

## Chairperson's address -

Dear Delegates,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to the 4th edition of LMCMUN and the First Committee of the General Assembly, Disarmament and International Security Committee. I am really looking forward to meeting all of you in May this year. I am Aakash Bhattacharya and it is a great honor to be your chairperson.

As an 11th grade student in La Martiniere for Boys who loves watching movies, playing cricket and is an avid reader with an interest in world affairs, a Model United Nations conference is more than just an activity for me. It's an event which not only provides you with a platform to discuss various international issues and disputes but also helps you to develop friendships which you may cherish throughout your lifetime.

My director, Akshay Sharma, is a fellow 11th grade student and a passionate MUNner, an avid football fan and a regular in school athletics and various other sporting events including equestrian sports.

My assistant director, Adarsh Anand is undoubtedly one of the most well informed people you could ever find. In case you are lost when it comes to policy or otherwise, you could just walk up to him and talk to him about your queries. Besides the MUNing aspect, he is a movie buff and in case you want to watch the weirdest movies on earth, you could ask him for some.

Andre Jaggi, my rapporteur is a pure entertainer. He can teach you how to amalgamate hard work and fun together. A student of the 10th standard, he likes drama, debate and is always up for an argument. As a person, besides MUN, he is a "people's" person. He has a magnetic personality and he will ensure that you aren't bored in committee.

Srivats Agarwal, the assistant rapporteur, is the youngest member of the Secretariat. He is currently in the 9th standard, and is an avid reader, a hard worker, and a movie buff.

This year, as the chairperson of DISEC, I plan on bringing before you one of the best MUN experiences possible. And for that very reason, I have opted for a topic which will infuse both heated debate and a test of your diplomacy, which are both integral aspects to an MUN.

The topic for the DISEC this year is 'Consequences of Foreign Military Bases', a topic having no borders. And I am really eager to watch all of you debate over

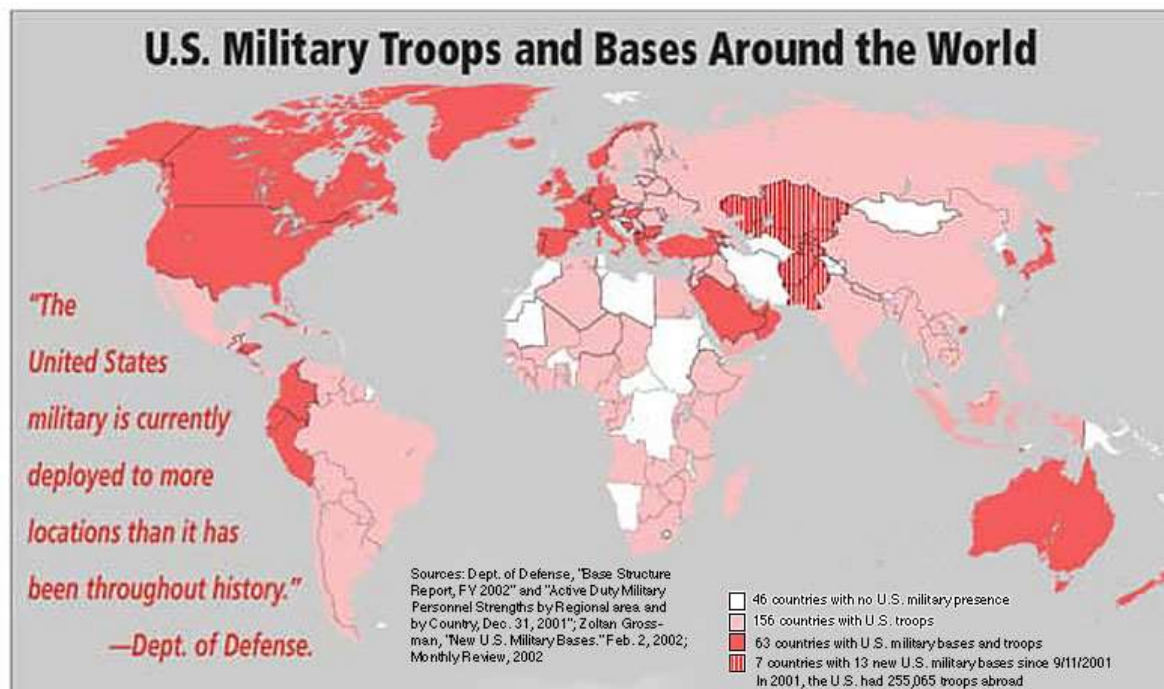
this interesting topic. As an individual who loves his research, I would urge you to look beyond the realms of your study guide but at the same time, enjoy every bit of the overall experience.

With regards,

Aakash Bhattacharya

Chairperson of the Disarmament and International Security Committee

## INTRODUCTION -



The concept of foreign military bases is highly intriguing. Foreign military bases are military installations using personnel and military resources of a **“sending”** nation in a **“host”** or **“receiving”** nation. Foreign Military Bases are usually exported to countries which are in need of external intervention due to their regional or internal issues. Their stated aim usually is to bring about **peace and stability** within the affected region. More often than not, these bases cause and add to various complex issues like humanitarian, cultural, economic, and environmental instability and aggravate numerous other inter-related issues. This committee seeks to discuss foreign military bases in their entirety, including but

not limited to their formation, right through to their various impacts on both the sending and the host nations.

We urge delegates to look through the topic **holistically**, and look into every aspect of foreign military bases (FMBs).

Delegates must look into the various technicalities associated with the establishment of FMBs, Status of Forces Agreements (SOFAs) which are the fundamental documents which provide various guidelines in terms of determining the extent to which they can operate within the host nation. Delegates must also take note of the fact that these SOFAs lead to various controversies including but not restricted to jurisdictional controversies and humanitarian issues. Severe Humanitarian issues will include rape cases and jurisdictional controversies such as immunity for workers of the sending nation operating within the host nation.

The agenda, “Consequences of Foreign Military Bases” encompasses several nations, taking into account multiple policies and a vast timeframe.

The USA’s Asia Pivot policy, the disintegration of the soviet union and the spread of Russian bases throughout the former soviet union, the Chinese non intervention, Uzbekistan’s policy towards FMBs are a few out of the many policies delegates must take note of. Undoubtedly, every country has its own policy towards foreign military bases.

With every base, there are **multiple** controversies that arise.

Economics pertinent to bases is an important factor when setting them up. More importantly, these bases do impact the economy of the host region post their establishment as well. In the past, there have been instances where FMBs have damaged the economy of the region they are in.

Environment is another factor which needs to be taken into account during installation of bases, during their operations as well post their withdrawal. There have been cases in the past wherein the environment of host nations has been greatly tampered with due to the presence of FMBs.

The issue with secret bases in Africa is yet again another controversy delegates must look into.

Delegates must take note of the fact that despite the existing drawbacks of Foreign Military Bases and its negative impacts on the host nation, they do have positive impacts as well. And these very positive aspects to Foreign Military Bases are what make them acceptable to host nations.

Impacts such as bringing about peace and stability in South Korea, removal of terrorist and insurgent factions in Afghanistan and a few other middle eastern countries or to provide military support to countries in need or countries which have signed off their right to have a army.

**Foreign military bases** – An Overseas military base is a military base that is **geographically** located outside of the territory of the country whose armed forces is the principal occupants of the base.

Distribution of these foreign military bases –

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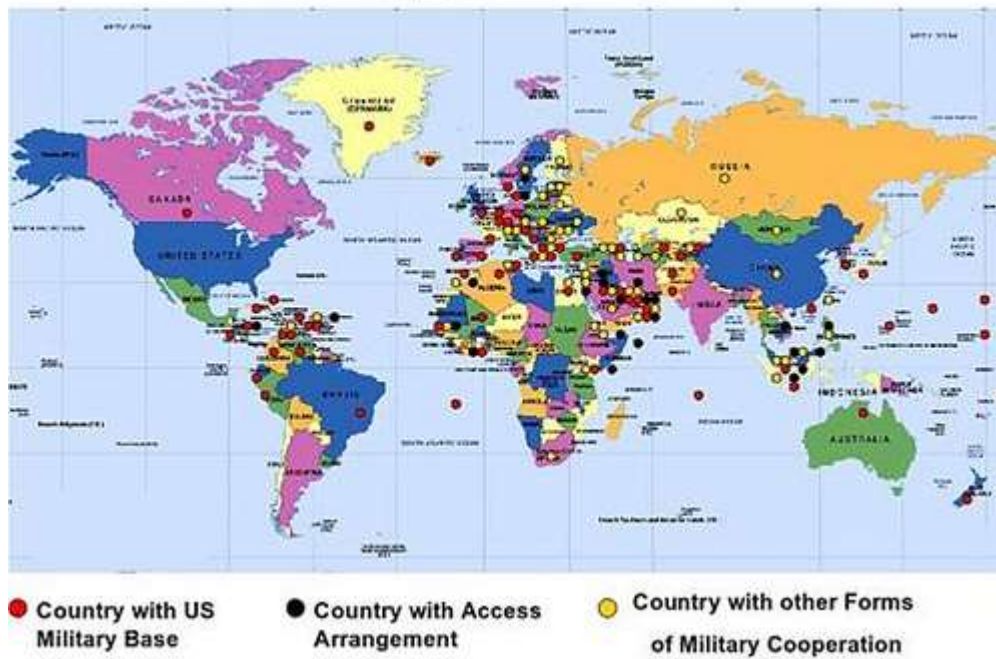
Foreign military bases are found in more than 100 countries and territories. The US currently maintains a world-wide network of some **1000 military bases** and installations. In addition, other NATO countries, such as France and the UK have a further 200 such military locations within the network of global military control.

Over the past decades, there has been a **slow decline** in the total number of foreign military bases, largely as a result of the end of the Cold War. But at the same time, there has been a rapid growth in the number of countries **‘hosting’** a foreign military presence. In other words, the new strategy seems to be to have smaller detachments in ever increasing number of countries.

Together with the shift towards smaller bases in more countries, there has also been a shift away from massive troop deployments to smaller spread-out facilities, where **intelligence gathering, training, and military-led development aid** can be combined.

