

OPRF MARINT Monthly Report

December 2011



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This monthly report was summarized and produced by OPRF staff writers based on their analyses and assessments of open source information.

Each source of information is described as an internet link in a bracket, which is available as URL online as of the end of December 2011.

Publisher: Masahiro Akiyama

Staff writers:

Kazumine Akimoto, Takehisa Imaizumi, Masami Kawamura, Aki Mori, Wakana Mukai,
Eiji Sakai, Daisuke Sekine, Takehisa Tomomori, Hideshi Ueno, Yuko Takada

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Intelligence Summary in December 2011

Maritime Security: On the 5th, a Japanese maritime patrol aircraft spotted a suspicious skiff with seven suspected pirates aboard in the Gulf of Aden. Having received information, the U.S. Navy's guided missile destroyer USS *Carney*, part of NATO's counter-piracy task force Operation Ocean Shield, approached the scene. VBSS (visit, board, search and seizure) team from the *Carney* boarded the skiff and seized the excess fuel and other items useful to piracy. Afterward, the skiff was released with enough fuel to return to the Somali coast.

On the 5th, the President of the Republic of Seychelles, the island nation in the Indian Ocean, James Michel, sent his letter to world leaders to give more attention to the situation in Somalia. "The reality of the situation in the Indian Ocean is that despite the reduction in the success rate of pirate attacks, the number of assaults continues to remain relatively constant, and in the Southern Indian Ocean even increase," said the President in his letters to world leaders. Based upon this assessment, President Michel has made requests to the world leaders for increased support in the peace-keeping mission of AMISOM (African Union Mission in Somalia), as well as the improvement of intelligence sharing networks that will allow for a more efficient and systematic approach in targeting all angles of the criminal network, with particular attention to the financiers of piracy among others.

On the 7th, the United Kingdom (UK) Department of Transport has published rules regulating the carriage of armed guards on British merchant ships sailing off the coast of Somalia. The guidelines stipulate that shipping companies wishing to use armed guards will also be required to submit a detailed counter-piracy plan to the UK Department for Transport in advance.

According to Press Release issued by the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atlanta (EUNAVFOR) on the 20th, currently 200 persons are being held hostage and used by Somali pirates as part of a ransom business. Since the start of the EU NAVFOR counter-piracy mission in December 2008, a total of 2,317 merchant seamen have been held hostage for an average of nearly five months. A recent tactic of the Somali pirates has been to agree to the ransom payment for the return of ship and crew and then hold-back some of the crew when the ship is released to use to negotiate for the release of convicted Somali pirates from the home country of the detained crew members. On the 21st, Somali pirates released the Italian-flagged oil tanker MV *Savina Caylyn* (104,255DWT). The tanker was hijacked 500 nautical miles from west coast of India on February 8. The 22 crew members are composed of 17 Indians and five Italian. The *Savina Caylyn* has been released for \$11.5 million ransom. The ransom is said to have been delivered in two installments. It was a tactic by the ship's owners to make sure that the Indians were released. According to the Somalia Report, Weekly Report, on the December 30, estimated ransom payments in 2011 amount to \$154.0 million for the release of 34 vessels. Additionally, as of the end of December, at least 15 ships (eight commercial vessels, seven fishing vessels) and an

estimated 268 crewmembers are in the control of Somali pirates, or held hostage by them.

There was one hijacking incident. On the 27th, Somali pirates hijacked the Italian-flagged products carrier MT *Enrico Ievoli* (16,631DWT) off the coast of Oman. The *Enrico Ievoli* was carrying 15,750 tons of caustic soda from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the Mediterranean. The vessel has 18 crewmembers on board.

On the other hand, the Sunda Strait, a waterway separating Java Island from Sumatra Island, is prone to piracy, Indonesia's Banten regional police chief said on the 5th. It is also often used by illegal immigrants. According to Banten regional police, it is said that the illegal immigrants Sri Lanka, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Syria often start their journey to Christmas Island in Australia from a number of villages facing the Sunda Strait.

Military Developments: On the 2nd, Indian Navy (IN) chief said the IN is substantially boosting its maritime surveillance and operational capabilities in the Indian Ocean, while creating infrastructure in the Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Minicoy islands which form India's strategic outposts. Focusing on operational reach and sustainability, the IN envisages a force of close to 500 aircraft and over 150 warships until the year 2027. According to the Indian newspaper, *The Hindustan Times*, on the 4th, India is expected to have the *Akula II* class nuclear submarine delivered from Russia by the end of March 2012. Additionally, in India, the indigenous nuclear submarine, INS *Arihant*, is also to be commissioned in 2020, with sea trials planned over the next six months. With India's defense forces possessing nuclear strike capabilities from sea as well as land and air, the nuclear triad will be completed by the end of March 2012. On the 30th, Russia handed over the *Akula II* class nuclear-powered attack submarine *Nerpa* to India on a 10-year lease following more than two years of delays.

On the 2nd, the Singaporean navy held a ceremony to mark the commissioning of the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) first *Archer*-class submarine, RSS *Archer*, at Changi Naval Base. RSS *Archer* is the first unit of the *Archer*-class submarine acquired from Sweden in 2005. After arriving in Singapore on August 17, 2011, RSS *Archer* had successfully conducted sea trials.

On the 2nd, the Seychelles' Foreign Affairs Minister invited China to set up a base to counter piracy in the region. Prior to this announcement, Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie visited Victoria on the 1st with a 40-strong delegation for the first time. "According to escort needs and the needs of other long-range missions, China will consider seeking supply facilities at appropriate harbors in the Seychelles or other countries," the Chinese Ministry of National Defense said in a statement on the 12th.

On the 7th, Chinese and US defense officials opened military talks in Beijing, which was led by Michele Flournoy, U.S. undersecretary of defense for policy, and her Chinese counterpart Ma Xiaotian, deputy chief of staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA).

Having completed the second stage of its sea trials, the Chinese aircraft carrier, the ex-*Varyag*, returned to the port of Dalian on the 11th. Since departing from the port of Dalian on November 29, the carrier had a twelve-day sea cruise. On the 28th, a spokesman with the Ministry of National Defense said the ex-*Varyag* is underway carrying out scientific testing.

According to the spokesman, the scientific research and testing will be a long process, and relevant scientific testing and training at sea will continue in the future.

On the 13th, the Royal Australian Navy has commissioned HMAS *Choules* in Fremantle. The 16,000-tonne HMAS *Choules* can carry 160 personnel and will be docked in the eastern states. HMAS *Choules* was sold to the Royal Australian Navy by the Royal Navy earlier in 2011.

On the 23rd, South Korea's Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME) landed a contract worth around \$1.1 billion to build three submarines for the Indonesian navy. It is the first time that the DSME will export submarines abroad. It also is the largest defense export contract for any South Korean firm. Each submarine to be built is the conventional 209 class diesel-powered vessel, which displaces 2,400 tons, carry a crew of 40 and have eight torpedo tubes. The deliveries will be in 2015 and 2016.

South China Sea-related Events: According to the Philippine newspaper, *The Philippine Star*, on the 2nd, the Philippine government has increased its security and maritime patrols in the hotly contested West Philippine Sea (the South China Sea: SCS) to secure and protect the country's economic interests and address human trafficking and other forms of transnational crimes. The Philippine Coast Guard, the Department of Energy and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are actively involved in the increased security and maritime activities by Western Command in the West Philippine Sea. On the 13th, the Philippine Navy held a ceremony of commissioning the BRP *Gregorio del Pilar*. The ship is the USSCG *Hamilton*-class vessel from the US Coast Guard, which will be deployed to secure the territory of the Philippines shortly. Additionally, on the same day, the Navy also led the commissioning of the BRP *Tagbanua*, a locally built Navy landing craft utility.

According to executive director Teuku Rezasyah at the Indonesian think tank, Center of Democracy, Diplomacy and Defense, as for the status of military buildup in the South China Sea (SCS), Malaysia has two warships, the Philippines one, China 27 and Taiwan 26 operating in the South China Sea (SCS). He said Vietnam had several escort vessels operating in the area.

Diplomacy and International Relations: On the 10th, China started joint patrols with their counterparts from Laos, Myanmar and Thailand to maintain security along the Mekong River. In addition, the joint patrol marked the restoration of international shipping services on the Mekong River that had been suspended since deadly attacks on Chinese cargo ships on October 5.

On the 14th, Zbigniew Brzezinski, U.S. national security adviser of the Carter Administration from 1977-81, contributed an article titled "As China Rises, A New U.S. Strategy" to the U.S. newspaper, *The Wall Street Journal*. This article is adapted from an essay in the January/February issue of *Foreign Affairs*. In the article the author discusses that, in Asia, as China rises, the U.S. role should be that of regional balancer and conciliator, replicating the role played by the U.K. in intra-European politics during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Shipping, Shipbuilding and Harbors: On the 7th, the United States and China kicked off a Megaports Initiative pilot project in Shanghai. The Yangshan Port pilot project will be jointly carried out by China's General Administration of Customs, China's Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, and the U.S. Department of Energy. To date, 18 sets of radiation detection equipment have been installed at the Yangshan deep-water port, and a detection control center has also been built. Yangshan marks the 40th such port under the Megaports Initiative, as well as the initiative's first in China.

According to the Philippine newspaper, *The Manila Bulletin*, dated the 6th, the recent launching of the Asian Cruise Terminal Association (ACTA) in Singapore in November has given the Subic Port a big boost to becoming the next cruise ship destination.

Ocean Resources, Energy, Sea Environment and Others: On the 12th, the largest Danish shipping company, Maersk, said Maersk and the U.S. Navy are testing algae-based biofuel on the container ship MV *Maersk Kalmar* (88,669DWT). During its month-long, 6,500 nautical mile voyage from Bremerhaven, Germany to Pipavav, India, the ship will use 30 tons of biofuel.

According to the homepage of TOKYO-Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL), the company was selected to transport liquefied natural gas (LNG) to a floating storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU) operated by PT Nusantara Regas off Indonesia on the 20th. (FSRU is the floating facility for distributing the LNG in gaseous form by pipeline to gas utilities and consumers after receiving the LNG transported from the production site by an LNG carrier near the point of consumption.)

Intelligence Assessment: On January 5, 2012, U.S. President Barack Obama unveiled a new national defense strategy titled, *Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense* at the Department of Defense. The new strategy shown as a "new strategic guidance" is intended to shift priority of the U.S. military power from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in the past ten years to the Asia Pacific. Prior to Obama's announcement of the new national strategy, on November 22, 2011, the Joint Chiefs of Staff released, as an access operational concept to global commons, *Joint Operational Access Concept*. It would be the biggest issue for the U. S. Armed Forces how to deploy the military forces to the areas where the coastal nations intend to adopt the anti-access (A/A) strategies. In order to maintain the global it is necessary for the United States to ensure the military access to the global commons. In this meaning, this operational concept will provide a concrete illustration to a new strategic guidance. In this article, carrying an outline of these two reports, we have studied and commented on the influence which is exerted by the concepts shown therein over Japan and Asia.

1. Information Digest

1.1 Maritime Security

December 2 “Taiwan, U.S. discuss anti-piracy cooperation” (Focus Taiwan, December 2, 2011)

The delegation, composed of members of the U.S. Department of State and Department of Defense, and representatives from Taiwan's authorities concerned discussed counter-piracy measures, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) said on the 2nd. However, in this first meeting no concrete projects were in the works.

An outline of the article: The delegation, composed of members of the U.S. Department of State and Department of Defense, and the delegation called on representatives from Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Transportation, Coast Guard Headquarters, and Fisheries Bureau, discussed counter-piracy measures, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) said on the 2nd. The two sides held constructive and wide-ranging discussions on the problem of piracy at sea and on ways to expand our counter-piracy cooperation, according to a press statement. However, in this first meeting no concrete projects were in the works.

Refer to the article: Taiwan, U.S. discuss anti-piracy cooperation

http://focustaiwan.tw/ShowNews/WebNews_Detail.aspx?Type=aIPL&ID=201112020029

December 4 “MMEA receives new type of interceptor craft” (The Star, December 5, 2011)

On the 4th, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) received three *ONUK MRTP 16* fast interceptor craft for its enforcement operations. The craft can reach speeds of up to 60 knots and is equipped with a 12.7mm gun.

