

## Maritime Security

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- Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to address U.S. views on the regional maritime security situation and our efforts to enhance maritime security in the region.
- The U.S. Government is operationalizing its cooperative maritime security work.
- Working with like-minded countries, our common goal is to develop a partnership of willing nations to enhance overall capabilities and capacities to identify, monitor, and respond to maritime threats consistent with legal authorities and frameworks.
- Improvements in maritime security within the Asia-Pacific region will lead to improvements in global maritime security.
- The U.S. recognizes that maritime security is a wide-ranging concept that encompasses all illicit activities planned and/or carried out in the maritime domain.
- Within the Asia-Pacific region, maritime security encompasses five elements:
  - Preservation of the safety of navigation;
  - Protection against transnational crime;
  - Protection of the marine environment;
  - Preservation of natural resources; and finally,
  - Protection against terrorism
- We can enhance the safety, security, and environmental protection of the maritime sector through international collaborative partnerships. The key to achieving this common goal is fostering both bilateral and multilateral cooperation and assistance.

**International Maritime Organization Framework:**

- To that end, in February 2006, the U.S. Coast Guard hosted an User States Conference on the Strait of Malacca with participation from Australia, Germany, Norway, India, Japan, Republic of Korea,
  - As many of you may know, this conference followed the International Maritime Organization (IMO) conference in Jakarta in September 2005, during which the littoral states established a framework for identifying needs to user states.
  - The intent of the February meeting was for user states to determine how best to integrate assistance to the littorals, thus avoiding redundancy and encouraging burden sharing.
  - At the USCG conference, Australia agreed to organize donor efforts by establishing a matrix template and providing examples from their own assistance. The United States Department of Defense has provided input to our Department of State to prepare a consolidated U.S. government matrix. We look forward to sharing and coordinating with both user states and SOM littoral states in moving this effort forward.

**Specific U.S. Efforts:**

- We will continue to push for a more secure maritime environment through regional fora activities, efforts to amend the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts at Sea, and the International Port Security Code of the International Maritime Organization.
- We are also helping as we can with the "Eyes-in-the-Sky" initiative and the Maritime Cooperative Security regime.
  - The U.S. Military in cooperation with Department of State and the U.S. Coast Guard as well as other "user" nations, is in the process of building a "menu" of potential areas where the U.S. and others, can provide assistance to the littoral states of the Strait of Malacca and the tri-border region (Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines) nations in this effort.
- We are focused on:
  - Capacity Building through Security Assistance
  - Exercises and Theater Security Cooperation Programs

- Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (C4I) for Maritime Security
- Specifically, areas of military cooperation include upgrading information exchanges, promoting cooperation at multilateral fora, providing equipment and technical assistance, training, and conducting bilateral and multilateral exercises.
- We continue to support the ARF Maritime Security Exercise as proposed by Singapore.

#### **Security Assistance:**

- For FY 2006, Congress authorized \$1M in FMF for the Indonesian Navy to build up its capacity to address maritime threats.
- For FY 2007, the U.S. government is working to secure additional funding for a regional maritime security program.

#### **1206 Train and Equipment Authority:**

- We are also funding equipment and training under Section 1206 of the *FY 2006 National Defense Authorization Act*, which provides the President the authority to build the capacity of partner nations' military or security forces to disrupt or destroy terrorist networks, close safe havens, or participate in or support U.S., coalition, or international military or stability operations.
- We have identified two Maritime Security Projects in the Southeast Asia Region:
- For Indonesia, we will provide \$19M in FY 2006 funding for an Integrated Maritime Surveillance System (IMSS) and a CENTRIX computer system.
- To enhance surveillance and security over the Strait of Malacca and regional waters, for the last year Indonesia has been installing the first two of a planned twelve coastal surveillance stations, outfitting a few of their ships with upgraded radars and communications equipment, and upgrading the data and communications link to their naval headquarters in Jakarta. This 1206 funding will allow Indonesia to complete this project. We hope to secure additional funding for future years.

- For Thailand, the U.S. will provide \$11M in initial funding to develop the capacity of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, and particularly the Royal Thai Navy, to identify, track and interdict maritime threats in the Andaman Sea and near the Strait of Malacca.

**Conclusion:**

- An effective framework that facilitates progress toward achieving our shared goal of protecting the region's maritime environment requires the following:
  - Enhanced awareness of the maritime areas
  - Increased operational presence of littoral states to enhance deterrence; and,
  - Improvement in their ability to respond in a timely manner.
- The U.S. will continue to work to achieve the regional objectives of enhancing the safety, security, and environmental protection of the Strait of Malacca and other regional maritime environments through the cooperative and collaborative efforts of littoral and user states.
- Mr. Chairman, this concludes my presentation. Thank you.