

# Working With Allies and Partners Key to Maintaining Deterrence in Indo-Pacific, Speakers Say



Adm. Samuel Paparo, commander of the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet, said it's critical to continue to build strong partnerships around the world. *LISA NIPP*

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – The U.S. military, and its allies and partners, should make sure countries that would upend the international order in regions like the Indo-Pacific pay a steep price so it's not worth the effort, Adm. Samuel Paparo, commander of the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet, said April 4.

"Everything that we do must be underpinned by a profound and real capability to bring to bear overwhelming costs that exceed that which can be gained by those who would upend the international rules-based order," he said at a panel on the Indo-Pacific region.

He added that "deterrence is not an activity, but it is an outcome."

Paparo reinforced the importance of allies and partners. A critical line of effort is to continue to build strong partnerships around the world, and these relationships inform the Navy's posture and presence in the Indo-Pacific region, he said.

"There is a saying that we can judge our character by the friends that we keep. And, I along with everyone in this room, are pretty proud of the wide-ranging international solidarity of actors with whom we are allied and partnered," Paparo said. "... It is the fact that our allies and our partners come

as they are in accordance with their sovereign desires, in accordance with the international rules-based order, and we find ways that we can team together.”

Paparo said the final line of operation and the one that “encompasses all” is the importance of communicating effectively. He said our adversaries must know what our intentions and what our capabilities are to build that deterrent force.

“We must be aligned along with our allies and partners, and then the American people who support us with their hard work every day, who pay the bills for the security and the well-being that the joint force and all of government delivers, must know what we’re doing,” Paparo said.

Vice Adm. Michael F. McAllister, commander of Pacific Area and U.S. Coast Guard Defense Force West, said the Coast Guard’s role underscores Paparo’s emphasis on the importance of partnerships in and around the Indo-Pacific region. He said the Coast Guard has worked successfully to contribute to regional stability and security.

“While we are a military organization, we also act as a civilian organization, we are law enforcement authorities, regulatory authorities, and, we are good at disaster response,” McAllister said. “The types of activities that would be familiar are capacity building in the region, joint operations, shared education and training, [and] information sharing, particularly in the unclassified realm, which allows us to engage with more partners. But we are really big on trying to build those bilateral and multilateral relationships that build confidence and capacity for regions in the nation to be able to exert sovereignty in their waters as best they can.”

Representing the State Department on the panel, Camille P. Dawson, deputy assistant secretary, Office of Public Affairs

and Public Diplomacy, said the recently-released Indo-Pacific Strategy is the Administration's policy that lays out the U.S. vision for the region. That is a vision of "a free and open Indo-Pacific that is connected, prosperous, secure and resilient," she said.

Dawson said the State Department plays a fundamental role in the implementation of virtually every aspect of the Indo-Pacific Strategy. She described the five key pillars of the plan, which are to advance freedom and openness; build collective capacity within and beyond the region; promote shared prosperity; bolster Indo-Pacific security; and, build regional resilience.