



# SPEECHES & TRANSCRIPTS

## U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND

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Good morning, and aloha! Thank you, Jim, for that kind introduction, and let me add a special thanks to Lt. Governor Campagnolo for her very thoughtful and substantive words and for the wonderful hospitality we are enjoying here in Victoria. I think it's particularly appropriate that we meet in Canada – our neighbor, good friend to us all, and certainly a Pacific partner in every sense of the word.

So it's truly a pleasure to join you again this year for what promises to be a very enlightening series of discussions. I know Captain Jim Crawford and his team have put together an ambitious agenda. Thank you also for the opportunity to make a few remarks right at the start. My time this morning is purposely brief, and I want to allow for questions at the end of my talk, so let me get right to it.

Last year I surveyed some of the significant changes we've seen in the new threat context, and certainly in the Asia-Pacific theater – changes like the North Korean nuclear capability, transnational threats like drugs, piracy, human trafficking, and – most dangerous – terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

And I should also acknowledge some of the positive changes in the security context, too – from dramatic developments in Libya's national character to enhancements in the security capabilities of friends and allies around the world, as well as the generous contribution of those capabilities to our most urgent mutual security concerns.

These observations dictate some important truths about the present and future security situation. First, the globalized nature of the world today makes it difficult for any nation single-

handedly to provide for its own security – we're simply too interconnected and very interdependent. And second, we have to change with the times, anticipating future needs and building the cooperation and flexibility necessary to respond quickly to crisis.

And keep in mind, those who threaten our freedom and security today are not constrained by the hallmarks of civilization: adherence to international law, including the laws of war, respect for sovereignty, and certainly not morality.

Today's security environment provides tough problems to which the law must respond as well, and I know that's a fundamental reason you have gathered here today.

Now, those of you who attended last year's conference in Hawaii may recall that I like to deal at the operational level, if you will – which, after all, is where most of our day-to-day effort at US Pacific Command is focused and concentrated. So I'd like to continue in that vein by spending the balance of my time updating you on a concept I previewed at last year's Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore: a Regional Maritime Security Initiative.

I think we all know that secure waterways are vital to peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region. The oceans provide trade, communication, travel, and access to precious energy resources on which the growing economies of Asia depend.

And the narrow straits of Southeast Asia, through which one-third of the world's shipping and half of its oil pass each year, are of strategic importance to us all. So I think very clearly the seas, and the resources that flow through them, must be both shared and protected.

But the transnational threats I mentioned earlier not only challenge maritime security itself, but also abuse the maritime environment for illicit purposes. Unsecured or ungoverned seas are potential havens for criminal or terrorist activity, providing relatively cheap and inconspicuous movement. And the thousands of miles of coastline many of us enjoy, as the Lieutenant Governor just mentioned this morning, are sometimes uninhabited and often difficult to regulate.

## **REGIONAL MARITIME SECURITY INITIATIVE – WHAT IT IS**

A Regional Maritime Security Initiative, or "RMSI", as it is abbreviated, would provide a plan of action to address these concerns.

The goal of RMSI is to develop a partnership of willing regional nations with varying capabilities and capacities to identify, monitor, and intercept transnational maritime threats under existing international and domestic laws.

This collective effort will empower each participating nation with the timely information and capabilities it needs to act against maritime threats in its own territorial seas. As always, each nation will have to decide for itself what response, if any, it will take in its own waters.

Information sharing will also contribute to the security of international seas, creating an environment hostile to terrorism and other criminal activities. Any RMSI activity in international waters will, again, be in accordance with existing international law.

## **5 ELEMENTS OF RMSI**

### Increased situational awareness and information sharing

Let me talk now to the five elements of RMSI. Operationally, I think this initiative has to start by leveraging technology to build and share a clear picture of the maritime environment to match that which we have of international airspace today.

You all know well that when an airplane takes off essentially anywhere in the world today, the international aviation community knows the people, the cargo, the itinerary, and the flight path. If any number of parameters associated with that flight strays from the norm, all equity holders in the process are immediately alerted, and action is taken to resolve the discrepancy.

