

I would like to give you a brief overview of US Army Pacific engagements, our area of responsibility, the status of our transformation, the diversity of today's Army, and The Year of the NCO.

We engage with 29 of the 36 countries in USARPAC's area of responsibility as part of the Pacific Command Theater Campaign Plan. These engagements include Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, medical programs, platoon level exercises, and large scale joint exercises. To date we have completed over 100 engagements and expect to conduct over 300 this year.

These interactions not only open doors, but increase our interoperability and promote personal and professional relationships that build trust with our friends and Allies throughout the Pacific.

The size and scope of USARPAC's Area of Operations covers 16 time zones, 53% of the earth's surface and 60% of the world's population. We often speak of the "tyranny of distance" as our area spans from Anchorage to the Maldives. Four of the most populous countries and seven out of the ten largest Armies in the world are also located within the Pacific region. Five of the seven nations that signed mutual defense treaties with the United States are in this region and 38% of all United States trade traverses the Pacific totaling \$1.1 trillion. As the host for the Headquarters of Pacific Command, U.S. Army Pacific, Pacific Fleet, Pacific Air Forces and Marine Forces Pacific, Hawaii is central to the strategic activity in this vast region.

In order to support our current force structure, the Secretary of Defense's fiscal year 2010 budget proposal carries significant changes to the Army's Future Combat System program. The budget continues to support capabilities that empower Soldiers such as Unmanned Aerial Devices and Robotic Systems. The intent is to leverage the Army's investment in already-developed technologies and accelerate fielding of FCS capabilities to all Brigade Combat Teams. Although the family of manned ground vehicles was canceled, a new ground combat vehicle will be developed within the next five to seven years and will replace our Cold War era vehicles.

The Army is moving to a modernization strategy focused on building a versatile mix of networked Brigade Combat Teams that leverage mobility, protection, information, precision intelligence and fires. The strategy will incorporate the valuable scientific and network advances as well as key technologies already in use in Iraq and Afghanistan such as the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles (otherwise known as MRAPs), biometric devices, and intelligence systems. This strategy will enhance the full spectrum capabilities of our modular formations.

Army leaders are focused on sensibly funding the development and implementation of the equipment necessary to continue Overseas Contingency Operations.

Transformation included some big changes within United States Army Pacific. We are well on our way to becoming an operational, deployable headquarters. Within the past 2 years we have activated the 18th Medical Command, 8th Theater Sustainment

Command, 94th Air and Missile Defense Command, and the 311th Signal Command. These organizations provide medical, logistical, missile defense and communications support throughout the area of operations. We are continuing to grow and expand capabilities in the Pacific.

Sustainment of a diverse, educated, volunteer force while engaged in a protracted war has become increasingly difficult. In the 1980's, our Nation was in the midst of the Cold War maintaining a force focused on projection and deterrence. Today's Soldiers require an all time high level of adaptability and must be capable of implementing Full Spectrum Operations.

There is a misconception that the Army is comprised only of the disadvantage and uneducated. This is far from true. Approximately 70% of new recruits are from middle class families and 25% from upper income families. Interestingly, today less than 1% of our total population serves in the Army. Also, only three out of 10 American males 17 to 24 years of age are qualified physically, mentally and morally to enlist.

Over the past several years, the Army has been proactive and aggressive in its efforts to recruit and train a diverse cadre of Soldiers and implement programs designed to facilitate the education of its racially and ethnically diverse workforce.

US Army Noncommissioned officers have distinguished themselves as the world's most accomplished group of military professionals. They have emerged as the Army's small –unit leaders, trainers', and guardians of standards. Our NCO Corps is unrivaled by any Army in the world, envied by our allies and feared by our enemies. In recognition of their commitment to service, and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our Nation, The Secretary of the Army established 2009 as the Year of the NCO.

Our current Operations Tempo remains higher than ever. We currently have over 19,000 dedicated Soldiers and professional Department of the Army civilians deployed to 19 locations; spanning from Iraq and Afghanistan to the Philippines in support of Overseas Contingency Operations. Many of our units are currently deployed, returning from deployment or preparing to deploy. Our Soldiers and Families are committed and weathering these deployments with resilience and strength. I am very proud of our troops, their families, and your generous community support.