The recent spread of bases is a clear indication of what are considered the new international battle grounds: Central Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

## US military presence overseas



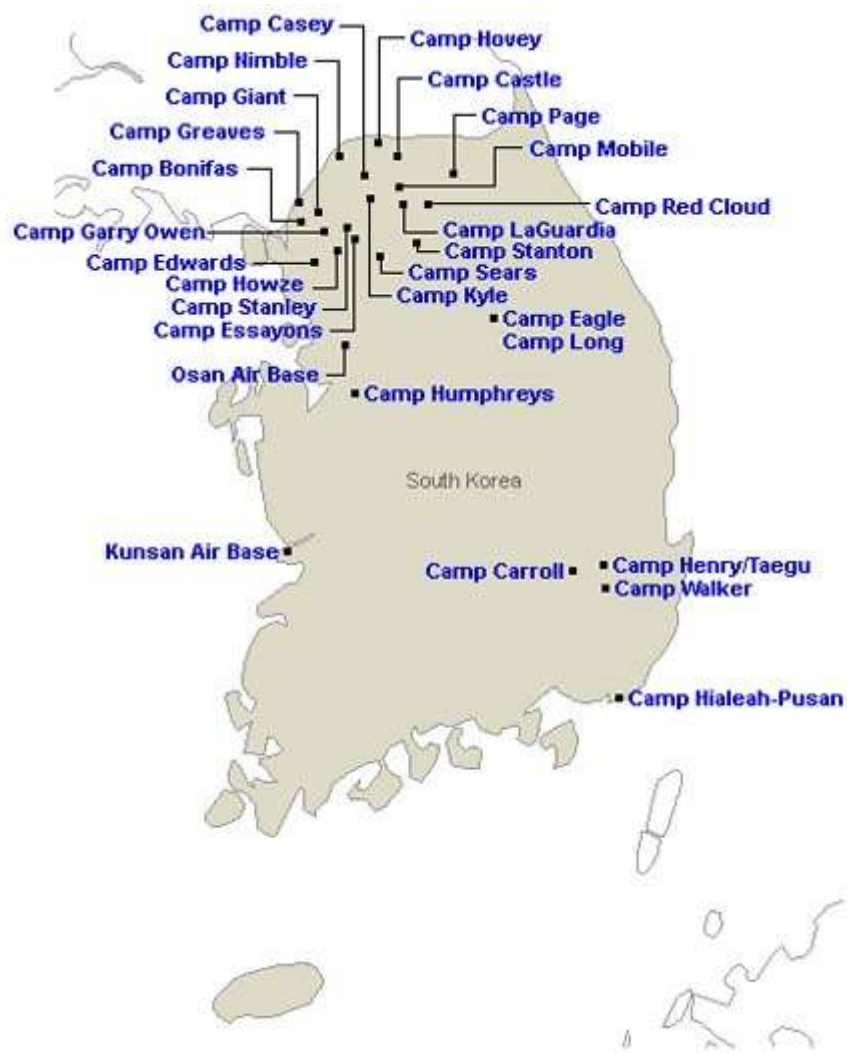
A few case studies which highlight foreign military bases being problematic socially –

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## Korean Case Study -



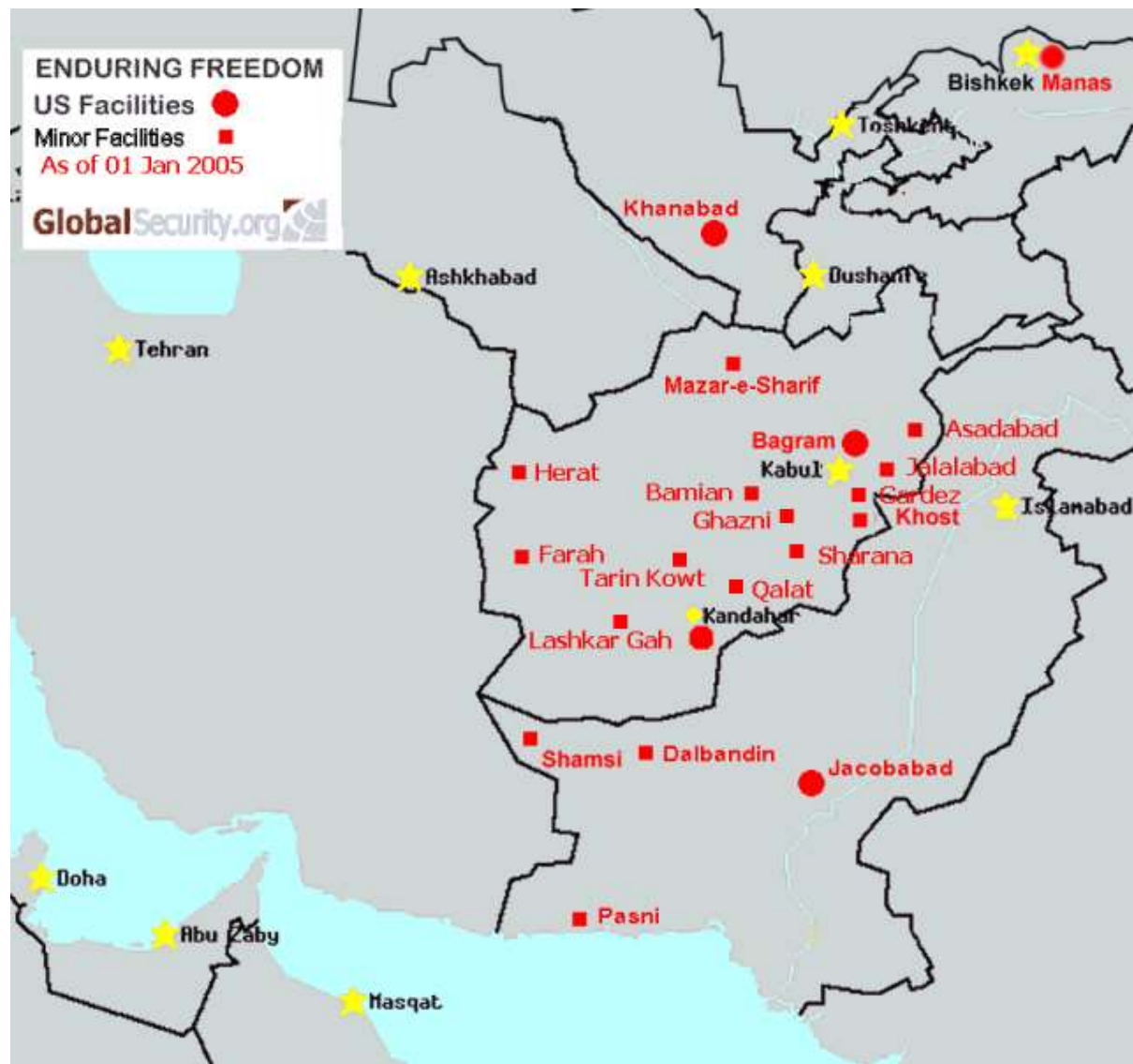
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Since the Korea war, the US maintains a **formidable military presence** in Korea in the form of more than 100 bases and facilities. The “Status of Forces Agreement” between the two countries states that US servicemen cannot be held accountable for their crimes under Korean law. This has led to stark cases of impunity: In 2002 two teenage girls on their way to a birthday party were run over by a US tank. The US **refused** to let the driver of the tank is tried in Korea. Instead, they were repatriated where a US military court recorded a '**not guilty**' verdict. In 2006 alone, 2,600 car accidents were reported in Korea involving US servicemen. Korean victims were left without the means to claim damages. Korean insurance companies refused to cover the damages, reasoning that the bill ought to be paid by the guilty party, but the guilty party enjoys legal immunity. Now, In May 2012, the US-South Korea amended their SOFA.



The Netherlands 'hosts' seven US military facilities. The stated function of these bases is to **monitor and intercept drug-transport** on the Caribbean Sea, but there's a common understanding that the same bases are used **for reconnaissance flights** over Colombia. The Netherlands is therefore indirectly involved in the Colombian civil war. Both the largest airport, Schiphol and the largest harbour, Rotterdam Europort 'host' a **'US administrative military facility'**, allowing the US to bring in shipments of arms and materials into the Netherlands without having to report to Dutch customs. **Moreover all pilots flying on the Dutch airliner KLM have to sign a contract that includes the provision that, in case of war, they take their marching orders not from the Dutch government, but from the US air force.**

## Afghanistan Case Study-



Afghanistan was being ruled by the Taliban, an oppressive regime which entirely stunted the growth of Afghanistan politically, and socio-economically. The US bases in Afghanistan have no doubt helped the overall development of Afghanistan, as a country today. The military bases have served as a **resistance** to the Taliban, who have been constant in their **opposition** to the socio - political development of Afghanistan. Therefore, here these bases have been **working wonders** to get the government as well as the military back on their feet. There are bases in Jalalabad, from which the covert operation for the assassination of Osama Bin Laden was launched, and the Bagram military base, which is the largest of all in Afghanistan and more. They have been a crucial factor in ensuring that Afghanistan could be freed from the shackles of oppression.



## Status of forces agreement –

A **status of forces agreement (SOFA)** is an agreement between a host country and a foreign nation stationing military forces in that country.

### An understanding of the status of forces agreement (SOFA) –

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Status-of-forces agreements play a vital role in preserving command authority, guaranteeing fair treatment of individual service members, and conserving scarce resources. Status-of-forces agreements are not basing or access agreements.

Rather, they define the **legal status** of the personnel and property of the sending country in the territory of another nation. The purpose of such an agreement is to set **forth rights and responsibilities** between the sending government and the host government on such matters as criminal and civil jurisdiction, the wearing of the uniform, the carrying of arms, tax and customs relief, entry and exit of personnel and property, and resolving damage claims.

The SOFA is usually an integral part of the overall military bases agreement that allows the sending country's military forces to operate within the host country. Each SOFA is negotiated separately with the host country (although the United States has a multilateral SOFA with NATO members). Generally speaking, SOFAs have no standard points of differences; some, however, may deal with particular circumstances unique to particular country.

