



INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: 2018 Northeast Asia Regional Environmental Security Forum (RESF) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

1. Purpose: To provide stakeholders with the concept, background, description and objectives of the 2018 NE Asia RESF.

2. Background: Environmental security can be broadly defined as countering vulnerabilities caused by the abundance or scarcity of environmental resources and/or degradation. Increasingly, environmental factors—extreme and frequent weather and climate events, water resources, food security and environmental disasters—can affect national and regional security by exacerbating hunger, poverty, instability and conflict. Environmental factors often have cross-border impacts. Sharing lessons-learned and encouraging militaries and governments to plan, operate, and execute in an environmentally sustainable manner that supports regional cooperation will improve security for all.

The PESF and regional meetings (RESFs) are the cornerstones of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's (USINDOPACOM) Environmental Security Program, which seeks to 1) increase understanding environmental stewardship obligations among militaries in the Indo-Pacific region, and 2) design and fund civ-mil projects with partner nations that develop mutual capabilities, interoperability and resiliency to environmental security challenges. USINDOPACOM and its partners collaborate on multiple efforts to tackle and overcome environmental security threats. This includes holding an annual PESF, where civilian and military representatives gather to discuss and share environmental security best practices and lessons-learned. It also means being a community of action to conduct regular environmental security projects that couple unique military capability with civilian expertise, deliver tangible and efficient results, and advance security in the region. Environmental security projects and cooperation are platforms for relationship building, opening doors for dialogue on other subjects too.

Ultimately, USINDOPACOM is dedicated to promoting environmental security awareness and sustainable environmental operations, and will continue to partner with civilian and military agencies in order to achieve environmental security objectives.

3. Description:

a) WHO:

- The 2018 event will include regional participation from countries with a specific interest in Northeast Asia: China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Australia, United States, and others.
- New Zealand is scheduled to host the 2019 PESF, and therefore, will attend the 2018 regional event in Mongolia.

b) WHAT:

- The 2018 RESF will be the eighth annual Indo-Pacific environmental security event organized by USINDOPACOM and the Mongolia Ministry of Defense.
- The 2018 event themes are establishing an environmental security habit of dialogue, food-water-energy nexus, and environmental security in contingency operations. Each theme in the 2018 RESF will include briefs by subject matter experts, followed by a panel session. The event will also include work group activities, enforcing the RESF themes and foster cooperation. The event will also highlight identified and prioritized environmental security engagements planned for the future between the Government of Mongolia and USINDOPACOM.

c) WHEN:

- 18-21 September 2018

4. Objectives: The 2018 RESF objectives are:

- Advance environmental security dialogue among militaries in the Northeast Asia region;
- Broaden civil-military environmental security cooperation in the Northeast Asia region;
- Strengthen environmental security coordination between and among U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and Northeast Asia partners;
- Increase awareness of environmental security issues, best practices and lessons-learned; and
- Enhance Mongolia's fundamental environmental security capability.

5. Points of Contact:

Mr. Christopher Sholes
Environmental Program Manager
U.S. Indo-Pacific Command
christopher.sholes@pacom.mil
+1 (808) 477-9420

Col Mike Matheis
USAF Reservist
U.S. Indo-Pacific Command
michael.matheis.2@us.af.mil
+1 (609) 562-6366

Lt Col Dr. Oyuntsetseg
Senior Desk Officer
Department of Strategic Policy
and Planning
Mongolia Ministry of Defense
oyuntsetseg@mod.gov.mn
+976 9114-6989