An outline of the article: On the 4th, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) received three *ONUK MRTP 16* fast interceptor craft for its enforcement operations. The craft can reach speeds of up to 60 knots and is equipped with a 12.7mm Oto Melara Hitrole gun. Besides being used for anti-drug and piracy operations, the craft will also be used for search and rescue operations and environmental pollution control. In February 2011, BYO Marine was awarded a contract to build 10 fast interceptor craft for the MMEA.

Refer to the article: MMEA gets more speed and firepower

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2011/12/6/nation/10038991&sec=nation>

December 5 “US Navy ship reacts to piracy group spotted by JMSDF aircraft” (Pan Orient News, December 8, 2011)

On the 5th, a Japanese maritime patrol aircraft spotted a suspicious skiff with seven suspected pirates aboard in the Gulf of Aden. Having received information, the U.S. Navy's

guided missile destroyer USS *Carney*, part of NATO's counter-piracy task force Operation Ocean Shield, approached the scene. VBSS (visit, board, search and seizure) team from the *Carney* boarded the skiff and seized the excess fuel and other items useful to piracy. Afterward, the skiff was released with enough fuel to return to the Somali coast.

An outline of the article: On the 5th, spotting a suspicious skiff with seven suspected pirates aboard in the Gulf of Aden, a Japanese maritime patrol aircraft passed information to the NATO flagship ITS *Andrea Doria* in NATO's counter-piracy task force Operation Ocean Shield. The flagship in turn tasked the U.S. Navy's guided missile destroyer USS *Carney* to investigate the skiff. USS *Carney* approached the skiff, while the patrol aircraft circled overhead, and continued surveillance. Sighting the U.S. naval vessel, the skiff attempted to flee, throwing the ladders and other pirate-related equipment overboard. VBSS (visit, board, search and seizure) team from USS *Carney* boarded the skiff and seized the excess fuel and other items useful to piracy. Afterward, the skiff was released with enough fuel to return to the Somali coast.

Refer to the article: American and Japanese Forces Confronted Pirates in the Gulf of Aden
<http://www.panorientnews.com/en/news.php?k=1504>

December 5 “Sunda Strait prone to piracy: Indonesian Regional Police” (Antara News, December 5, 2011)

The Sunda Strait, a waterway separating Java Island from Sumatra Island, is prone to piracy, Indonesia's Banten regional police chief said on the 5th. It is also often used by illegal immigrants. According to Banten regional police, it is said that the illegal immigrants Sri Lanka, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Syria often start their journey to Christmas Island from a number of villages facing the Sunda Strait.

An outline of the article: The Sunda Strait, a waterway separating Java Island from Sumatra Island, is prone to piracy, Indonesia's Banten regional police chief said on the 5th. Therefore, the Banten regional police would also pay attention to the security of vessels passing through or crossing the strait from Java to Sumatra or vice versa. “We do not want the Sunda Strait to become a pirates' operation zone like the Malacca Strait. Therefore, we always patrol the Sunda Strait waters,” regional police chief said. He said that, as a sea transportation lane, the Sunda Strait was vulnerable to piracy because it bordered on forested coasts in Java and Sumatra. Besides piracy, the Sunda Strait was also prone to illegal fishing. It is also often used by illegal immigrants. He said in 2011 Banten police had intercepted a number of boats carrying immigrants from Sri Lanka, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Syria in the Sunda Strait. It is said that the illegal immigrants often start their journey to Christmas Island from a number of villages facing the Sunda Strait.

Refer to the article: Sunda Strait prone to piracy: Police
<http://www.antaraneews.com/en/news/78188/sunda-strait-prone-to-piracy--police>

December 5 “Seychelles President calls on world Leaders to address Somalia situation” (Defence Professionals, December 5, 2011)

On the 5th, the President of the Republic of Seychelles, the island nation in the Indian Ocean, James Michel, sent his letter to world leaders to give more attention to the situation in Somalia. “The reality of the situation in the Indian Ocean is that despite the reduction in the success rate of pirate attacks, the number of assaults continues to remain relatively constant, and in the Southern Indian Ocean even increase,” said the President in his letters to world leaders. Based upon this assessment, President Michel has made requests to the world leaders for increased support in the peace-keeping mission of AMISOM (African Union Mission in Somalia), as well as the improvement of intelligence sharing networks that will allow for a more efficient and systematic approach in targeting all angles of the criminal network, with particular attention to the financiers of piracy among others.

An outline of the article: On the 5th, the President of the Republic of Seychelles, the island nation in the Indian Ocean, James Michel, sent his letter to world leaders to give more attention to the situation in Somalia. “The reality of the situation in the Indian Ocean is that despite the reduction in the success rate of pirate attacks, the number of assaults continues to remain relatively constant, and in the Southern Indian Ocean even increase,” said the President in his letters to world leaders. Based upon this assessment, the President outlined five key areas of the comprehensive approach to be taken as follows:

- (1) Increased commitment and support to peacekeeping forces within Somalia, particular to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces operating in Mogadishu, as well as a maritime presence for the mission that will enable the patrolling of the coast,
- (2) Targeted interventions against all criminal and terrorist groups to displace hubs of criminal activity,
- (3) Re-enforce and strengthen existing areas of stability within Somalia, with the establishment of rule of law and creation of economic opportunities,
- (4) Strengthening the capacity of coastal states to better defend the maritime zones, allowing for better patrolling and surveillance capabilities,
- (5) And the improvement of intelligence sharing networks that will allow for a more efficient and systematic approach in targeting all angles of the criminal network, with particular attention to the financiers of piracy.

The President thanked those Governments who had already shown support in the fight against piracy but also appealed to them to increase their engagement as a matter of priority, in order to ensure security in the Indian Ocean region. The President stressed, “We are in the frontline in the fight against piracy. Our people have been taken hostage, our sovereignty is under threat, our security is menaced and our economy severely affected. The international community needs to do more to support us.” The President has sent letters detailing his concerns to the leaders of China, USA, India, Russia, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, France, UK, Spain, Portugal, Italy, the Netherlands, Australia, Sweden, Turkey, Finland, South Africa, Luxembourg, Canada, Brazil, Egypt, South Korea, the European Union, the United Nations and NATO.

Refer to the article: Seychelles President Calls on World Leaders to Urgently Address Somalia Situation

<http://www.defpro.com/news/details/30365/?SID=c4fcfa730f19bae4afd61cf91d53111f>

December 7 “EU NAVFOR transfers outboard engines to the Djiboutian Navy” (EU NAVFOR Public Affairs Office, Press Release, December 13, 2011)

On the 7th, the EU NAVFOR transferred six powerful outboard motors which had been confiscated from Somali pirates to the Djiboutian Navy. The engines have been completely overhauled before being used for the Djiboutian Navy’s Rigid Inflatable boats.

An outline of the article: In Djibouti on December 7, RADM Christian Canova FRAN, Deputy Commander EU NAVFOR, transferred six powerful outboard motors which had been confiscated from Somali pirates to the Djiboutian Navy. The engines were taken from small skiffs which had been used by Somali pirates. The engines have been completely overhauled before being used for the Djiboutian Navy’s Rigid Inflatable boats.

Refer to the article: EU NAVFOR transfers pirates’ outboard engines to the Djiboutian Navy

<http://www.eunavfor.eu/2011/12/eu-navfor-transfers-pirates%e2%80%99-outboard-engines-to-the-djiboutian-navy/>

December 7 “UK clarifies rules for armed guards on ships” (Defence Professional, December 8, 2011)

On the 7th, the United Kingdom (UK) Department of Transport has published rules regulating the carriage of armed guards on British merchant ships sailing off the coast of Somalia. The guidelines stipulate that shipping companies wishing to use armed guards will also be required to submit a detailed counter-piracy plan to the UK Department for Transport in advance.

An outline of the article: On the 7th, the United Kingdom (UK) Department of Transport has published rules regulating the carriage of armed guards on British merchant ships sailing off the coast of Somalia. Evidence shows that vessels with armed guards are less likely to be successfully attacked, and no vessel with armed guards has ever been hijacked, which is why the UK has been working in recent months to allow the lawful use of armed guards, but only in ‘exceptional circumstances.’ The guidelines stipulate that shipping companies wishing to use armed guards will also be required to submit a detailed counter-piracy plan to the UK Department for Transport in advance. Shipping Minister Mike Penning said that, “Modern pirates are dangerous, organized criminals who have shown they are not shy of using violence to achieve their goals. We have not taken this decision lightly. It is clear that we must offer those flying the Red Ensign every opportunity to ensure the safety of their crews and vessels.” “By allowing the use of armed guards in a structured, legal framework we can move to a system where ship owners can provide an adequate deterrent against this scourge on the maritime industry.” Under the guideline, any private security company (PSC) employed to put armed guards onboard UK ships will require authorization from the Home Office for the possession of prohibited firearms. The Home Office and police will also carry out checks into the PSC and its personnel before an authorization is

granted. Armed guards will only be permitted when ships are transiting a defined High Risk Area, where “best management practices” are not deemed enough to protect the ship and where the use of armed guards is likely to reduce the risk to those onboard.

The United States also reversed their opposition to having armed guards on merchant ships. Late last month the Greek ministry of security said that Greek merchant ships will soon be able to carry armed guards to ward off pirates. Greece is one of only a few countries with major shipping fleets to currently ban armed guards on its vessels, alongside countries such as Japan and the Netherlands. The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), which represents over 80 percent of the world's merchant fleet, said that arming guards was likely to be effective in deterring pirates for now, but was not a long-term solution. ICS secretary general Peter Hinchliffe said, “While we welcome it, it is a short-term palliative measure.” Hinchliffe said the ICS wanted to see more arrests of suspected pirates, military attacks on pirates' Somali supply bases and a naval blockade 12 miles off the country's coast.

Refer to the article: UK clarifies rules for armed guards on ships

<http://www.defpro.com/news/details/30516/>

As for the guidance, refer to:

Interim Guidance to UK Flagged Shipping on the Use of Armed Guards to Defend Against the Threat of Piracy in Exceptional Circumstances

<http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/use-of-armed-guards-to-defend-against-piracy/use-of-armed-guards-to-defend-against-piracy.pdf>

December 12 “EU NAVFOR trains AMISON vessel protection detachment troops” (EU NAVFOR Public Affairs Office, Press Release, December 12, 2011)

On the 12th, the European Union Naval Force Somalia–Operation Atlanta (EUNAVFOR) said they provided a team of 24 troops from Uganda of the African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) with vessel protection training.

An outline of the article: On the 12th, the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atlanta (EUNAVFOR) said French and Estonian troops in Mombasa onboard FS *Floreal* provided a team of 24 troops from Uganda of the African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) with vessel protection training. Training in the pirates’ modus operandi, tactics, rules of engagement, unarmed combat and detention of suspects were carried out onboard the FS *Floreal* before moving to the M/V *Petra* for practical drills. The training culminated with the presentation of certificates by the Commander, EUNAVFOR, to the AMISOM team. These troops will operate in the planning for World Food Program and protect the supply vessels of the AMISOM against potential pirate attacks.

Refer to the article: EU NAVFOR trains AMISOM Vessel Protection Detachment troops

<http://www.eunavfor.eu/2011/12/eu-navfor-trains-amisom-vessel-protection-detachment-troops/>

December 19 “U.S. Navy ship disrupts pirates” (U.S. Navy News Service, December 21, 2011)

On the 19th, the U.S. Navy’s guided-missile destroyer USS *Pinckney* (DDG 91) assigned to Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 disrupted a group of suspected pirates close to the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) in the Gulf of Aden.