### A few case studies highlighting important status of forces agreement –

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#### US – Iraq Status of forces agreement –

**The U.S.-Iraq Status of Forces Agreement** (official name: "Agreement Between the United States of America and the Republic of Iraq On the Withdrawal of United States Forces from Iraq and the Organization of Their Activities during Their Temporary Presence in Iraq") was a status of forces agreement (SOFA) between Iraq and the United States, signed by President George W. Bush in 2008. It established that U.S. combat forces would withdraw from Iraqi cities by June 30, 2009, and all U.S. forces will be completely out of Iraq by December 31, 2011. Along with this SOFA, there was a strategic framework agreement approved by the Iraqi government.

#### History of the SOFA –

Negotiations for a status of forces agreement with Iraq were initiated to **replace** the UN mandate authorizing foreign forces set to expire at the end of 2008. Several months after the U.S.-led toppling of Saddam Hussein's government in 2003, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1511, officially recognizing the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) and authorizing a multinational force to bring stability to the country. But included in the resolution was the requirement that the security mandate be reviewed one year from implementation. Every year since, the United Nations has **extended** the mandate at the request of the Iraqi government. But in late 2007, Maliki asked the Security Council to extend the mandate "for the last time." Therefore after this, it was necessary for some agreement to be made. This led to the SOFA between the two countries, and the strategic framework agreement.

The signing of this SOFA aimed at satisfying both governments, and was considered Bush's **finest moment** when it comes to the Iraq issue.

#### US-South Korea Status of Forces Agreement -

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**U.S.-South Korea Status of Forces Agreement** (Official name: Agreement under Article 4 of the Mutual Defence Treaty between the Republic of Korea and the United States of America, Regarding Facilities and Areas and the Status of United States Armed Forces in the Republic of Korea) is an agreement between South Korea and the U.S. approved and enacted in 1967 and revised in 1991 and 2001. It is a status of forces agreement that concerns the treatment of United States Forces in South Korea.

#### History of the SOFA -

This SOFA came up after the Korean War, and the armistice between North Korea and South Korea was signed. This agreement ensured that the military of the United States would be hosted **in foreign military bases** present in South Korea, to make sure that South Korea is protected and to prevent another Korean war.

#### Present situation at this time -

South Korean government officials will meet in late November to determine whether to ask the United States to revise the status of forces agreement, in the midst of public anger over two separate sex crimes involving U.S. Army suspects.

The SOFA Joint Committee will review the wide-ranging bilateral agreement that sets ground rules for custody and prosecution of Defence Department personnel and their families. This talk was held in November and by May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012, South Korea and the United States agreed to **revise a pact** outlining the legal status of U.S. forces operating here to allow South Korea **more legal jurisdiction**, the foreign ministry said here Wednesday. Under the revised Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), which provides legal basis for U.S. troops stationed in South Korea, authorities here can take U.S. soldiers into custody before they are formally indicted. The authorities can now hold the suspect in custody during preliminary investigations, a change that would help South Korean law enforcement officials conduct a **more effective probe**, according to the ministry.

### **Violation and problems associated with SOFAs -**

Now, it has been often seen that the sending nation being the more powerful among the two has taken advantage and has violated the terms of the SOFAs. Not only have these countries violated the sanctity of this agreement, they have also refused to face the consequences. Therefore it has often happened that the host nation has been affected immensely.

Now given below are some instances of SOFA violations:-

#### **US-Iraq -**

Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki denounced on April 26 a US military raid that morning as violating the bilateral Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). The agreement states that any military offensives by the US are to be performed in accordance with Iraqi laws and prior notice of any military operations is given to the Joint Military Operations Coordination Committee (JMOCC). Al-Maliki asserted that the attack, which killed two people, was in violation of the SOFA and that he seeks to subject the responsible US forces to judicial proceedings. Under the SOFA, US military personnel may be subject to Iraqi jurisdiction for grave violations of the terms of the agreement.

No action was taken against any American authorities.

#### **US-Japan -**

Several US soldiers and officials had committed violent crimes in the Okinawa district of Japan. Gruesome rapes and murders suddenly became an everyday occurrence. Now Japanese authorities had taken several of these men into

questioning. But the Pentagon did not allow them to go into questioning without a US official with them. Now nothing in the SOFA stated that a US representative could go accompany the accused into questioning. The Japanese authorities voiced their concern over this as they were already providing the accused with an interpreter.

US and Japanese officials later met to try and resolve these issues.

#### US-Germany -

The US illegally launched missiles into Iraq without the permission of German authorities. This was a direct violation of the SOFA as nowhere in the agreement did it mention that the US could use Germany as a base for launching missiles. The military base in Germany was originally used as a base for storing weapons and other resources.

The German authorities voiced their concern over the misuse of their land and the violation of the agreement but again no action was taken.

#### US-Afghanistan -

Afghanistan's president has accused US forces of continuing to capture and detain Afghans in violation of an agreement signed earlier between the two countries.

Hamid Karzai's statement on Sunday, which did not include any specific demands for the US, was issued days after the beginning of negotiations on a bilateral security agreement that will govern the US military presence in the country after majority of the troops are withdrawn in 2014.

The Afghan president said some detainees are still being held by US troops even though Afghan judges have ruled that they should be released. He also decried the continued arrest of Afghans by US forces.

The two countries signed the detainee transfer pact in March but the handover of detention facilities has been slowed by the US, which has argued that the Afghans are not ready to take over their management.

The US also insists that the Afghan government agrees to hold without trial some detainees that the US claims too dangerous to release.

"These acts are completely against the agreement that has been signed between Afghanistan and the US President," said the statement, released by Karzai's office after the president was briefed by judicial authorities on the transfer.

Thus we see how the US is again openly violating the terms of their agreement with the Afghan authorities.

As expected they took advantage of the vulnerability of the Afghans and refused to face the music.

### Italy- NATO SOFA -

Italy's highest court upheld the 2009 convictions of 22 CIA operatives and a US Air Force officer, then Lt Col Joseph Romano, stemming from the 2003 extraordinary rendition of Abu Omar. While issues abound from the abduction and the subsequent in absentia trials, that Italy violated the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) has largely escaped comment let alone criticism. This post builds on a longer piece published in Harvard's National Security Journal following the initial trial.

The CIA agents, working with Italian military intelligence (some of whom Italy also prosecuted), abducted Abu Omar, a member of Egyptian extremist organization Gama'a al Islamiya, on his way to noon prayers in Milan. Omar was transported onto Aviano Air Force Base, where Romano served as the commander of military security forces that controlled access into, and provided security on, the base. Allowing the proverbial windowless van onto the base was the extent of Romano's "involvement" in the abduction. Omar was flown to Egypt, where he was held incommunicado and reportedly tortured for several months.

An Italian trial court sentenced the CIA operatives and Romano to jail terms ranging from 5 to 8 years. The court also awarded Omar €1 million in damages, to be paid by the defendants. To that end, the Italian prosecutor seized and sold the retirement home of one of the CIA operatives who was planning to retire in Italy. The sentences were affirmed – and increased – by an intermediate appellate court in 2010.

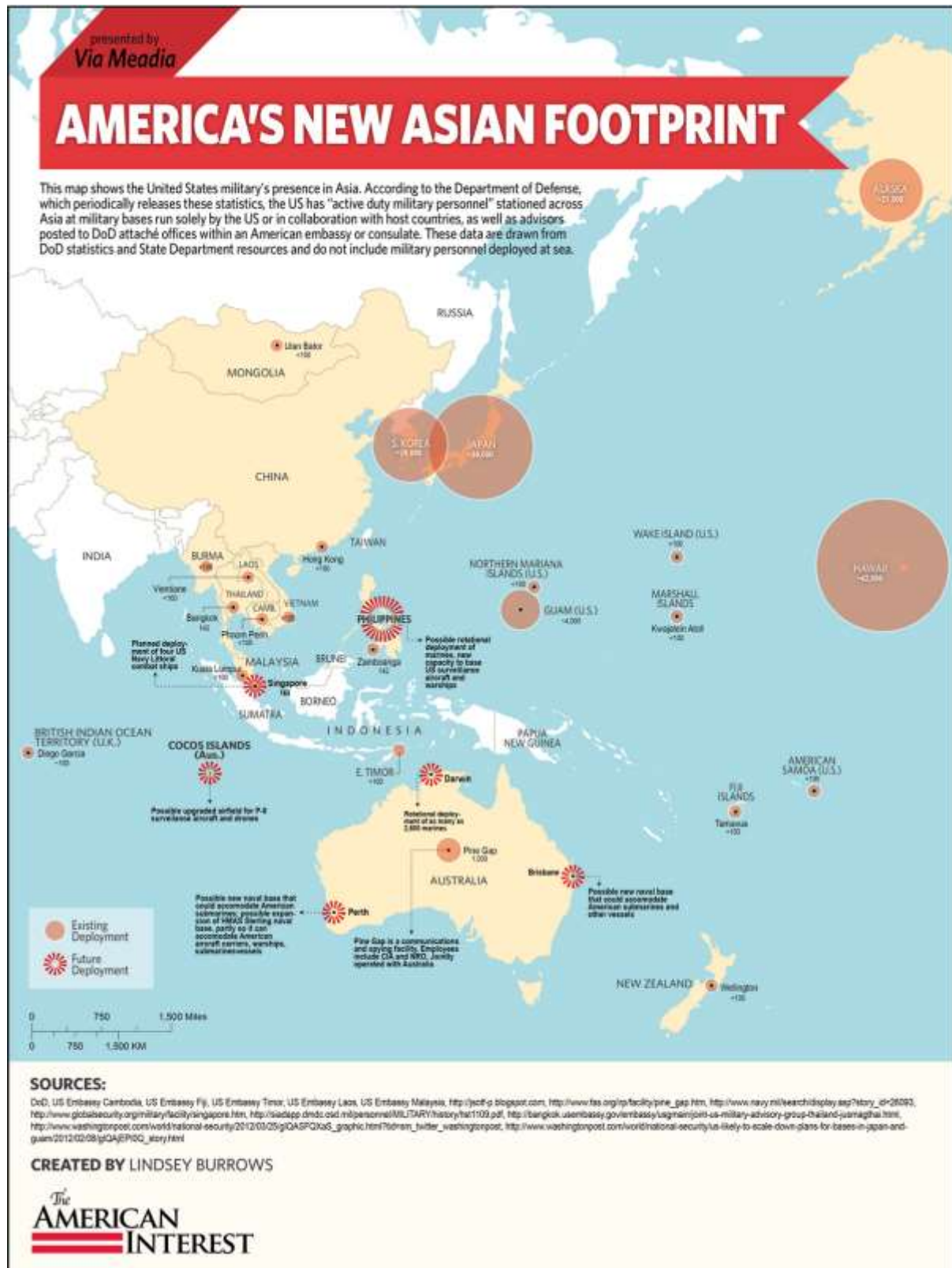
Abu Omar's abduction has (appropriately) received considerable attention and criticism. But as discussed in the earlier piece, Italy's in absentia prosecutions were hardly a human rights victory. And in Romano's case, missing from the rhetoric is Italy's violation of the NATO SOFA. Article VII of the NATO SOFA provides that the military authorities of sending State, here the U.S, shall have the primary right to exercise jurisdiction over a member of the force [like Romano]...in relation to... offences arising out of any act or omission done in the performance of official duty."

