

*The homeland security mission doesn't stop at national boundaries, and partnerships among nations are key factors in global security. The international panelists will discuss the importance of fostering international partnerships in scientific research for homeland security and how the Asia-Pacific region is benefiting from their collaborative efforts.*

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**Rear Admiral Charles Martoglio**

**Director for Operations at U.S. Pacific Command**

In order to provide a more thorough and comprehensive reflection, let us begin with an insight into the background of our speaker. Charles W. Martoglio graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978 – just before the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan and subsequent resurgence of tensions during the Cold War. This conflict permeated the first 10 years of Martoglio's military career, making a profound impact on his development and growth as a Naval Officer. In 1997 he was selected as Commander of the USS *Fitzgerald* for deployment to the Persian Gulf. With proven leadership and commitment to excellence, Rear Admiral Martoglio was promoted to Commander of Destroyer Squadron 23 and the *Nimitz* Strike Group in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Within the last two years, he has been very active in Western Pacific operations serving as Commander of Carrier Strike Group 7 and the *Ronald Regan* Strike Group. Currently, he is stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii as Director for Operations at U.S. Pacific Command. This dynamic individual has a wealth of experience and advice to share from his 34 years of Military Service. It will be with immense honor and humility that I accept a Commission into the Armed Forces to confront what he considers to be one of the greatest challenges the World has ever seen. 'America knows how to build robustness and we can prevail against the strongest and wealthiest of peers.'

The Pacific Theater is the largest in the world. It covers 16 time zones from the east coast of Africa to the west coast of North America. The Asia-Pacific region is an economic focal point who often

leads the advancements of science and technology. Today we promote a system of Rapid Implementation with Centralized Planning and Decentralized Execution. America and its allies have credible combat forces that are forward-postured to bring down extremism. While space is the ultimate high ground, cyberspace is where our focus must be. Advancing technology has provided unparalleled interconnectedness that drives efficiency. Unfortunately, there is an alarming disparity between such technology and its security therein.

Without question, preventing war is the top priority of US PACOM. While it is imperative that we are dedicated to fighting violent extremism through military superiority, we must further develop private and commercial partnerships in order to bolster our security capabilities in cyberspace. The international community seeks to understand the validity, accuracy, and range of threats. Homeland Security is much more than protecting the interests of the United States of America. The ideals of Homeland Security are founded in the preservation of freedom and justice. The 2008 Asia-Pacific Homeland Security Summit is a tribute and testament to these ideals as we foster cross-collaboration among cultures of diverse history, background, and ideologies.

The presentation by Rear Admiral Charles Martoglio was fair, honest, and inspiring. Simply put, it outlined a brief history of American intervention in areas where extremism has become commonplace. Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, resolve has been one of our most significant assets in a global political climate wrought with change and upheaval. As we move forward into a new century, the threats and challenges of tomorrow will take new form and yet resolve will continue to be a hallmark of success. I am proud to have been selected as a Student Fellow with the opportunity to meet and speak candidly with Admirals, Generals, State Officials, Scientists, Corporate Executives, and University Educators from all over Asia and North America. In their respective fields of expertise, these great men and women are certainly among the world's most respected and influential leaders. Together, they are advancing the capabilities of the world to protect against the most serious threats to the security of modern civilization including natural disasters, pandemics, and terrorist attacks.

***Indifference is the Difference Between Resolution and Resignation.***

—Daniel C. Sloat

This original quote seems all too appropriate when I consider these challenges and the importance of resolve. If at any point we become indifferent and if our commitment to preserving freedom begins to falter, then resignation will undoubtedly pervade the international community. Unless we are ever vigilant, the proponents of extremism—both man-made and natural—will most certainly prevail. It is with steadfast resolve that I look forward to joining the ranks of the brave leaders who attended the 2008 Asia-Pacific Homeland Security Summit. In fact, most notably among them was Rear Admiral Charles Martoglio who set a tone of optimism for the duration of the conference.

His was a call of duty to serve his nation and protect the Constitution through direct military involvement. Martoglio is a decorated veteran who has and continues to commit his life to these values. Even so, he recognizes the meaningful contributions of everyone in the international community to maintain Homeland Security throughout the United States of America and the world. Despite the growing severity and scope of risks that threaten our security, we must not succumb to a sense of hopelessness. With resourceful and innovative leaders in the fight, I am supremely confident that we can leverage this talent to provide a safe and equitable future for all.