LITTLE BOOK

PENTAGON WORDS

PACIFIC

Edited by Theresa Arriola, PhD



Hentagon Words



Edited by Theresa Arriola, PhD







foreword





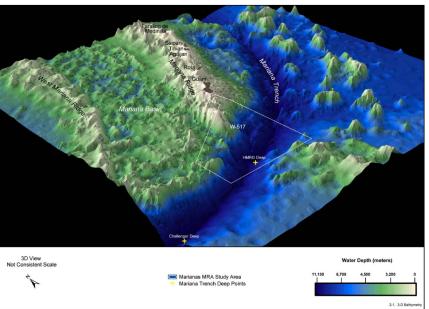


Figure 2-1. Three-dimensional bathymetry and major physiographic features of the Marianas MRA study area and vicinity. Source data: Fryer et al. (2003) and Sandwell et al. (2004)

In the Mariana Islands, the Pentagon has steadily increased its presence through basebuilding, weapons testing and war games as part of the broader U.S. Military's "Pacific Pivot." These changes have transformed the archipelago and surrounding waters into a "Study Area." Multi-national war games happening throughout the year such as Cope North and Agile Reaper have brought in thousands of military personnel and new weaponry into the region to prepare for a future war. Throughout this time, certain words employed by the Pentagon to talk about war have circulated within our community, taking root in different ways.

THE LITTLE BOOK OF PENTAGON WORDS IN THE PACIFIC

If the words we use are a reflection of our lived realities, what does this say about the way we talk about war?



This booklet offers a chance to reflect on some of these terms and examine their significance in our everyday lives. If the words we use are a reflection of our lived realities, what does this say about the way we talk about war? The list of terms presented here is not exhaustive and could include many others. What are some of the words used to talk about war and war preparation in your community?

Except for USINDOPACOM, which is both a command center and a regional term developed by the Pentagon, the words highlighted throughout this book are not necessarily technical; most of them you would use in everyday conversations without explicitly connecting them to military goals. The normalization of this language makes discussing these terms all the more critical amidst increasing militarization of the Pacific in our time. In this way, I hope this project offers-even if just briefly-a moment of pause, a chance to see the terms in a new light, bring context to their existence and shine light on their daily usage.

This project was inspired by so many wonderful thinkers, advocates, scholars and community members whose perspectives bring a sense of rootedness to the ever-changing geopolitical tensions Shaping th Throughou perspectiv times more make their how these WORDS IN THE PACIFIC shaping the way we talk about our island homes. Throughout the booklet you will find community perspectives interwoven with broader and oftentimes more "official" narratives for the reader to make their own connections and conclusions about how these perspectives diverge and converge.

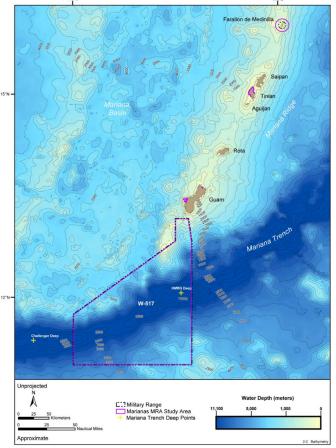


Figure 2-2. Bathymetry of the Marianas MRA study area and vicinity. Source data: Fryer et al (2003) and Sandwell et al. (2004).

While the book speaks from a specific place, the Marianas archipelago, and even more specifically, the island of Saipan, the terms' usage spans Oceania and beyond. Often, official and popular media narratives do not encapsulate the perspectives and relations that emerge from the term's effects in everyday life. My hope is that if we can begin to undo the ways we talk about and view war histories, we can work towards destabilizing the narrative of a future war on our islands.

STrai

/strtējik/ adjective

1.relating to the identification of long-term or overall aims and interests and the means of achieving them.

2.carefully designed or planned to serve a particular purpose or advantage.

3.relating to the gaining of overall or long-term military advantage.

Oxford Dictionary

MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS / About the MITT Study Area About the MITT Study Area

Mariana Islands Training and Testing Study Area

The land, air, and sea areas of the Mariana Islands are important to members of the military and their families who call the islands home. The U.S. military, including the Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, along with the Coast Guard, conducts military readiness activities in designated areas. These areas collectively comprise the Mariana Islands Range Complex.

For decades, the Mariana Islands have provided a

strategic and valuable environment for conducting military readiness activities. The islands are an ideal setting because of their location in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, allowing the military to maintain a global and strategic presence. Every day, the military strives to reduce its effects on the environment while ensuring the United States and its territories are protected and safe.

