**(U) Brief History of Ari**

(U) (U) While West Mauga (Republic of Mauga) has become an economically vibrant democracy with considerable ?soft power,? East Mauga?s people suffer under a totalitarian regime that has failed to deliver prosperity except to the small political elite class. The Mauga Archipelago is also mired in a decades-old crisis over East Mauga?s drive to deploy nuclear-armed missiles. (U) The Hilo (the capital of East Mauga) regime presents human-rights, humanitarian, and economic-development problems, as well as posing a strategic threat to its adversaries?West Mauga, Japan, and the United States. Furthermore, the bitter rivalry between the two Mauga governments in Lihue and Hilo obstructs the fulfillment of the nationalistic yearnings of islanders on both sides of the Zone of Separation and prevents the full integration of Eastern Mauga into the regional economy. (U) West Mauga struggles to maintain its security against its often-violent neighbor while managing tensions between its ally, the United States, and its trading partner, China, that often reach a focal point in the archipelago. West Maugans also harbor lingering fears about a resurgence of regional militarism and anxieties about attempted Chinese domination. The situation is a flashpoint that threatens to destabilize the entire USINDOPACOM AOR.

**(U) DPRM Intentions**

(U) For decades the DPRM has been one of the world's most secretive societies. It is one of the few countries still under nominally communist rule. DPRM?s nuclear ambitions have exacerbated its rigidly maintained isolation from the rest of the world. The country emerged in 1948 amid the chaos following the end of World War II. Its history is dominated by its Great Leader, Pak Min-Sung, who shaped political affairs for almost half a century. After the Mauga War, Pak Min-Sung introduced the personal philosophy of Juche, or self-reliance, which became a guiding light for DPRM?s development. Pak Min-Sung died in 1994, but the post of president has been assigned "eternally" to him. Decades of this rigid state-controlled system have led to stagnation and a leadership dependent on the cult of personality. Aid agencies have estimated that up to two million people have died since the mid-1990s because of acute food shortages caused by natural disasters and economic mismanagement. The country relies on foreign food aid. The totalitarian state also stands accused of systematic human rights abuses. Amnesty International estimates that hundreds of thousands of people are held in detention facilities, in which it says that torture is rampant and execution commonplace. Hilo has accused successive West Mauga governments of being U.S. "puppets.? (U) For over 60 years the United States has had to deal with the threat of a DPRM invasion into the West. Both the United States and Republic of Mauga have drawn down the number of forces available on the Ari Island to blunt northern aggression but have increased joint exercises and developed a combined strategy to better deal with this threat. This has often triggered the type of brinksmanship observed recently, which we have not seen since the cessation of hostilities. This section will provide a brief snapshot of the dynamic military and political situation in the region and attempt to describe the state of U.S. and partner involvement should tensions escalate.

**(U) Restricted and Challenging Terrain (AO)**

(U) (U) Terrain in the Mauga Archipelago will pose a significant issue to military commanders. Mountains and hills account for nearly 50% of land in the DPRM and 50 percent of the land lies above an elevation of 2,000 feet and 10 percent lies above 7,000 feet. While the highest peak stretches to over 13,700 feet, most mountains range between 3,000 and 4,000 feet. Transecting between these mountain ranges are deep narrow valleys which significantly degrade movement and maneuver. This topography creates a significant amount of drainage, presenting itself as rivers, creeks and streams which also become navigation hazards or potential obstacles. Commanders must be trained and capable of conducting mountain movement techniques and maintain a level of unit fitness that allows for extended operations. (U) Mountainous terrain stretches the limits of armies and individuals not adequately prepared to fight in and meet its demands. U.S. forces must anticipate, understand, and adapt to these physical demands in order to combat the challenges of fighting in areas where our technological supremacy can be negated by even the most crude and non-technical enemy actions. Severe weather that restricts mountain operations is just one example of a non-controllable element that can degrade or deny the use of assets such as Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) platforms; helicopters, including medical evacuation (MEDEVAC); wheeled and tracked vehicles, and some fire-support assets. Mountainous terrain usually favors defense and the force most familiar with the operating area, which is a key factor to be considered in any comprehensive estimate of the enemy situation. Mountains restrict movement and delay timely responses.

**(U) 1 March 2019 IAEA Inspectors Report**

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**(U) Deteriorating Conditions on Ari**

(U) Needs Updating

**(U) Over the last 24 months**

(U) Needs Updating

**(U) Over the last 12 months**

(U) Needs Updating

**(U) Within the Last Year**

(U) 1st SFAB remains partnered with ROMA forces.

**(U) In the last six months**

(U) Crippling sanctions and continued drought cause wide spread famine on Ari resulting in mass desertions of the 11th DTG. 1st SFAB supports local RoM Forces as SPF intimidation of locals increase

**(U) Last Week**

(U) Increased efforts seen by SPF to pressure local populace to support DPRM?s claim to Ari. SPF conducted a complex attack against ROM Soldiers IVO Dillingham airfield resulting in the death of 4 Soldiers and 6 civilians A shipment of T-99 tanks and artillery assets left departed from the Island of Poema. The charted course is assessed to travel east of the middle islands and dock at the SPOD on southern Ari