

## **Weekly Report**

National Security Division

*Week ending 15 Nov 2019*

### **National Security Strategy:**

1. **Protect the homeland, the American people, and the American way of life**
2. **Promote American prosperity**
3. **Preserve peace through strength**
4. **Advance American influence**

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### **National Defense Strategy:**

1. **Rebuilding military readiness as we build a more lethal Joint Force**
2. **Strengthening alliances as we attract new partners**
3. **Reforming the Department's business practices for greater performance and affordability**

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## **CJCS Describes Indo-Pacific Region as U.S. Military's 'Main Effort'**

(Department of Defense: Partnership)

Army Gen. Mark A. Milley spoke to Japanese and American reporters at the conclusion of a meeting he had with Japanese leaders.



Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, meets with Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga at the Kantei in Tokyo, Nov. 13, 2019

Milley noted that the National Defense Strategy puts the Indo-Pacific region front and center. The region is home to the four most populous countries in the world: China, India, the United States and Indonesia, and it has the largest military forces in the world. The return of great power competition as a threat to the United States is played out in the Pacific, with China and Russia both trying to change the rules-based international order that has served the region so well.

"It is the No. 1 regional priority for the United States military," Milley said. It's important that the United States, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and other friends and allies in the region remain unified."

The United States is a global power, he said, capable of doing more than one thing at a time. In Europe, the United States counts on the NATO alliance to help guard American interests, Milley said. In the Pacific, the bilateral treaty allies — Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand — are the bedrock for U.S. diplomatic, economic, political and military efforts, he added.

The purpose of U.S. efforts in Europe and Asia is to maintain peace and security, the chairman said. "The bumper sticker for Indo-Pacific is 'a free and open Indo-Pacific,'" Milley said. "That has been a U.S. policy ... in one way or another for well over a century."

All of the nations of the region have benefitted from the rules-based international order since it was put in place at the end of World War II, he said, and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command is the military component of the policy.

U.S. Central Command is much in the news today for its fight violent extremist organization terrorist organizations and its dealing to deter Iran — a regional malign actor. But with more than 300,000 service members and Defense Department civilians, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command dwarfs Centcom, the chairman said. The U.S. Pacific Air Forces alone is the second largest air force in the world. By itself, the U.S. Pacific Fleet would be the largest Navy in the world. The Army has a division in Hawaii and another in South Korea, as well as a significant presence in Alaska, the general said.

"We've got a Marine division forward-based west of the [international date line] in Okinawa," he said. "There is no other region in the world that has the amount, the capacity and the ... military capability like we do in the Indo-Pacific."

Great power competition in part of the calculus with China in the Indo-Pacific region. "We need to continue to engage with China," the general said. "China is a strategic competitor to be sure, [but] it doesn't necessarily mean that China becomes an adversary in the military sense of the word, or an enemy.

"But having said that, it's important that the United States, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and other friends and allies in the region remain unified," the chairman continued. "We have a common set of values, and we have a common set of national security interests."

China is building a very capable military, Milley said. "They've had extraordinary growth and wealth over the last 40 years," he added. "And following that growth and wealth is an increased military capability that they undoubtedly are demonstrating that they're willing to use in a variety of ways throughout the region."

China is trying to assert sovereignty over the South China Sea, he said. "They've got a wide variety of other activities that they've been undertaking throughout the region that cause nations within the region to have concern about Chinese intentions going forward," the chairman said.

The United States is not the only nation in the region worried by Chinese activities, Milley noted. Japan, South Korea, Australia and others have expressed concerns on the international stage, he said, and they must work together to maintain regional balances. "We are committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific region, and will maintain very, very close security ties with our partner nations in the area," he said.

The U.S. alliance with Japan is "rock solid," the chairman said, and Japanese and American service members are very close. "We train together. We have interoperable standards. We do a wide variety of exercises. We have engagements and meetings. We have similar standard operating procedures," the general said.

The Japan Self-Defense Force and the U.S. military work together in all areas of warfare, including space and cyber — the two newest domains.

The U.S. has about 56,000 service members based in Japan, and those forces aid in the defense of the nation. "We are committed to the mutual defense of both our countries' national interests in East Asia," Milley said.

The position in Japan serves both countries well, defense officials have said. The U.S. has the capability to project power overseas from the continental United States, they've noted, but it is much more effective and efficient to be closer to the scene. Troops forward-deployed in Asia are more easily deployed and sustained.

"So, for our ships and planes and troops to operate in any region of the world, it very, very much helps to have bases and overflight rights and have friends and allies in the region that can facilitate U.S. military operations," Milley said.

One of the challenges with forward-basing U.S. forces is readiness, he said, due to restrictions on the available types of training. The general said he broached the subject with his Japanese counterparts during this visit.

"I would also say that constraints and restraints on military training [are] not unique to Japan," he noted. "It exists in Korea, it exists in Germany, it exists in the continental United States. Things like environmental issues, issues with the neighboring communities and towns of various military bases."

