

**International Maritime Security Symposium
Jakarta 16 September**

**Enhancing Confidence Building Measures and Mutual
Cooperation for Peace and Prosperity**

(20 Minutes - 2265 words)

Theme

Opportunities for exercising co operatively at sea need to be seized to ensure that we can collectively prepare for the regional challenges in the dynamic years and decades ahead.

INTRODUCTION

Enhancing Confidence Building Measures and Mutual Cooperation between our Navies. This is a subject of the utmost importance for all of us who lead and serve in the region's maritime forces, and I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak on this subject from the perspective of the Australian Navy.

Australia is a strong supporter of international Confidence Building Measures within the existing maritime security architecture. We support measures that lower concern, and support the peaceful resolution of differences. We support all measures that can be employed to avert or manage crises.

Common Interests in maintenance of the Rule of Law at Sea

My belief is that the countries represented here today share common interests in the maintenance of an international system based on the rule of law, backed up by dialogue and cooperation, and a transparent approach to strategic interests, particularly in the maritime domain. With ever-increasing regional and global interdependence, no country can act alone to solve the challenges to our region's security.

Maritime Cooperation is not new but it is now urgent

The concept of working together to provide good order at sea and protection is not new. However the necessity for making cooperative engagement our normal mode of operation has become ever more apparent as the complexity and speed of change increase. This is my theme today: **Opportunities for exercising co operatively at sea need to be seized now to ensure that we can collectively prepare for the regional challenges which are likely to come our way in the dynamic years and decades ahead.**

Indonesia's Maritime Fulcrum Doctrine

It is very fitting that we meet for this maritime security symposium in the capital of the world's largest archipelagic state. (*We have heard that*) President Widodo has announced a National Maritime Fulcrum Doctrine which provides a vision for an expanded maritime culture, maritime safety, resource protection and regional security for Indonesia.

This is a most welcome and forward looking plan which will deepen cooperative relationships with Indonesia's neighbours and friends.

Coordinated Air and Sea Patrol (CORPAT 15)

This year saw an excellent example of such practical cooperative maritime policy between Indonesia and Australia's forces. This was the Coordinated Air and Sea Patrol of our joint Exclusive Economic Zone Boundary (CORPAT15). This was designed to protect both countries against illegal marine resource exploitation. None of us can be indifferent to the despoiling of the region's remaining fisheries. They are a shared resource which can only be managed through international cooperation and law enforcement. Exercise COPRPAT 15 was a success and we look forward to continuing such joint patrols.

MARITIME SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

In recent years the regional maritime security architecture for cooperation and agreement has been renewed and extended. Australia belongs to the three principal regional forums for extending maritime security. These are:

- **WPNS**
- **IONS**
- **ADMM-Plus Experts Working Group on Maritime Security**

Each forum is committed to closer working relationships and adds to this joint endeavour in which we are all engaged.

WPNS – WESTERN PACIFIC NAVAL SYMPOSIUM

At the end of the April 2014 WPNS in Qingdao our last speaker, Admiral Wu Shengli, expressed his support for: *broadened horizons, enhanced mutual understanding and deepened friendships.*

He went on to say that the member states of the WPNS should: *continue to make pragmatic efforts to create new channels of cooperation and extend the strategic influence of the WPNS.*

These are well chosen and meaningful words which we all agree are essential for our security at sea. We all care about lessening maritime tension, building cooperation and goodwill between our navies, and our nations and preserving good order and safety for all mariners.

Code on Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES)

We are progressing well. The great achievement of last year's Symposium was the agreement on the Code on Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES). This was the culmination of a decade of planning and negotiation. CUES is a practical example of a maritime confidence building measure which we can all use to avoid misunderstandings when we meet without prior arrangement.

Trust and Predictability are the outcome of CBMs

CUES provides predictability to commanders when they meet unexpectedly in international waters. Trust and predictability are at the core of Confidence Building Measures. I look forward to Indonesia hosting the Symposium next year where we may continue our task of building mutual confidence and trust at sea.

IONS WORKING GROUPS

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

The second regional maritime forum is the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium which Australia is currently privileged to host.

IONS provides its members, who border the Indian Ocean, with a much needed framework within which the Conclave of Chiefs of Navy can continue to construct this architecture of cooperation and confidence building.

IONS Charter of Business

IONS describes itself in its Charter of Business as being:

A voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation.. by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues. In the process, it endeavours to generate a flow of information between naval professionals that leads to common understanding and cooperative solutions.

IONS Working Groups

In practice IONS implements these aims through working groups to address three areas where maritime cooperation is mutually beneficial.

These are:

- trans-national maritime crime including piracy,
- information sharing and procedural interoperability, and
- humanitarian aid capacity building.

IONS' three working groups allow the collective experience of each Navy to be shared. Their formation is another recognition of my theme which is that we are far more capable when we are working together than when operating alone.

ADMM PLUS EXPERTS WORKING GROUP ON MARITIME SECURITY

The third regional cooperative forum is the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus, Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security.

Founded in 2011 its task is to recommend specific steps for practical maritime security cooperation to our Defence Ministers.

ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Exercise 2013

Australia became the first 'Plus' country to host an ADMM-Plus Humanitarian and Disaster Relief exercise when we hosted the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Exercise in September-October 2013 off New South Wales.

- Thirteen ADMM-Plus navies participated in this exercise, with eleven contributing ships.
- For many navies this was the first time they had exercised together.
- A key outcome of the exercise was the establishment of a set of Standard Operating Procedures and Command and Control arrangements that can be used in future ADMM-Plus maritime exercises.