The Pacific's smallest countries are 'critical geostrategic ground' against China, top US

commander says

Christopher Woody Mar 10, 2021, 1:19 AM GMT+10

The Pentagon views the Tinian base as part of the Nixon doctrine's goal to secure more strategic "fallback" positions." Along with nearby Guam - a U.S. territory since the Spanish-American War - Tinian will be the only military complex in the Pacific on U.S. owned land.

Unknown to the public, and not yet a major Congressional ssue, private talks aimed at an agreement on the acquisition have been under way for the President and a group

Like the 2,000 intensis that made up the rest of Microsomia, the Marianas came under U.S. control with the defeat of Laparese

LINK TO SOURCE

Secretary of Defense from 1958 to 1962, is now president of The Asia Foundation, a San Francisco based organization that funds educational projects and that - according to the New York Times has been closely linked to the CIA.

No final agreement has been reached yet between the U.S. and negotiators from the Marianas. Even so, the United States is implementing a carefully orchestrated program to begin the process of separating the Marianas from the rest of Micronesia At the urging of the U.S., the Marianas District Legislatur

mously adopted a resolution in September requesting that me mariana Islands "be administered separately" from the other annucts since the future political status of the Marianas is



F. HAYDN WILLIAMS AND EDWARD PANGELINAN 780

1 /7V11 1W Dr. David J. Stone

LINK TO SOURCE

and of other colonial and

There can be only one answer -Micronesia is considered vital to the strategic needs and security of the United States. It must be stressed that this has nothing whatsoever to do with the needs and security of Micronesia. The Trust Territory is important because it stands astride the area between the United

States and what the latter regards as the potential source of an attack against itself. It is not merely a question of whether the U.S. needs Micronesian territory for military installations, but also the desire to prevent any other nation from making such use of Micronesia.



ise Cope North 21, February 9, 2021.



" The Mariana Islands are not only a part of the ring of fire but will always be a part of wars because of its strategic location. To be strategic could be respectful but in this case, a community is forced to continuously be in the line of fire."

Analee Villagomez, Saipan

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/redēns/ noun

 the state of being fully prepared for something
willingness to do something.

·S,

Oxford Dictionary





NEWS | March 20, 2023

U.S. and Republic of Korea Enhance Combat Readiness with Combined Air Training

USFK Press Relases

Link to source

THERESA ARRIOLA

Sharpening the Spear

By Richard Hallor



US Pacific Command will oversee 146 military exercises this year to build relationships and hone combat readiness. / February 201

LINK TO SOURCE



Literally. The immense Pacific theater, an endless maritime expanse covering twelve time zones, confronts PACAF's war planners with the need to overcome distances far in excess of those that would face military men in a war in Europe or elsewhere. Consider the realities:

LINK TO SOURCE



Department of Defense Fact Sheet: Sequestration's Impact to Regaining Readiness

What is Readiness and Why It Matters

The United States military prides itself on always being ready to respond to the orders of the President. The requirements of what goes into "being ready" are determined by the senior leaders of each mili are validated by Departme soldiers, sailors, airmen, ar equipment that enables the the risks to forces increase senior leaders of each military service based on global commitments and priorities and are validated by Department of Defense policy makers. These requirements ensure that soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines receive necessary training and well-maintained equipment that enables them to succeed no matter the mission. When readiness suffers, the risks to forces increase.

/stoord/ noun

a person who looks after the passengers on a ship, aircraft, or train and brings them meals a person responsible for supplies of food to a college, club, or other institution.

verb

(of an official) supervise arrangements or keep order at (a large public event). manage or look after (another's property).

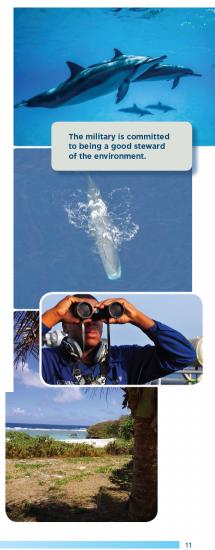
Oxford Dictionary

"Stewie" The U.S. Navy's Environmental Mascot

Help me

protect

our seas!



UNITED STATES NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

凸 14 🖓

U.S. Navy Environmental Stewardship Outreach Video (2013)

Subscribe

0:12/7:00



🔗 Share



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"When I think of the word steward, I think of a steward of our islands, someone who protects both the land and the sea. I think this is how people who live in the Pacific should view themselves. Everyone who lives or even just comes to our islands must be good stewards who nurture our environment to promote sustainability and good health for our current population and also for future generations."





