



**Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) and Rajaratnam
School of International Studies (RSIS) Luncheon
Honolulu, Hawaii
Admiral Cecil Haney
04 March 2013
As Prepared for Delivery**

Good morning and Aloha!

It's great to have this opportunity to engage you on a topic of great interest-Maritime Security in East Asia.

Thank you Eric Thomson, for that kind introduction and also, thank you Mike McDevitt for inviting me here today.

I'm pleased to see that each of you were able to meet half way between Washington, D.C., and Singapore to meet in Hawaii. Dr. Till, I know you are traveling between the United Kingdom and Singapore, so my math might be a little off, but I know it is a lot of travel. I also know there are worse places to end up than Hawaii.

It's also great to see the Honorable Mr. James Kelly, former Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific.

I'm thankful for the opportunity to finally meet many of you for the first time, especially those from the Rajaratnam School of International Studies, RSIS. It's an honor to address such an impressive gathering of leaders today.

Focusing on my area of operations, I am looking at an area that spans from the Arctic to Antarctic oceans, from the west coast of California to the India/Pakistan border. I often describe it as the area from polar bears to penguins, Hollywood to Bollywood. Looking at it this way, it is an area that covers half the world, half the world's population, 36 nations and seven of the world's largest economies. In East Asia, we have 16 of the world's 20 busiest ports; 10 in China alone. That number is up from only six in China in 2010.

All of the nations in this area are reliant on the sea, in one way or another, for the transportation of energy, goods and commodities. Today, 50 percent of global commercial tonnage transits through the waters of East Asia. Any disruption to trade flowing through the vital arteries in this region can have a detrimental impact on our global economy. But it is not just about the movement of goods by sea, it is also about a nation's ability to obtain those

resources from under the sea, in their exclusive economic zones. Security and stability in the maritime domain is a basic requirement for the prosperity of our global economy.

Today there is lots of news coverage associated with the Middle East. Iran, Israel, Egypt and Syria dominate the news; sometimes more than Iraq or Afghanistan. It only makes sense that we would view these areas with some concern, especially considering their proximity to strategic chokepoints that are at risk during crisis, specifically the Suez Canal or the Straits of Hormuz.

However, there are some very important strategic waterways and critical chokepoints in the East Asia area as well. This area has the potential for miscalculation. Whether these issues ever capture the media's attention or not, I am certainly paying close attention to them, and I know you are too.

In North Korea we have to pay attention to the unpredictable actions of a regime working to develop nuclear weapons and the missile systems necessary to deliver them to distant shores.

We observe the misuse of sovereignty claims by coastal states that forbid or require permission for passage or transit beyond international waters and for military maneuvers beyond their territorial sea.

Given overlapping sovereignty claims, nations squabble over competing claims for rocks, shoals and reefs in both the East China Sea and the South China Sea, further increasing the potential for miscalculation in the region.

Nations throughout the region are expressing concerns about China, where the lack of transparency creates speculation and uncertainty about their intentions and their increasingly aggressive actions. This is especially the case in regard to their rapid military growth, territorial claims in the East and South China Sea, and cyber activities.

This, coupled with impressive economic growth, has generated the rapid modernization of military capabilities by nations in this region. In the clamor to obtain the latest and greatest weapons systems, we are seeing a mismatch between real capabilities and the ability to train and sustain the systems acquired. In some cases these systems do not properly cover the seams and gaps in a nation's existing maritime strategy or its ability to improve maritime security.

The opposite is true in the Pacific Island nations, who are unable to develop the navy and coast guard capacity necessary to provide maritime domain awareness inside their own exclusive economic zones. As I visited several of these nations last year, I was able to observe firsthand the challenges they face with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

With only a handful of patrol craft at their disposal, they suffer from what I call “sea blindness”, as fisherman from other nations are tempted to follow migrating tuna into their waters.

The Pacific Island Nations have additional challenges; specifically the rising seas associated with global warming. I visited Kiribati in 2012 and was surprised to see how dire the situation is there. It’s predicted that in a few decades, Kiribati, a nation of more than 100,000 people, will be underwater, requiring the displacement of the entire nation. The nation of Maldives faces the same challenge, and even Bangladesh will suffer increasingly significant flooding in its delta areas in the coming years. The impact is not decades away, as this impact is felt with each passing storm, as progressive seawater flooding impacts crops and hence, food supplies.

Of course rising seas are due to melting ice caps. Sea lanes in the arctic are permitting new routes between Asia and Europe which may impact southern and western trade routes and associated economic potential.

The relentless pace of natural disasters also continues to threaten the region. Time and time again we are reminded of Mother Nature’s fury, as we react to earthquakes, tsunamis and typhoons that threaten lives throughout the Pacific and Indian oceans.

Now, consider the fiscal challenges we face here in United States, where we officially went into sequestration on Friday, just as we are executing our rebalance strategy.

Despite all these challenges, the United States remains fully committed to promoting stability and security in the maritime Indo-Asia-Pacific domain; especially since over \$1.3 trillion of commerce directly associated with the United States economy flows through the South China Sea. While our continuous presence in the Asia Pacific raises concerns by the Chinese that the United States is posturing to contain them, that is not the case. This is not about China. Through our shared effort and sacrifice with our allies and partners during and since WWII, the Pacific Fleet has been a steadfast partner and we will continue to promote peace and stability in this vital region. Every year, we further strengthen those ties through joint and combined exercises, operations, transits, and port visits. We have every intention of continuing to build upon these relationships far into the future. We have important work to continue in this area, and with the help of our allies, partners, and friends we will continue to do it.