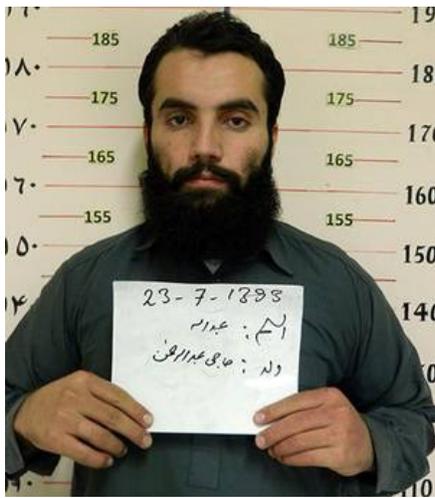
The U.S. military goes to great lengths to be good neighbors and to abide by local customs and rules to the extent possible while maintaining the required level of tactical and operational readiness, Milley said.

The general is also working to save the bilateral agreement between Japan and South Korea called the General Security of Military Information Agreement. That agreement allows the two nations to quickly share information and intelligence, but disagreements on an unrelated issue mean it may expire Nov. 22.

"The only ones who benefit from that ... agreement expiring ... is Pyongyang, and Beijing," he said. "It's in China's strategic interest, it's in North Korea's strategic interest, to drive a wedge between South Korea and Japan, and South Korea, the United States and Japan. It's in everybody's interest — ... South Korea, Japan and the United States — to ensure that that agreement does not expire, and that'll be my message to South Korea."

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## **The Afghanistan government swap three Taliban figures for U.S. and Australian professors**



Anas Haqqani

The President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani announced on Tuesday the release of three prominent Taliban figures to be released in exchange for the two professors. President Ghani made a statement saying it was in the best interests of the Afghan people to have a “conditional release.”

The two men that were abducted in 2016 are identified as American Kevin King and Australian Timothy Weeks. The abduction took place outside the University in Kabul, where both men were working at the time as teachers.

This statement comes at a critical time for Mr. Ghani as President Trump halted talks between the U.S. and the Taliban in September. Also, the Afghanistan Presidential election results from September 28 have yet to be released. The Preliminary results are expected on November 14.

The three terrorists to be released are Anas Haqqani (pictured above), Haji Mali Khan, and Hafiz Rashid. All three Taliban members are linked to the Haqqani terrorist network. Although it has not been confirmed there are no visuals of the three figures and it is not immediately clear if they are still in Afghanistan. It is possible the men have been sent to for example, Qatar where the Taliban have a political office. There has yet to be a statement made by the Taliban or the Haqqani faction holding the American and Australian hostages, or any indication if they intend to free them.

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## Taiwan receives draft LOA on tank sale from U.S.

(National Defense Strategy: Strengthening alliances)



Taiwan has received a draft letter of offer and acceptance (LOA), a contract between the United States military and a foreign customer, detailing an offer from the Pentagon to sell more than 100 M1A2 Abrams tanks to Taiwan, the Ministry of National Defense (MND) said Wednesday.

Taiwan's military has been seeking to purchase new tanks from the U.S. to augment its surface battle readiness since 2000. In

July, the U.S. Department of State approved a possible sale to Taiwan of 108 M1A2 Abrams tanks, Stinger man-portable air defense systems, and other related equipment worth over US\$2.2 billion.

At a joint hearing of the Finance Committee and the Foreign and National Defense Committee at the Legislative Yuan Wednesday, Defense Minister Yen De-fa told legislators that the U.S. has already sent a draft LOA on the M1A2 deal to Taiwan.

Chief of Staff of the Republic of China (R.O.C.) Army Yang Hai-ming said during the same hearing that the R.O.C. Armed Forces will sign the LOA at the end of November or early December after reviewing it.

According to a military official familiar with the purchase, Taiwan received only a draft version of the LOA. The U.S. will send a formal LOA after Taiwan confirms details such as the items, services and price.

According to the procedures released by the MND on requesting arms sales from the U.S., Taiwan first sends a request according to its operational requirements. Should such a request receive a green light, the U.S. sends an LOA to Taiwan detailing its offer.

Taipei then reviews the offer and completes a proposal for the procurement project before sending the LOA back to the U.S.

Various U.S. government branches then review the proposal before the U.S. government notifies Congress of the sale and the Defense Security Cooperation Agency under the Department of Defense makes the deal public.

Currently, the R.O.C. Armed Forces have about 1,000 battle tanks, mostly aging M60A3 and CM-11 models.

Should the deal go ahead, the M1A2, which is considered by many to be the most modern battle tank in the world owing to its superior fire control system, will be assigned to the Sixth Army Corps, which is responsible for the security of northern Taiwan, where most central government agencies are located, the MND said.

