

8th Annual **PORT & MARITIME SECURITY 2011**

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<http://www.portmaritimesecurity.com.au/news>

Online Q&A for CPF MARLU PAC (ISO Port and Maritime Security 2011)

1. What is the function as the U.S. Navy's Maritime Liaison Unit (MARLU-PAC) in the Pacific region?

MARLU-PAC is U.S. Pacific Fleet's liaison to the commercial maritime industry, charged with facilitating cooperation and information sharing between the international civil maritime industry and the U.S. Navy throughout the Asia Pacific region. Our liaison officers travel regularly throughout the Asia/Pacific region to foster communication, stay apprised of challenges and initiatives in the maritime industry, and proactively address industry concerns and questions on a variety of issues related to safety and security at sea.

2. What role does the US Navy have in tackling the threat of piracy in the Asia Pacific region?

U.S. Navy, through C7F, works with regional partner nations to deter and combat piracy.

3. How is data and information exchanged between different national agencies, without compromising the security of each nation?

U.S. Navy understands that each regional nation, like the U.S., is concerned about protecting information exchange. The U.S. Navy protects information provided by its partners according to existing memorandums of understanding (MOU), bilateral and multilateral agreements, and through our own disclosure review process. Additionally, the U.S. Navy is sensitive to protecting proprietary information as to not unfairly influence legitimate commerce and trade. As such, the U.S. Navy continuously works to enhance cooperation and collaboration while ensuring the security of the partners involved and works closely with partners to understand their information security concerns.

4. How do you assess the relationship between civil and military forces when it comes to safeguarding the commercial maritime industry? What is the military's role in what some perceive as civilian issues?

The mission of the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet is to protect and defend the collective maritime interests of the United States and its allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific region. In support of U.S. Pacific Command and with allies and partners, U.S. Pacific Fleet enhances stability, promotes maritime security and freedom of the seas, deters aggression and when necessary, fights to win. As Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Admiral Walsh, stated in his speech during IMDEX 2011, "...the sharing of information, the shipment of energy, goods, and commodities, combined with the ability to communicate beyond national borders and opportunities for travel...have resulted in linkages and connections that make us increasingly reliant on partners in the international community...and dependent on the sea, for security and for many elements of our daily lives...we cannot assume or expect the seas to remain secure by themselves." The seas are a shared resource and only through cooperation can we collectively ensure its security. Although the U.S. Navy can surge forces when necessary to respond to crises, trust and cooperation cannot be surged. They must be built over time so that the strategic interests of the participants are continuously considered while mutual understanding and respect are promoted. It is through this relationship that

military forces and commercial industry can work together to ensure the safety and security of the global commons.

5. How can the shipping industry best help the military in their efforts?

Direct communication between the shipping industry and the military through organizations like MARLU PAC is critical to ensure Maritime Domain Awareness for all. Both the shipping industry and military have a stake in promoting safety and security, and it is paramount that solid relationships are in place before a crisis occurs. Again, while the U.S. Navy can surge forces when necessary to respond to crises, trust and cooperation cannot be surged. During crisis management, those relationships can be leveraged to save lives and protect commerce.

6. What are the implications of regional policies on maritime security?

Common interest of regional nations in the free, uninhibited flow of commerce on the seas and legal/sustainable pursuit of resources are critical to the foundation of policies that support the same.

7. What do you see as future strategies for improving surveillance and the response of regional navies to the changing threats of maritime security?

The common interest of regional nations in protecting the Maritime Commons and promoting maritime security and overcoming any obstacles to sharing information within a nation and between nations is key to mutual improvement of surveillance and response to threats.