

THANKS, MIKE FOR THE INTRODUCTION AND THANKS ALSO FOR THE GREAT JOB YOU ARE DOING, NOT ONLY AS OUR OFFICER PRESIDING FOR THIS DINNER, BUT ALSO FOR BEING A GREAT MASTER OF CEREMONIES FOR THIS CONFERENCE SO FAR. WELL DONE.

LET ME THANK LIEUTENANT GENERAL DAVID MORRISON, CHIEF OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY FOR EXTENDING THE PRIVILEGE OF PROVIDING THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO THIS HONORABLE GATHERING. OF COURSE YOU'VE SET THE BAR PRETTY HIGH. WE HAVE HAD A GREAT EVENING WITH GREAT COMPANY, A BEAUTIFUL VENUE, YOU'VE GIVEN US AUSTRALIAN WINES IN FINE FORM WITH SOME PORT TO FOLLOW, AND WE'VE HAD A GREAT ROCK SHOW AND LEARNED THAT IS A LONG ROAD TO THE TOP IF YOU WANT TO ROCK AND ROLL! AND, I GET TO FOLLOW ALL OF THAT!!

I'LL HAVE TO DRAW UPON SOMETHING THAT I LEARNED FROM MY SOLDIERS YEARS AGO AS A JUNIOR

OFFICER WHEN THEY TOLD ME, BEFORE GOING OUT ON SOME CHALLENGING PROBLEM, “DON’T WORRY SIR. WHEN IT’S TOO TOUGH FOR EVERYONE ELSE . . . IT’S JUST ABOUT RIGHT FOR US!” SO IN THAT SPIRIT, DAVID, HERE WE GO.

THIS IS AN IMPRESSIVE GROUP AND I AM EXCITED BY THE LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION WITH SO MANY COUNTRIES, I BELIEVE 17, IN ATTENDANCE.

EVENTS LIKE THESE PROVIDE US WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A CONVERSATION AND AN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS THAT MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAPPEN IF WE WERE TRYING TO MEET OUTSIDE OF A MULTILATERAL VENUE.

I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY WARMEST REGARDS FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, GENERAL RAY ODIERNO, WHO IS UNABLE TO ATTEND. HE EXTENDS HIS BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL

CONFERENCE AND HE LOOKS FORWARD TO HIS NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO SEE YOU ALL.

THIS YEAR’S TOPIC – “MODERNIZATION OF LAND FORCES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC” COULD NOT BE MORE TIMELY OR RELEVANT. I COMMEND AUSTRALIA, AS WE’VE WITNESSED THE INTELLECTUAL AND MATERIEL STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY, AND I KNOW THAT MANY OF US ARE ALSO IN AN ACTIVE PERIOD OF MODERNIZATION – ESPECIALLY THE INTELLECTUAL MODERNIZATION THAT ADDRESSES THE ROLE OF LAND FORCES AS WE APPROACH THE CENTER OF THIS CENTURY.

AND THE LINKAGE TO THE LAND WARFARE CONFERENCE PROVIDES A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH THE INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMPONENTS OF MODERNIZATION AS WELL.

DAVID MORRISON ASKED ME TO SHARE SOME THOUGHTS ON THE TOPIC OF “REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE INDO-ASIA PACIFIC REGION” FROM MY FOXHOLE AS THE US ARMY PACIFIC COMMANDER AND THE THEATER JOINT LAND FORCES COMPONENT COMMANDER. I WILL START BY TOUCHING ON THESE TWO ROLES . . .

THE HISTORY OF US FORCES IN THE PACIFIC IS WELL DOCUMENTED AND -- IN MANY WAYS -- INTERLACED WITH THE HISTORIES OF THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED HERE TODAY.

IN THIS REGION THE UNITED STATES MAINTAINS FIVE OF ITS SEVEN MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY ALLIANCES, WITH OUR OLDEST BEING THAILAND. AND EACH OF THESE, WE VALUE GREATLY TODAY.

