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National Resilience Institute of Republic of Indonesia
(Lemhannas RI)
Indonesia
Admiral Cecil D. Haney
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Thank you for that kind introduction.

I would also like to thank Lemhannas (National Resilience Institute of The Republic of Indonesia) for inviting me to speak here today. There is always so much to be gained by learning from each other. I have been looking forward to this opportunity to speak to you, but also to learn from you. I find the questions I receive in this type of forum can be very helpful in learning about your interests and concerns in this pivotal part of the world. So I am very excited to be here today.

As Commander of the United States Pacific Fleet, I oversee the world's largest fleet command, encompassing 100 million square miles, or more than half the Earth's surface. That is an area that stretches from the West Coast of the United States into the Indian Ocean. The Pacific Fleet consists of approximately 180 ships, nearly 2,000 aircraft, and 134,000 Sailors and civilians.

During my time at the United States Pacific Fleet, I have been interested in truly understanding the issues, concerns, and challenges of our allies and partners throughout the Pacific. I have been able to travel to a large number of nations so far and have plans to continue throughout the year. As I visit one after another, I am impressed at how much we are increasingly interconnected and how our prosperity and security have become interdependent. Because of this important reality, our maritime security is vital to maintain stability here in the Asia Pacific and in protecting our economic prosperity. This is an important reality and it is not always easy to achieve or guarantee.

We live in an uncertain world where the lives and livelihoods of so many can be threatened, sometimes in an instant. Today we have to deal with piracy, transnational crime, violent separatist's activity, terrorism, border and boundary disputes, environmental issues, such as those faced here in Indonesia, like illegal logging and coral degradation, as well as food security, competition for energy and other natural resources. These are merely the manmade problems that we face. Consider what nature can do with typhoons, earthquakes, volcanoes, and of course terrible tsunamis. I know that many of you here in this room lost families, friends, or were otherwise impacted by the great Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 and that you know first hand of the potential for the terrible devastation that I am speaking of. There are many security challenges that require greater collaboration, cooperation, and the strengthening of mutual trust, friendships, alliances and partnerships.

Lately there has been much talk about the National Strategy Shift of the United States. I am sure you have all heard about the U.S. rebalance to the Asia-Pacific, right? This shift has helped align the United States Government. The fact is that the U.S. Navy has been sailing the Pacific for 150 years. Since World War II our presence has been continuous, and strong. In fact, at any given time, there are approximately 50 U.S. Navy ships sailing the Asia-Pacific. The United States is a maritime nation and has been since our founding. But while our presence may appear benign at times, that is by design. You can be assured that we will continue to play a positive, relevant, constructive and important role here. As the Commander of the Pacific Fleet, two of my highest priorities are to strengthen our relationships with our allies and partners, and to provide the purposeful forward presence of our ships and Sailors.

Let me briefly discuss a few examples of things we are doing right now. The global response to the great Indian Ocean Tsunami, became the genesis for the Pacific Partnership mission as we know it today. I know that many of you also may have had an opportunity to participate in Pacific Partnership this year while it was here in Indonesia. Just last month, I was at the Opening Ceremony for Pacific Partnership 2012 in the Philippines where 9 partner nations and 15 NGO's worked, trained, and prepared for potential disaster. The motto for Pacific Partnership 2012 was "prepare in calm to respond in crisis" and it is an outstanding opportunity for all nations involved. This multi-national effort enhances disaster preparedness and builds confidence and trust, giving us a better chance of succeeding in saving lives during and after natural disasters. Much of our success in helping our good friends, the Japanese, after the earthquake and tsunami in 2011, was a result of the trust and skills that we have developed over decades of working closely with each other.

Good order at sea requires partnerships and cooperation, it must be something that is consistently thought about, planned for, and practiced. In order to help ensure good order at sea, we are engaged in exercises throughout the Pacific. Our combined readiness with our Pacific allies and partners is a result of nearly 170 exercises and training events we conduct in the region each year. You have all seen examples of this in Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training (CARAT). Today, 22 nations, including personnel from Indonesia, are sailing together through the waters near the State of Hawaii as they participate in the largest ever Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC).

As maritime professionals sailing the high seas, we share a special bond and we each have an important role in ensuring peace and prosperity. We must work together toward achieving this important and difficult goal. By strengthening our relationships on a personal level, we are strengthening the relationships between nations. Every interaction we have with each other is important and I encourage you to take every opportunity you have to strengthen those relationships. That is why I am so delighted to be here speaking with each of you today, to continue to build those strong relationships.

So how about some questions?