Australia is committed to continuing our constructive contribution to this Working Group on Maritime Security and being part of its future exercises.

Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP)

One significant outcome of ADMM Plus is its determination to strengthen the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP). It does this by supporting an Information Sharing Centre in Singapore

ReCAAP is working hard and making a difference to the security of sea lanes wherever its focal points are operating. But last year's ReCAAP annual report states that more needs to be done . It says:

In light of the development of the situation in Asia in 2014, more needs to be done collectively by the shipping community and governmental agencies in building trust and confidence in timely reporting, information sharing, and operational responses.

Piracy remains a serious challenge to maritime law enforcement and ships and cargoes are still disappearing and seamen being injured and killed by criminals. To return to my theme: Cooperation is the key enabler in our fight against piracy.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF (HADR) AND MARITIME COOPERATION

There is one unavoidable fact of life in the Indo-Pacific region that all our people are at risk from and we need to prepare for. I refer to the regular devastation that comes to our people from cyclonic winds, severe storms followed by flooding, and earthquakes followed by tsunamis.

Australia's tropical north has been devastated by cyclones. None of us can consider ourselves to be immune from the impact of our tempestuous climate. Many of us live on or close to the Pacific's seismic "Ring of Fire". We remember the tsunami of March 2011 that swept into Fukushima and claimed thousands of lives. The Australian Air Force played a significant part in disaster relief. We remember very clearly the terrible destruction of the Boxing Day Tsunami and Sumatran earthquake of December 2004 and the earthquakes which caused destruction in Padang in September 2009.

Australian Defence personnel joined with many others to aid the Indonesian authorities in restoring basic services and saving lives. My point is that all of us can benefit from help from our friends and neighbours when disaster strikes and none of us knows where and when we will be needed next. We do know that effective planning and preparation require cooperation to mitigate the effects on our people of a sudden crisis or disaster.

Cyclone Haiyan Philippines 2013 – Scale of the Disaster

A very recent example of this cooperation was in November 2013 when many of our maritime services went to the aid of our friends in the Philippines who had been hit by cyclone Haiyan. This was the strongest storm ever recorded to strike land, as calculated on sustained wind speed. Eleven million people were seriously affected according to the UN and more than six thousand three hundred Filipinos lost their lives. The impact of climate change on this region may make these events more frequent and more severe.

International Response to Disaster

This disaster triggered a major humanitarian global intervention with assistance coming from as far away as Norway and South Africa, the United Kingdom and New Zealand. Each nation gave according to its means. The Philippines Defence Force led and coordinated the relief effort from all contributing nations and from NGOs.

Collectively we made a significant difference and there are lessons to be learned for the next such disaster which will inevitably arrive.

The Utility of Sealift when Disaster Strikes

Haiyan's destruction was on a very challenging scale. Some Airports became temporarily inoperable reminding us that the early distribution of food, shelter and medical aid can sometimes only be done by sea lift, with air lift supplementing that role when circumstances permit.

HADR Exercises Generate Capability

Haiyan was also a reminder that only through exercising of our HADR capability and making our responses routine can we hope to provide a fully integrated international response to disaster. WPNS is the coordinator of such Table Top exercises in our region. They prepare us to integrate our efforts with the larger maritime community and with non military agencies so they we are poised to take on the challenges that natural disasters always bring.

Maritime Response is indispensable to saving lives

Our navies are growing in capability every year and we owe it to all our people to ensure that when they are suffering and in danger we are ready, willing and able to use our advanced "lift and shift" capacity to be a "force for good". We can save lives and mitigate the effects of

disaster efficiently and effectively. That is maritime cooperation between navies and maritime forces at its best. If we, the professionals, don't lead the response to disaster no one else can or will do it at the scale that is needed. That is a regional fact of life.

Exercise Pacific Partnership – USN Led Aid in the Pacific and South East Asia

Many of the people of our region need medical and humanitarian assistance when they are **not** suffering from the immediate effects of a disaster. Exercise Pacific Partnership is an annual deployment of a hospital or amphibious ship from the USN's Pacific Fleet. In cooperation with regional governments and military forces, along with humanitarian and non-government organizations, Pacific Partnership helps those in coastal communities who are not able to access medical, dental and surgical services. Australia is one of the countries that has deployed skilled staff to Pacific Partnership every year since the program's inception in response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004

Since 2006 twenty countries have been helped and nearly half a million patients have been treated. Over 150 engineering projects have been completed. Pacific Partnership is maritime cooperation at its best.

CONCLUSION

To conclude:

My theme has been that Maritime cooperation is indispensable. The architecture is in place. WPNS, IONS and ADMM Plus are our principal forums for us to uphold and use.

By building mutual confidence through transparent and predictable maritime arrangements we can ensure that we who serve in the navies of the region do not cause tensions or difficulties through miscommunications. That trust has benefits. It leaves us better able to cooperate for our shared endeavours of which I have spoken.

The Australian Defence Force and the Navy I lead is committed in the years and decades ahead to working ever more closely with other navies as we collectively provide maritime security for the peoples of our region.

We will achieve this through our guardianship of our seas and their vital resources and the protection of the mariners who use the global commons for lawful trade. Without maritime security our region will be stunted in growth. With the maritime security which we can collectively provide our region can continue to grow in peace and prosperity, and that is the objective of us all.