“Developing Capabilities Against Emerging Security Threats”

RADM Rommel Jude G Ong (Ret)
Professor of Praxis, ASOG
## Strategic Context
### Scenarios for the Indo-Pacific Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contested Sea Control over the South China Sea</th>
<th>Southeast Asia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• CCP heightens influence operations in coastal states adjacent to SCS</td>
<td>• ASEAN leverages RCEP as mechanism for cooperation vs. competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• QUAD(+) challenges PROC “sea control“ through joint FONOPS and USCG deployment</td>
<td>• PROC efforts to bring ASEAN under its diplomatic or economic “orbit”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• EU states expand naval presence in SCS</td>
<td>• US will increase diplomatic presence under a Biden presidency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tension from the Center and Periphery</th>
<th>Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral Partnership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• PROC-India border dispute escalates tension</td>
<td>• US, Japan, India, Australia successfully organizes as a countervailing force to balance PROC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• PROC expands maritime interest towards Indian Ocean</td>
<td>• Japan pursues complementary track as security guarantor in Southeast Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Internal dissent triggers challenges to Xi Jin Ping’s leadership of the Party</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic Context
Chinese Geo-Political Objective

- Sea Control of South China Sea
- Influence over ROC and PH

- Sea Control of Key Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs)
- Naval Presence in Key Features

Key Features:
- Senkaku Islands
- Luzon Strait
- Panatag Shoal
- Mindoro Strait
- Balabac Strait
- James Shoal
- Riau Archipelago
- Malacca Strait
## Strategic Context
### Scenarios Challenging PH National Security

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instruments</th>
<th>Probable Chinese Interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Diplomatic/Political** | • Weaken PH-US Alliance  
                           • Support and promote a “pro-China” government                                   |
| **Informational**     | • Sow discord in domestic politics  
                           • Shape public opinion towards a “pro-China” stance                                 |
| **Military/Security** | • PLA-N naval presence over West Philippine Sea  
                           • PLA-N assertion patrol through PH archipelagic straits  
                           • PROC-led exercises for propaganda purposes  
                           • Introduce illiberal practices contrary to a democratic state                      |
| **Economic**          | • Acquire strategic “real estate” to support military interests  
                           • Unimpeded access to PH natural resources                                             |
Notional Defense Posture

- Diplomacy
  - PH-US Alliance
  - Regional Engagement
  - Strategic Partnerships
- Informational
  - Counter Disinformation
  - Security of Cyberspace
- Military
  - Whole of Government Approach
  - Island Defense/Seizure
  - Sea Control of SLOCs
  - Sea Denial at WPS
  - Maritime Security at EEZ
  - Strategic Deterrence
- Economic
  - Protection of vulnerable real estate
  - Protection of strategic industries

Domains of Warfare
- Political
- Space
- Aerospace
- Cyber
- Public Opinion
- High Seas
- Undersea
- Littorals
- Terrestrial
Notional Defense Posture

Whole of Government Approach: Protecting the Government & Business

- Counter influence operations
- Counter disinformation
- Protect our cyberspace
- Protect the electoral process
Notional Defense Posture

Sea Control: Sea Lines of Communication

- Sea control over seven (7) SLOCs
- Maritime domain awareness
- Interdiction Capability
Notional Defense Posture

Island Defense and Seizure

- Batanes, Busuanga & Balabac Island Groups
- Amphibious Ready Group
- Reserve Force
Notional Defense Posture

Sea Denial: West Philippine Sea

- Establish a “buffer” along West Philippines
- Provide a deterrent effect
Notional Defense Posture

Maritime Security: Exclusive Economic Zone

- Naval-Coast Guard interoperability
- Sustained presence at sea
- Coordinated patrols
Strategic Deterrence:
Naval Coalition - ASEAN Mini-laterals

Notional Defense Posture

• ASEAN Maritime Task Force
• Networked Maritime Domain Awareness

• ADMM
• KOMODO
• PN-VPN
• INDOMALPHI TCA
• CORPATPHILINDO
• MALPHI-LAUT
• SEAGULL
Strategic Deterrence: Naval Coalition - Allies/Partners

- RIMPAC
- KAKADU
- KOMODO
- KOMODO
- BALIKATAN
- KAMANDAG
- SAMA-SAMA
- LUMBAS
Take aways

- PROC / CCP influence operations is a more compelling threat to the country.
- PROC’s tri-fleet (naval, coast guard, militia) is the enabler of its “sea control” strategy both for ECS and SCS.
- US under Biden may bring in a more coherent multilateral approach to SCS issues.
Take aways

• Zero capability and no buy-in to address influence operations and disinformation.

• Given PH current capabilities, most viable option is to work with allies/partner-states to attain “strategic deterrence” – systems and logistics interoperability.

• PH should leverage its geo-strategic strengths and mitigate its weaknesses, in developing new capabilities.

• Consider new technologies – AI, robotics, etc. – given that current systems may no longer be able to address emergent threat.
End of Presentation