SINCE 1898 THE U.S. ARMY HAS MAINTAINED A CONTINUOUS PRESENCE IN THE REGION, FIGHTING IN MORE CAMPAIGNS THAN ANYWHERE ELSE OUTSIDE OF

**THE AMERICAS, EVEN TO THIS DAY WITH THE LONG
CAMPAIGNS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ.**

**LET ME TAKE JUST A MOMENT TO GO BEYOND THE
ARMY ROLE TO PROVIDE A BIT OF EXPLANATION
REGARDING THE THEATER JOINT FORCE LAND
COMPONENT COMMAND ESTABLISHED BY ADMIRAL
LOCKLEAR LAST YEAR WHICH SEEKS TO INCREASE THE
COORDINATION AMONG ARMY FORCES, MARINE FORCES
AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES OF THE U.S. IN THE
PACIFIC COMMAND AREA.**

**LT GEN JOHN TOOLAN OF MARINE FORCES PACIFIC,
WHO IS DESIGNATED AS THE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF
THE JOINT FORCE LAND COMPONENT COMMAND, AND
REAR ADMIRAL COLIN KILRAIN WHO COMMANDS OUR
SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES, JOIN WITH ME IN GUIDING
THE REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS AND OPERATIONAL
ACTIVITIES OF THE THREE PRIMARY LAND FORCE
CONTRIBUTORS, AND IN BRINGING A LAND POWER FOCUS**

**TO THE JOINT FORCE, ESPECIALLY IN THINKING THROUGH
OUR CROSS-DOMAIN CONTRIBUTIONS INTO THE AIR,
MARITIME, CYBER AND SPACE DOMAINS OF OUR
OPERATIONS.**

**THIS THEATER JOINT FORCE LAND COMPONENT
COMMAND MAY RESONATE WITH MANY OF YOU WHO
HAVE WITHIN YOUR ARMY THE EQUIVALENTS TO OUR
SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES AND MARINE FORCES.
THIS WAY OF ORGANIZING PROVIDES US WITH EXTENSIVE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDED ENGAGEMENT AND I
WANTED TO SHARE THAT WITH YOU.**

[PAUSE]

**AS I WAS CONTEMPLATING WHAT I MIGHT SHARE
WITH YOU ALL, I REFLECTED ON THE CHALLENGES AND
THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT I ENCOUNTER IN MY POSITION
AS THE SENIOR U.S. ARMY COMMANDER IN THIS VITALLY**

IMPORTANT REGION. I ALSO THOUGHT ABOUT THOSE 63 CAMPAIGNS AND THE SACRIFICES -- MADE BY OUR SOLDIERS, AND BY THOSE WHOM THEY FOUGHT, AND BY THOSE WHO SERVED AS ALLIES BESIDE THEM.

AS WE LOOK AROUND THIS ROOM WE KNOW THAT THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG OUR VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND NATIONS, HAVE CHANGED MANY TIMES, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED ONE ANOTHER AGAIN AND AGAIN IN OUR SHARED REGIONAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

WE ARE CONNECTED TO ONE ANOTHER IN OUR HISTORIES, AND WE MUST ALSO BE CONNECTED TO ONE ANOTHER IN OUR FUTURES.

THIS THEN FORMS THE BASIS OF MY REMARKS TONIGHT ABOUT REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT, AND WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT.

[PAUSE]

TO BE SURE, ENGAGEMENT WITHIN THE REGION IS A HIGHLY IMPORTANT ACTIVITY. NO SINGLE COUNTRY CAN GO IT ALONE IN AN INCREASINGLY LINKED AND OVERLAPPED WORLD.

ISSUES THAT HAPPEN IN ONE COUNTRY CAN HAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR MANY OTHER COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES. CATASTROPHIES AND DISASTERS THAT HAPPEN WITHIN ONE GEOGRAPHIC AREA MAY DEMAND THE CONTRIBUTIONS BY OTHERS BEYOND THAT AREA TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, ESPECIALLY IN ENDING HUMAN SUFFERING AND IN BRINGING ABOUT A RESTORATION OF SOME SORT.

TONIGHT, I WANT TO GIVE YOU FIVE POINTS TO CONSIDER ABOUT REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT AS WE END THE FIRST DAY OF THE EXERCISE AND PREPARE FOR MORE DISCUSSION TOMORROW.

FIRST, REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR OUR ARMIES TO HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF BEING SUCCESSFUL WHEN WE KNOW THE TERRITORY BETTER.