An outline of the article: On 19th, the U.S. Navy’s guided-missile destroyer USS *Pinckney* (DDG 91) assigned to Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 disrupted a group of suspected pirates close to the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) in the Gulf of Aden. On the morning of the 19th, the Motor Vessel (M/V) *Nordic Apollo* reported to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO) in Dubai it was under attack and being fired upon by pirates from a skiff while steaming in the IRTC. Having been registered with UKMTO, *Nordic Apollo*'s position was relayed to counter-piracy forces operating in the region. Responding to the distress call, the *Pinckney* assigned to CTF 151 made best speed to the area. The *Pinckney*'s helicopter successfully tracked and located the skiff, observing nine suspected pirates and pirate paraphernalia on board, including several ladders, weapons and fuel containers. The suspected pirates were seen attempting to hide their weapons and throwing the ladders overboard as *Pinckney* closed their position. Stopping the skiff, the *Pinckney* dispatched its visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team to conduct a boarding. Once aboard the skiff, the VBSS team confirmed there were nine suspected pirates, one grappling hook, 36 barrels of fuel, and 75 and 45 horsepower outboard engines. The VBSS team scuttled one outboard motor and released the pirate suspects, giving it with enough fuel and water to return back to shore.

Refer to the article: Pirates Disrupted by USS *Pinckney*

http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=64524



A visit, board, search and seizure team from the guided-missile destroyer USS *Pinckney* approaches a suspected pirate vessel after the Motor Vessel *Nordic Apollo* reported being under attack and fired upon by pirates.

Source: U.S. Navy News Service, December 21, 2011

December 20 “Situation of merchant ships and crews held hostage by Somalia pirates: UENAVFOR Report” (EU NAVFOR Public Affairs Office, Press Release, December 20, 2011)

According to Press Release issued by the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atlanta (EUNAVFOR) on the 20th, currently 200 persons are being held hostage and used by Somali pirates as part of a ransom business. Since the start of the EU NAVFOR counter-piracy mission in December 2008, a total of 2,317 merchant seamen have been held hostage for an average of nearly five months. A recent tactic of the Somali pirates has been to agree to the ransom payment for the return of ship and crew and then hold-back some of the crew when the ship is released to use to negotiate for the release of convicted Somali pirates from the home country of the detained crew members.

An outline of the article: According to Press Release issued by the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atlanta (EUNAVFOR) on the 20th, currently, 199 men and one woman are being held hostage and used by Somali pirates as part of a ransom business against their will. Since the start of the EUNAVFOR counter-piracy mission in December 2008, a total of 2,317 merchant seamen have been held hostage for an average of nearly five months. The longest period in captivity is 19 months for the 24 crew members of the MV *Iceberg 1*, who are still being held. At least 60 hostages have died. Additionally, 49 of the 200 hostages are held without the collateral of a ship, following the ship crewed by them having been destroyed, sunk or abandoned. Furthermore, a recent tactic of the Somali pirates has been to agree to the ransom payment for the return of ship and crew and then hold-back some of the crew when the ship is released to use to negotiate for the release of convicted Somali pirates from the home country of the detained crew members. Currently, four South Korean and seven Indian crew members from the MV *Gemini* and the MV *Asphalt Venture* are held following the release of the ships. Furthermore, as of the 20th, there are three ships abandoned and derelict on the Somali beach, creating a source of potential pollution, while their crews, totaling 54 men, remain in captivity.

Refer to the article: Merchant ship crews held hostage in Somalia

<http://www.eunavfor.eu/2011/12/merchant-ship-crews-held-hostage-in-somalia/>



Left: FV *Shiu Fu No.1* fishing boat, pirated Christmas Day 2010; the whereabouts of the crew of 13 Chinese, 12 Vietnamese and 1 Taiwanese mariners is unknown. Right: FV *Prantalay 12* fishing boat, pirated April 18, 2010 and beached on July 14, 2011. 5 of the crew died in captivity, 1 is missing and 4 remain in Somalia following the release of the remainder.

Source: EU NAVFOR Public Affairs Office, Press Release, December 20, 2011

December 21 “Somali pirates free Italian-flagged tanker” (Somalia Report, December 21, 2011)

On the 21st, Somali pirates released the Italian-flagged oil tanker MV *Savina Caylyn* (104,255DTT). The tanker was hijacked 500 nautical miles from west coast of India on February 8. The 22 crew members are composed of 17 Indians and five Italian. The *Savina Caylyn* has been released for \$11.5 million ransom. The ransom is said to have been delivered in two installments. It was a tactic by the ship's owners to make sure that the Indians were released.

An outline of the article: On the 21st, Somali pirates released the Italian-flagged oil tanker MV *Savina Caylyn* (104,255DTT). The tanker was hijacked 500 nautical miles from west coast of India on February 8. The 22 crew members are composed of 17 Indians and five Italian. The *Savina Caylyn* has been released for \$11.5 million ransom. The ransom was delivered in two installments, with the first payment of \$8.5 million dropped on board the vessel by helicopter on the early morning of the 21st. A second package of \$3 million arrived on the afternoon of the same day. The atypical two-part ransom drop was taken to make the release of the Indian crew secured. When the Panamanian-flagged general cargo vessel MV *Asphalt Venture* was released on April 14, of 15 crewmembers, seven Indians have been held by pirates, who hope to use them as pawns in a prisoner exchange for pirate suspects captured by the Indian Navy. “It was a tactic by the ship's owners to make sure that the Indians were released,” explained a source in the pirate gang. After the first payment was dropped, the ship's owners requested pirates to release the Indians. After the Indians were actually released in small boats, the second payment was dropped, and pirates released the vessel and the five Italians.

Refer to the article: MV Savina Caylyn Released by Somali Pirates

http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/2240/MV_Savina_Caylyn_Released_by_Somali_Pirates

December 27 “Somali pirates hijack Italian-flagged vessel” (Gulf News, AFP, December 27, 2011)

On the 27th, Somali pirates hijacked the Italian-flagged products carrier MT *Enrico Ievoli* (16,631DWT) off the coast of Oman. The *Enrico Ievoli* was carrying 15,750 tons of caustic soda from the United Arab Emirates to the Mediterranean. The vessel has 18 crewmembers on board.

An outline of the article: On the 27th, Somali pirates hijacked the Italian-flagged products carrier MT *Enrico Ievoli* (16,631DWT) off the coast of Oman. The *Enrico Ievoli* was carrying 15,750 tons of caustic soda from the United Arab Emirates to the Mediterranean. The vessel has a total of 18 crewmembers - six Italians, five Ukrainians and seven Indians on board. When the *Enrico Ievoli* had previously attacked by a pirate group off Yemen in 2009, she was rescued by the Italian naval vessel. As for the Italian-flagged merchant vessels attacked by Somali pirates, MV *Rosalia D'Amato* was freed on November 26, and MV *Montecristo* was released on October 10 by the U.S. and British naval vessels by force.

Refer to the article: Pirates hijack Italian ship with 18 on board off Oman

<http://gulfnnews.com/news/gulf/oman/pirates-hijack-italian-ship-with-18-on-board-off-oman-1.957625>



MT *Enrico Ievoli*

Source: Marine Traffic.com HP

December 30 “Ransom payment to Somali pirates amounts to approx. \$154.0 million in 2011” (Somalia Report, December 30, 2011)

Estimated ransom payments in 2011 amount to \$154.0 million for the release of 34 vessels.

An outline of the article: According to the Somalia Report, Weekly Report, on the December 30, estimated ransom payments in 2011 amount to \$154.0 million for the release of 34 vessels. Additionally, as of the end of December, at least 15 ships (eight commercial vessels, seven fishing vessels) and an estimated 268 crewmembers are in the control of Somali pirates, or held hostage

by them.

Refer to the article: Weekly Piracy Report, December 30, 2011

http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/2416/Weekly_Piracy_Report

2011 ransoms as of December 30

	Name	Hijack Date	Crew	Release Date	Ransom (Million USD)
1	MV Motivator	4/7/2010	18	16/1/2011	4.5
2	MV Izumi	10/10/2010	20	25/2/2011	4.5
3	FV Golden Wave 305	10/10/2009	43	2/9/2011	0
4	MV EMS River	27/12/2010	8	3/1/2011	3
5	MV Rak Afrikana	4/11/2010	26	3/9/2011	2
6	MV York	23/10/2010	17	3/10/2011	4.5
7	MV Jahan Moni	5/12/2010	26	13/3/2011	4
8	MV Hannibal II	11/11/2010	31	17/3/2011	2
9	VLCC Irene SL	9/2/2011	25	4/8/2011	13.5
10	MV Thor Nexus	25/12/2010	27	4/12/2011	5
11	MV Beluga Nomination	22/1/2011	13	13/4/2011	5
12	MV Asphalt Venture	29/9/2010	15	15/4/2011	3.5
13	MV Renuar	1/12/2010	24	23/4/2011	6
14	MV Sinar Kudus	16/3/2010	20	30/4/2011	4.5
15	2 Spanish crew from FV Vega 5	28/12/2010	2	15/5/2011	5
16	MV Khaled Muhieddine K	20/1/2011	25	26/5/2011	2.5
17	MV Yuan Xiang	12/11/2010	29	6/8/2011	2.1
18	MT Zirku	28/3/2011	29	6/10/2011	12
19	MV Susan K	7/4/2011	10	15/6/2011	4
20	MV Suez	8/2/2010	22	6/12/2011	2.1
21	MT Jubba XX	16/7/2011		28/7/2011	0.2
22	14 crew from Prantalay 12	18/4/2011	14	7/4/2011	0
23	MV Sinin	12/2/2011	23	14/8/2011	4
24	MT Polar	30/10/2010	24	26/8/2011	7.7
25	Danes (Hostages only)	24/2/2011	7	9/6/2011	3
26	MV MSC Panama	10/12/2010	23	9/6/2011	7
27	MV Hoang Son Sun	17/1/2011	24	16/9/2011	4.5
28	MV Dover	28/2/2011	23	28/9/2011	3.8
29	MV Eagle	17/1/2011	24	29/9/2011	6
30	MV Blida	1/1/2011	27	11/3/2011	2.6
31	MV Rosalia D'Amato	21/4/2011	21	26/12/2011	6
32	MT Gemini	30/4/2011	27	30/11/2011	4
33	MT Iceberg	29/3/2010	23	12/9/2011	4
34	MV Savina Caylyn	8/2/2011	22	21/12/2011	11.5

Source: Somalia Report, December 30, 2011

1.2 Military Developments

December 2 “Indian Navy boosts maritime surveillance and operational capabilities in the IOR” (India Today, December 2, 2011)

On the 2nd, Indian Navy (IN) chief said the IN is substantially boosting its maritime surveillance and operational capabilities in the Indian Ocean, while creating infrastructure in the Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Minicoy islands which form India's strategic outposts. Focusing on operational reach and sustainability, the IN envisages a force of close to 500 aircraft and over 150 warships until the year 2027.

An outline of the article: On the 2nd, Indian Navy (IN) chief said the IN is substantially boosting its maritime surveillance and operational capabilities in the Indian Ocean. “We are creating infrastructure in the Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Minicoy islands which

form our country's strategic outposts," IN's chief Admiral Nirmal Verma said. "Thereby, we can enhance our navy's forward operating capability," he added. According to the chief, the Navy is creating a series of naval air enclaves, operational turnaround bases and forward operating bases on the mainland and in the island territories. Militarily, these are bases where assets can be refueled, re-armed and quickly re-deployed without them having to return to the main bases. This increases their availability in an operational theater. It is no coincidence that Indian naval warships, aircraft and helicopters operating from these bases can potentially cover all of China's energy routes from the Middle East to the Malacca Straits. According to a study, although over 60 percent of China's Middle Eastern crude oil imports pass through the Malacca Straits, this figure is expected to grow to over 75 percent by 2015. The China's main artery is vulnerable to a naval blockade. Hence, what the Chinese press calls "the Malacca dilemma."

According to Admiral Verma, the IN is focusing on an expansion of operational reach and strengthening of sustainability. The Navy is currently building 49 warships and submarines. Eight major warship contracts have been concluded in 2011 including four Project 15B destroyers, five offshore patrol vessels (OPV), two cadet training ships, eight Landing Craft Utility and 52 Fast Interceptor Craft (FICs). Next year the navy would induct the third and last *Shivalik* class stealth frigate, one OPV, one *Kolkata* class destroyer, three catamaran survey vessels and 25 FICs. The Navy envisages a force of close to 500 aircraft and over 150 warships until the year 2027.

