

## **Annex E: Acceptance Speech by Vice Admiral Ann RONDEAU, Head of the US Delegations**

**13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**

**Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (HDUCIM)**

**Bangkok, Thailand, 3 – 6 November 2009**

**“The Theme for 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN ARF HDU Meeting, 2010:**

**Roles of National Defense Universities in Defense Engagement”**

- I am honored to have been invited to attend this meeting, the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Meeting of Heads of Defense Colleges and Institutions, ably and graciously hosted by Thailand.
- And I am very pleased and doubly honored to accept the challenge of hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum Meeting of Heads of Defense Colleges and Institutions in Washington, D.C. next year at our National Defense University’s Fort McNair campus.
- We would have to expend our defense budget for the next decade to come near the level of hospitality afforded to these participants by the Thai National Defense University.
- The topics for the last three meetings have tended to focus on “confidence Building Measures” themes that resonate with broad ARF themes – regional security, non-traditional security challenges, multilateral cooperation:
  - Pakistan hosted the 2008 meeting, which focused on the growing involvement of regional militaries in combat and non combat military operations other than war (MOOTW) and the reassessment of challenges that entailed.
  - This year’s focus on “Roles of Armed Forces in Maintaining Internal Security” shows the extent to which the region and its friends, all of whom are assembled here as representatives of participating militaries, have accepted these new responsibilities that militaries in the region have had to rise to in times of national crisis.

- The theme I would like to explore for the U.S.-hosted HDU meeting in 2010 represents a strategic manifestation of this recognition of new challenges and their impact on doctrine, organization and leadership.
- In many countries, the defense leaderships have seen military intellectuals, thinkers, strategists drawn increasingly into the business of sorting through the strategic implications and consequences of these new challenges.
- In many countries, these strategic thinkers have either sought to develop new or enhance the capacities of existing national defense colleges.
- And in many countries, en route to taking on the challenges that have been the subject of this meeting, defense universities have seen their roles widened in defense reform, strategic dialogue, and institution building.
- Let me describe what has prompted me to shape the topic for the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in this way. The U.S. National Defense University has, over the last 3-5 years, become more closely involved in defense engagement as a resource for Policy Managers, especially during the run up to important events in bilateral defense relationships.
- Our own NDU has become enmeshed in the preparations for significant OSD Policy-hosted Southeast Asia defense and security activities such as :
  - Preparations for the Shangri-La Dialogue (suggesting themes for the keynote speech by the Secretary of Defense),
  - Travel to Southeast Asia by the Secretary of Defense (offering background papers on strategic issues),
  - OSD Policy responsibilities regarding the ASEAN Regional Forum confidence building meetings and bilateral defense and security cooperation consultations (offering commentary on the capabilities of various countries in the area of strategic research and dialogue).
- Moreover, the U.S. NDU is increasingly involved in support activities essential to theatre security engagement and in efforts to operationalize OSD Policy commitments to enhancing bilateral defense and security relations, such as :
  - Support to the Cambodian Defense Strategy Review Working Group which has been tasked with updating RCAF's Defense Strategic Policy by the second quarter of fiscal year 2010 in several areas including force modernization, border security, maritime security, counterterrorism, peacekeeping operations capacity, and civil military operations.

- Proposed collaboration between the Thai National Defense College and the U.S. National Defense University to improve and develop Thailand's Strategic Research Institute, established as the think tank for the Royal Thai Armed Forces National Defence College in 2007, and designed to be the equivalent of the NDU Institute for National Strategic Studies.
- Support to the Royal Thai Armed Forces defense reform efforts in force structure and bureaucracy reforms, reduction of overlapping bureaucracies within MND, the High command, and the Army; implementation of compulsory military service and reform of legal authorities.
- Support to the Indonesian military's efforts to develop a National Defense College.
- The proposed establishment of a partnership between the National Defense University Press and the Vietnamese Military Publishing House to conduct publication exchanges and possible joint publications and translations of research work.
- In short, I put before you a topic that features the strategic challenges we have discussed today as they impact on the universities, colleges and institutes we represent, as they impact the way universities organize and seek to resource themselves to conduct their evolving missions.
- I envision a meeting in 2010 in which my university is responsible for galvanizing discussion on how defense universities partner with other defense agencies on long-term processes including but not limited to:
  - Military reform and force structure review
  - Collaboration with agencies and organizations assessing policies regarding maritime security initiatives
  - NDU involvement in defense policy development workshops or in-services for senior defense leaders on priorities such as:
    - Force modernization
    - Border security
    - Maritime security
    - Counterterrorism