LAND FORCES ARE EXPRESSIONS OF NATIONAL COMMITMENT, WHILE OTHER FORCES ARE EXPRESSIONS OF NATIONAL INTEREST. TO BE EFFECTIVE WHEN COMMITTED, WHICH PUTS THE PRESTIGE OF OUR NATIONS AT RISK, AS WELL AS THE BLOOD AND TREASURE OF OUR PEOPLE, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE ENVIRONMENT INTO WHICH WE ARE BEING INTRODUCED. THIS APPLIES TO PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, DISASTER RESPONSES, AND DEPLOYMENTS FOR COMBAT ACTION.

UNDERSTANDING THE ENVIRONMENT MEANS NOT ONLY THE GEOGRAPHIC AND THE HUMAN FACTORS, WHICH WE ARE ACCUSTOMED TO CONSIDERING; BUT ALSO, THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, INFORMATIONAL, AND INFRASTRUCTURE FACTORS THAT

IN MANY WAYS WILL DEFINE THE NATURE OF THE WORK WE CAN PERFORM. WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS WE MAY BE LESS ACCUSTOMED. HOWEVER, WITHOUT THEM WE WILL BE LESS EFFECTIVE.

SECOND, REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT HELPS US TO CONSOLIDATE GAINS MADE IN RESPONDING TO CRISES.

THERE ARE LIMITS TO MILITARY POWER. TO BE SURE, ARMIES ARE HIGHLY VERSATILE AND CAN BE USED TO PROTECT BORDERS FROM EXTERNAL THREATS, PROTECT POPULATIONS FROM INTERNAL HAZARDS, LEAD ACTIVITIES FOR THE COUNTRY OR SUPPORT OTHER PARTS OF GOVERNMENT OR NON-GOVERNMENT ACTORS – AND, OF COURSE CAN APPLY LETHAL FORCE AGAINST OUR ENEMIES WHEN DIRECTED.

BUT THESE CAPABILITIES ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO CONSOLIDATE GAINS THAT ARE MADE THROUGH THE

INTRODUCTION OF MILITARY FORCES, EVEN FOR EXTENDED PERIODS.

CONSOLIDATING GAINS, THEN, BECOMES ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING PROGRESSIVE SUCCESS AND IMPROVEMENTS, BUT IT MUST BE DONE IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHERS – OTHER MILITARIES, OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF NATIONAL POWER, OTHER ACTORS BEYOND THE MILITARY.

ENGAGEMENT TO BUILD THE RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS, AND IN THE RIGHT SCENARIOS OR SITUATIONS, GIVES US SOME OF THE RIGHT PRACTICE AND EXPERIENCE WITH OTHERS WHO AT THE END OF THE DAY HAVE TO DELIVER A TRUE SUCCESS.

THIRD, REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT DRIVES US TO BE PRESENT WHERE IT MATTERS TO US THE MOST.

THERE IS A WELL-USED EXPRESSION THAT SAYS, TO BE VIRTUALLY PRESENT IS TO BE ACTUALLY ABSENT . . .

WHEN IT COMES TO BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT CAN LEAD TO TRUST, AND TRUST THAT CAN LEAD TO ENDURING A CRISIS WHERE OUR INTERESTS OR OUR PRINCIPLES MAY DIVERGE, WE MUST BE ACTUALLY PRESENT, WITH SUFFICIENT FREQUENCY AND COMPOSITION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE RELATIONSHIP.

I MUST ADD THAT FREQUENCY IS THE INGREDIENT THAT IS MOST EFFECTIVE IN WORKING THROUGH MISUNDERSTANDING TO PREVENT MISCALCULATION. AS SOLDIERS OF OUR NATIONS, WE ARE COMMITTED BY POLITICAL LEADERS. BUT, THE ADVICE WE MAY BE PERMITTED TO GIVE CAN HELP TO DEFUSE A CRISIS BETWEEN NATIONS WHEN WE HAVE THE PERSPECTIVE OF ONE ANOTHER AS PART OF OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING, AND AS PART OF OUR BEST MILITARY ADVICE.

FOURTH, REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO KNOW EACH OTHERS CAPABILITIES.