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/pivt/ noun

"The United States is a Pacific Mation" the central point, pin, or shaft on which a mechanism turns or oscillates.

U.S. Department of State

THERESA ARRIOLA

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* CONVICTION THAT THE

After a decade in which we fought two wars

Patlament

that cost us dearly in blood and treasure, the

United States is turning our attention to the

vast potential of the Asia Pacific region.

US President Barack Obarna in his 2011 address to the Australian

turn on or as if on a pivot. (especially in a business context) completely change the way in which one does something.

Oxford Dictionary



"Our relationship with the U.S. Military is a complicated and sensitive topic. Our people have benefitted in many ways from our relationship with the United States, but unfortunately there is a cost for that. Economist Milton Friedman said it aptly, there is no such thing as a free lunch."

Tracy Guerrero, Saipan

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"Starting in the Indo-Pacific, our priority theater, we continue to pursue many belts and many roads by keeping our decades-old alliances strong and fostering growing partnerships."

 Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick M. Shanahan, testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee, March 14, 2019

LINK TO SOURCE

"you-ess-In-DOh-pay-com" noun

The United States Indo-Pacific Command is the unified combatant command of the United States Armed Forces responsible for the Indo-Pacific region. It is the oldest and largest of the unified combatant commands.

Oxford Dictionary

THE REGION BY THE NUMBERS

$\star \star \star$

POPULATION: Over half the world's people, including 58% of youth

ECONOMY: 60% of global GDP

GROWTH: 2/3 of global economic growth

GEOGRAPHY: 65% of the world's oceans and 25% of its land

USINGOOD COM GRAN SUB

"In recognition of the increasing connectivity between the Indian and Pacific oceans, today we rename the U.S. Pacific Command to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command," said Mattis. "Over many decades this command has repeatedly adapted to changing circumstances and today carries that legacy forward as America focuses west."

THE FUTURE OF EACH OF OUR NATIONS—AND INDEED THE WORLD— DEPENDS ON A FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC ENDURING AND FLOURISHING IN THE DECADES AHEAD.

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PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN QUAD LEADERS' SUMMIT

LINK TO SOURCE



Milley Describes Indo-Pacific Region as U.S. Military's 'Main Effort'

By Jim Garamone Defense.gov

LINK TO SOURCE

OHIGHI JIMA

ROTA

C.O.MIL.GOV. UNIT



" USINDOPACOM...-L-M-N-O-P Stewards of readiness? Pivoting Buildups to tear downs. A forward presence of strategic BiPITI BopITIY Boo-Boo Boo BE Boo! BOOP! Readiness to steward deterrence Deferrence Defence Defense Defence-less Strategic readiness.... Are you ready?







THE LITTLE BOOK OF PENTAGON WORDS IN THE PACIFIC

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Open House/Public Hearing



THERESA ARRIOLA

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

for the

GUAM AND CNMI MILITARY RELOCATION

Relocating Marines from Okinawa, Visiting Aircraft Carrier Berthing, and Army Air and Missile Defense Task Force

phrasal verb of build

1. assemble or accumulate something by putting parts or material together.

2. make a person or their body stronger.

Oxford Dictionary

Guam Prepares for Massive Military Buildup

The Port of Guam is bracing for change. Akiko Fujita reports on preparations for the transfer of 8000 Marines from Okinawa to the island of Guam and concerns about the impact of the military buildup on the island

By Elva Ramirez

December 24, 2009 ④ 3:48



The build-up shows the military getting bigger on our land, trampling our culture and nature. It's displaced our people, damaged our environment, and threatened our way of life.

As a native daughter of the Marianas and an environmentalist, I fight to protect our land and keep it healthy. The military's growing presence upsets the harmony of our island, putting our traditions at risk and disrupting our pride of place."

Jihan Younis, Saipan



WORDS IN THE PACIFIC

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Forward-basing, also known as forward deployment and forward presence, is a practice used by some militaries to establish an enduring presence in a foreign country as a means of power projection and furthering national interests.

Source: Wikipedia

WHY THIS MATTERS 🔼

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Eairchild AFB

- As the most forward U.S. territories in the Pacific, Guam and CNMI are critical to U.S. defense and power projection.¹ The Guam Defense System is COMUSINDOPACOM's top homeland defense priority.^{II}
- USINDOPACOM's initiative to stand-up Joint Task Force (JTF) Micronesia forward-stationed in Guam reflects Guam's importance as a command and control node for operations and activities across the Guam cluster (Guam, CNMI, Wake Island, and Midway Island and the Freely Associated States).^{III}
- Guam and CNMI are home to over 200,000 U.S. citizens; vibrant cultures; international tourism and investment; and vast areas of U.S. territorial sea (TTS) and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) with rich biodiversity and resources.
- Inspiring and advancing broad understanding of Guam and CNMI's status as U.S. homeland contributes to deterrence against a range of potential threats.