Refer to the article: China threat, Indian Navy unveils forward policy in Indian Ocean
<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/china-indian-navy-indian-ocean/1/162562.html>

December 2 "Singapore commissions 1st Archer class sub" (MINDEF, Singapore, December 2, 2011)

On the 2nd, the Singaporean navy held a ceremony to mark the commissioning of the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) first *Archer*-class submarine, RSS *Archer*, at Changi Naval Base. RSS *Archer* is the first unit of the *Archer*-class submarine acquired from Sweden in 2005. After arriving in Singapore on 17 August 2011, RSS *Archer* had successfully conducted sea trials.

An outline of the article: On the 2nd, the Singaporean navy held a ceremony to mark the commissioning of the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) first *Archer*-class submarine, RSS *Archer*, at Changi Naval Base. Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, Minister for Defense Dr Ng highlighted that the RSN would continue to build up and modernize its maritime warfare capabilities to better safeguard Singapore's interest. "The strengthening of our submarine capability is in line with this overall development plan to allow the RSN to better exploit the underwater dimension in maritime operations," said Dr Ng. RSS *Archer* is the first unit of the *Archer*-class submarine acquired from Sweden in 2005. Launched on June 16, 2009 in Sweden, RSS *Archer* arrived in Singapore on August 17, 2011 and had successfully conducted sea trials.

Refer to the article: Minister for Defence Commissions RSS Archer
http://www.mindef.gov.sg/imindef/news_and_events/nr/2011/dec/02dec11_nr.html



RSS *Archer* crew saluting to the Republic of Singapore
Navy Ensign during the Commissioning Ceremony

Source: MINDEF, Singapore, December 2, 2011

December 2 “China invited to set up anti-piracy base in Seychelles” (Defence Web, December 6, 2011)

On the 2nd, the Seychelles’ Foreign Affairs Minister has invited China to set up a base to counter piracy in the region. Prior to this announcement, Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie visited Victoria on the 1st with a 40-strong delegation for the first time.

An outline of the article: On the 2nd, the Seychelles’ Foreign Affairs Minister has invited China to set up a base to counter piracy in the region. “For the time being China is studying this possibility because she has economic interests in the region and Beijing is also involved in the fight against piracy,” he explained. Prior to this announcement, Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie visited Victoria on the 1st with a 40-strong delegation for the first time. “Together, we need to increase our surveillance capacity in the Indian Ocean...as Seychelles has a strategic position between Asia and Africa,” the Seychelles President James Michel said in statement. “We are also very grateful to the government of the People’s Republic of China for the donation of the two Y-12 aircraft also for the support under the new military cooperation agreement,” said Michel. So far, the Chinese navy’s hospital ship visited the Seychelles in November 2010. Two Chinese frigates also visited Seychelles for the first time in April 2011. Even if the Chinese military base goes ahead, it won’t be the first foreign military presence here because the Americans already have a small drone base here that they use in the fight against piracy.

Refer to the article: China invited to set up anti-piracy base in Seychelles

http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?view=article&catid=51%3ASea&id=21843%3Achina-invited-to-set-up-anti-piracy-base-in-seychelles&tmpl=component&print=1&layout=default&page=&option=com_content&Itemid=106

【Related article】**“China looks at offer from Seychelles” (China Daily, December 13, 2011)**

According to escort needs and the needs of other long-range missions, China will consider seeking supply facilities at appropriate harbors in the Seychelles or other countries,” the Chinese Ministry of National Defense said in a statement on the 12th.

An outline of the article: According to escort needs and the needs of other long-range missions, China will consider seeking supply facilities at appropriate harbors in the Seychelles or other countries,” the Chinese Ministry of National Defense said in a statement on the 12th. The statement was issued in response to an invitation from the Seychelles, which the Press Trust of India news agency later interpreted this as Beijing reneging on its promise not to build military bases abroad. However, Beijing has repeatedly confirmed that its policy of not stationing troops abroad will not be altered.

Refer to the article: Navy looks at offer from Seychelles

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-12/13/content_14254395.htm

December 4 “India acquires N-sub to complete Nuclear Triad” (Hindustan Times, December 4, 2011)

According to the Indian newspaper, *The Hindustan Times*, on the 4th, India is expected to have the *Akula-II* class nuclear submarine delivered from Russia by the end of March 2012. Additionally, in India, the indigenous nuclear submarine, *INS Arihant*, is also to be commissioned in 2020, with sea trials planned over the next six months. With India's defense forces possessing nuclear strike capabilities from sea as well as land and air, the nuclear triad will be completed by the end of March 2012.

An outline of the article: According to the Indian newspaper, *The Hindustan Times*, on the 4th, India is acquiring the *Akula-II* class nuclear submarine from Russia shortly. The report says the submarine is currently undergoing sea-trial in the northern part of the sea in Russia, and is expected to be delivered to India by the end of March 2012. The *Akula-II* class nuclear submarine, also called *INS Chakra* by the Indian Navy, will be armed with 300-km range Klub missile. In addition, the indigenous nuclear submarine, *INS Arihant*, is also to be commissioned, after sea trials planned over the next six months. India has already completed the underwater pontoon tests for firing longer range submarine-launched nuclear missiles. Both submarines will be based in eastern seaboard in Visakhapatnam. With India's defense forces possessing nuclear strike capabilities from sea as well as land and air, the nuclear triad will be completed by the end of March 2012.

Refer to the article: Navy to get first N-sub by March

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/Navy-to-get-first-N-sub-by-March/Article1-777644.aspx>

【Related article】**“Russia hands over nuke sub to India” (Defense News, AFP, December 30, 2011)**

On the 30th, Russia handed over the *Akula II* class nuclear-powered attack submarine *Nerpa* to India on a 10-year lease following more than two years of delays.

An outline of the article: According to the Russian Navy, on the 30th, Russia handed over the *Akula II* class nuclear-powered attack submarine *Nerpa* to India on a 10-year lease following more than two years of delays. An Indian crew would sail the *Akula II* class craft to its home base at the end of January 2012. The craft is due to reach its Bay of Bengal base of Visakhapatnam under the Indian flag in February and be commissioned by the navy in March. The *Nerpa* will be the first nuclear-powered submarine to be operated by India. India is to deploy its own *Arihant*-class nuclear-powered ballistic submarines in 2012, and the *Nerpa*'s delivery is expected to help crews train for the domestic boat's introduction into service next year.

Refer to the article: Russia Hands Over Nuke Sub Nerpa to India: Report

<http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=8701310&c=ASI&s=SEA>

December 7 “U.S., China hold military talks in Beijing” (Defense News, AFP, December 7, 2011)

On the 7th, Chinese and US defense officials opened military talks in Beijing, which was led by Michele Flournoy, U.S. undersecretary of defense for policy, and her Chinese counterpart Ma Xiaotian, deputy chief of staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA).

An outline of the article: On the 7th, Chinese and US defense officials opened military talks in Beijing, which was led by Michele Flournoy, U.S. undersecretary of defense for policy, and her Chinese counterpart Ma Xiaotian, deputy chief of staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). China's official Xinhua news agency said two representatives discussed military relations between the two powers, the situations in the Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea and the sale of U.S. arms to Taiwan.

Refer to the article: U.S., China Hold Military Talks

<http://defensenews.com/story.php?i=8501248&c=ASI&s=TOP>

December 11 “China’s 1st aircraft carrier finishes up 2nd sea trial” (China Defense Mashup.com, December 12, 2011)

Having completed the second stage of its sea trials, the Chinese aircraft carrier, the ex- *Varyag*, returned to the port of Dalian on the 11th. Since departing from the port of Dalian on November 29, the carrier had a twelve-day sea cruise.

An outline of the article: Having completed the second stage of its sea trials, the Chinese aircraft carrier, the ex- *Varyag*, returned to the port of Dalian on the 11th. Since departing from the port of Dalian on November 29, the carrier had a twelve-day test cruise. According to the Kanwa Asian Defense magazine, deck-based aircraft were not used during the trials because a special inhibitory system is yet to be installed on board the carrier. Earlier, Russia is said to have refused to sell four such systems to China.

Refer to the article: China first aircraft carrier finishes up its 2nd sea trials

<http://www.china-defense-mashup.com/china-first-aircraft-carrier-finishes-up-its-2nd-sea-trials.html>

【Related article 1】

“Satellite spots China's first aircraft carrier during sea-trials” (Photo blog, msnbc.com, December 14, 2011)

On the 14th, the Digital Globe said China's aircraft carrier sailing in the Yellow Sea during its second sea trials showed up on a cloud-filled picture snapped on the 8th by its polar-orbiting Quick Bird satellite from a height of 450 kilometers.

An outline of the article: On the 14th, the Digital Globe said China's aircraft carrier sailing in the Yellow Sea during its second sea trials showed up on a cloud-filled picture snapped on the 8th by its polar-orbiting Quick Bird satellite from a height of 450 kilometers. Stephen Wood, the director of the company's analysis center, said, “This picture was taken during the carrier's sea trial, approximately 100 kilometers south-southeast of the port of Dalian, indicating the ship is moving at a decent rate of speed, which would be expected in the middle of the ocean.”

Refer to the article: Satellite spots China's first aircraft carrier at sea

<http://photoblog.msnbc.msn.com/news/2011/12/14/9447273-satellite-spots-chinas-first-aircraft-carrier-at-sea>



This satellite image provided by the Digital Globe Analysis Center shows the Chinese aircraft carrier, ex-*Varyag* sailing in the Yellow Sea. The picture was acquired December 8 by Digital Globe's Quick Bird satellite.

Source: Photo blog, msnbc.com, December 14, 2011

【Related article 2】

“China’s aircraft carrier conducting 3rd sea trials” (Xinhua, December 28, 2011)

On the 28th, a spokesman with the Ministry of National Defense said the ex-*Varyag* is underway carrying out scientific testing. According to the spokesman, the scientific research and testing will be a long process, and relevant scientific testing and training at sea will continue in the future.

An outline of the article: On the 28th, a spokesman with the Ministry of National Defense said the ex-*Varyag* is underway carrying out scientific testing. According to the spokesman Yang Yujin, the scientific research and testing will be a long process, and relevant scientific testing and training at sea will continue in the future. For the current trial, the aircraft carrier left Dalian Port on the 20th. (According to the reports from various sources, testing and training at sea will continue for nine days.) The spokesman denied a report that that Russia refused to sell aircraft carrier arrester wires to China, which delayed the aircraft carrier's launch. “The report was entirely groundless,” Yang said. “The main equipment for our aircraft carrier, including the arrester wires, were developed and converted on our own,” he said.

Refer to the article: China's aircraft carrier conducting sea trials

http://eng.mod.gov.cn/Press/2011-12/29/content_4332193.htm



For the third trial, the ex-Varyag left Dalian Port on the 20th.

Source: China Net, December 23, 2011



“China to open world’s 1st ‘hotel on aircraft carrier’ in Tianjin” (China Defense Mashup.com, China Daily, December 26, 2011)

A luxury hotel built on a Russian former *Kiev* class carrier, “Tianjin aircraft carrier hotel,” will be open in North China's Tianjin municipality at the end of this month, making it the world's first aircraft carrier hotel.

An outline of the article: A luxury hotel built on a Russian former *Kiev* class carrier, “Tianjin aircraft carrier hotel,” will be open in North China's Tianjin municipality at the end of this month, making it the world's first aircraft carrier hotel. It has 148 rooms in total, including two presidential suites, three VIP guest rooms and 137 standard rooms. The aircraft carrier, now the hotel, was the second unit of the *Kiev* class *Minsk*, the flagship of the former Soviet Navy’s Pacific Fleet, serving the Soviet and Russian navies from 1975 to 1993. After decommissioned, the *Minsk* was sold to a Chinese company in 1996, and has been berthed at a military theme park in Tianjin since May 1, 2004.

Refer to the article: China to open World's 1st hotel on Russian former aircraft carrier

<http://www.china-defense-mashup.com/china-to-open-worlds-1st-hotel-on-russian-former-aircraft-carrier.html>



Left: Two attendants clean the Presidential suite of the Tianjin Aircraft Carrier Hotel in Tianjin on August 8, 2011. Right: A luxury hotel built on a former aircraft carrier in North China's Tianjin municipality will open at the end of December, 2011.