WHEN A CRISIS OCCURS AND A BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL SOLUTION IS NEEDED, THAT IS NOT THE TIME TO BEGIN GROPING FOR OTHERS IN THE DARKNESS. RATHER, KNOWING WHAT WE OURSELVES, AND WHAT OTHERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE ENGAGED CAN BRING TO THE PROBLEM AT HAND, CAN BE THE ILLUMINATING LIGHT THAT LEADS TO A SOLUTION OR AT LEAST TO AN IMPROVED SITUATION. COALITIONS ARE BUILT BY COUNTRIES WITH COMMON AIMS OR INTERESTS – AND THEY ARE MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN THE PLAYERS ARE NOT TOTAL STRANGERS.

FIFTH, AND FINALLY, REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT COUNTERS ISOLATIONISM AND KEEPS US FROM THINKING ONLY ABOUT OURSELVES.

MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING MY OWN, ARE HAVING TO MAKE IMPORTANT STRATEGIC DECISIONS ABOUT LEVELS OF FUNDING, THE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES ACROSS COMPETING NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES, THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRESENT VERSUS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FUTURE, AND THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY IN MEETING NATIONAL INTERESTS.

SOME HERE ARE WORKING THROUGH THE ADDITIONAL COMPLEXITIES OF INTERNAL SECURITY, GOVERNMENT REFORM OR RESTRUCTURING, AND CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS OF GENERATIONS NOW LIVING.

THESE CONCERNS CAN LEAD TO ISOLATIONISM AND INTERNAL FOCUS. WHILE SUCH STRATEGIC DECISIONS WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE OURS TO MAKE AS SOLDIERS, THERE ARE CERTAIN CONSEQUENCES TO ISOLATIONISM IN THAT REGIONAL UNDERSTANDING IS FUNDAMENTALLY DECREASED, THE ROLE AS A

REGIONAL ACTOR IS FORFEITED, AND REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LIMITED.

THERE MAY BE OTHER CONSEQUENCES AS WELL THAT WE CAN SPECULATE LIKE THE POTENTIAL FOR VACUUMS TO FORM THAT ARE FILLED BY SITUATIONS AND ACTORS COUNTER TO THE INTERESTS OF MANY; OR A SHIFTING BALANCE AMONG NATIONS THAT DRIVES CHAOS INTO THE PURSUIT OF STABILITY AND PROSPERITY.

MAKING THE ARGUMENT FOR REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT IS SOMETHING THAT WILL OCCUR WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF EACH OF OUR COUNTRIES. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DECISIONS WE MAKE, HOWEVER, WILL GO WELL BEYOND OUR COUNTRIES.

THE UNITED STATES IS INCREASING REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT. WITHIN U.S. PACOM, WE ARE PICKING UP THE PACE AND MAKING USE OF THE INCREASED NUMBER OF FORCES AVAILABLE FOR REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT. IN

THE CASE OF THE U.S. ARMY, PACIFIC, WE HAVE SEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SOLDIERS ASSIGNED TO ADMIRAL LOCKLEAR AND ME FROM ABOUT 70,000 WHEN I TOOK COMMAND LAST YEAR TO OVER 100,000 NOW.

WHILE WE DO STILL CONTRIBUTE TO OPERATIONS OUTSIDE OF THE INDO-ASIA PACIFIC REGION, OUR WEIGHT IS SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER IN THIS DIRECTION.

PUTTING THOSE FORCES, AND I WOULD ADD, THE FULL SCOPE OF THE PACIFIC LAND COMPONENT, INTO REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT WHERE WE SEND MORE FACES, INTO MORE PLACES, WITHOUT HAVING ANY NEW BASES, IS WHAT WE ARE UNDERTAKING.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE ABUNDANT OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK WITH EACH COUNTRY HERE AND WITH THE OTHERS OF THE REGION WHO ARE NOT HERE, AS WE COLLECTIVELY SEEK TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF RELATIVE PEACE AND IMPROVING PROSPERITY THAT WE NOW ENJOY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. I REMAIN ENCOURAGED AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT WHAT ALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO. HAVE A GREAT REST OF THE EVENING. THANK YOU.