



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail Oct 9 - 15, 2023

Greetings Colleagues,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific. Press reply button for your feedback and comments.

No Shift in U.S. Focus on Indo-Pacific Despite the Israel-Hamas Conflict



U. S. aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford

Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, caused havoc in the "[quieter](#)" Middle East in two decades and killed 1300 people. While the U.S. and its allies have pledged full support to Israel, President Biden called the Hamas attacks a "sheer evil." In his remarks at Tel Aviv, Secretary Blinken [said](#), "You may be strong enough on your own to defend yourself – but as long as America exists, you will never, ever have to. We will always be there, by your side." Along with the [two aircraft carrier strike groups](#), the U.S. supplied the ammunition interceptors to replenish Israel's Iron Dome alongside other defense materials.

The observers and analysts of the Indo-Pacific have divergent views. One group says that it will shift the U.S. focus on the Indo-Pacific while supporting a war in Israel and also in Ukraine. In contrast, the other group asserts that the U.S.'s strong presence in the Middle East will diminish China's presence in the region.

Despite supporting Israel and the Ukraine war, the U.S. is not losing its focus on the Indo-Pacific region. And it can be predicted that the U.S. support and solidarity will remain the same with Taiwan and the Indo-Pacific region in case of any invasion. Moreover, the U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan [docked](#) at Busan, South Korea, is to keep an eye on North Korea's advancing nuclear program.

It is worth mentioning that the [final report of the Congressional on the Strategic Posture](#), which was released on October 12, 2023,

emphasizes the readiness of U.S. forces to combat multiple adversaries, including China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran, between 2027 and 2035 threat assessment. Furthermore, Secretary Austin [said in a NATO meeting in Brussels](#), "the United States will remain able to project power and to direct resources to tackle crises in multiple theaters."

It is yet to be seen how the Israel-Hamas conflict will impact the Indo-Pacific region. As the conflict persists, China may need to protect its BRI project with Iran and its new partnerships with Arab countries. It will also be interesting to see how Taiwan takes its lessons as it faces the intense security environment in its neighborhood.

Advantages for China's Military in the Indo-Pacific

Army Gen. Charles A. Flynn, commander of the U.S. Army Pacific said that there are three things that China's military has in compared to the U.S. military, allies, and partners in the Indo-Pacific region. China has 'interior lines', 'large military forces', and 'magazine depth.' He also said that "Land power and the armies in the Indo Pacific are an absolute central part of defending [nations'] national sovereignty and protecting their territorial integrity." [Read More](#)

Pacific Partnership 2023 Mission in Papua New Guinea

This year's Pacific Partnership mission aims to conduct the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission in the Indo-Pacific. The U.S. Navy Capt. Claudine Caluori, mission commander said, "Pacific Partnership empowers nations to enhance their infrastructure and ability to respond to disaster emergencies." PP 23 features nearly 1500 personnel, with a joint effort on behalf of Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. [Read More](#)

Myanmar Military killed 28 Civilians in an Air Strike

On Oct.9, 2023, Myanmar military [launched an air attack in Kachin state](#) near China border that killed 28 people and injured another 57. A large bomb exploded near the displaced person's camp. The military in Myanmar has been using air strikes more frequently to target civilians after the military coup in February 2021. Myanmar's military Junta has not yet decided to hold the general election in the country; instead, it extended the state emergency and has been using brute force to suppress the resistance movement, which is extremely concerning and poses a threat to regional security. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Where is Kimbe Bay located?

- a. Indian Ocean
- b. East China Sea
- c. Pacific Ocean
- d. South China Sea

Which yearly mark did China's Belt and Road Initiative hit this year?

- a. 12 Years
 - b. 14 Years
 - c. 10 Years
 - d. 15 Years
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Consortium Highlights

- Blog Post- Can Maldives Muizzu's foreign and military policy impact the Indian Ocean geopolitics? [Read Here](#)
 - Upcoming Consortium International Conference, Nov 1-4' 2023
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