[Click here to read more](#)

## Saudi Arabian 2030 plan and Aramco to go public

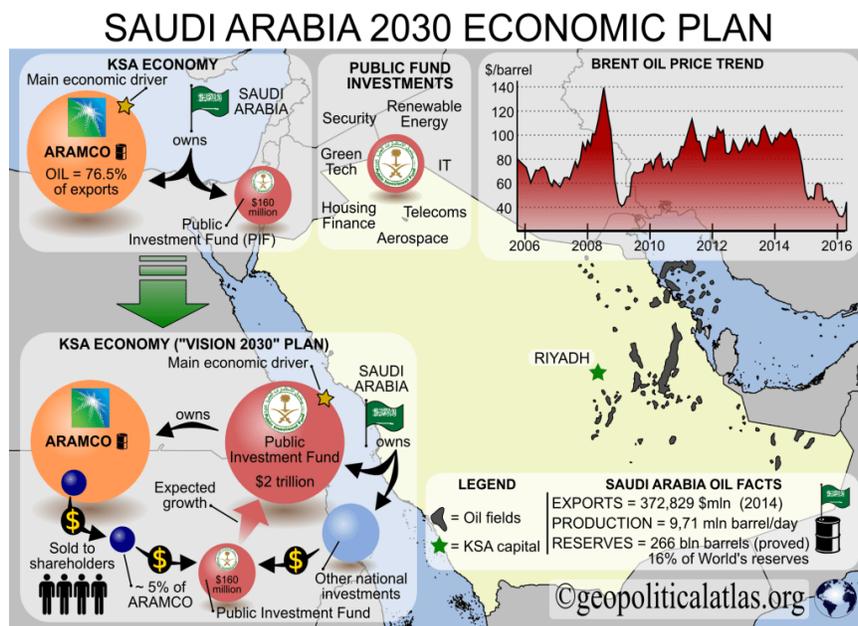


Saudi Aramco has stated that it is ready to go public, but the Saudi government has not yet set a hard date. The government will decide when the market conditions are most favorable for what would be the largest IPO ever.

Aramco in its first-ever investor conference call, said that its profit was down in the first half due to lower and volatile oil prices. Although they stated they are resilient with the lowest

production costs in the industry. Aramco announced that they have \$38 billion in cash flow in the first half, a special dividend of \$20 billion and even has room to buy a stake in India's Reliance.

The Saudi government has been encouraged by the success of Aramco's \$12 billion debt offering that they would like to move its IPO plans forward, and issue stock in 2020. This offering is expected to be the largest new issue ever and just represent a small portion of the company's equity.



The Saudi government has stated, "The vision for 2030 is a bold yet achievable blueprint for an ambitious nation. The vision will help to express their long term goals and expeditions and it is built upon our country's unique strengths and capabilities."

In order to achieve their vision for 2030 they have created the Vision Realization Programs. It consists of 96 strategic objectives from the Council of Economic and Development Affairs that established 13 vision realization programs.

The programs include quality of life, financial sector development, housing, fiscal balance, national transformation, public investment fund, privatization, national companies promotion, national industrial development and logistics, strategic partnership, HAJJ and Omrah, human

capital development, and national character enrichment. All the programs are built upon three pillars – a vibrant society, a thriving economy, and an ambitious nation. This is designed to draw on the county’s economy and intrinsic strengths to help the Kingdom’s citizens realize their aspirations.

<https://www.vision2030.gov.sa/en#>

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## **Meet America’s only female four-star general**

Each branch of Service have positive examples. Please view and forward as you deem would spark a connection.

<https://www.today.com/video/meet-america-s-only-female-four-star-general-73128517552>

### ***POW/MIA Update***

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency made 4 new announcements. Click on the links to read more:

News Releases

*November 14, 2019*

[\*Soldier Accounted For From Korean War \(Blosser, J.\)\*](#)

[\*Airman Accounted For From World War II \(Lower, M.\)\*](#)

*November 13, 2019*

[\*Soldier Accounted For From Korean War \(Avant, J.\)\*](#)

[\*Soldier Accounted For From Korean War \(Ford, K.\)\*](#)

### ***Staff Activities***

- This week staff continued to developed briefing and sponsor pages for National Security Commission programs. These sheets will be used by the Marketing Division to seek corporate donors to fund The American Legion’s National Security programs that promote community
- Staff member from the National Security Division Attended Dialogues on American Foreign Policy and World Affairs: A Discussion with U.S. Senator Todd Young and the Hudson Institute. Topics discussed ranged from the Indo-Pacific (re-assessing military presence and a force for good), Saudi Arabia, President Trump and Iran, Hong Kong, Turkey (the region) and domestic economy issues.
- National Security Staff and The Executive Director will accompany The National Commander on his Indo-Pacific Engagement from 16 November through 7 December 2019. This will include engagements in Hawaii, Taiwan, Australia, finally returning to Hawaii for Pearl Harbor Remembrance.

***Freddy Gessner, Acting Director, National Security Division***