



Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail Feb 26 - Mar 3, 2024

Greetings Colleagues,

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

U.S. DOD Launces its New Cyber Operational Readiness Assessment Program (CORA)



Figure 1: IMAGE / DOD

The U.S. Department of Defense Information Network (DODIN) have made a significant shift from its cyber operation inspection program to Cyber operation readiness assessment program (CORA).

As per Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert Skinner, commander of CORA, the implementation of new processes is aimed at bolstering the security and robustness of the Department of Defense Information Network (DODIN). These processes assist the network's commanders and directors in their efforts to strengthen their information systems, minimize the potential for cyber-attacks, and adopt a more proactive approach to defense. The new processes help maintain the posture and resiliency of the DODIN by supporting the network's Areas of Operation commanders and directors in efforts to harden their information systems, reduce the attack surface of their cyber terrain, and enhance a more proactive defense. He further stated, "CORA is a vital aspect of continually understanding our cyber readiness through fusing many risk factors including access control, detecting anomalies, adjusting to adversary threat information, and executing cyber orders."

It is worth mentioning that in the [last month, the Commander of U.S. Cyber Command cautioned](#) about cybersecurity vulnerabilities and emphasized decisive action in response. Furthermore, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Christopher Wray told Congress, "There has been far too little public focus on the fact that PRC hackers are targeting our critical infrastructure." Recently, the U.S. has strengthened cybersecurity implementation amidst warnings from law enforcement

agencies about the growing threat of cyberattacks on U.S. public infrastructure and healthcare system. More recently, U.S. and U.K. law enforcement [disrupted the LockBit](#) ransomware group, one of the most active ransomware groups in the world that has targeted over 2,000 victims received more than \$120 million in ransom payments.

Cybersecurity plays a vital role in ensuring national security, as the increasing reliance on digital technology exposes nations to a wide range of cyber threats. The United States is taking a comprehensive approach to address this issue, working closely with its allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific and beyond to develop robust cybersecurity measures. [Read More](#)

Nepal-U.S. Launch Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise

The Nepali Army and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command [co-host](#) a multinational peacekeeping exercise, Shanti Prayas IV, at the Birendra Peace Operations Training Centre in Panchkhal, Nepal, from Feb. 20-March 4, 2024. This peacetime exercise aims to enhance the capabilities of peacekeeping missions and reinforce military-to-military collaboration per the United Nations Peace Keeping Operation doctrine. This iteration saw participation from over 17 countries and 1,100 representatives. Adm. John C. Aquilino, the U.S. INDOPACOM Commander, and other senior officials traveled to Nepal to attend the event. [Read More](#)

India-U.S. Concludes Homeland Security Dialogue

Top officials from Ministry of Home Affairs, India, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security [held](#) the dialogue in New Delhi. During the meeting, representatives from both sides reviewed the ongoing cooperation on counterterrorism. The officials emphasized the importance of bolstering the efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism, drug trafficking, and organized crime and ensure transportation security. Additionally, they demonstrated their commitment to facilitating safe and legal migration, combating illegal migration, human trafficking, money laundering, and cybercrime, and preventing the misuse of the cyber domain for illicit activities, including terror financing. [Read More](#)

Multiple Military Training underway in the Indo-Pacific

The U.S.-led [Cutlass Express](#) multinational maritime exercise in East Africa and the West Indian Ocean commence in Seychelles, Mauritius, and Kenya. Sixteen countries from the region are participating in the training, with 800 representatives. Seychelles' President, senior military officials, and the U.S. Ambassador to Seychelles, Henry Jardine, attended the event. Amb. Jardine [said](#), "Maritime security is of paramount importance in today's interconnected world. Our oceans and

seas are vital lifelines for global trade, transportation, and economic prosperity.” [Read More](#)

U.S. 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Lancer Brigade," 7th Infantry Division, participates in [Kobra Gold 2024](#) in Thailand. The largest multilateral exercise in mainland Asia strengthens regional relationships and enhances interoperability among Allies and partners through shared experiences and rigorous training. Ten countries will participate in the event, while nearly twenty other nations will attend as limited participants, observers, and planners.

USCG Top Leader Asserts Robust Engagement in the South Pacific

Admiral Linda L. Fagan, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard (USCG), underscores the strengthening relations with allies and partners for the shared goal of a free and open Indo-Pacific. She recently visited South Pacific countries, Samoa, New Zealand, Australia, and Vanuatu. During his visit, she said, “The United States, Australia, and many Pacific countries have shared goals, and the Coast Guard works to strengthen relationships with partners throughout the region.” She also highlighted the threat to ocean life and livelihood of coastal people by illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. She further states that the United States Coast Guard has been working proactively with Pacific

Partners, Quad maritime security group, Southeast Asian countries, and other like-minded partners to ensure freedom of navigation and adherence to international law and norms. [Read More](#)

Human Rights Chief Warns of Human Toll and Brutality in Myanmar

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, spoke at the Human Rights Council that in the aftermath of a military coup in 2021, there have been unbearable levels of suffering and cruelty to people in Myanmar. He verified that over 4,603 civilians, including 659 women and 490 children, have been killed at the hands of the military since February 2021. He further stated that the "human rights situation in Myanmar has morphed into a never-ending nightmare." He emphasized that it is crucial to engage all stakeholders involved in and beyond the region to restore peace. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which East African country situated at Bab al-Mandeb Strait?

- a. Ethiopia
- b. Eritrea
- c. Djibouti
- d. Somalia

Hollywood Movie *First They Killed My Father* is about the tyrant rule of which country?

- a. Cambodia
 - b. Vietnam
 - c. Myanmar
 - d. Indonesia
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Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Article Read Sea Crisis 2023-2024 Regional Implications. [Read Here](#)
 - ❖ Join us on March 5th, 9:30 P.M. EST A Conversation on Prabowo's Presidency in Indonesia [Zoom Link](#)
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