

**Chief of Naval Operations
Adm. Jonathan Greenert**

**IMDEX Remarks
Singapore**

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Admiral Greenert: Thank you very much. I appreciate it very much. And I have the unenviable task of following the First Sealord, and he's given us a very articulate look at our future and our challenge. Thank you very much for that.

It's an honor to be here. I'd remind all of us that this is really a continuum, this forum here this week, as I look around throughout the day, the last couple of days, I meet friends and colleagues, and some of these topics are similar. I ask you to think about what we talked about, what we'll talk about here, and I also realize there's me, this panel, and lunch. So I got that. We're going to get to that.

But I remind you that the solutions have got to be in this room. I look at my colleagues, the heads of Navy and those that support them as we work through this. I look forward to doing that.

[Chief Penny], I want to thank you very much for the invitation. I'm honored and humbled to be here. I also tip the hat to you. Folks, a successful conference, a successful forum requires three things. You've got to bring the right people together, you've got to bring the right questions together, and you've got to have good food. By the looks of what I saw out there in the [inaudible], we've got at least two of the three. We've got the people and we've got the food. So I congratulate you. Now the question is, the questions and how do we do that.

It's great to be here among colleagues, as I said. Today's talks have highlighted a lot of the [Fiji] maritime challenges very well. The problems transform the boundaries from, as we said, counter-piracy, counter-terrorism, trafficking, [that transcend it all].

My view, we need collaborative solutions. We've stated it. The key players are here in the room. It's our time, ladies and gentlemen; it's our time to decide what we want to do.

I want to describe today a little bit about what the U.S. Navy is working to do to better provide cooperative solutions here in the Asia Pacific, Indo Pacific, and [inaudible], because it is a worldwide issue. Arabian Gulf, et cetera.

I want to talk about why we have chosen to rebalance to the Asia Pacific. What's that mean? What do you mean by rebalance? The key elements needed, in my view, for cooperation as we address our challenges, and given that, what is our approach? How are we going to balance our rebalancing that's taken place?

For the United States, our current security and economic interests are very much linked to this region in history and today. It's about alliances, economies, partnerships, geography, and it's the flow, the through-put of world stuff. Five of our seven trade alliances are here in this Asia Pacific region. Six of the world's 20 economies are in this region. Four of our top ten trade partners are in this region. And you've heard the statistics all morning. A third of the world oil, half the world trade. It goes on and on. It's a busy place and we depend on it.

We frankly have evolved out here through the decades, and the concept of being here is not necessarily new. We've had 50 ships of roughly 100 ships deployed around the world. So half of them have been in this region since the late 1990s. We do 700 events out here, training events, 170 exercises, specific exercises, and for 40 years we've been [doing] Pacific exercises with many of my colleagues here today and their predecessors have taken part in. We've had 20 years of cooperation afloat readiness and training exercises here. So the present and the past have been here.

But it's about the future, and our future prosperity will depend very much on the Asia Pacific and the Pacific Indo area.

In the next five years half of all the economies in this area will grow, will double. The ASEAN GDP will double, [inaudible]. Energy use is going to grow. It's just going to keep growing in this region.

Our maritime challenges are evolving. We talked about that this morning. It's been laid out pretty clear. [Inaudible] is increasing in this region. People, [drugs], timber, it goes on. Ships [inaudible] pirates attempt to prey on shipping is shifting and it's taking place as we speak. It's down in the Malacca; it's up in the Gulf of Oman. It's down in the Gulf of Aden; it's up in the Gulf of Guinea and other areas of the Indian Ocean. So it's a worldwide issue and we're going to have to keep dealing with it. They [call], we have to [recall].

Technology will make oil and gas much more accessible under the sea. Under the sea bed. So that has its own issues.

A process called fracking is taking place more and more. The extraction of oil products, natural gas and others, from under the -- from the terrain, taking place in our country, in a lot of the regions in Europe. That will tend to make more oil shipments from the Middle East tend to migrate out here as the demands for energy are shifting around the [inaudible].

With the importance of this region and the continued challenges our Navy feels that we need to build intellectual capacity and capital and see how we integrate into the region. How do we make ourselves useful? As we increase our presence in the Asia Pacific it's not going to be just maritime. It has to be otherwise now. We just don't send things out here, shift them, and say okay, until we've rebalanced. It won't work. We've got to ensure that we've got a spectrum of capabilities that are appropriate for the mission, appropriate for the region, out in this Asia Pacific and the Pacific Indo area.

Our budget situation in Washington has been a matter of discussion, but I'll tell you, I don't think it will impact much, what we call the rebalance in this region. Putting in another context it will be about a ten percent change. In our Navy we have 47 ships right now under contract, either under contract or in construction. Of the ships that we'll have by the end of this decade, all but eight of them are being built as we speak today. So I don't think it will be a budgetary issue, this shift, this rebalance.