The NATO SOFA drafters were unable to reach consensus on the definition of "official duty". But over 60 years of State practice have made clear both that the

sending State determines official duty and that the determination is conclusive.

There have been rare instances of local prosecutors initiating criminal investigations and even charges where a NATO sending State has asserted a primary right of jurisdiction. But Romano's case is the first time in NATO's history where a breach of the SOFA has continued through, and was perpetuated by, all levels of the receiving State's criminal court system. With the Court of Cassation's ruling, Italy's breach of the NATO SOFA is now final.





## Asia Pivot –

The United States of America had introduced their latest policy, the Asia Pivot or the pivot to Asia. As per this policy, the United States of America was to shift

their existing 60:40 ratio (60 percent of their troops on the Atlantic side, i.e. in Europe and the Middle East and 40 percent on the Pacific side in Asia and the Pacific) to a 40:60 ratio (40 on the Atlantic and 60 on the Pacific) by the year 2020.

It involves a shift in priority towards the Asia-Pacific region. The Asia pivot is an aggressive policy that involves surging American presence throughout the region in an attempt to contain the People's Republic of China's economic and military growth and influence to maintain US dominance in the region. As a part of this policy, the USA has established more military bases in the region as well strengthened its relation with several Asian countries. Also, the USA has re-issued several closed, military agreements so as to better diplomatic and economic ties as well as spread American influence in Asia and the Pacific.

Delegates are urged to look into the viability of such a policy. Also, delegates must keep in mind their respective country's outlook towards such policies.

### Disintegration of the Soviet Union -



The cold war ultimately led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

In the year 1990, Russia elected Boris Yeltsin to the presidency. The Soviet Union officially came to an end in 1991 and split into states.

The independent countries here, being Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Post the disintegration of the Soviet Union into smaller states, the Russian Federation spread its bases throughout the former Soviet Union.

Today, the following countries have Russian bases in them-

**Armenia**- Airbase in Yerevan and a military base in Gyumri with troop strength of 4000

**Azerbaijan**- Daryal radar station in Qabala with troop strength of 900

**Belarus** - volgatyne radar station with troop strength of 850.

**Georgia** - base on the site of the former Bombora airfield and in Abkhazia near Gdaut with troop strength of 3000.

**Syria** - logistical facilities of the navy in Tartus.

**Tajikistan** - military bases with a troop strength of 5500.

**Ukraine** - base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol with a troop strength of 10,000.

Russian bases are situated in a majority of former Soviet states. Then again, there are countries such as Uzbekistan which have expelled bases from their soil.

### **Uzbekistan's policy towards Foreign Military Bases**

Uzbekistan is Central Asia's most populous and arguably most geopolitically strategic country. As a former constituent Republic of the USSR, its recent foreign policy was heavily influenced by that of the Union. However, after the collapse of the USSR, Uzbekistan began to pursue a more independent foreign policy. It was a member of the CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization) from 1994-2012, an intergovernmental military organization of various Central Asian countries, modelled on the NATO. After 9/11, Uzbekistan allowed the US to place ground troops and use its airbase at Karshi Khanabad in the War on Terror.

Uzbekistan's withdrawal from the CSTO signalled at its acceptance of the establishment of a US Foreign Military Base, as members of the organization cannot host FMBs without the consent of the other members. However, Uzbekistan's upper house of Parliament passed a bill banning the establishments of any military bases in its territory, along with removing the prospect of any Uzbek soldier ever having to fight overseas. This bill also raises questions about Uzbekistan's support of the NATO in Afghanistan.

The immediate repercussions of this bill are not yet known, and it is not yet clear what it will mean in practice. Uzbekistan might still consider allowing a base, but change the name to that of a Supplies Transit Centre. It might also lead to a re-negotiation related to the pricing of the use of facilities. This ban might also be an attempt at stopping the further militarization of the region, and might be a signal of its increasingly independent decisions in International politics.

### **Chinese non intervention policy-**

China's foreign policy is based on non intervention in other country's internal, military, and socio-political affairs.

It is based on five principles of co-existence -

- 1) Mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- 2) Mutual non-aggression.
- 3) Non interference in each other's internal affairs.
- 4) Equality and mutual benefit.
- 5) Peaceful co-existence.

However, in its recent economic and diplomatic engagements in Africa, the policy has come under intense scrutiny and censure, as Beijing attempts to strategically navigate the contours of resource acquisition alongside south-south solidarity with its African counterparts. The West has persistently criticized China for allegedly using non-interference opportunistically to ensure an uninterrupted flow of vital resources and to continue arms sales to rogue regimes in Sudan and Zimbabwe.

Foreign military bases are against the foreign policy of China which depends on non-interference in other country's internal matters.

One important report that should be taken note of is - <http://bit.ly/nNdV21>, which is highly controversial, and we urge delegates to take this matter up in committee.

**American foreign military bases -**



*The United States is estimated to have anything from 700 military bases around the world to more than 1,000. They include everything from small drone sites on dusty foreign airfields, to the sprawling Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan with more than 20,000 troops.*

**■ Hawaii:** Naval, army and air force bases. The naval station at Pearl Harbor is the headquarters of the Pacific Fleet. It is home to more than 100 vessels, including several aircraft carriers and submarines, making it one of the navy's busiest bases.

**I Guam:** Andersen Air Force Base is one of four bases that the U.S. uses to stage bomber crews — one of only two in the Pacific. A naval base is home to three modern nuclear submarines.

**Carrier Groups:** The U.S. has 11 aircraft carriers. The 10 Nimitz-class aircraft carriers are the largest warships in the world. An aircraft carrier battle group normally consists of a carrier along with ships carrying cruise missiles, destroyers and submarines. The George Washington Carrier Strike Group arrived in Singapore this month.

**Australia:** U.S. and Australia are in talks that would give American military unfettered access to shared facilities in Australia. The move would give the U.S. more importance in the Asia-Pacific region. The shared facility of Pine Gap in the centre of the country has been described as one of the largest and most sophisticated satellite ground stations in the world. Information gathered there has been used to co-ordinate air strikes in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**U.K.** U.S. operates out of six Royal Air Force stations mainly concerned with support and logistics services. RAF Croughton is one of the largest military communications centres in Europe, handling an estimated 30% of all U.S. military traffic within Europe and 25% of all traffic from Europe to the United States. RAF Fairford hosts a special maintenance hanger for the stealth B2 bomber. RAF Menwith Hill is an electronic monitoring station.

■ **Portugal:** Lajes Field, an air force base located in the Atlantic Ocean on Terceira Island, acts in an important strategic and logistics role.

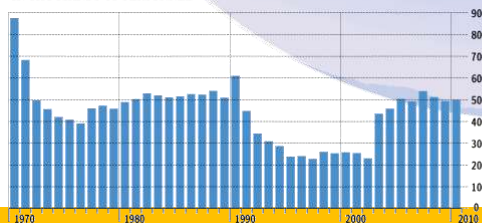
SENAGA  
MALI  
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■ **Uganda:** 100 U.S. troops – mostly special operations forces – advise in the fight against the Lord's Resistance Army

## KEY TO BASES

- UNITED STATES NAVY
- UNITED STATES ARMY
- ◇ UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
- ★ UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
- CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY\*\*

**UNITED STATES TROOPS OVERSEAS**  
IN THOUSANDS OF PERSONNEL

SOURCES: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE STRUCTURE REPORTS; NATIONAL POST NEWS SERVICES

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**■ Bahamas:** Two small bases: An airfield at Mayaguana, which the U.S. used for missile tracking during Apollo and Mercury space programs, and a naval station on Andros Island. U.S. Navy SEALs help train members of Royal Bahamas Defence Force in special naval warfare (the country does not have an army or air force).

**■ Puerto Rico:** Two small military bases, down from a maximum of 25 in the 20th century. Congress tried to close even these, but met opposition from veterans on the island. The U.S. Coast Guard also operates an air station, performing search-and-rescue as well as law-enforcement missions.

**■ Germany:**  
Two air force bases and about 17 army bases, although the U.S. is reducing its presence in the country. When the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, the U.S. presence in Germany was estimated at 50,000 soldiers; there are now about 50,000 U.S. soldiers in the country. Ramstein Air Base is the headquarters for air force operations in Europe.

**■ El Salvador** Despite having a centre-left president in Mauricio Funes, the Pentagon built a \$665,000 "shoot house" for U.S. Special Forces troops here. The United States also led a massive Special Forces exercise in June, with the participation of troops from 25 nations.

■ **Honduras:** Counter-narcoterrorism operations have led to beefed-up spending. There are at least three bases, including a U.S. Special Forces operating base at Soto Cano, a forward-operating base at Caratasca and a counter-narco-terrorism operations base at Guanaja Island on the Caribbean coast. The Soto Cano airfield served as a way-station for the plane that whisked President Manuel Zelaya out of Honduras during a 2009 military coup.

■ **Greenland Thule Air Base** is the northernmost military post occupied by the U.S. and began as a weather station. Has 600 personnel and acts as an early warning site to detect intercontinental ballistic missiles launched towards the U.S.

**Q:** There are just 15 American military bases left in Iraq ahead of a U.S. withdrawal, down from a 2005, according to the U.S. military. Are about 39,000 U.S. soldiers and 13,500 contractors on those bases, according to the military.