Source: China Defense Mashup.com, China Daily, December 26, 2011)

December 13 “Australian navy’s amphibious ship commissioned” (ABC News, December 13, 2011)

On the 13th, the Royal Australian Navy has commissioned HMAS *Choules* in Fremantle. The 16,000-tonne HMAS *Choules* can carry 160 personnel and will be docked in the eastern states. HMAS *Choules* was sold to the Royal Australian Navy by the Royal Navy earlier in 2011.

An outline of the article: On the 13th, the Royal Australian Navy has commissioned HMAS *Choules* in Fremantle. The 16,000-tonne HMAS *Choules* can carry 160 personnel and will be docked in the eastern states. HMAS *Choules* was formerly known as RFA *Largs Bay* and served as a landing ship with Britain's Royal Fleet Auxiliary from 2006 until its sale earlier in 2011.

Refer to the article: HMAS *Choules* commissioned in honour of veteran

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-12-13/hmas-choules-to-be-commissioned/3727686>



HMAS *Choules*

Source: ABC News, December 13, 2011

December 14 “MSC squadron completes Maldives port call” (Marine Link, December 14, 2011)

On the 14th, Military Sealift Command Maritime Pre-positioning Force ship USNS *SGT William R. Button* left the port of Male, Republic of the Maldives, after completing a four-day port visit to the Indian Ocean island nation. USNS *SGT William R. Button* anchored off Male on the 11th, beginning the second port visit by a U.S. naval ship to the Maldives in 2011, after guided missile destroyer USS *Russell* visited the southern Maldives in September.

An outline of the article: On the 14th, Military Sealift Command Maritime Pre-positioning Force ship USNS *SGT William R. Button* left the port of Male, Republic of the Maldives, after completing a four-day port visit to the Indian Ocean island nation. USNS *SGT William R. Button* anchored off Male on the 11th, beginning the second port visit by a U.S. naval ship to the Maldives in 2011, after guided missile destroyer USS *Russell* visited the southern Maldives in September. USNS *SGT William R. Button* is the flagship of Diego Garcia-based Maritime Pre-positioning Ship Squadron Two, which has a current fleet of 12 noncombatant, government-owned and -chartered cargo ships that carry military equipment and supplies for rapid delivery to U.S. forces ashore in the event of a contingency or humanitarian operation. These ships are crewed by civilian mariners working for private shipping companies under contract to MSC. *Button* carries a U.S. Navy active-duty staff of 10 personnel led by a U.S. Navy captain who is responsible for the tactical control of all squadron ships. MPS Squadron Two also has a civil service medical service officer and four contract personnel responsible to maintain equipment on board. MSC operates approximately 110 noncombatant, merchant mariner crewed ships.

Refer to the article: MSC Squadron Completes Maldives Port Call
<http://www.marinelink.com/news/completes-squadron341709.aspx>



USNS *SGT William R. Button*

Source: Marine Link, December 14, 2011

December 23 “South Korea’s DSME lands contract of building Indonesian submarines” (The Jakarta Post, December 22, and UPI, December 23, 2011)

On the 23rd, 13th, South Korea's Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME) landed a contract worth around \$1.1 billion to build three submarines for the Indonesian navy. It

is the first time that the DSME will export submarines abroad. It also is the largest defense export contract for any South Korean firm. Each submarine to be built is the conventional 209 class diesel-powered vessel, which displaces 2,400 tons, carry a crew of 40 and have eight torpedo tubes. The deliveries will be in 2015 and 2016.

An outline of the article: On the 23rd, 13th, South Korea's Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME) landed a contract worth around \$1.1 billion to build three submarines for the Indonesian navy. It is the first time that the DSME will export submarines abroad. It also is the largest defense export contract for any South Korean firm. The DSME secured the deal amid tough competition from French, German and Russian shipbuilders. Each submarine to be built is the conventional 209 class diesel-powered vessel, which displaces 2,400 tons, carry a crew of 40 and have eight torpedo tubes. The deliveries will be in 2015 and 2016. The first two submarines will be built in South Korea in cooperation with state-owned shipbuilder PT PAL, while the third submarine will be built at PT PAL's facilities in Surabaya. The South Korea navy operates nine of the 209 class vessels, called the *Chang Bogo* class, built in conjunction with the original designer and manufacturer Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft (HDW) of Germany. The design is from the late 1960s and the ship was never operated by the German navy. The 209 was specifically for export and was successful made in partnership with more than a dozen countries and their indigenous shipbuilders, including DSME.

The Indonesian navy already operates two Project 209/1300 *Cakra* class submarines built by HDW in the early 1980s and upgraded by DSME. An Indonesian expert pointed out that ordering three submarines was not enough as the 2024 Defense Strategic Plan required 10 submarines as the minimum essential force. He said, "Actually it is rather late because other countries in the region have received or are already building new submarines." Separately, Indonesian Navy spokesman told the Post that ideally 14 to 18 submarines were needed to monitor the country's vast waters.

Refer to the article: RI orders 3 submarines worth \$1b in regional 'catch-up'

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/12/22/ri-orders-3-submarines-worth-1b-regional-catch.html>

Daewoo wins Indonesian submarine deal

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2011/12/23/Daewoo-wins-Indonesian-submarine-deal/UPI-35391324639800/

Submarines in the region

Country	Origin	Commissioned
Australia		
6 Collins-class	(Australia)	1996-2003
12 SEA 1000	(Australia)	2025
Indonesia		
2 U-206	(Germany)	1981
3 U-209	(S.Korea)	2015-2016
Malaysia		
2 Scorpene	(France)	2009
Singapore		
4 Challenger-class	(Sweden)	1999-2001
2 Archer-class	(Sweden)	2011
Vietnam		
4 Kilo-class	(Russia)	2015-2019

Source: The Jakarta Post, December 22, 2011

1.3 Maritime Boundaries

December 2 “Manila increases patrols in SCS” (The Philippine Star, December 2, 2011)

According to the Philippine newspaper, *The Philippine Star*, on the 2nd, the Philippine government has increased its security and maritime patrols in the hotly contested West Philippine Sea (the South China Sea: SCS) to secure and protect the country’s economic interests and address human trafficking and other forms of transnational crimes. The Philippine Coast Guard, the Department of Energy and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are actively involved in the increased security and maritime activities by Western Command (Wescom) in the West Philippine Sea.

An outline of the article: According to the Philippine newspaper, *The Philippine Star*, on the 2nd, the Philippine government has increased its security and maritime patrols in the hotly contested West Philippine Sea (the South China Sea: SCS) to secure and protect the country’s economic interests and address human trafficking and other forms of transnational crimes. Spokesman of the military’s Western Command (Wescom) said that in recent months, air and naval operations have doubled over the area due to the involvement of other concerned government agencies. He was referring to the active involvement of the Philippine Coast Guard, the Department of Energy and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the increased security and maritime activities by Wescom in the West Philippine Sea. Insofar as foreign intrusions in the country’s territorial waters in the hotly contested region are concerned, the spokesman said these violations have declined significantly and these intrusions simply involved civilian boats, particularly fishing vessels. Aside from the usual patrolling by Navy, Coast Guard and BFAR

vessels, local fishermen have also been actively helping Wescom in monitoring the presence of foreign vessels in the country's territorial waters. On the fight against transnational crimes, the Wescom is fully implementing the Fleet-Marine concept with the deployment of Marines to guard and patrol the country's territorial border with Malaysia.

Refer to the article: Security, maritime patrols beefed up in West Phl Sea

<http://www.philstar.com/nation/article.aspx?publicationsubcategoryid=67&articleid=753998>

December 8 “Military buildup in SCS: Indonesian expert” (The Jakarta Post, December 8, 2011)

According to executive director Teuku Rezasyah at the Indonesian think tank, Center of Democracy, Diplomacy and Defense, as for the status of military buildup in the South China Sea (SCS), Malaysia has two warships, the Philippines one, China 27 and Taiwan 26 operating in the South China Sea (SCS). He said Vietnam had several escort vessels operating in the area.

An outline of the article: According to executive director Teuku Rezasyah at the Indonesian think tank, Center of Democracy, Diplomacy and Defense, as for the status of military buildup in the South China Sea (SCS), Malaysia has two warships, the Philippines one, China 27 and Taiwan 26 operating in the South China Sea (SCS). He said Vietnam had several escort vessels operating in the area. The director says China's 27 naval vessels do not include submarines. According to Rezasyah, Malaysia has built military bases on Layang-layang, a resort island that has a 1,356-meter-long airplane runway and is only 300 kilometers away from Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia's Sabah. Northeast Cay Island, which is claimed by the Philippines, is integrated with the United States 7th Fleet. Although it is hard to physically verify it, “planes that are used in that area are the same planes used by the US 7th Fleet”, he said. Taiwan is building up its military forces in Tai Ping Dao Island (Itu Aba Island), which is also claimed by China, the Philippines and Vietnam, he said. (See the map.)

Refer to the article: Military buildup in S. China Sea amid tension

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/12/06/military-buildup-s-china-sea-amid-tension.html>



Source: The Jakarta Post, December 8, 2011

December 13 “Philippine Navy launches ex-U.S. cutter” (All About Asia, December 14, 2011)

On the 13th, the Philippine Navy held a ceremony of commissioning the BRP *Gregorio del Pilar*. The ship is the USSCG *Hamilton*-class vessel from the US Coast Guard, which will be deployed to secure the territory of the Philippines shortly. Additionally, on the same day, the Navy also led the commissioning of the BRP *Tagbanua*, a locally built Navy landing craft utility.

An outline of the article: On the 13th, the Philippine Navy held a ceremony of commissioning the BRP *Gregorio del Pilar*. The ship is the USSCG *Hamilton*-class vessel from the US Coast Guard, which was acquired under the US Foreign Military Sales program at about 450 million pesos. According to the commanding officer of the BRP *Gregorio del Pilar*, the ship will be deployed to secure the territory of the Philippines shortly. The ship's travel time from Manila to the West Philippine Sea (the South China Sea) would be about 24 hours. Additionally, on the same day, the Navy also led the commissioning of the BRP *Tagbanua*, a locally built Navy landing craft utility. Also commissioned on the same day was a BO105 helicopter named Philippine Navy Helicopter 422, which was donated by the Tourism department. This helicopter is ready for deployment after the Naval Air Group undertook a few repairs. The Navy plans to procure five helicopters in the fiscal year of 2012. The Navy has 10 operational fixed wings air assets, four of which are trainer planes, six islanders and three helicopters. Of five new helicopters set to be

acquired, two will be deployed on board the *Gregorio del Pilar* and another *Hamilton*-class cutter which the Navy is acquiring from the US in the first quarter or second quarter next year.

Refer to the article: Philippine Navy Launches BRP del Pilar & BRP Tagbanua for Spartlys
<http://cultureinasia.blogspot.com/2011/12/philippine-navy-launches-brp-del-pilar.html>



BRP *Gregorio del Pilar*



BRP *Tagbanua* - Philippines' locally made ship

Source: All About Asia, December 14, 2011

1.4 Diplomacy and International Relations

December 10 “China launches patrols along Mekong River” (Xinhua net.com, December 10, 2011)

On the 10th, China police started joint patrols with their counterparts from Laos, Myanmar and Thailand to maintain security along the Mekong River. In addition, the joint patrol marked the restoration of international shipping services on the Mekong River that had been suspended since deadly attacks on Chinese cargo ships on October 5.

An outline of the article: On the 10th, China police started joint patrols with their counterparts from Laos, Myanmar and Thailand to maintain security along the Mekong River. In addition, the joint patrol marked the restoration of international shipping services on the Mekong River that had been suspended since deadly attacks on Chinese cargo ships on October 5. Escorted by five joint patrol boats, ten cargo vessels set sail from the Guanlei Port in Xishuangbanna of southwest China's Yunnan province at the launching ceremony on the morning of the 5th. Although the Mekong River serves as the key transport passage in the China-ASEAN free trade zone, the river has witnessed increasingly more smuggling of drugs, weapons and ammunition, and attacks on boats. The headquarters for the initiative was established in Xishuangbanna, while liaison offices were set up in the other three countries to share intelligence and coordinate operations. China has selected more than 200 officers from the country's border police force to form a special police team for the joint patrols. The four nations also sought to

further build a long-term mechanism on joint patrol cooperation.