In my view the key elements that I think we need for effective cooperation. The challenge before us is too big for any one Navy. We stated that this morning and I reiterate that. That's a fact, an element we underline. To effectively cooperate we're going to have to establish some basic elements. I think [inaudible] did a pretty nice job laying them out this morning and they've been kind of reiterated and put together. So at the risk of repeating that I'll underline. We've got to recognize what the common challenges are. That we, collectively, the folks in this room who are going to provide the leadership, feel [inaudible] as this group. We've got to decide what kind of common communications we feel are absolutely necessary and decide the basic capability that we'll need to establish so that we can operate together.

The [Changhi] Command and Control Center is a classic case of how to do that right. We saw the information sharing that was taking place this morning, or yesterday. Using the common denominator that was necessary to get people talking. The Information Fusion Center absolutely a top notch means of doing that. The Regional Cooperative Agreement on combatting piracy, taking place in the room right next to where we were, those of us that looked at that, is another example.

We've got to include, in my view, the right what I'll call protocols. How do we talk to each other at sea? How do we get started? We ought to think about establishing what the protocol's going to be. It can be as simple as what's the frequency we all agree we'll come up on? What is the initiating conversation that we're going to talk to so we don't go down the wrong road as we meet out there in unforeseen circumstances? You can call it the cues, you can call it the code of conduct, you can call it whatever you want, but we've got to figure out how to talk to each other right off the bat and get off on the right foot.

Recently we've had some very good progress made in a forum that we've established. We've had to put BLA [inaudible] time. The Military Maritime Consultative Agreement that we have with China will work through how are we going to resolve this? We're making some good headway. I'm very encouraged by that.

We've got to build the trust and confidence, Admiral [inaudible] mentioned it this morning. It's got to be transparent. We've got to continue those exchanges, let our kids get to know each other. They're the generation coming after us. They're the ones who have to take it from here. We've got to educate our folks in respective countries. Keep those personnel exchange programs going. Use the common facilities, again, like [Changhi]. Like what the Republic of Singapore Navy is providing us.

Exercises are definitely a great way to do that, but they've got to make sense. They've got to be effective for the culture if you're invited. The rim of the Pacific, I think it's great for

multilateral, across the range of operations. CARAT -- Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training -- a bilateral training mannerism that is tailored for the two countries and their respective navies get to the partners' needs. You've got SECAT, Southeast Asia, anti-terrorism, that's a multilateral, but then you focus on the mission and you view that aspect of it.

So there are ways to do it. We've got to continue to use our innovation and let our kids run with it. Let those sailors take off with it.

We've got to figure out how we're going to establish interoperability dependent on the situation. Counter-piracy, counter-trafficking, pretty basic [problems]. Let's get to the common denominator. If it's [chatter] not [chatty] on the internet, let them take off and do that. Don't worry about information security agreements right off the bat. As we mentioned earlier, get them talking. They'll figure it out.

[Branch] ADR, we're going to have to have the systems. So maybe we sit down and figure out hey, this is the basic equipment we have. How do we make sure that they are at least compatible? That the exchange of stuff from one vessel to another, that we've got the right ramp space, we've got the right interface where you can get that done.

Maritime domain awareness gets a little more complex. You've got to figure out the right voice coms, you've got data sharing, in some cases data links. We can get the basics down and then we'll take it from there.

For us, we keep talking about this rebalance. To me it's a [inaudible] [integration]. Rebalance is fundamentally about cooperation. It's about supporting allies, supporting partners, and supporting perhaps future partners. It's establishing [inaudible] and constructing relationships with all the nations and with all the navies out here.

Therefore the rebalance as we call it has got to be balanced. As I mentioned before, you just don't end stuff out there and let it run around willy-nilly. It's not all about high end warfighting; it's not all ballistic missile defense; it's not all high end ASW. It's also not humanitarian ops. It's tailored, I think, to our allies. It's tailored to our partners. And we've got to tailor it to our potential partners.

I think first for us we've got to build on what I'll call the intellectual capital that we have out here. Balance and rebalance requires us to think about the needs of the folks that we're going to operate with. What effects are needed and where are they needed? How do we best deliver relief and how do we best deliver comfort?