■ **Afghanistan:** There are an estimated 400 bases in the country, including camps, forward operating bases, and combat outposts. U.S. numbers are about 100,000, but they are due to leave by 2014 in a phased withdrawal.

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★ **Diego Garcia**

ports say the U.S. is focusing more on Africa, as "fight terrorism" and "protect oil" resources. In focus on Uganda, Djibouti, Senegal and Sao Tome, small-scale "jumping-off points" exist or are being established. The U.S. military force already receives most of its training from the United States and France. The Associate Editor in Entebbe, Uganda, is covering East Africa and the base in Djibouti monitors terrorist groups. A base would allow the U.S. to monitor the movement of weapons and protect oil platforms.

**ES TROOPS OVERSEAS**  
**OF TOTAL TROOPS**

**I Peru:** No bases officially, but there have been reports of U.S. troops and planes at Pichari military base in the Valle de los Rios Apurimacy Ene (VRAE), northern Peru, seen as an overflow from Colombian operations. Military personnel are also deployed at three U.S.-built radar stations.

■ **Colombia:** Seven bases, despite a constitutional Court ruling striking down the contract giving the U.S. military use of the area for 10 years. The Pentagon sought access after Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa ended the lease for the U.S. military base in Ecuador. Officially, the Americans are fighting narcotraffickers and guerrillas inside Colombia, but a U.S. Air Force document states the deal offers a "unique opportunity" for conducting full spectrum operations" in the region against various threats, including "anti-U.S. governments."

**Japan:** Site of navy, marine, army and air force bases. U.S. military strength is about 38,000 ashore and 11,000 afloat. U.S. forces are dispersed among 85 facilities located on Honshu, Kyushu and Okinawa. Bases and facilities range in size from a several-thousand-acre training area to a single antenna site.

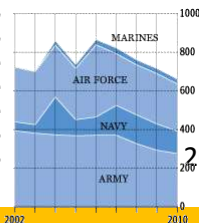
**■ South Korea:** There are 15 military bases in South Korea, most of them army sites. Chinhae Naval Base is one of the few remaining operational U.S. naval bases on the Korean Peninsula. Kunsan Air Base is within jet strike distance of the demilitarized zone and North Korean missile sites.

**Philippines:** Philippine Senate voted in 1991 to close all U.S. military bases. U.S. maintains its military presence under the Visiting Forces Agreement signed during the administration of Joseph Estrada. Under the agreement, U.S. and local soldiers conduct regular military exercises in many parts of the country.

**■ Singapore:** The Commander, Logistics Group, Western Pacific was set up in Singapore to keep the U.S. 7th Fleet armed, fuelled, fed and supported. The 7th Fleet area of operations covers more than 132 million square kilometres of the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

**ia:** U.S. has resumed military links after suspended co-operation. This year alone, is conducting more than 150 activities, and visits with the Indonesian military.

**OVERSEAS LOCATIONS\***  
NUMBER BY BRANCH





The United States of America has set up an elaborate network of **foreign military bases** all over the world as well as being the country with the most number of troops stationed overseas. The effect of these foreign bases on the host nation and sending nation, is not only limited to politics, economy, environment, but also affects the people and the **global image** of the United States. The US sets up its bases either unilaterally or bilaterally with the host nation. It also sends troops when required under the **NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). Foreign military bases has been a very important part of US foreign policy, and the United States is the most prolific when it comes to these bases. There have been more than 1000 bases been set up by the United States in over 100 countries, which have been set up with great efficiency. The foreign military bases which we lay stress on are the **bases in Iraq and Afghanistan**, and they have been discussed in length below. Also, the bases set up in South Korea are also being given importance in this discussion. The intricacies behind the setting up of these bases are studied in some detail below –

### **Status of forces agreement (SOFA)**

As mentioned before, the status of forces agreement is a major part of the procedure of setting up a foreign military base in a host country. These agreements, commonly referred to as Status of Forces Agreements (SOFAs), generally establish the framework under which U.S. military personnel operate in a foreign country. SOFAs provide for **rights and privileges** of covered individuals while in a foreign jurisdiction and address how the domestic laws of the foreign jurisdiction apply to U.S. personnel. SOFAs may include many provisions, but the most common issue addressed is which country may exercise criminal jurisdiction over U.S. personnel. The United States has agreements where it maintains exclusive jurisdiction over its personnel, but more often the agreement calls for shared jurisdiction with the receiving country.

SOFAs are **peacetime documents** and therefore do not address the rules of war, the Laws of Armed Conflict, or the Laws of the Sea.

The United States is currently party to more than 100 agreements that may be considered SOFAs. While a SOFA as a stand-alone document may not exist with a particular country, it does not necessarily mean that the status of U.S. personnel in that country has not been addressed. A SOFA is usually essential when it comes to defining the **legal status** of the US personnel and property in the various host countries.

### **Foreign Military Bases in Afghanistan –**

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States initiated **Operation Enduring Freedom** to combat Al Qaeda and prevent the Taliban regime in Afghanistan from providing them with safe harbour. Shortly thereafter,

the Taliban regime was ousted by U.S. and allied forces, and the United States thereafter concluded a number of security agreements with the new Afghan government. In 2002, the United States and Afghanistan, by an exchange of notes, entered into an agreement regarding economic grants under **the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961**, as amended. Additionally, the agreement allows for the furnishing of defence articles, defence services, and related training, pursuant to the United States International Military and Education Training Program (IMET), from the U.S. government to the Afghanistan Interim Administration (AIA).

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is “**an act to promote the foreign policy, security, and general welfare of the United States by assisting peoples of the world in their efforts toward economic development and internal and external security, and for other purposes.**” The act authorizes the President “to furnish military assistance on such terms and conditions as he may determine, to any friendly country or international organization, the assisting of which the President finds will strengthen the security of the United States and promote world peace and which is otherwise eligible to receive such assistance.” The authorization to provide defence articles and services, non-combatant personnel, and the transfer of funds is codified at U.S.C. Section 2311. While this authorization permits the President to provide military assistance, it limits it to “assigning or detailing members of the Armed Forces of the United States and other personnel of the Department of Defence to perform duties of a non-combatant nature.”

An agreement exists regarding the status of military and civilian personnel of the U.S. Department of Defence present in Afghanistan in connection with **cooperative efforts** in response to terrorism, humanitarian and civic assistance, military training and exercises, and other activities. Such personnel are to be accorded “a status equivalent to that accorded to the administrative and technical staff” of the U.S. Embassy under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961. Accordingly, U.S. personnel are **immune from criminal prosecution by Afghan authorities**, and are immune from civil and administrative jurisdiction except with respect to acts performed outside the course of their duties. In the agreement, the Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan (ITGA) explicitly authorized the U.S. government to exercise criminal jurisdiction over U.S. personnel, and the Government of Afghanistan is not permitted to surrender U.S. personnel to the custody of another State, international tribunal, or any other entity without consent of the U.S. government. Although the agreement was signed by the ITGA, the subsequently elected government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan assumed responsibility for ITGA’s legal obligations and the agreement remains in force. The agreement does not appear to provide immunity for contract personnel.

The agreement with Afghanistan does not expressly authorize the United States

to carry out military operations within Afghanistan, but it recognizes that such operations are “ongoing.” **Congress authorized the use of military force there (and elsewhere) by joint resolution** in 2001, for targeting “those nations, organizations, or persons [who] planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001....” The U.N. Security Council implicitly recognized that the use of force was appropriate in response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and subsequently authorized the deployment of an International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to Afghanistan. Subsequent U.N. Security Council resolutions provide a continuing mandate for ISAF, calling upon it to “**work in close consultation with**” **Operation Enduring Freedom** (OEF—the U.S.-led coalition conducting military operations in Afghanistan) in carrying out the mandate. While there is no explicit U.N. mandate authorizing the OEF, Security Council resolutions appear to **provide ample recognition** of the legitimacy of its operations, most recently by calling upon the Afghan government, “with the assistance of the international community, including the International Security Assistance Force and Operation Enduring Freedom coalition, in accordance with their respective designated responsibilities as they evolve, to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida, other extremist groups and criminal activities.... ”

On May 23, 2005, President Hamid Karzai and President Bush issued a “**joint declaration**” outlining a prospective future agreement between the two countries. It envisions a role for U.S. military troops in Afghanistan to “help organize, train, equip, and sustain Afghan security forces” until Afghanistan has developed its own capacity, and to “consult with respect to taking appropriate measures in the event that Afghanistan perceives that its territorial integrity, independence, or security is threatened or at risk.” The declaration does not mention the status of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, but if an agreement is concluded pursuant to the declaration, it can be expected a status of forces agreement would be included. In August 2008, shortly after U.S. airstrikes apparently resulted in civilian casualties, President Karzai **called for a review** of the presence of all foreign forces in Afghanistan and the conclusion of formal SOFAs with the respective countries. However, to date, it appears unclear whether the parties have entered into formal negotiations that might lead to an updated SOFA.

