The strongest it has been since 1985.

The United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) is one of the Department of Defense’s six Regional Combatant Commands. The USPACOM commander serves as the senior U.S. military authority in the Indo-Pacific region and reports to the president of the United States through the secretary of defense. USPACOM has two subunified combatant commands, United States Forces Korea (USFK) and United States Forces Japan (USFJ), which orchestrate U.S. activities with those allies.

Indo-Pacific Region

Encompassing about half the Earth’s surface, the Indo-Pacific region stretches from the waters off the West Coast of the Americas to the western border of Indonesia and from Antarctica to the Arctic Ocean. There are few regions as culturally, socially, economically, and geopolitically diverse as the Indo-Pacific. The 38 nations comprising the region are home to more than 50 percent of the world’s population, 3,000 languages and seven of the world’s 10 largest militaries. The three largest economies are also located in the Indo-Pacific along with 50 of the 100 smallest. The region includes the most populous nation in the world (China), the largest democracy (India) and the largest Muslim-majority nation (Indonesia). More than one-third of Indo-Pacific nations are smaller island nations that include the smallest republic in the world (Nauru) and the smallest nation in Asia (Maldives).

USPACOM Forces

Approximately 375,000 U.S. military and civilian personnel are assigned across the USPACOM area of responsibility (AOR). U.S. Army Pacific has about 108,000 Soldiers and civilians from one field army in Korea, one corps and two divisions, plus over 300 aircraft and five surface ships assigned throughout the AOR from Japan and Korea to Alaska and Hawaii. U.S. Pacific Fleet consists of approximately 200 ships and sea-based forces (five aircraft carrier strike groups), nearly 1,100 aircraft and more than 130,000 Sailors and civilians dedicated to protecting our mutual security interests. U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, includes two Marine Expeditionary Forces and about 86,000 Marines and 640 aircraft assigned. U.S. Pacific Air Forces consists of three numbered Air Forces with approximately 46,000 Airmen and civilians and more than 420 aircraft. U.S. Special Operations Command Pacific includes more than 1,200 joint special operations personnel. Department of Defense civilian employees in the USPACOM AOR number about 38,000. Joint Enlistage Task Force West is USPACOM’s executive agent for counterterrorism and has approximately 150 military, civilian and contractor personnel.

STRENGTHENING AND ADVANCING ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

In concert with other U.S. government agencies, USPACOM protects and defends the freedom of the United States, its people and its interests. USPACOM is dedicated to providing regional security and cooperation with the five nations allied with the United States through mutual defense treaties. With allies and partners, USPACOM is committed to enhancing stability in the Indo-Pacific region by promoting security cooperation, encouraging peaceful defense responding to contingencies, deterring aggression and, when necessary, fighting to win.

ENDURING SECURITY COMMITMENTS

USPACOM participates in many exercises and other engagement activities with regional military forces. Joint and Combined Multilateral Exercises include:

- **BALIKATAN**
  - A combined U.S./Philippines joint/multinational exercise with the Philippines and other regional partners designed to enhance joint and combined interoperability and build capacity in traditional and nontraditional threat environments.

- **COBRA GOLD**
  - A U.S.-lead multinational exercise with Thailand and other regional partners designed to improve cooperation and collaboration with partner nations to achieve effective solutions to common challenges.

- **KEY RESOLVE/FOAL EAGLE**
  - Republic of Korea (ROK)/U.S. operation plan-oriented simulation (OPSO) and post exercise joint and combined field exercises designed to train staffs at all levels in procedures and concepts, as well as improve combat readiness and interoperability.

- **RIM OF THE PACIFIC (RIMPAC)**
  - A biennial large-scale multinational power projection/sea control exercise hosted in Hawaii.

- **TALLISMAN SABER**
  - A biennial Australia/U.S./Japan multinational exercise merging exercises Tandem Thrust, Kingfisher and Crocodile. Tallisman Saber is the primary training venue for Commander Pacific Command as a Combined Task Force in a short warning, power projection, force projection scenario. The exercise is in opportunity to train Australian, Japanese and U.S. combined forces in mid- to high-intensity combat operations using training areas in Australia.

- **TEMPEST EXPRESS**
  - A Multinational Planning Augmentation Team (MPAT) event hosted and co-sponsored by a partner nation, involving up to 31 nations’ militaries, select civilian government representatives and representatives from United Nations, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

The United States Coast Guard annually conducts Operation North Pacific Guard in the North Pacific and Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica, providing icebreaker support to close a shipping channel for McMurdo Bay respectively. Additionally, service-level multilateral exercises include Khaan Quest, Malabar, SEACAT and Guardian Sea.

PORT VISITS

The U.S. Navy makes about 750 port visits throughout the Pacific region each year. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) also routinely conducts over 20 port calls in the region each year.

BUILDING REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

USPACOM encourages all nations to strengthen partnerships with their neighbors. Multilateral relationships improve understanding, sharpen interoperability, strengthen regional norms and encourage responsibility in addressing shared security challenges. In addition to participating in bilateral and multinational exercises with our allies and partners, the command co-hosts multinational forums to include: Pacific Amphibious Leaders Symposium (PALS), Chiefs of Defense Conference (CHOD), Pacific Armies Chiefs of Staff Conference/Pacific Armies Management Symposium (PACS/PAMS), Pacific Air Forces (PAF) Air Chiefs Conference, and the Combined Forces Maritime Component Commanders’ (CFMCC) Course.

GLOBAL PEACE OPERATIONS INITIATIVE (GPOI)

GPOI is a U.S. State Department-partner capacity program that increases and improves the contributing nations’ abilities to support United Nations peacekeeping operations. GPOI is executed by USPACOM through peacekeeping training courses, nontraditional training environment, peacekeeping center improvements and annual multinational peacekeeping exercises. Fiji and Nepal are among the 10 nations participating in the GPOI program.

MULTINATIONAL PLANNING AUGMENTATION TEAM (MPAT) PROGRAM

Operating since 2000, the MPAT program aims to improve multinational military speed of response, interoperability, mission effectiveness and unity of effort for small-scale contingencies and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief. Countries outside the PACOM AOR such as Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom also provide support for MPAT engagements. Participation also includes Canada, France, Fiji, Germany, Italy, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, United Kingdom and Vanuatu.