Refer to the article: China launches joint patrols along Mekong River with neighbors

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2011-12/10/c_131298679.htm



Patrol boats carrying police officers from China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand leave Guanlei Port in Dai Autonomous Prefecture of Xishuangbanna, southwest China's Yunnan Province, as a joint patrol along the Mekong River kicks off on December 10, 2011.

Source: Xinhua net.com, December 10, 2011

December 14 “As China rises, a new U.S. strategy: Z. Brzezinski” (The Wall Street Journal, December 14, 2011)

On the 14th, Zbigniew Brzezinski, U.S. national security adviser of the Carter Administration from 1977-81, contributed an article titled “As China Rises, A New U.S. Strategy” to the U.S. newspaper, *The Wall Street Journal*. This article is adapted from an essay in the January/February issue of *Foreign Affairs*. In the article the author discusses that, in Asia, as China rises, the U.S. role should be that of regional balancer and conciliator, replicating the role played by the U.K. in intra-European politics during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

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- (1) A great power must be guided by a longer-range strategic vision. For the United States, the central challenge over the next several decades will be to revitalize itself while promoting a larger West and accommodating China's rising global status. A cooperative, larger

West—extending from North America and Europe through Eurasia (by eventually embracing Russia and Turkey), all the way to Japan and South Korea—would enhance the appeal of the West's core principles for other cultures, thus encouraging the gradual emergence of a universal democratic political culture. At the same time, the U.S. should continue to engage the East. If the U.S. and China can accommodate each other on a broad range of issues, the prospects for stability in Asia will be greatly increased. That is especially likely if the U.S. can encourage a genuine reconciliation between China and Japan while mitigating the growing rivalry between China and India.

- (2) To have the credibility and the capacity to act effectively in both the western and eastern parts of Eurasia, the U.S. must show the world that it has the will to reform itself at home. For the U.S. to succeed as the promoter and guarantor of a renewed West, it will need to maintain close ties with Europe, continue its commitment to NATO, and welcome into the West both Turkey and a truly democratizing Russia. To guarantee the West's geopolitical relevance, Washington must remain active in European security. It must also encourage the deeper unification of the European Union: The close cooperation among France, Germany and the United Kingdom—Europe's central political, economic and military alignment—should continue and broaden. If the U.S. isn't successful in promoting the emergence of an enlarged West, dire consequences could follow: Historical resentments could come back to life, new conflicts could arise.
- (3) In Asia, the U.S. role should be that of regional balancer and conciliator, replicating the role played by the U.K. in intra-European politics during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The U.S. can and should help Asian states avoid a struggle for regional domination by mediating conflicts and offsetting power imbalances among potential rivals. In doing so, it should respect China's special historic and geopolitical role in maintaining stability on the Far Eastern mainland. Engaging with China in a dialogue regarding regional stability would not only help reduce the possibility of U.S.-Chinese conflicts but also diminish the probability of miscalculation between China and Japan, or China and India—and even at some point between China and Russia over the resources and independent status of the Central Asian states. Thus America's balancing efforts in Asia would ultimately be in China's interest as well.
- (4) At the same time, the U.S. must recognize that stability in Asia can no longer be imposed by a non-Asian power, least of all by the direct application of U.S. military power. The guiding principle of U.S. foreign policy in Asia should be to uphold U.S. obligations to Japan and South Korea while not being drawn into a war between Asian powers on the mainland.

Refer to the article: *As China Rises, A New U.S. Strategy*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203413304577088881349304486.html>

1.5 Shipping, Shipbuilding and Harbors

December 7 “US, China start Megaports Initiative pilot project” (Xinhau, December 7, 2011)

On the 7th, the United States and China kicked off a Megaports Initiative pilot project in Shanghai. The Yangshan Port pilot project will be jointly carried out by China's General Administration of Customs, China's Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, and the U.S. Department of Energy. To date, 18 sets of radiation detection equipment have been installed at the Yangshan deep-water port, and a detection control center has also been built. Yangshan marks the 40th such port under the Megaports Initiative, as well as the initiative's first in China.

An outline of the article: On the 7th, the United States and China kicked off a Megaports Initiative pilot project in Shanghai, amid efforts to improve security via radiation checks for cargo carriers at the city's Yangshan Port. The initiative, an important part of the US-China cooperation on fighting terrorism, is aimed at preventing the illegal transport of nuclear and other radioactive materials by installing detection systems in relevant ports. The Yangshan Port pilot project will be jointly carried out by China's General Administration of Customs, China's Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, and the U.S. Department of Energy. To date, 18 sets of radiation detection equipment have been installed at the Yangshan deep-water port, and a detection control center has also been built. Yangshan marks the 40th such port under the Megaports Initiative, as well as the initiative's first in China. The Yangshan Port exported 17.6 percent of containers bound for the United States in the first 10 months of 2011, customs statistics show.

Refer to the article: China, U.S. start Megaports Initiative pilot project to boost cargo security http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2011-12/07/c_131293615.htm

December 6 “The Philippines’ Subic Bay groomed as cruise stop” (Manila Bulletin, December 6, 2011)

According to the Philippine newspaper, *The Manila Bulletin*, dated the 6th, the recent launching of the Asian Cruise Terminal Association (ACTA) in Singapore in November has given the Subic Port a big boost to becoming the next cruise ship destination.

An outline of the article: According to the Philippine newspaper, *The Manila Bulletin*, dated the 6th, the recent launching of the Asian Cruise Terminal Association (ACTA) in Singapore in November has given the Subic Port a big boost to becoming the next cruise ship destination. As economies in Europe and the United States falter, cruise ship operators are expected to turn to Asian destinations. A representative in charge of Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) expects that they have a very good reason to be optimistic about this, because not only does Subic have deep (15-meter) harbor and ports, it also has tourism facilities and attractions. In addition, Subic's connectivity to other destinations in Luzon would also boost its potential as a good cruise

terminal. After Subic has been established as a cruise ship destination, the economic impact will trickle down to local businesses in terms of providing supplies, fuel, food, and even manpower. ACTA officials visited Subic early this year and determined that it has all what it takes to be a cruise ship destination. As to becoming a member of the ACTA, only the Subic Port is eligible in the Philippines. The other member ports [of the ACTA] are Taiwan's Port of Keelung, the Japanese Ports of Kobe and Sakai, Malaysia's Port Klang Cruise Center, Singapore Cruise Center, and Shanghai Wusongkou (WSK) International Cruise Terminal.

Refer to the article: Subic groomed as cruise stop

<http://www.mb.com.ph/articles/343867/subic-groomed-cruise-stop>



Subic Bay

Source: The Asian Cruise Terminal Association HP

1.6 Ocean Resources, Energy, Marine Environment and Others

December 12 “Maersk line, U.S. Navy collaborate on biofuel testing” (Maersk Line HP, December 12, 2011)

On the 12th, the largest Danish shipping company, Maersk, said Maersk and the U.S. Navy are testing algae-based biofuel on the container ship MV *Maersk Kalmar* (88,669DWT). During its month-long, 6,500 nautical mile voyage from Bremerhaven, Germany to Pipavav, India, the ship will use 30 tons of biofuel.

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requirements of the International Maritime Organization's forthcoming emissions regulations," said David Anderson, Maersk Line, Limited's technical representative for the project. "The test is part of a journey to spur innovation in fuel R&D, diversify the fuel supply and improve environmental performance. It is a long-term goal Maersk shares with the U.S. Navy," added Anderson

Refer to the article: Maersk and the U.S. Navy collaborate on biofuel initiative
<http://www.maerskline.com/link/?page=news&path=/news/news20111212>



MV Maersk Kalmar

Source: Shipspotting.com

December 20 "MOL wins order for Indonesia's 1st coastal transport project" (Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, HP, December 20, and gCaptain, December 20, 2011)

According to the homepage of TOKYO-Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL), the company was selected to transport liquefied natural gas (LNG) to a floating storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU)* operated by PT Nusantara Regas off Indonesia on the 20th.

* Floating Storage and Re-gasification Unit (FSRU): LNG transported from the production site by an LNG carrier is discharged offshore near the point of consumption. The FSRU then returns the LNG to its gaseous form, which is transported by pipelines for distribution to gas utilities and consumers.

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* Floating Storage and Re-gasification Unit (FSRU): LNG transported from the production site

by an LNG carrier is discharged offshore near the point of consumption. The FSRU then returns the LNG to its gaseous form, which is transported by pipelines for distribution to gas utilities and consumers.

Refer to the article: MOL Wins Order for Indonesia's 1st Coastal Transport Project
http://www.mol.co.jp/pr-e/2011/e-pr_1167.html



LNG Aquarius

Source: gCaptain, December 20, 2011

2. Intelligence Assessment

New U.S. national defense strategy and joint operational access concept (JOAC)

On January 5, 2012, U.S. President Barack Obama unveiled a new national defense strategy titled, “*Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense*,”¹ at the Department of Defense (DOD). The new strategy shown as a “new strategic guidance”² is intended to shift priority of the U.S. military power from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in the past ten years to the Asia Pacific. Prior to Obama’s announcement of the new national strategy, on 22 November 2011, the Joint Chiefs of Staff released, as an access operational concept to global commons, “Joint Operational Access Concept,”³ It would be the biggest issue for the U. S. Armed Forces how to deploy the military forces to the areas where the coastal nations intend to adopt the anti-access (A/A) strategies. In order to maintain the global it is necessary for the United States to ensure the military access to the global commons. In this meaning, this operational concept will provide a concrete illustration to a new strategic guidance. In this article, carrying an outline of these two reports, I have studied and commented on the influence which is exerted by the concepts shown therein over Japan and Asia.

1. Outline of “Sustaining U.S. global leadership: Priorities for 21st century defense”

The strategy papers titled, “*Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense*,” DOD, United State of America, January 2012” (hereinafter the New Defense Strategy) has respective statements in the beginning by the President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, followed by a preface and text. The text is composed of “A Challenging Global Security Environment,” “Primary Missions of the U.S. Armed Forces,” “Toward the Joint Force,” and “Conclusion.” The outline of the New Defense Strategy (NDS) is discussed as follows.

(Outline)

Statement of President Barack Obama

Our nation is at a moment of transition. As Commander in Chief, I am determined that we meet the challenges of moment responsibly and that we emerge even stronger in a manner that preserves American global leadership and maintains our military superiority. I therefore identify our strategic interests and guide our defense priorities and spending over the coming decade. As

¹ *Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense*, Department of Defense, United State of America, January 2012.

² *Ibid.*, Defense Secretary Panetta mentions at the beginning, “I am releasing new strategic guidance for Department of Defense...”

³ *Joint Operational Access Concept*, Department of Defense, United State of America, 22 November 2011.

we end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we will focus on broader range of challenges and opportunities, the security and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific.

Therefore, we need to reshape our Armed Forces and ensure that our military is agile, flexible, and ready for the full range of contingencies. Most importantly, we will keep faith with our troops who have born the burden of a decade of war and who make our military the best in the world.

We face the difficult fiscal choices. However, there should be no doubt we will keep our Armed Forces the best-trained, best-equipped fighting force in history. And in a changing world that demands our leadership, the United States of America will remain the greatest force for freedom and security that the world has ever known.

Statement of the Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta

I am releasing new strategic guidance for the DOD to articulate priorities for a 21st century defense that sustains U.S. global leadership. This guidance reflects the President's strategic direction to the Department.

This country is at a strategic turning point after a decade of war. We are in need of reshaping a Joint force for a future. It will be smaller and leaner. But will be agile, flexible, ready, and technologically advanced. Such a joint force will have global presence emphasizing the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East while still ensuring our ability to maintain our defense commitments to Europe, and strengthening alliances and partnerships across all regions. The Joint force that shoulder the new defense strategy will preserve our ability to conduct the missions we judge most important to protecting core national interests: defeating al-Qa'ida and its affiliates and succeeding in current conflicts; deterring and defeating aggression by adversaries, including those seeking to deny our power projection; countering weapons of mass destruction; effectively operating in cyberspace, space, and across all domains; maintaining a safe and effective nuclear deterrent; and protecting the homeland.

