestration-level cuts are imposed in Fiscal Year 2016 and beyond, all components of the Army would be further reduced, with active duty end strength decreasing to 420,000, the Army National Guard drawing down to 315,000, and the Army Reserves reducing to 185,000.
- We will looking to preserve our Naval capacity, allowing it to be able to respond to crises and build security globally. Through an aggressive effort to reduce acquisition costs and temporary ship lay-ups, the Navy will modernize its fleets of surface ships, aircraft, and submarines to meet 21st century threats. We must ensure that the fleet is capable of operating in every region and across the full spectrum of conflict. No new negotiations beyond 32 Littoral Combat Ships will go forward, and the Navy will submit alternative proposals to procure a capable and lethal small surface combatant. If sequestration-level cuts are imposed in Fiscal Year 2016 and beyond, the USS George Washington aircraft carrier would need to be retired before its scheduled refueling and overhaul. The



Department will have to make this decision, which would leave the Navy with ten carrier strike groups.

- And as for the Marine Corps, it will maintain its role as a vital crisis response force, protecting its most important modernization priorities and ensuring their readiness. We are planning for an end strength of 182,000 active Marines. This end strength includes almost 900 more Marines for the Embassy Security Guard program, which will protect U.S. interests and installations abroad. If sequestration-level cuts are imposed in Fiscal Year 2016 and beyond, the Marines would continue their drawdown to an end strength of 175,000.
- We will seek to maintain an Air Force with global power projection capabilities crucial for our updated defense strategy. We are looking to modernize next-generation Air Force combat equipment – including fighters and bombers – particularly against advancing modern air defense systems. To free resources for these programs, as well as to preserve investments in critical capabilities, the Air Force will reduce or eliminate capacity in some single-mission aviation platforms. If sequestration-level cuts are imposed in Fiscal Year 2016 and beyond, the Air Force will have to retire 80 more aircraft, slow down purchases of the Joint Strike Fighter, and make other difficult adjustments.
- The Joint Force must rebalance to remain modern, capable, and ready. The Department of Defense will take the following additional steps, consistent with the President's FY 2015 Budget submission, to protect key capability areas in support of our strategy:
 - *Cyber*. We will invest in new and expanded cyber capabilities and forces to enhance our ability to conduct cyberspace operations and support military operations worldwide, to



support Combatant Commanders as they plan and execute military missions, and to counter cyber-attacks against the United States.

- *Missile Defense.* We are increasing the number of Ground-Based Interceptors and deploying second radar in Japan to provide early warning and tracking. We will make targeted investments in defensive interceptors, discrimination capabilities, and sensors; and we are studying the best location for an additional missile defense interceptor site in the United States if additional interceptors are needed.
- *Nuclear Deterrence.* We will continue to invest in modernizing our essential nuclear delivery systems; warning, command and control; and, in collaboration with the Department of Energy, nuclear weapons and supporting infrastructure.
- *Space.* We will move toward less complex, more affordable, more resilient systems and system architectures; and pursue a multi-layered approach to deter attacks on space systems while retaining the capabilities to respond should deterrence fail.
- *Air/Sea.* We will continue to invest in combat aircraft, including fighters and long-range strike, survivable persistent surveillance, resilient architectures, and undersea warfare to increase the Joint Force's ability to counter A2/AD challenges.
- *Precision Strike.* We will procure advanced air-to-surface missiles that will allow fighters and bombers to engage a wide range of targets and a long-range anti-ship cruise missile that will improve the joint ability of U.S. air forces to engage surface combatants in defended airspace.
- *Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance.* We will rebalance investments toward systems that are operationally responsive and effective in highly contested environments,



while sustaining capabilities appropriate for more permissive environments in order to support global situational awareness, counterterrorism, and other operations.

- *Counter Terror and Special Operations.* We will grow our overall Special Operations Forces end strength to 69,700 personnel, protecting our ability to sustain persistent, networked, distributed operations to defeat terrorists, counter other emerging transnational threats, counter WMD, build the capacity of our partners, and support conventional operations.

Given the current budget environment, along with the QDR roadmap, I am confident we can continue to protect our key capabilities while maintaining our commitments and vital relationships here in the Asia-Pacific. I am also confident that in 2020, we will still be the most powerful military in the world. More than 1 million men and women under arms—present in more than 130 countries and at sea, not the least of which are the 50,000 men and women proudly serving here in Japan—will still possess capabilities in every domain that outmatches potential adversaries.

The greatest concern of our military leadership is that we will not be able to innovate quickly enough or deeply enough to be prepared for the long term future; specifically for the world we will face two decades from now. We face some difficult decisions ahead, and we are working with and urging our leaders to move in a direction that will optimize our future capabilities to ensure we are still postured and ready to outmatch potential adversaries.

In conclusion, I can promise you America's President, and its sons and daughters, are committed to the protection of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. We are taking the appropriate actions to ensure we remain the best-trained, best-equipped, and best-lead fighting



force on the planet. And on a personal note, we are working hard to be the best friends and neighbors to our gracious host communities throughout Japan.

Thank you for coming to today's lecture. I will now open the floor for questions.