With respect to China, my desire is that they will grow as a responsible nation in the Asia Pacific region, one that respects international norms and will use its military and civil-military forces in a transparent manner.

Further, our relationship with China is not a cold one. It was great to see China participate in the Western Pacific Naval Symposium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, last year at a senior level. We have invited China to our 2014 Rim of the Pacific exercise, and I am hoping to visit China to become the first commander of the Pacific Fleet to visit in years.

In order to further understand the intentions of the U.S. Navy, let me talk briefly about my four priorities for the Fleet. As the commander, my number one priority is warfighting readiness, where we work to provide a strong and adaptable Fleet, postured to execute the full range of military operations. This is coupled with my second priority, to have purposeful forward presence in the Asia Pacific region, in order to promote Asia Pacific security mandates by operating forward, strong, and strategically postured forces. Purposeful forward presence gives us the ability to mitigate the difficulties of the tyranny of distance and allows us to be forward with response capability in a timely manner.

Additionally, I am working to continuously strengthen relationships with allies and partners. Maintaining stability and security in the Asia Pacific relies on the shared responsibility of regional partners. Cooperation with these partners and our allies is essential to the maintenance of order and promotion of peace. It is based on mutual understanding and respect.

And finally, valuing our people and families is my final priority. The foundation of our Fleet is our people. We are comprised of a culturally diverse all volunteer corps of professionals. They are the means for advancing my other priorities when they are deployed in the Pacific, and I will do everything I can to enable them to perform their valuable missions.

These are the priorities I focus on when I have to make the hard decisions required in this uncertain environment.

I know you will devote some time to this topic this afternoon, but I want to give you a brief overview of the rebalance to the Asia Pacific from my vantage point.

First, there is the intellectual focus of our whole of Government to this region. A key part of our rebalancing effort includes increasing our intellectual understanding of the Asia Pacific region; especially from thoughtful leaders such as yourselves.

We are sharpening our focus across the range of military operations, to include humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, deterrence, and if deterrence should fail, power projection.

We are also developing our people to serve in the Asia Pacific, to include revitalizing the Foreign Area Officer (FAO) program, as just one example. Having talented people building strong relationships is key to our success.

We are prioritizing doctrine in our concept of operations development to preserve our operational maneuver space, to include, but not limited to, the Air Sea Battle concept.

Next we are also looking to improve our capabilities in the Pacific region. With respect to advanced technology, our rebalancing execution is delivering new capabilities in my area of operations. For instance we are significantly advancing our air capability with the introduction of the EA-18G Growler, V-22 Osprey, the MH-60 Romeo and Sierra helicopters, and the new P-8 Maritime Patrol Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA). I recently observed the P-8 while it was conducting an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) mission as it made a swing through the Pacific, demonstrating its significant capabilities. I expect the first deployment to occur in the Western Pacific.

We are seeing our investments in our shipbuilding programs coming to fruition with the delivery of Virginia-class submarines, new destroyers, like the USS Michael Murphy, the new San Antonio-class amphibious transport docks and later this year, the new amphibious assault ship USS America, the first in her class.

I am also excited about the development of the unmanned systems and the capabilities they will be bringing to the Pacific, including some of our research and development projects.

We are also emphasizing innovation in the rebalance. I know many in this room know that the Littoral Combat Ship, USS Freedom, will be coming to Singapore soon. Right now, USS Freedom, is headed west here to Hawaii before proceeding on. She will conduct a West Pacific deployment using Singapore as a place, not a base, to conduct operations within the Southeast Asia maritime commons, as we strive to work together with our allies, partners, and friends.

Our United States Marine Corps moves are also part of the rebalancing effort. A Marine Corps force spread across an area made up of self-contained units, able to deploy on a range of military missions, increases our military capabilities to respond effectively to contingencies. My Fleet is involved in supporting these types of Naval operations.

In addition to modernizing capability, we are also improving our operational concepts across the range of military operations. Part of this rebalancing effort also includes experimentation and the validation of new tactics, techniques, and procedures in operational concepts.

Rebalancing also includes our increased interactions with allies, partners, and friends in the region. For example, the Rim of the Pacific 2012, the 23rd in its series, was the largest naval exercise in its history. We had 22 nations participating with over 25,000 personnel, more than 40 ships and submarines and more than 200 aircraft. After decades of working closely

with some of our allies and partners, they are now ready, willing, and able to step up and lead. For the first time, we had non-U.S. officers commanding components of the combined task force during the exercise. We had Russia participating for the first time and, as mentioned earlier, we have invited China to participate in RIMPAC 2014.

Whether it is my Fleet's interaction with nations in bilateral or multilateral exercises and training events, or leadership interactions with military peers and civilian leadership, the relationships we establish are critical in maintaining relevant and interoperable capabilities.

As I conclude, I want to leave you with this thought. We do face real challenges with sequestration and the lack of an appropriations bill for FY13; and we will have to manage that as a Navy and a Nation. We have tremendous capacity in the Pacific and this region is important to the United States of America. Each day abroad, more than 50 U.S. Navy ships are underway, operating, exercising, and training. In other periods of budget adversity we have continued to operate here. My Pacific Fleet team will continue to work this challenge according to my four priorities. We remain steadfast and committed to working with our allies, partners, and friends throughout this important region as we continue to work to ensure a secure and stable environment for economic viability.

Thank you for your attention to this important topic and your participation in this important forum. I look forward to your questions.