NEWS | July 11, 2022

9th MSC command team celebrates July 4 in Guam, Saipan

By Capt. Philip Regina 9th Mission Support Command

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS – The 9th Mission Support Command (MSC) is the most geographically dispersed command in the Army Reserve, with Army Reserve centers strategically located throughout the Pacific. These centers provide a forward Army presence in isolated Pacific island communities such as Guam, Saipan and American Samoa.

Brig. Gen. Mark Siekman and Command Sgt. Maj. Corey Thompson, the commander and command sergeant major of the 9th MSC, spent Fourth of July weekend in Guam and Saipan among Army Reserve Soldiers and local government leaders, celebrating the holiday and discussing important issues within these communities.

LINK TO SOURCE

WORDS IN THE PACIFIC

Figure 2. U.S. Defense Sites in the Indo-Pacific

INDOPACOM area of responsibility Select Military Installations and Defense Sites • Enduring U.S. presence • Rotational/episodic U.S. presence AFB - Air Force Base, IB - Joint Base; MCAS - Marine Corps AF Station; MCB - Marine Corps MCB - MCAS noun

a state of readiness, especially for war.

Oxford Dictionary

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE **INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY REPORT**

PREPAREDNESS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND PROMOTING A NETWORKED REGION

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command 🍲 @INDOPACOM

#USNSMercy hosts 💽 leadership to close #PacificPartnership24, the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance & disaster relief preparedness mission in the #FreeAndOpenIndoPacific.

Click 🔗 for more dvidshub.net/r/qog6iv

†:#Micronesia

4.1. Line of Effort 1: Preparedness

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The National Defense Strategy directs the Department to employ its resources in ways that enhance the lethality, resilience, agility, and readiness of the Joint Force. This resourcing must span near-term force employment activities and longer-term investments to modernize and redesign the U.S. military. The Department is developing innovative capabilities and operating concepts to address specific operational problems. This also involves identifying new, asymmetric ways to upgrade and employ legacy systems. Experimentation and exercises to test evolving warfighting concepts and capabilities help create a virtuous cycle that spurs additional ideas and innovations. Many of these experiments

JUNE 1, 2019

J.C.

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"When the military talks about preparedness, they are really talking about mission preparedness. And if you look at the ultimate mission of the United States Military, it's to protect United States interests no matter where you are. So military preparedness may sound from one perspective like a good thing because it means that the U.S. Military is "prepared" for any conflict, potential flash point, maybe prepared to bring in humanitarian and disaster relief missions. But we have to look at what goes into preparedness, right? A lot of their preparedness especially when it comes to the islands, especially Guam and the CNMI, it comes at a price for us. It usually means potential effects

on our environment, dredging of reefs, taking of land, bringing more troops in, missile defense systems, clearing land for airstrips. Overall, we cannot look at preparedness from one angle, but what it looks like for us as a community and that's the crucial distinction. Because of course it's good to prepare, but the process often goes under investigated. That's where we as a community have to do a better job of investigating the process. Also, what are we being prepared for? What does that word mean? Quite often that means we're being prepared to be used in a potential conflict with China or North Korea. That's not something that makes me sleep well at night or something that makes me excited about the future for my children. When you're living here, thats a different perspective and positionality.

Kenneth Gofigan Kuper, Guam

noun

the action of discouraging an action or event through instilling doubt or fear of the consequences.

Oxford Dictionary



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Fact Sheet: Department of Defense Concludes 'Decisive Year' in the Indo-Pacific Region

Dec. 27, 2023 | f 🕺 🏕

Throughout 2023, the United States has worked alongside allies and partners to deliver groundbreaking achievements for peace, stability, and deterrence in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region. As Secretary Austin has said, "In this decisive decade, 2023 will be remembered as a decisive year for implementing U.S. defense strategy in Asia."

U.S. Focuses on Deterrence as China Raises Stakes in Indo-Pacific

Oct. 24, 2023 | By Joseph Clark , DOD News | 📍 💥 📌

The U.S. remains laser-focused on deterring conflict in the Indo-Pacific as China doubles down on its efforts to boost its military power and engage in increasingly provocative behavior, a senior Pentagon official said yesterday.

