Special Operations Command Pacific
Persistent Engagement for Persistent Conflict
US PACOM Area of Responsibility (AOR)

Characteristics of the Pacific AOR
• > 50% of earth’s surface
• 60% of world’s population
• World’s six largest armed forces
• Four of the world’s largest economies
• World’s largest Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist populations
• Five Mutual Defense Relationships

Northeast Asia
South Asia
Southeast Asia
Australia & Oceania

Relative Size Comparison of USA to Asia Pacific Region
US PACOM Area of Responsibility (AOR)

Challenges

- Chinese Influence
- nKorea – unstable regime / nuclear
- India – Pakistan
  - Extremists (Mumbai)
  - Kashmir
- Insurgencies
  - Thai-Malay Border
  - Southern Philippines
- Islamic Extremists
- Natural Disasters
- Taiwan Status

Relative Size
Comparison of USA to Asia Pacific Region
Operation ENDURING FREEDOM – Philippines

- 90const + million
- 90% Christian
- “Moro” Separatists
- Threats
  - Abu Sayyaf (ASG)
  - Jemaah Islamiyah
  - NPA / Communists
  - Ungoverned spaces
“Indirect Approach” & Persistent Engagement

- **Campaign**
  - Philippines = Counterinsurgency or COIN - address underlying causes of insurgency, immunizing at risk communities from exploitation by militant Islamic extremists (AQ)
  - United States = Foreign Internal Defense in support of Philippines COIN (main effort) and Philippines Counterterror operations (CT) (supporting effort)

- **Persistent Engagement**
  - Seven years of sustained, persistent engagement in Southern Philippines
  - SOF led mission

- **Constraints.** Recognizes the constrained environment of (1) Sovereign Host Nations, (2) Counter-productivity of heavy US presence, (3) Limited resources to apply to the problem set

- **Division of Labor:** Recognizes DoD is one of many stakeholders. Attempts to scope the role of DoD in general, and SOF in particular, within a broader Host Nation and Inter-Agency environment

- **Patience:** Indirect Approach strategies & tactics are “by, with, through.” This inherently requires a long-term view accepting of measured developments and quiet results.
Questions?