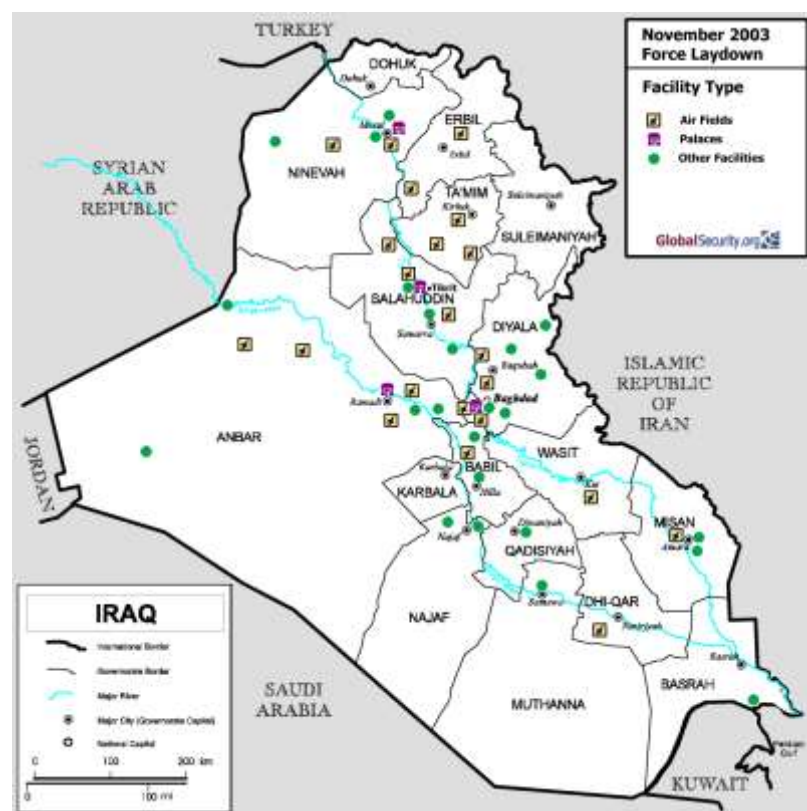
On December 16, 2010, the Obama Administration, as part of its Afghanistan-Pakistan annual review, stated that it, as part of the NATO coalition, remains committed to a **long-term partnership** with Afghanistan. As such, the Administration maintained that U.S. forces would commence a transfer of security responsibility to the Afghan government in 2011 and conclude the transfer in 2014.<sup>63</sup> it remains unclear if the United States intends to enter into strategic and security agreements, like those utilized in Iraq, during the announced period of transition.

On February 10, 2011, Representative Lynn Woolsey introduced H.R. 651, the **United States- Afghanistan Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) Act of 2011**. The bill requires, 90 days after enactment, the President to “seek to negotiate and enter into a bilateral status of forces agreement” with Afghanistan. Additionally, if enacted, the bill requires that the concluded agreement must **explicitly state that the presence of U.S. forces in Afghanistan is temporary**, permanent basing is prohibited, and all troops must withdraw from the country within one year of the agreement.

## Foreign Military Bases in Iraq –

Between March 2003 and August 2010, the United States engaged in military operations Iraq, first to remove the Saddam Hussein regime from power, and then to combat remnants of the former regime and other threats to the stability of Iraq and post-Saddam government. In late 2007, the United States and Iraq signed a **Declaration**

**Principles for a Long-Term Relationship of Cooperation and Friendship** between the Republic of Iraq and the United States of America. The strategic arrangement contemplated in the Declaration was intended to ultimately replace the United Nations mandate under which the United States and allied forces are responsible for contributing to the security of Iraq, which terminated on December 31, 2008. The Declaration was rooted in an August 26, 2007, communiqué, signed by five top political leaders in Iraq, which called for a **long-term relationship** with the United States. Pursuant to the Declaration, the parties pledged to “begin as soon as possible, with the aim to achieve, before July 31, 2008, agreements between the two governments with respect to the political, cultural, economic, and security spheres.” Among other things, the Declaration proclaimed the parties’ intention



in

its

of

to **negotiate a security agreement** –

- 1) To support the Iraqi government in training, equipping, and arming the Iraqi Security Forces so they can provide security and stability to all Iraqis
- 2) Support the Iraqi government in contributing to the international fight against terrorism by confronting terrorists such as Al- Qaeda, its affiliates, other terrorist groups, as well as all other outlaw groups, such as criminal remnants of the former regime;
- 3) To provide security assurances to the Iraqi Government to deter any external aggression and to ensure the integrity of Iraq's territory.

On November 17, 2008, after months of negotiations, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker and Iraq Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari signed two documents: (1) the Strategic Framework Agreement for a Relationship of Friendship and Cooperation between the United States and the Republic of Iraq (Strategic Framework Agreement), and (2) the Agreement Between the United States of America and Republic of Iraq On the Withdrawal of United States Forces from Iraq and the Organization of Their Activities during Their Temporary Presence in Iraq (Security Agreement). In some ways, the concluded agreements differ from the long-term security arrangement originally contemplated by the Declaration of Principles. Perhaps most significantly, the concluded agreements require the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq by December 31, 2011.

The concluded agreements cover different issues and are intended by the parties to have different legal significance. The Strategic Framework Agreement is a non-legal, political agreement under which the parties pledge to work cooperatively in a number of fields, including on diplomatic, security, economic, cultural, and law enforcement matters. In the area of security, the Agreement provides that the United States and Iraq shall **“continue to foster close cooperation concerning defence and security arrangements,”** which are to be undertaken pursuant to the terms of the Security Agreement. The Strategic Framework Agreement also states that “the temporary presence of U.S. forces in Iraq is at the **request and invitation** of the sovereign government of Iraq,” and that the United States may not “use Iraqi land, sea, or air as a launching or transit point for attacks against other countries nor seek or request permanent bases or a permanent military presence in Iraq.”

The Security Agreement is a legally binding agreement that terminates within three years, unless terminated at an earlier date by either Party. The Security Agreement contains provisions addressing a variety of military matters. As previously mentioned, it establishes a deadline for the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Iraq by December 31, 2011. The Agreement also contains numerous provisions resembling those regularly contained in SOFAs concluded by the



United States. Specifically, the Agreement contains provisions concerning the parties' right to assert civil and criminal jurisdiction over U.S. forces, as well as provisions which establish rules and procedures applicable to U.S. forces relating to the carrying of weapons, the wearing of uniforms, entry and exit into Iraq, taxes, customs, and claims.

The Security Agreement contains other rules and requirements which have **traditionally not been found** in SOFAs concluded by the United States, including provisions addressing combat operations by U.S. forces. Operations by U.S. forces pursuant to the Agreement must be approved by the Iraqi government and coordinated with Iraqi authorities through a Joint Military Operations Coordination Committee. U.S. forces are also permitted to arrest or detain persons in the course of operations under the Agreement. More broadly, the Security Agreement provides for “**strategic deliberations**” between the parties in the event of external or internal threat or aggression against Iraq, and provides that, as mutually agreed by the parties, the United States “shall take appropriate measures, including diplomatic, economic, or military measures” to deter the threat.

The Security and Strategic Framework Agreements entered into force on January 1, 2009, following an exchange of diplomatic notes between the United States and Iraq. Although the agreements required approval on multiple levels by the Iraqi government, the Bush Administration did not submit the agreements to the Senate for its advice and consent as a treaty or request statutory authorization for the agreements by Congress.

As of August 31, 2010, the United States withdrew the last major combat unit, the U.S. Army's 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, allowing Iraq to **officially take over combat operations** within the country. The post-combat phase of operations, **Operation New Dawn**, included the presence of approximately 50,000 U.S. troops conducting stability operations, focusing on advising, assisting, and training Iraqi Security Forces in how to handle their own security. As of December 16, 2011, the United States completed the withdrawal of U.S. forces transitioning responsibility for security within Iraq to the Iraqi government.

**Foreign Military Bases in South Korea -**





South Korea

After the end of the Korean War, the North East Asian map changed. North Korea and South Korea, had signed the armistice to end the Korean War. The socio-political set up of the two countries was in complete disarray. Therefore, in 1954 the United States and the Republic of Korea entered into a mutual defence treaty. As part of the treaty the countries agree to attempt to settle international disputes peacefully, consult whenever the political independence or security of either party is threatened by external armed attack, and that either party **would act to meet the common danger** in accordance with their respective constitutional processes. Article IV of the treaty grants the United States “the right to dispose.... land, air and sea forces in and about the territory” of South Korea. Pursuant to the treaty, specifically Article IV, the **countries entered into a SOFA** with agreed minutes and an exchange of notes in 1966; it was subsequently amended January 18, 2001.

In 1968, two years after the SOFA was signed between the countries, a member of the U.S. Army asserted in *Smallwood v. Clifford* that U.S. authorities did not have legitimate authority, under **the jurisdictional provisions contained in the agreement, to release him to the Republic of Korea for trial by a Korean court on charges of murder and arson.** The service member asserted that the agreement was not approved in a “constitutionally acceptable manner.” He maintained that U.S. domestic law requires international agreements pertaining to foreign jurisdiction over U.S. forces stationed abroad be approved “either expressly or impliedly by the [U.S.] Senate.” The court found that the SOFA resulted in a diminished role for the Republic of Korea in enforcing its own laws and that the

United States did not waive jurisdiction over offenses committed within its own territory. Therefore, ratification by the Senate was “clearly unnecessary” because Senate approval would “have no effect on a grant of jurisdiction by the Republic of Korea, [of] which the United States could not rightfully claim.”

As of late, jurisdictional issues have been falling after the US have **amended** the SOFA giving more jurisdiction to South Korea, after cases of rape and humanitarian violations.



## American Bases in Latin America –

Foreign Military Bases are present in a handful of Latin American countries, usually limited to the northern region. All of these are owned and operated by the US in association with the host countries. The countries are:

- 1) Chile
- 2) Argentina
- 3) Colombia
- 4) Panama
- 5) Ecuador
- 6) Honduras
- 7) Costa Rica

A total of 25 FMBs are present in Latin America, the most recent ones being in Chile and Argentina.

The stated reason for the construction of these bases is the primarily promotion of Plan Colombia, a policy first implemented by US President Richard Nixon in 1971, and the ensuing War on Drugs.

As part of its Plan Colombia program, the United States government currently provides hundreds of millions of dollars per year of military aid, training, and equipment to Colombia, to fight left-wing guerrillas such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP), which has been accused of being involved in drug trafficking.

Colombian military personnel have received extensive counterinsurgency training from U.S. military and law enforcement agencies, including the School of Americas (SOA). Author Grace Livingstone has stated that more Colombian SOA graduates have been implicated in human rights abuses than currently known SOA graduates from any other country. American officers in Colombia and in the region at large since the 1960s, and have taught students to target civilian supporters of the guerrillas.

The build-up of U.S. armed forces in Costa Rica is part of an escalating pattern that indicates a shifting of strategy and tactics for the U.S. in controlling what the Monroe Doctrine infamously described as the U.S.'s "backyard" - that is, all of Latin America. Since the U.S. government inspired covert coup d'états and political reversals of popular governments and/or movements in Guatemala, Brazil, Chile, Nicaragua, and El Salvador in previous decades, U.S. rulers had figured they had things stitched up to their liking in Latin America. The political elites in Latin America were uniformly in the pockets of the U.S. corporate empire and appeared to be more or less in control of their people. They commonly outlawed strikes and at times even trade unions, eliminated minimum wage laws, and gave enormous tax breaks to U.S. corporations.