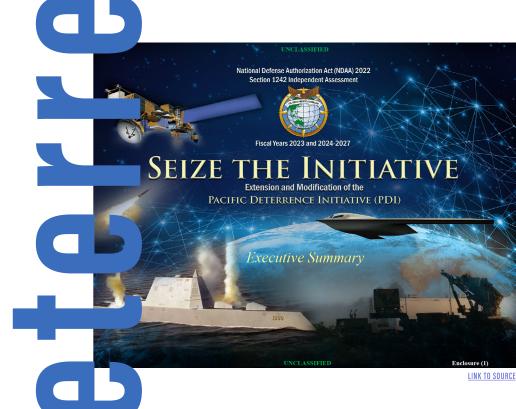
Pacific Deterrence Initiative

TABLE 1. PDI Funding by Category (\$ in thousands)

PDI Category	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Modernized and Strengthened Presence	2,912,703	2,485,965	1,553,794	1,542,538	1,544,917
Improved Logistics, Maintenance Capabilities, and Prepositioning of Equipment, Munitions, Fuel, and Material	1,102,040	332,186	337,799	412,711	336,786
Exercises, Training, Experimentation, and Innovation	2,069,062	1,755,767	1,415,504	1,600,113	1,557,611
Infrastructure Improvements to Enhance Responsiveness and Resiliency of U.S. Forces	2,375,530	2,903,752	2,385,598	1,302,177	1,589,968
Building the Defense and Security Capabilities, Capacity, and Cooperation of Allies and Partners	474,465	462,133	470,626	478,959	487,231
Improve Capabilities Available to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command	126,325	131,281	130,857	154,457	135,258
Grand Total	9,060,125	8,071,084	6,294,178	5,490,955	5,651,771

H.R.6613 - Indo-Pacific Deterrence Initiative

116th Congress (2019-2020)





For What the Tinian Base Would Cost

For the \$300 million it would cost to build the Tinian base (not including the aircraft, vehicles, and other equipment without which the base would be useless, and without counting the cost of personnel), we could:

- * build 10,000 new homes for families
- * build 20 new schools
- * open 100 new health care centers
- * provide one meal per day for an entire year for 700,000 elderly people

Northern Marianas military bases survive Super Typhoon Yutu

By SETH ROBSON STARS AND STRIPES • October 25, 2018



Super Typhoon Yutu hit the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the early morning with sustained winds of 180 mph, enveloping much of the island of Saipan and all of Tinian.

"There have been reports of major damage to structures and property, but all U.S. military personnel are currently accounted for," Lt. Cmdr. Karl Lettow, a Joint Region Marianas spokesman, told Stars and Stripes via email.

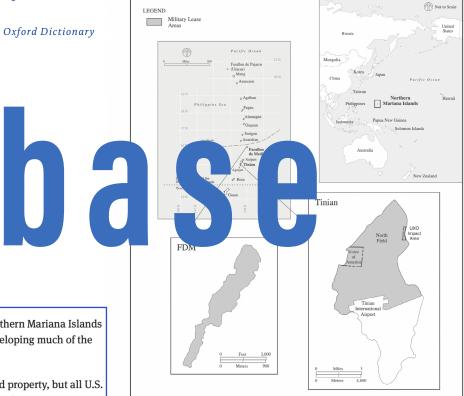
noun

1.the lowest part or edge of something, especially the part on which it rests or is supported. 2.a conceptual structure or entity on which something draws or depends.

verb

1.have as the foundation for (something); use as a point from which (something) can develop.

2. situate as the center of operations.



THERESA ARRIOLA

48 acknowledgements

Un Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase/many thanks to all of the community members who contributed to this project by sharing their personal perspectives about these terms. We live in a time where sweeping geopolitical narratives about powerful nations like China and the United States in the Pacific take center stage in the media and many official sources do little to highlight our humanity in these islands we call home. Talking about militarism remains contentious in our community, especially when information about military planning is shared between Pentagon officials and government agencies. Community perspectives offer an alternative way of framing militarized wording that is explicitly public and freely accessible.

I would like to express my gratitude to Inkstick x Bombshelltoe Media's Creative Capsule Residency team, with special thanks to Allyn, Laicie and Lovely for their guidance and feedback throughout this process. I also want to thank Lehua Taitano, my mentor throughout the residency, who helped me to navigate the conceptualization and theorizing of this project. This project was inspired by the many great thinkers I was honored to work alongside during the creation of the Words About War Matter language guide (www.wordsaboutwar.org) with special thanks to David Vine. THERESA ARRIOLA