Grow the expertise in the region, in your respective navies and your respective countries. It's not just about having experts that you have to depend on, but our soldiers, our sailors, those that fly, all of those folks, you need to understand the culture we're going to work with and understand and respect that sovereignty and that culture. With our allies and partners we need to develop the concepts to address these Asia Pacific, and if you will, Pacific Indian Ocean challenges. Practicing in the exercises. A great example of a humanitarian relief and disaster relief exercise is going to take place next month in Brunei. The concept for us, bringing what is really a

[inaudible] [skill] and putting the right command and control on board, making it a hub for both medical and logistics and working with some partners, working with the PLAN, working with the JMSTF who will bring in amphibious ships. The PLAN will bring the [PSAR], a hospital ship. Figure out how to get it done. Let the sailors do it. Empower them and things can happen.

Intellectual effort informs capabilities that we're going to have to bring to the Asia Pacific. So once we've got the intellectual capital, we know what we need. Now we go and build the right material. We bring the right ships. We bring the right aircraft, if you will.

So I'm going to use a laser pointer now and I'm going to [inaudible]. I can't touch that laser show you had yesterday. This is as good as it gets for me. I'll put a commercial [inaudible]. Many of you will come to Newport for our International Sea Power Symposium. I'll give you all a laser, but I ain't going to have a laser show. That's as good as it gets. That's called sequestration.

If I can have the first slide.

We brought the Littoral Combat Ship out here to Singapore and I'm very pleased to do that. Thank you very much for that. And this is not a sales pitch, but it's an example of the evolution of a capability.

This is a fast ship. It's agile. It's got shallow draft. It's made for kind of coastal waters. We think it's the right size for Southeast Asia. It's got a small footprint. We think it's fiscally responsible. By 2020 we'll have about seven operating in and around this region. The Singapore government has been very kind to allow us to operate up to maybe four later as we get through the end of the decade.

It's not about only ASW and ASUW. It's not all about mine countermeasure. It's about volume and speed and really being able to modularize.

Go to the next one please.

So imagine what you have in here for tactical purposes, change that upward to HADR. You can put foodstuff in there. You can put relief. This is a vessel that can be used for not just high end combat, not just medium end combat, but also humanitarian assistance, disaster relief.

Next one please.

This is the sister ship, [inaudible]. Again, imagine what could be development of tactical capability for humanitarian assistance out the back door and out the side door. Humanitarian assistance, disaster relief.

Next.

We'll bring the Joint High Speed Vessel out here soon. You can see the back gate, [inaudible] area, and medical facility in here.

Next.

And a lot of volume to deliver relief depending on where we need it, how we adjust, where we're going to put it. We'll have three of those speed ships I'm showing you right here out here by the end of the decade. And we can set it up for [inaudible] at each given port call.

Next.

Imagine, as Admiral Aziz was talking about transferring ships that were commercial through perhaps military use. Here we took an oiler, I think you can check that out. An oiler built for commercial use. And we put a different centerpiece in here. I went to the shipyard and said can you make us something that we can use for mobile landing, for delivering assistance ashore? They said sure. So this actually will balance up and down. These are landing craft vessels that can move in and out; bring trucks, Conex boxes, and foodstuff. You can establish a hospital on there. This particular one is the Montford Point. She will deliver here in about a month and a half and we will operate here here out of Guam in a few years.

Large throughput, large volume ashore, good for humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, good for a host of things.

So if you take the same vessel, the same concept, which by the way costs about one-fifth of the cost of a high end amphibious big deck ship.

Next one please.

I asked them, can you put a flight deck on there and they said sure. They'll do anything for money. But it's actually not all that expensive -- About 25 percent of a big deck amphib. And she can haul big cargo helicopters, drones, tactical helicopters and in fact she'll be able to handle the Joint Strike Fighter, the Bravo version, the vertical launch version.

So this Afloat Forward Staging Base concept, something that we think through, something that resonates more clearly, something that's perhaps better suited for this region, and its balance and capabilities that we bring to this region.

[Inaudible] adapt to the needs of the allies and partners. I've kind of alluded to that. But the new platforms that we bring should be less integrated, less determined on what this thing's going to be for, and be able to be adaptive. Be able to put other payloads in and move ahead on that. We'll fill payloads that we can all employ, bringing unmanned underwater vehicle, maybe, bring an unmanned surface vehicle for mine-countermeasure that frankly all nations can operate and all nations can afford as we move ahead into the future.

It allows us to adapt to new locations and to new challenges.

I appreciate the conference. I appreciate the chance to discuss how we can support allies and partners. How we can build stable and constructive relationships. [H.E. Daniel], I want to thank

you very much again for hosting us here and for your country. You've been a terrific host. This can help get us along, I think. You're doing your part of it. I look forward to hosting the International Sea Conference Symposium No. 21 in October and seeing many of you there as we pick up what we learned today, carry it forward, and with the leadership in this room decide what are we going to do about all this?

Thank you very much. I'll be very interested in your questions in the panel.

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