In 2006 the U.S. State Department classified the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao, with their military bases jointly contracted to Holland and the U.S., as "The Third Frontier of the United States." U.S. aircraft carriers, war ships, combat planes, Black Hawk helicopters, nuclear submarines, and thousands of troops began to build up in Curacao in particular. In 2009 a U.S. military plane was intercepted in Venezuelan airspace that had flown from Curacao's base.

In 2009 the U.S. made a deal with Colombia to build up its military personal in seven bases, from 250 to 800 American troops with 600 civilian contractors, effectively taking control over these installations. This was widely denounced throughout Latin America as an action aimed at intimidating Venezuela. In December of that year a U.S. drone plane flying from one of these Colombian bases violated Venezuelan airspace.

In 2009 the U.S. and Panama agreed to open up two naval bases in Panama, which will be the first time U.S. military forces will be based in this nation since 1999.

The military base in Manta, Ecuador, is the main center of electronic espionage with Pentagon technology satellite in South America; from there every day its Orion C-130 spy planes armed by the United States go out on routine patrol.

In the military base Comalapa in El Salvador, this base is known as a FOL; it is a small base used for satellite monitoring and to support the large bases such as that of Manta in Ecuador, with personnel that have access to government airports spaces and installations.

The Soto Cano base in Palnerola, Honduras, is used for radar and as a base providing support for helicopter training and missions that monitor the skies and water in the region and are key to military operations.

The Liberia military base in Costa Rica is located in Central America; it serves as an operating center during confidential and preliminary negotiations.

Colombia has three military bases operating in its territory. The Arauca base is officially designed to combat drug trafficking in Colombia, but it is also a strategic point for monitoring this oil region, both in Colombia and in Venezuela.

The base in Larandia serves as a base for United States helicopters; it has runways for B-52 bombers with an operating capacity that surpasses the extent of Colombian territory, allowing for air cover for attacks in almost the whole continent.

The Three Corners military base in Colombia serves for land, air and water operations, and has become a strategic point for attacks against the guerrillas; it is a permanent base for arms and logistics and serves U.S. military strategy, but also for combat troops.

The air-naval base in Manta, Ecuador, this located on the shores of the Pacific; it has been used by Washington as logistic platform for military intelligence to carry out operations coordinated by the Pentagon's Southern Command.

The U.S. military build-up in Central America runs parallel to similar developments in Colombia. There, the United States and Colombia signed an agreement in October 2009 that would have given the United States military use of seven bases in Colombia for ten years.

The contracts included two for an “Advanced Operations Base” for the U.S. Southern Command special operations unit in Tolimá, a training base located south of Bogotá. The special operations unit, known as SOCSOUTH, has as its mission “the use of small units in direct or indirect military actions that are focused on strategic or operational objectives,” including “providing an immediately deployable theatre crisis response force.”

The militarisation of Latin America has provoked a swell of protest. Almost all the governments of South America have spoken out against the Colombian bases deal. In Colombia, a wide coalition of grass-roots movements, including the country’s largest trade union federations, is braving paramilitary repression to speak out against the bases – which, they say, not only violate the country’s sovereignty but will exacerbate the country’s human rights crisis.

Colombia's US-supported military has won plaudits at home for pushing back FARC guerrillas but has also provoked dismay over its human rights abuses and a cross-border raid into Ecuador last year. Brazil and Chile, which have stable relations with Washington, were partly mollified, but Brazil's foreign minister, Celso Amorim, yesterday reiterated his government's concern. "The presence of foreign bases in South America awakens sensibilities of a political and even psychological nature that should be taken into account." Bolivia's president, Evo Morales, called for a continent-wide referendum on the plan. "If the Colombian president wants his bases to be used, I say I want a referendum in South America so the people of Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina all 12 countries can decide," he said.

### **\*North Korea, South Korea, and the involvement of foreign military bases –**

The situation in North Korea and South Korea has not been completely stable since the partition between them after the Korean War, but as of now there has been increased tension and conflict due to North Korea’s rhetorical flurry and the response from the side of USA and South Korea.

A timeline which clearly states the increased tensions from March 7<sup>th</sup> to April 3<sup>rd</sup> –

March 7: The U.N. Security Council imposes tough sanctions against North Korea to punish it for conducting a nuclear test on Feb. 12 in defiance of U.N. resolutions banning it from nuclear and missile activity. North Korea characterized the test, its third since 2006, as a defensive act against U.S. aggression.

– March 11: South Korea and the U.S. begin annual joint military drills. North Korea, which calls the manoeuvres preparation for an invasion, responds by following through on a threat to cut a hotline with South Korea and void the 60-year-old armistice ending the Korean War.

– March 12: North Korean state media report that the country's leader, Kim Jong Un, urged front-line troops to be on "maximum alert" and warned that "war can break out right now."

– March 20: Coordinated cyber attacks in South Korea knock out computers and servers at three major TV networks and three banks. The source of the attacks remains under investigation but North Korean involvement is suspected. A week later, organizations of North Korean defectors say their computer systems also were attacked.

– March 22: North Korea condemns a U.N. resolution approving a formal investigation into its suspected human rights violations and says it will ignore the measure.

– March 27: North Korea cuts a military hotline to its Kaesong industrial complex, which is jointly run with the South and is the last major example of inter-Korean cooperation. Operations at the complex continue.

– March 28: In a show of force, the U.S. takes the unprecedented step of announcing that two of its nuclear-capable B-2 bombers joined the military drills with South Korea and dropped dummy munitions on an island range. It had earlier announced the participation of older nuclear-capable B-52 bombers.

– March 29: Kim convenes an "urgent operation meeting" of senior generals just after midnight, signs a rocket preparation plan and orders his forces on standby to strike the U.S. mainland, South Korea, Guam and Hawaii. State media quote him as saying that "the time has come to settle accounts with the U.S. imperialists."

– March 30: North Korea warns that "inter-Korean relations have naturally entered the state of war," and says it would retaliate against any U.S. and South Korean provocations without notice. It says hostilities "will not be limited to a local war, but develop into an all-out war, a nuclear war."



– March 31: The Central Committee of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party says the country's nuclear weapons are "the nation's life" and will not be traded even for "billions of dollars."

– April 1: The U.S. announces it sent F-22 stealth fighter jets to participate in the U.S.-South Korean war games.

– April 2: North Korea's atomic energy department says it will restart a plutonium reactor and a uranium enrichment plant at its main Nyongbyon nuclear complex and increase production of nuclear weapons material. The U.S. says it would be "extremely alarming" if the North follows through.

– April 3: North Korea bars South Koreans from going to their jobs at the Kaesong industrial complex and closes the border to trucks carrying raw materials for the factories.

Among other statements, Pyongyang has threatened a nuclear strike against the US, declared that it has scrapped the Korean War armistice, blocked South Koreans from entering a jointly run industrial park and announced that it will restart a plutonium reactor and produce more fuel for nuclear bombs. This threat is being considered the biggest threat to USA since Cuba, since USA itself has stated that a declaration of war on South Korea will result in a retaliation from the West, as 'the United States keeps it's promises'.

Many developments are taking place delegates and this is ongoing. The situation is ever changing, and should be treated with utmost importance. China, which is North Korea's strongest ally, is showing tact and diplomacy, and is acting with caution, but in the future if China does look to support Kim Jong Un, then this will lead to the advent of World War 3. Since the US have so many bases present in South Korea, these bases are extremely important in developments in the region, as drills and deployments from these bases are being considered a threat to North Korea.

This might be all rhetoric from Kim Jong Un, but as has been found, North Korea has started preparation for war. And the very threat of war must be taken seriously, as nuclear proliferation is involved, and whenever nuclear power is involved, it is always an act of omnicide, and caution must be exercised.

Each day there are new developments in this state of uneasiness, and this issue must be addressed. War must not take place.

This is a dangerous game, played with live ammunition and many lives in the balance.

In a world where clowns wield nuclear weapons, the laugh-track rings hollow.

### **Environmental effects of foreign military bases -**

There are various environmental effects of Foreign Military Bases. The main Environmental effects are caused due to the presence of The United States Foreign

Military Bases. The United States operates a vast array of foreign bases manifesting

Many of the same environmental problems found at domestic bases, including toxics in drinking water, explosives on firing ranges, and noise pollution.

Overseas, DOD hides behind a veil of secrecy and refuses to clean up most contamination generated by its activities. Most overseas military base agreements were signed prior to the current era of environmental awareness and, accordingly, contain extremely vague environmental provisions, if any. Before the 1980s, the military kept few records of the exact amounts or locations where toxics and explosives were used. That is why, even at domestic bases, extensive study is often needed to discover and characterize hazards. Extensive environmental legislation governs domestic bases, but no legislation focuses on overseas bases. DOD has exploited this lack of explicit obligation by conducting the absolute minimum of environmental restoration at overseas bases. Although the military's environmental compliance overseas has improved in recent years in areas such as recycling, toxics disposal, and sewage treatment, its response to sites contaminated in the past has been characterized by a secretive, do-nothing approach. The U.S. military has left behind a legacy of environmental problems throughout the world, giving rise to a multitude of complaints by host governments, community groups, and environmental organizations. In the Philippines, only after the U.S. military evacuated Subic Naval Station and Clark Air Base in 1992 did Filipinos discover what one U.S. official called a "horror story," including tons of toxic chemicals dumped on the ground and into the water, or buried in uncontrolled landfills. In Panama, 21 people already have died from explosions of ordnance left on firing ranges, prompting fears that more accidents will occur after the U.S. leaves. And in Germany, where half of all overseas U.S. troops are still stationed, industrial solvents, fire fighting foams, and waste have destroyed local ecosystems near some military bases. The Army estimates that cleanup of all U.S.-caused soil and groundwater pollution overseas could cost more than \$3 billion.

