

Increased Deployment of US Troops to the Philippines

**Violation of sovereignty,
threat to peace**



**Bagong Alyansang
Makabayan
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Increased Deployment of US Troops

- Negotiations to deploy and station additional US troops to the Philippines, more military exercises and more frequent landings of US warships have already started
- The US-PH Strategic Dialogue started this January 2012
- The negotiations will be finished during the upcoming visit of US Sec. State Clinton, US Senator John McCain and Joe Lieberman

Increased Deployment of US Troops

- In the Strategic Dialogue, the US and the Philippine governments are affirming the Mutual Defense Treaty as a bolster to the relationship and alliance between the two countries
- US Representatives will visit the country in February for the next dialogue
- This will be followed by a high-level ministerial meeting in March (Clinton, Panetta, del Rosario, Gazmin)

“New” US Strategy

- January 3, 2012 - The narrative of the new US defense strategy has a focus on Asia and the Middle East
- According to Obama, "we will focus on a broader range of challenges and opportunities, including the security and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific."

“New” US Strategy

- Sustaining US Global Leadership, Priorities for 21st Century Defense
- In the context of the worsening crisis in the US economy, the US sees a need to control trade and resources of the world and project US military power in the middle of a dire fiscal crisis and intensifying internal contradictions

“New” US Strategy

- “U.S. economic and security interests are inextricably linked to developments in the arc extending from the Western Pacific and East Asia into the Indian Ocean region and South Asia, creating a mix of evolving challenges and opportunities. Accordingly, while the U.S. military will continue to contribute to security globally, **we will of necessity rebalance toward the Asia-Pacific region**”.



“New” US Strategy

- “Over the long term, China’s emergence as a regional power will have the potential to affect the U.S. economy and our security in a variety of ways”
- The US is using talks about the Spratly Islands and the threat of China to justify US military presence and interference in the region

“New” US Strategy

- Stronger US military "**presence operations**" in the country through:
 - 1) "Rotational" deployments (as they are doing in Mindanao)
 - 2) Bilateral and multilateral training exercises (Balikatan)
 - 3) Port calls of warships

“New” US Strategy

- According to the US, deployment is just "temporary" and "rotational," US bases won't return
- The truth is, even though "rotational," the presence of US military in the country has been permanent since 2002



“New” US Strategy

- Flexible: Even without formal military bases, the US is using the VFA and access arrangements to set up what resemble bases in the country, even using the facilities of the Philippines
- Permanent: At any time of the year, the US has ensured that it has forces in the Philippines
- This is a violation of the Constitution and national sovereignty

Threat to Peace

- The objective of the US is to surround China and North Korea because these are countries that do not follow the dictates of the US
- The US is using the dispute about the Spratlys to give a reason for intervention in the region and to control the flow of trade in the South China Sea
- Instead of being helpful, this only adds to the tension and conflict in the region

Threat to Peace

- We oppose the use of brute force against China regarding the Spratlys dispute and we support peaceful, diplomatic ways of resolving this dispute
- We are opposed to US intervention in this issue and using the dispute only for its own imperialist interests

Modernization of the AFP?

- The call of the AFP and Malacanang that the addition of US troops will help modernize the AFP is a fallacy
- The Mutual Defense Treaty has existed for 60 years and the VFA for 13, but the AFP has still not been modernized
- Being overly dependent on the US is the main reason why the AFP has not modernized

US Troops Out Now!

- Oppose the addition of US troops and new military exercises!
- US Troops out of Mindanao!
- Junk the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Visiting Forces Agreement!
- US Out of Asia!



US Troops Out Now!

We must prepare for visits, important meetings and anniversaries:

- Feb. 4 - Anniversary of the Philippine American War
- Feb. 8 - Birthday of Claro M. Recto, forum about US troops
- Feb - US Assistant Secretary of State for Political and Military Affairs Andrew Shapiro and Deputy US Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis visit the country
- March - US-PH Ministerial meeting in Washington DC

(continued)

US Troops Out Now!

- April - Much larger Balikatan exercises scheduled to take place in Mindanao
- May 27 - 13th anniversary of the VFA
- June 12 - Independence Day
- July 4 - Fil-Am Friendship Day