

# U.S. Force Posture Strategy in the Asia Pacific Region: An Independent Assessment

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**CSIS**

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- FY2012 NDAA
- DoD tasked CSIS to undertake study
- Submitted at the end of June
- The Study:
  - Reviews current and emerging U.S. national security interests in the Asia Pacific region
  - Assesses options for force posture and deployment plans in the region
  - Offers specific recommendations to the Department of Defense and the U.S. Congress going forward



Source: PACOM Regional Map and Information

## ***Evaluation Criteria***

- Geostrategic Security / Political-Military
- Operational / Force Structure and Management
- Affordability
- Executability

## ***Force Posture Options***

- As Is, Where Is
- Planned Posture
- Increased Posture
- Decreased Posture



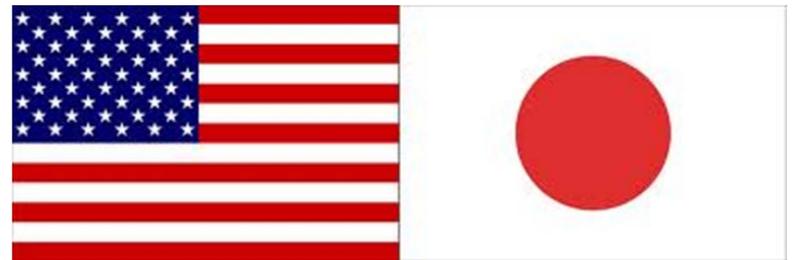
- **Finding One:** Forward presence is critically important for protecting U.S. national security interests in the Asia Pacific region.
- **Finding Two:** There are conceptual and implementation disconnects between strategic planning and resource decisions.
- **Finding Three:** Options for rebalancing toward Asia require validation for affordability and execution.



***Better align engagement strategy under PACOM and across DoD, including improved integration of PACOM with its component commands, between PACOM and Service Force Providers, and among PACOM, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Joint Staff, and the interagency process.***

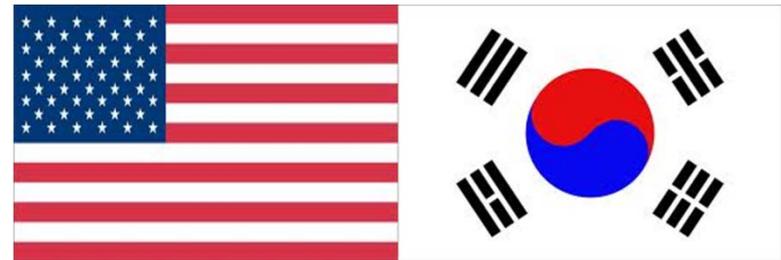
***Implement the April 2012 U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee (SCC) agreement to disperse four Marine Air Ground Task Forces (MAGTFs) across the Pacific, but with the following caveats:***

- Ensure that implementation is incremental, prioritized, and affordable
- In the near-term, prioritize improvements in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) that are mission critical
- Proceed with plans to relocate MCAS Futenma to Henoko while continuing to examine alternative courses of action to mitigate risks



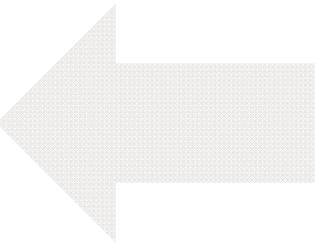
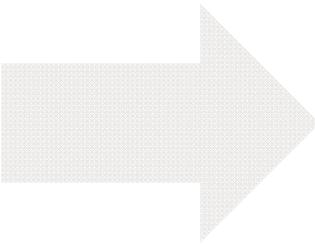
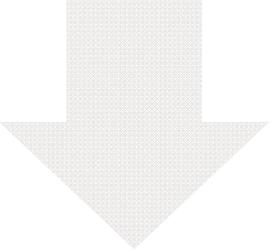
***Implement the U.S.-Korea Strategic Alliance 2015, but with the following caveats:***

- Track progress toward and adjust schedules for Operational Control (OPCON) transition and Combined Forces Command (CFC) dissolution
- Examine the option of replacing current U.S. ground combat units in Korea with rotations of trained and ready mechanized infantry, full combat artillery and aviation brigades

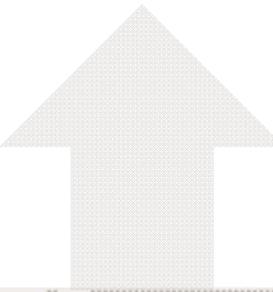


### ***Add additional capabilities to PACOM***

- Station one or more additional attack submarines in Guam to provide a critical advantage in an A2AD environment
- Deploy a second amphibious ready group (ARG) from the Atlantic to the Pacific to fill lift and maneuver shortfalls for the Marines
- Increase stockpiles of critical ammunition and weapons and replenish and upgrade prepositioned equipment and supplies
- Expand the use of U.S. Marines to develop and refine expeditionary defense capabilities with key allies and partners
- Focus near-term investments in survivability of forward deployed forces



***Examine possible force posture and basing efficiencies, including squadron consolidation and adjustment of units on Korea that may be no longer aligned with parent formations.***



How will China's growing power and influence impact order and stability in the years ahead?

The strategy must be to “win the peace” by building a relationship with China that makes conflict virtually unthinkable and cooperation mutually attractive

U.S. forward deployed military forces will be one indispensable pillar of that strategy by:

- ***Helping to shape the regional environment in peacetime***
- ***Strengthening deterrence and contingency capabilities***

# Shaping the Peacetime Environment



## *U.S. force posture can help shape a more cooperative peacetime environment by:*

- Assuring allies and partners of U.S. security commitments
- Dissuading Chinese coercion or North Korean aggression by demonstrating solidarity with and among allies and partners
- Shoring up the security and self-capacity of vulnerable states
- Reassuring China where possible through engagement in bilateral and multilateral security cooperation and confidence-building on common challenges

# Deterrence and Contingency Capabilities

At the same time, U.S. forces that are forward deployed and persistently engaged set the stage for more effective deterrence and better contingency capabilities by:

- Shaping requirements, doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures of U.S. allies and partners
- Networking those allies and partners with each other
- Gaining greater familiarity with the immediate security environment
- Increasing overall maritime domain awareness
- Ensuring the integrity of the first and second island chains with respect to adversaries in a conflict
- Complicating the military planning of potential adversaries
- Identifying and testing what planners call “off ramps” for crisis avoidance and de-escalation in crises

**Reasonably well positioned to align and focus U.S. force posture**

**Need expanded, integrated PACOM focus on engagement**

**DoD should work more effectively with Congress to determine military construction and force structure requirements**

**The United States has enormous strengths...**

**But areas such as lift and logistics need enhancement**

**DoD should integrate strategic guidance for the region**