The same cannot be said today for international maritime traffic, but technologies exist to help build this picture. And steps are already being taken by organizations like the IMO to help improve this situation.

So we need to enhance situational awareness of the maritime environment, establish protocols, processes, and standards to fuse that information, and then share it between like-minded governments.

I think the most important dividend of this situational awareness is what I call cueing – knowing who or what is abnormal and requires investigation.

### Responsive decisionmaking architectures

But cueing is only a first step. Timely responses to maritime threats also require agile and rapid information sharing to support national or international decisionmaking – or what I like to call, "speed of command".

Certainly, not every security concern will require cooperative action, but some will challenge the resources of any nation. So national policies that permit cooperation against threats must be established, and standard operating procedures exercised.

The point is that these domestic and international command and control processes must be fast enough to be relevant.

### Maritime interdiction capabilities

Once a decision has been made to act against an emerging threat, maritime interdiction capabilities obviously will be required. In most instances, these will take the form of law enforcement or customs vessels, but military forces may be needed for more organized threats, especially on the high seas.

RMSI can share information about and encourage the development of appropriate maritime surveillance and interdiction capabilities among participating nations. And of course a number of nations have developed and employed similar capabilities to deal with illicit trafficking in drugs or human beings.

### Littoral security

The fourth imperative for RMSI is the ability to provide security in challenging littoral regions.

Although global issues affect the security of every nation, the ability to secure borders and territorial seas is a fundamental sovereign responsibility. The reality, then, is that most nations need a coast guard before they need what I would call a "blue water" navy.

Once established, integration of coast guard operations with naval forces is essential to eliminate seams at sea, just as that same coast guard must have established protocols and procedures to integrate its efforts with harbor security agencies ashore. And of course port security measures like the Container Security Initiative are key elements in the continuum of protection.

## Interagency cooperation

Finally, 21st century maritime security is much more than the application of military capability. In fact, RMSI will often be a law enforcement effort.

So clearly, maritime threats that span oceans, threaten straits, and prey on international trade will demand cooperation among a wide array of agencies and ministries to synchronize all elements of our regional capability.

## **RMSI – WHAT IT IS NOT**

Let me just leave you with some comments that I hope will clarify the concept and a proposed way ahead.

First, RMSI will be a partnership of regional nations who are willing to contribute their resources to enhance maritime security. It is not a treaty or an alliance.

Nor will the RMSI result in a standing naval force patrolling the Pacific. As I said earlier, the goal is to share information, provide cueing for emerging threats, and then to empower each nation to take the action it deems necessary to protect itself in its own waters, thereby enhancing our collective security.

I am often asked to comment on the difference between the Proliferation Security Initiative, or "PSI" and RMSI. Clearly the two are related, but the PSI is a global effort to stem the proliferation, by any means, of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. PSI does not address other transnational threats. RMSI, on the other hand, will be focused on maritime transnational threats in the Asia-Pacific region.

Fourth, RMSI is not a challenge to sovereignty - voluntary or otherwise. Once again, the ultimate decision to share information or to act against a threat remains a voluntary and sovereign decision.

And finally, activities under RMSI will be undertaken under existing international and domestic law. In the months ahead, we may find related legal areas to explore, and clearly we need your best thoughts in this effort.

## **CONCLUSION**

We are discussing the RMSI concept with friends and allies in the region, both to clarify the concept and to explore existing

technologies and best practices relevant to maritime security.

In fact, I outlined the concept with our regional Chiefs of Defense in Honolulu just last year, and I have to say it was well received. And my sense is there is already much good work ongoing throughout the region that we can leverage.

So the RMSI is still in its infancy. We have laid out only an initial framework or concept. We welcome ideas to build an effective Regional Maritime Security Initiative, and I'm sure many of you in this audience will contribute to its success.

So to all of our gathered friends and partners, I wish you an enjoyable and productive conference. Thank you all for joining us.



## **TRANSCRIPTS, SPEECHES AND TESTIMONY**

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