Introduction

The United States has played a leading role in transforming the international role over the past 655 five years. Over the last decade, the U.S. military forces have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan to bring stability to those countries and to secure our interests. We need to draw down from these two wars and take the next step in order to protect our nation's economic vitality and protect our interests in a world of accelerating change. We need to respond to future threats. This strategic guidance reflects the core military missions that the Department should be prepared for in an anticipated security environment.

A Challenging Global Security Environment

The global security environment presents an increasing complex set of challenges and opportunity to which all elements of U.S. national power must be applied. U.S. economic and security interests are linked to developments in the arc extending from the Western Pacific and East Asia into the Indian Ocean region and South Asia. Accordingly, we will of necessity rebalance

toward the Asia-Pacific region. Our relationships with Asian allies and key partners are critical. Therein, consolidating relations with India is important. Furthermore, We need to deter North Korea to maintain peace on the Korean peninsula. China's emergence will affect the U.S. economy and security in a variety of ways. The growth China's military power must be accompanied by greater clarity. Working closely with allies and partners, we will maintain regional access and the ability to operate freely in keeping with our treaty obligations. Of particular concern in the Middle East is the proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction (WMD). In collaboration with Gulf Cooperation Council countries, the United States will emphasize Gulf Security to prevent Iran's development of a nuclear weapon capability and counter its destabilization policies. In consideration of such a security environment, America, working in conjunction with allies and partners around the world, will seek to protect freedom to access throughout the global commons.

State and non-state actors pose potential threats to freedom to access in the global commons. On the other hand, both state and non-state actors are conducting cyber attacks on the United States. Growth in the number of space-faring nations is also threatening safety and security in space environment. There, the United States, working in conjunction with allies and partners around the world, must also assure freedom to access throughout the global commons.

Primary Missions of the U.S. Armed Forces

To protect U.S. national interests and achieve the objectives of the 2010 "National Security strategy," the Joint Force will need to recalibrate its capabilities and make selective additional investments to succeed in the following missions:

- **Counter Terrorism and Irregular Warfare**

Acting in concert with other means of national power – other Departments, Agencies, and organizations, U.S. military forces must continue to hold at al-Qa'ida and its affiliates and adherents under constant pressure wherever they may be.

- **Deter and Defeat Aggression**

As a nation with important interest in every region, American forces must be capable of deterring and defeating aggression by an opportunistic adversary in one region even when our forces are committed to a large-scale operation elsewhere. We must maintain forces that are able to fully deny a capable state's aggressive objectives in one region by conducting a combined arms campaign across all domains – land, air, maritime, space, and cyberspace.

- **Project Power Despite Ant-Access (A2)/Area Denial (AD) Challenges.**

The United States must maintain its ability to project power in areas in which our access and freedom to operate are challenged. Sophisticated adversaries will use asymmetric capabilities, to include electronic and cyber warfare, ballistic and cruise missiles, advanced air defenses, mining, and other methods, to complicate our operational calculus. States such as China and Iran will continue to pursue asymmetric means to counter our power projection capabilities, while the proliferation of sophisticated weapons and technology will extend to non-state actors as well. Based on the Joint Operational Access Concept, the U.S.

military must sustain its undersea capabilities, develop a new stealth bomber, improve missile defense, and enhance space-based capabilities.

- **Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).**

U.S. forces conduct a range of activities aimed at preventing the proliferation and use of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. In partnership with other elements of the U.S. government, The DoD will continue to invest in capabilities to detect, protect against, and respond to WMD use.

- **Operate Effectively in Cyberspace and Space.**

Modern armed forces cannot conduct high-tempo, effective operations without reliable information and communication networks and assured access to cyberspace and space. Today space systems and their supporting infrastructure face a range of threats that may degrade, disrupt or destroy assets. Accordingly, DoD will continue to invest in work with international allies and partners and invest in advanced capabilities to defend its networks.

- **Maintain a Safe, Secure, and Effective Nuclear Deterrent.**

As long as nuclear weapons remain existence, the United States will maintain a safe, secure, and effective arsenal. However, judging from the point of nuclear deterrence, it is possible that our deterrence goals can be achieved with a smaller nuclear force, which would reduce the number of nuclear weapons in our inventory.

- **Defend the Homeland and Provide Support to Civil Authorities.**

U.S. forces will continue to defend U.S. territory from direct attack by states and non-state actors. U.S. forces will also come to the assistance of domestic civil authorities in the event such defense fails or in case of catastrophic, natural disaster.

- **Provide a Stabilizing Presence.**

U.S. forces will conduct a sustainable pace of presence operations abroad, including rotational deployments and bilateral and multilateral training exercises. These activities reinforce deterrence, help to build the capacity and competence of U.S., allied, and partner forces for internal and external defense, strengthen alliance cohesion, and increase U.S. influence.

- **Conduct Stability and Counterinsurgency Operations.**

In the aftermath of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States will emphasize non-military means and military-to-military cooperation to address instability and reduce the demand for U.S. force commitments. From now on, U.S. forces will retain and continue to refine the lessons learned, expertise, and specialized capabilities that have been developed over the past ten years. However, U.S. forces will no longer conduct large-scale stability operations.

- **Conduct Humanitarian, Disaster Relief, and Other Operations.**

The nation has called upon its Armed Forces to respond to securing the safety and well-being of its citizens and those of other countries. U. S. forces possess rapidly deployable capabilities in extending aid to victims of disasters. DoD will continue to respond to mass atrocities, if necessary. U. S. forces will also remain capable of conducting non-combatant

evacuation for American citizen abroad.

Toward the Joint Force of 2020

To ensure success in the above-mentioned missions, several principles need to be recognized:

First, so long as we cannot predict how the strategic environment will be stabilized dramatically, we will maintain a broad portfolio of military capabilities.

Second, we need to differentiate between what should be made today and those that can be deferred. Accordingly, the concept of “reversibility”- including the vectors on which we place our active-reserve component balance, and our partnership emphasis, among others – is a key part of our decision calculus.

Third, we are determined to maintain a ready and capable force, even as we are obliged to reduce our overall capability.

Fourth, Department must continue to reduce the cost of doing business. It is necessary to reduce the manpower costs. During the past decade, we have invested a tremendous manpower in two-front operations. As a result, 6,200 members of the Armed Forces have lost their lives, and 46,000 members have been wounded. We will reduce the size of the force, taking steps to facilitate the transition of those who will leave the service to the civilian workforce.

Fifth, it will be necessary to make this strategy applicable to existing campaign and future plans. Thereby, we may better accomplish the current combat operations with more limited resources.

Sixth, the Department will need to decide the mix of Active Component (AC) and Reserve Component (RC), which are required as a significant driver over the next decade.

Seventh, as we transition out of Iraq and draw down in Afghanistan, we will take extra measures to strengthen network warfare capabilities in which joint forces have finally become truly interdependent.

Finally, the Department will make every effort to maintain our investment in science and technology and an adequate industrial base. On the other hand, we need to encourage innovation in concept of operation. Over the past ten years, the United States, its allies, and partners have been accomplishing the counter terrorism, operating in uncontested sea and air environments. However, from on, the United States, its allies, and partners should be aware that they must be capable of operating in A2/AD, cyber, and other contested operating environments,

Conclusion

The United States has started its work of building up the strong, agile and capable military forces. Our global responsibilities are significant; we cannot afford to fail. The balance between available resources and our security needs has never been more delicate. Force and program decisions made by the DoD will be made in accordance with the guidance – the strategic approach described - in this document.

2. Outline of “Joint Operational Access Concept”

“Joint Operational Access (Hereinafter JOAC)” is formulated on the basis of awareness that, in the conflicts to be assumed from now on, the sea and air regions where no threat has been noted in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past decade will become a major theater, where we must secure military supremacy in the air and air space. The conflicts in the sea and air space will arise when the United States deploy its military force in the air and sea areas as targets, which the neighboring nations deny them. The denials by the neighboring countries are after all Anti-access and Area-denial –A2 and AD. An outline of JOAC is discussed as follows.

(Outline)

Objectives

Operational access is the ability to project military force into an operational area with sufficient freedom of action to accomplish the mission. Operational access does not exist for its own sake, but rather serves out broader strategic goals, which are necessary for ensuring access to commerce, positioning forces to manage crisis and prevent war, or defeating an enemy in war. Operational access is accomplished by the joint task force to assure the unhindered use of global commons, select sovereign territory, waters, airspace and cyberspace.

What is required in projecting military power ?

The United States as the global power must maintain reliability in projecting military power to every area. The greatest asset of making operational access is an attack by the enemy opposing the access.

A2/AD

Anti-access (A2) refers to those actions and capabilities, usually long range, designed to prevent an opposing force from entering an operational area. Area-denial (AD) refers to those actions and capabilities, usually of shorter range, designed not to keep an opposing force out, but to limit its freedom of action within the operational area.

Importance in peace-time

What is important in securing access is the situation before the battle. From before the conflict occurs, it is essential to take various security measures and law enforcement procedures in cooperation with concerned departments and agencies, holding multilateral exercises, and maintain overseas bases. Additionally, it is vital to maintain logistic capabilities as well as forward-deployed capabilities.

Trends

The following three trends in the operational environment are exerting influence over the operational access:

- Progress and spread of weapons that prevent access to operational areas and freedom of actions
- Change in overseas deployment of the U.S. military forces
- Increasing importance of space and cyberspace

A2/AD attempted by enemies

Up to now since the end of the Cold War the United States joint force has projected its military force to the operational areas as required, without getting any kind of opposition. However, three trends above-mentioned have dramatically changed such a situation. Future enemies with increasing capabilities will be challenging the United States with A2/Ad strategies, which will make operational access by the U.S. forces a difficult one in the next decade.

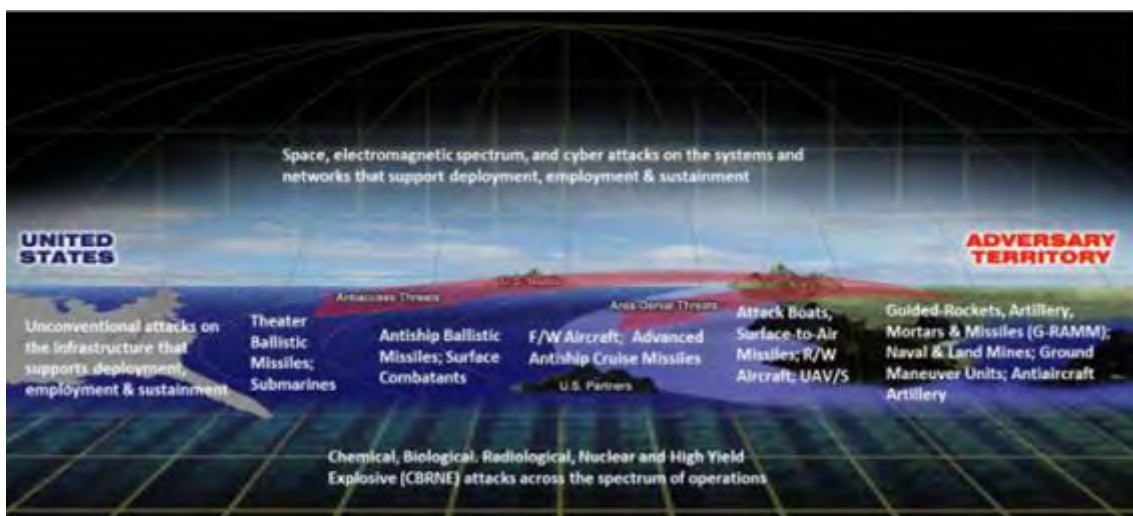


Figure 1: A2/AD capabilities(*Joint Operational Access Concept*, p.11.)