- Peacekeeping operations capacity, and
  - Civil/military operations.
- I would also seek to discuss the extent to which national defense universities, colleges, institutions find themselves pairing and partnering with non-governmental organizations and private voluntary organizations in efforts to confront defense and security challenges, transnational threats, and other contingencies that increasingly call for the involvement of a wide range of resources in the resolution of unconventional challenges.
  - Thus, with the consensus of this body, and reflecting the issues pointedly and sagely raised during discussion this week, I propose this theme for our 14<sup>th</sup> forum:
    - **Strategic Challenges FOR Defense Universities:**
      - **Managing Information Sharing**
      - **Prospects for Strategic Multilateralism**
      - **Teaching and Researching in a new Strategic Environment**
  - I think we agree that defense universities, colleges and institutions are confronting new technological inventions that are force multipliers in an information intensive environment.
    - How can national defense universities, colleges and institutions adapt and evolve to the point of being able to utilize these inventions in a way that serves academic and strategic purposes?
    - How can we find paths to an acceptable and easily implemented and managed method of making data, information, publications, possibly curricula, and research accessible within our forum?
  - National defense universities, colleges and institutions are confronting the challenges of nontraditional threats in as bodies responsible for thinking conceptually, strategically, analytically, and practically about such matters.
    - How can we define approaches to teaching, conducting research, analyzing and discussing these challenges in a way that carves out cooperation between and among our institutions, or between and among our institutions and defense agencies, think tanks, civilian colleges, and non governmental agencies/private voluntary organizations.

- National defense universities, colleges and institutions
- National defense universities, colleges and institutions are practicing pedagogy in a quick changing environment, and are increasingly finding themselves called upon to address conceptual challenges and formulate strategic paths to multilateral cooperation.
  - How can we invent ways of cooperating in such areas as defense reform?
  - How can we find ways of helping defense engagement, bilateral and multilateral, by offering help to other defense institutions in developing their teaching capabilities, strategic and analytical tools?
  - How can we find ways of using old teaching tools such as gaming, and new technological resources that we can't even envision at the moment?
  - How can national defense universities, colleges and institutions serve defense agency and national defense policy needs by figuring out how to help partners in efforts to build new strategic centers, research agencies, professional military education teaching centers?
  - How can national defense universities, colleges and institutions develop new and effective technologically inspired curriculum and teaching methods?
  - How can national defense universities, colleges and institutions cooperate in multilateral ways to perform the mission in the face of the challenges we discussed today? How can the Indian proposal for an ASEAN Institute for International Security contribute to creating a momentum between annual meetings, establishing a forum for continuous discussion, and building a platform for exchanging information?
- This is a massive undertaking, and the Thai did an exceptional job of organizing and running this significant military (and civilian) movement, mobilizing the moral equivalent of a multi-divisional resource, keeping morale up, maintaining command and control.
- I have offered my assurances to several countries that were unable to present their papers because of the press of time. We will certainly be as diligent as our Thai hosts in keeping the event to schedule, but perhaps we could carve out some time to accommodate these countries early on in the agenda. For example, I would gladly forgo my chance at singing another song if it means we could squeeze some additional conference time into the schedule.

- I look forward to developing these ideas with the participant countries over the course of the year. In the near future, my office will develop a mechanism for staff level officers to communicate with one another, and with my staff and other U.S. NDU agencies, on this topic so that we can together develop the agenda, articulate the theme, and begin the work that past hosts have done in such an exemplary way.

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