Core of operations: “ Cross-domain synergy”

To meet the challenge of A2/AD, the United States joint forces will leverage “cross-domain synergy”-- the complementary vice merely additive employment of capabilities in different domains such that each enhances the effectiveness and compensates for the vulnerabilities of the others -- to establish superiority in some combination of domains that will provide the freedom of action required by the mission. In order to make “cross-domain synergy” more effective, closer coordination of the military forces operating in respective domains rather than of the higher headquarters’ levels is important.

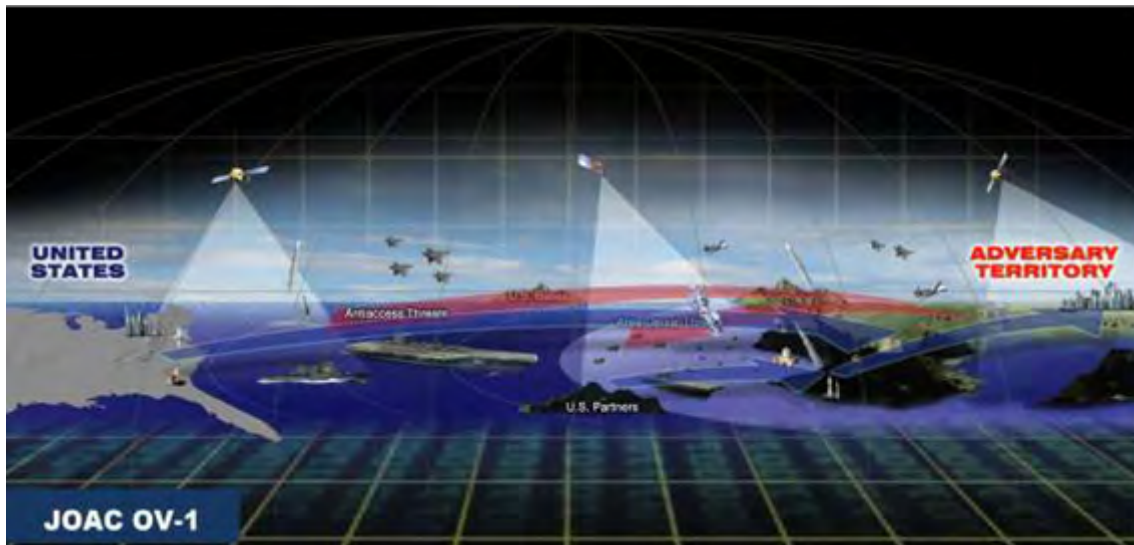


Figure 2: Cross-domain synergy (*Joint Operational Access Concept*, p.15.)

For “*Cross Domain Synergy*,” operations must be planned, considering the following precepts:

Precepts for “Cross Domain Synergy” (p. 17)

- Consider subsequent operations and the broader missions.
- Prior to conducting operational access, coordinate with respective government ministries and agencies and nations concerned, prepare for it carefully.
- Consider a variety of basing options.
- Seize the initiative by deploying and operating the military forces.
- Exploit advantages in one or more domains to disrupt enemy A2/AD capabilities.
- Disrupt enemy reconnaissance and surveillance efforts.
- Create corridors or pockets to penetrate enemy’s A2/AD.
- Maneuver directly against enemy’s key objectives from strategic distances.
- Attack enemy’s A2/AD defense in depth.
- Employ deception, stealth, and surprise attacks to avoid enemy’s surveillance.
- Protect space and cyber assets of the U.S. while attacking the enemy’s space and surveillance capabilities.

Capabilities Required: (pp. 33-36)

For operational access under bA2/AD, the following 29 items are required.

1. Command and Control

JOA-001. Reliable connectivity and coordination functions of interoperability.

JOA-002. Effective command and control capabilities in degraded and/or austere communications environment.

JOA-003. A common database to provide situation awareness.

JOA-004. The function of integrating combat units in cross-domain and operational areas,

as well as the joint function of space and cyberspace operations.

JOA-005. Close communicating functions and interconnecting functions in cross-domain between the higher commanders and subordinated commanders.

2. Intelligence

JOA-006. The ability to detect hostile computer network attack.

JOA-007. The ability to commonly share and possess cross-domain all-source intelligence fusion.

3. Fires

JOA-009. The ability to locate, target, and suppress or neutralize enemies engaging in A2/AD.

JOA-010. The ability to leverage cross-domain cueing to detect enemies.

JOA-011. The ability to conduct electronic attack and computer network attack against enemies.

JOA-012. The ability to interdict enemy forces deploying to an operational area.

4. Movement and Maneuver

JOA-013. The ability to maneuver from multiple axes of advance.

JOA-014. The ability to maneuver in cyberspace to gain entry into hostile digital networks.

JOA-015. Intelligence analysis and evaluation functions necessary for deployment planning.

JOA-016. The ability to conduct forcible entry operations.

JOA-017. The ability to mask the approach of joint maneuver elements.

5. Protection

JOA-018. The ability to defeat enemy targeting systems.

JOA-019. The ability to counter hostile missiles.

JOA-020. The ability to protect bases and other infrastructure.

JOA-021. The ability to protect forces and supplies.

JOA-022. The ability to protect friendly space utilization functions.

JOA-023. The ability to conduct cyber defense.

6. Sustainment

JOA-024. The ability to deploy, employ, and sustain forces engaged in sea-basing.

JOA-025. The ability to quickly and flexibly use commercial providers and facilities.

JOA-026. The ability to integrate contractor support in building bases and others during the war.

7. Information

JOA-027. The ability to inform on the situation and others to respective organizations concerned.

8. Engagement

JOA-028. The ability to develop partnership goals and to ensure regional stability.

JOA-029. The ability to coordinate with regional partners to secure basing, navigation,

and over-flight rights.

JOA-030. The ability to provide training, supplies, equipment, and other assistance to regional partners to improve their access capabilities.

3. Comments & Discussions

(1) Keeping Global Leadership of the United States: Priorities of National Defense in 21st Century

The New Defense Strategy has clearly revealed that the United States shifted the center of its military activities from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to the national security in the Asia Pacific. America is said to have committed its military forces to the maximum degree to the past ten-year war for neutralizing the Al-Qa'ida and its derivative terrorist organizations, as well as stabilizing the internal affairs and security in their bases. It also imposed a significant burden on the U.S. economy. During this period, China has increased its military power to such a degree as inflicting limitations on the activities of the United States Navy. On the other hand, doubts about the development of nuclear weapons by Iran, which is advocating anti-US policy, are being raised, which has suddenly been imposing an unstable situation on the security environment in Asia. Despite the situation, in which security cannot be said to have been fully improved, the U.S. withdrawals of military forces from Iraq and Afghanistan and giving priority to the security in Asia can be said to be a matter of course as an American strategy, considering the instability of such a security environment.

Announcing the new security strategy at the Pentagon, President Barck Obama said at the press interview: "America has to cut down its military forces. But we will guarantee our security by increasing intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities as well as capabilities which will enable us to operate in the environment where the adversary will attempt to deny access of U.S. military forces."⁴

Obama's words include two ideas. One is an expression of the will that America will maintain military power as the global power under the reduction of the military expenditure. In the United States a bill of aiming at reducing the financial deficit of a total of 2,500 billions U.S. dollars passed Capitol Hill and, in company with it, a review of the strategy for trimming the defense expenditure by 487 billions U.S. dollars through fiscal 2022. Even if they have withdrawn troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, and, if the current budget equaling approximately one year of defense budget were cut, the qualitative reduction of forward-deployment of the U.S. forces would be inevitable. The New Defense Strategy is advocating on almost every page the need of cooperation of the allies and major partners. From now on, in the military expenditure the United States will invest more for the development of intelligence capabilities, and will deepen the security cooperation further with Japan, Australia, India, and the Republic of Korea (South Korea). Second, the United States is taking securing the power projection capability in the access-denial environment as its highest military task. The New Defense Strategy clearly defines recognition

⁴ Press release, U.S.DOD, January 5, 2012
<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=66688>

that Washington regards China and Iran as a threat.⁵ The target of access operations by American forces will be placed mainly in the South China Sea, East China Sea, Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea.

Well, in the beginning when the New Defense Strategy was announced, media said: “The United States has attached greater importance to Asia by reviewing two-front operations (on the supposition that there were contingencies in Korean Peninsula and the Middle East). Therefore, articles were carried that the United States would be building up the military power only for settling one-front large scale of the armed conflict. In reply to it, the U.S. Defense Department said: “We did not say that we are going down to fight one war. We are prepared to address a full spectrum of threats. The U.S. military is poised to take on more than one national security challenge at a time.”⁶

(2) Joint Operational Concept for Access

The JOAC could be positioned as a manual for making an operational plan based on Joint AirSea Battle Concept shown in the QDR2010 by the U.S. Department of Defense. As the JOAC mentions, since the end of the Cold War the U.S. military could deploy its naval and air forces to the coastal waters as it pleases prior to power projection, as seen in the Gulf War and Iraq War, Looking from military history, we can say that the period of 20 years or so after the Cold War presented an extremely rare environment where no enemy was noted in the neighboring sea of the hostile nation. However, at present, we can see that the missile capabilities of the Chinese naval and air forces have been strengthened and modernized enough to be able to deny the access of the U.S. military forces. In addition, although its military power is still small, Iran has weapons that can attack the U.S. forces approaching from the sea, including missiles and mines.

The New Defense Strategy shows its strong military commitments to returning to Asia, where there are two dimensions of economy and national security. The military commitments are, to say in brief, military presence in Asia and maintaining power projection capabilities. In this area, response to the A2/AD in Asia is the biggest task of U.S. forward deployed strategy, which is seeking a drastic review of U.S. military operations and weapon systems. The JOAC is a guideline for it.

Chinese missiles cover the U.S. military bases in Yokosuka, Okinawa, and others. While the military bases in Japan are the biggest U.S. forward-deployed bases for power projection, it is also the targets of attack as a matter of course, looking from the AA/AD side. There is a comment that China will attack U.S. military bases in Japan at an initial stage of the armed conflict.⁷ The forward deployed bases in Asia, including those in Japan, will be reorganized, considering the response to the A2/AD. The JOAC is pointing out that consciousness of U.S. military bases abroad by the nation concerned is changing, which one of the issues that influence upon the access. Japan is questioned how to respond to the conditions sought by the JOAC under the Japan-U.S. Security

⁵ *Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense*, p3.

⁶ Press release, U.S.DOD, January 6, 2012
<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=66701>

⁷ Toshi Yoshihara, “Chinese Missile Strategy and the U.S. Naval Presence in Japan,” *Naval War College Review*, Summer 2010, Vol.63, No.3.

Treaty.

Well, the JOAC has a side that will change the U.S. naval strategy. It can be regarded that the U.S. naval strategy had been matched with the Sea Power theory of Alfred Thayer Mahan until the end of the Cold War. America secured strategic superiority by its global power, extending the Sea Lines of Communications (SLOC) from the U.S. mainland to the coastal lines of the hostile power. The end of the Cold War and the war with terrorism had the side of reducing the roles of the navy. During that period, the country that has built the A2/AD capabilities appeared. The New Defense Strategy stresses cooperation with major partners, and advocates Cross-domain Synergy to oppose the A2/AD. It matches with the strategy of the strategy of Julian Corbett, a British historian. Corbett advocated wresting control of key points from adversaries for finite period, which is different from Mahan, who exhorted naval commander to seek out and defeat enemy battle fleet, thereby winning command of the sea. James Holms, an associate professor at the U.S. Naval War College, mentions that the United States Navy no longer needs constant, extensive sea control, power projection in the region becomes its major mission. He adds: "To me, the JOAC appears to mark a transition from 'Mahanian' to 'Corbettian'"⁸

(By Kazumine AKIMOTO)

⁸ James Holmes, "From Mahan to Corbett ?," Diplomat, December 11, 2011.
<http://the-diplomat.com/flashpoints-blog/2011/12/11/from-mahan-to-corbett>

Ocean Policy Research Foundation

3F, Kaiyo Senpaku Bldg., 15-16 Toranomom 1-Chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001, Japan
TEL.81-3-3502-1828 FAX.81-3-3502-2033

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