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Reaction of South Koreans for the pollution of their Foreign Military Base

## Problems with the Current Policy –

DOD is required by Executive Order 12114 (signed in 1979) to produce environmental

Assessments for actions overseas that affect the environment. Yet the U.S. has spent only \$102 million on overseas base cleanups during the last four years versus \$2.13 billion budgeted in 1998 alone for domestic base cleanups. In an attempt to minimize further expenditures, DOD is undermining its declared commitment to make the U.S. military a global environmental leader. Failure to assess and clean up contamination also violates international norms requiring governments to ensure that their actions do not harm other individuals or countries. Global peers (such as Japan and Germany) are able to force the U.S. to clean up its toxic messes, whereas little or no cleanup occurs in less developed countries, which have neither the resources and the technology to redeem the toxic bases nor the clout to force

DOD to do so. Finally, the Pentagon's practice of leaving contaminated bases behind violates the generally accepted principle that the polluter pays. This principle is being codified by an increasing number of countries and is already the law within the United States. In a cynical twist on the principle, Pentagon policy allows host countries to pay for cleanups of U.S. base pollution if they are unsatisfied with DOD's lack of action, as long as the cleanup does not interfere with military operations.

## Economic impacts –



The economic impacts on the country owning bases in various nations exponentially increases with each new deployment, the best example of how high the cost can be, is the United States of America with an annual spending of 1.9 Trillion dollars in 2008 on its foreign bases.

With the perspective of the host countries the economic impacts are difficult to gauge as they vary from nation to nation because of many contributing factors such as ideological differences, stability within the country, political standings and a history of the formation of bases. It is evident that foreign bases across Europe generally have had a positive impact on the economy as compared to the negative economic reactions seen in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Iraq etc. With respect to the effects one needs to take into account the implications on the input to the host nations GDP and local population in case of foreclosure of bases, for example Panama was able to recover from the foreclosures but the same may not hold true in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The phenomenon may be recurring now in the Central Asian former Soviet republics. In its May 4, 2002 issue, "The Economist" estimated that Kyrgyzstan enjoyed an infusion of at least \$16 million in American expenditures on fuel, gravel, food, and beds. In return, it allowed the West to use its crumbling infrastructure, both civilian and military - roads, airports, bases and railways. It is now home to a multinational force of 1900 exorbitantly well-paid soldiers, pilots, engineers, and support staff.

In March 2002, the White House promised Islam Karimov, the Uzbek president, and America's staunchest newfound ally in the region, \$160 million in bilateral aid - mainly for the use of bases in Uzbekistan. More than 1500 US air force personnel are stationed in the Khanabad air base.

The administration's fiscal year 2003, 2004, and 2005 budgets request envisioned an average \$19 billion for fighting the war on terrorism abroad. That proved to be inadequate. A supplemental appropriation bill was submitted as early as March 2003. Another \$3.5 billion were required for "economic assistance, military equipment and training for front line states". Yet another \$121 million were allocated to "anti-terrorism assistance to other states", \$4 million for "technical assistance to foreign government's finance ministries to help cut off terrorist funding", and so on.

But the economically beneficial influence of foreign military presence is not limited to emerging or transition economies, during the 1980's, NATO troops and their families stationed in West Germany - a total of 400,000 people - generated \$10 billion in expenditures. More than 230,000 people were - directly and indirectly - employed by the bases. A similar number of Soviet troops in East Germany accounted for 1 percent of its industrial output.

Payrolls and purchases originating on the major military bases in the state are the major sources of economic impact. Payrolls get spent by military personnel and

civilian employees of the bases on a variety of consumer goods and services, as well as housing.

The US military spent the first quarter of 2005 evaluating the economic and social impacts of the closure of 425 domestic bases. It seems to have dedicated no second thoughts to the relocation of its foreign outposts. Yet, the effects on local economies and populace can be as devastating and destabilizing - if not more so.

When the Philippines closed down the American Clark air base and Subic naval base in 1992, it lost billions in revenues from long-term lease payments and onshore consumption by military personnel. Moreover, the Philippines regarded the American presence as a security guarantee. With their protectors gone, the Filipinos had to increase spending on the navy alone by a sorely scarce \$6.5 billion in 1997.

The adverse impacts on economy a Foreign Military base can bring about can clearly be seen in cases of Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, etc.

Also, foreclosure of bases is an issue which is of utmost importance. Certain nations such as Panama have managed to recover from foreclosure of bases thereby preventing damage towards their economies whereas other countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan haven't been able to deal with foreclosure of bases in the same way as Panama has.

During the installation of bases, FMBs do displace people as well as wipe out jobs within the region in which they are present.

Hence, it is evident that the presence of foreign military bases plays a major role in determining the economic status of the region within which they are present.

### **Humanitarian impacts-**



Delegates are urged to look into the acts of human rights violations that occur due to the presence of military bases by their officials.

Most importantly, delegates must look into human rights violations with respect to women. Rape cases being the most common crime committed by workers at FMBs do pose a serious threat to life and safety within the regions where they are located.

Delegates are urged to look into the large number of cases of human rights violation in South Korea, in Iraq and several other countries.

Moreover, it must be noted that jurisdictional controversies do arise from such happenings. In the past, there have been instances where local courts within the host nation haven't been allowed to try those accused of committing crimes.

Delegates are urged to look into such controversies which arise from humanitarian impacts of foreign military bases.

## **COVERT OPERATIONS -**

Definition: "It can be defined as an intelligence operation so planned as to permit plausible denial by the sponsor."

A few case studies which highlight a few different types of covert operations are -



## Economic Covert operations – Taiwan –

A good example of the positive type of economic covert action is the success story of Taiwan. The Republic of China is an example of the successful use of economic assistance (especially in agriculture) to further the interests of the United States. In Taiwan, early land reform gave ownership of the land to those who worked it. Coupled with technological guidance on modern farming techniques, the system provided a praiseworthy model for other developing countries. The introduction of miracle seeds and chemical fertilizers helped to make Taiwan an economic showcase. Around 1960, the U.S. came up with the idea of helping the Chinese Nationalists set up food-growing demonstration projects in Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, where both their techniques and personnel were suited to the task of helping primitive agricultural societies.

The project in Taiwan was not only an economic aid program helping to build prestige and political contacts for the Nationalist Chinese, it also provided a demonstration of what Chinese people working under a free market system were capable of doing. The prosperity of the Taiwanese as seen against the backdrop of the economic shortcomings of Mao's programs on the mainland was the kind of creative propaganda campaign that supported U.S. policies and principles. The CIA's role was to use its contacts in the other developing countries to explain the mutual benefits and get the undertaking going. The economic assistance program that was implemented could have been an overt one, but acknowledged U.S. sponsorship would have caused some governments to shy away from it. Furthermore, an overt pushing of the program by the United States might have embarrassed Taiwan by giving the impression that it was forced to do the job by the U.S.

## 2) CUBA: THE BAY OF PIGS:

The idea of a Soviet-oriented communist dictatorship a mere ninety miles from the United States was a grave concern for U.S. leaders in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Neither President Eisenhower nor his predecessor John Fitzgerald Kennedy was pleased to have a neighbor with such undemocratic ideals. As early as 1959, the CIA had advocated the elimination of Castro, and as has already been pointed out, the Agency began an operation (Operation MONGOOSE) aimed at accomplishing just that.



The alternative of initiating guerilla operations against Castro had been abandoned by the CIA in 1960. Instead, Eisenhower set-up a CIA-run program for training hundreds of highly motivated anti-Castro Cuban refugees in the arts of guerilla combat, planning to possibly use the force to overthrow the Castro government. Vice President Richard Nixon was a strong supporter of a program to topple the Castro regime, and Eisenhower, upon the advice of the NSC Subcommittee responsible for reviewing covert action schemes, approved the paramilitary training project as a contingency plan, leaving the decision of whether or not to execute it up to the incoming Kennedy administration.

President Kennedy decided to go ahead with the plan after taking office. Senate Foreign Relations Chairman William Fulbright, upon learning of plans for the proposed invasion, sent a memorandum to the White House that said that if American forces were drawn into the battle in Cuba.

The CIA trained some 1400 Cuban émigrés for action against Castro. Some of the Cubans were trained as ground forces and the remainder as pilots. It was eventually decided that the guerilla brigade would make an amphibious landing in the Bay of Pigs. Air support for the operation was to be supplied for the operation by émigré pilots flying in American B-26s made up to look like Cuban Air Force planes. This would help create the illusion that Castro's own men were rebelling against him. On April 15, 1961, eight U.S.-made planes conducted air strikes against three Cuban air bases with the intention of destroying the Cuban Air Force on the ground. These attempts proved to be unsuccessful. The events that followed spelled disaster for the Cuban guerrillas and the CIA.

When the invasion force landed at the Bay of Pigs, it met considerably more resistance than had been expected. Despite broadcasts by the CIA run Radio Swan, the Cuban militia and citizens were not incited to rebel against the Castro regime as the CIA had estimated. Instead, the Cuban forces fought valiantly against the exile force. The Castro Air Force, which had not been completely destroyed, began to inflict severe damages on both the rebel air and ground forces. For all intents and purposes, the invasion was over almost as quickly as it had begun, with Castro's forces easily quashing the rebellion.

Fatal to the operation were a number of bad breaks. U.S. air cover that was to be provided for one hour at the onset of the invasion never materialized because of a miscommunication between the rebels and the U.S. Air Force. The rebel Air Force sustained such heavy casualties that CIA pilots had to fly missions in a futile attempt to salvage the operation. As has already been mentioned, the Cuban people did not react as had been expected, and without popular support, the invasion had little chance of success. Even before the operation was a confirmed failure, the CIA cover story began to fall apart and later revelations about U.S. involvement in the fiasco greatly embarrassed the United States.

The Castro forces took more than eleven-hundred prisoners during the fighting. Most of them were traded on Christmas Eve of 1962 to the United States for \$10 million in cash and \$53 million in medicines, baby foods, and other supplies and equipment exempted from the American embargo on shipments to Cuba. Of the approximately 1300 guerrillas that actually had gone ashore, 114 were killed during the three fatal days of the operation.

### **3) The Iran Contra Affair:**

The Iran Contra Affair began as an internal U.S. confrontation between Ronald Reagan and the Democratic Congress. In 1984, the Boland Amendment passed, which said that the CIA and Department of Defense could not give militaristic aid (specifically in Nicaragua). The conflict began in 1985, while Iran and Iraq were at war with each other. Reagan had hopes that if he were to supply Iran with United States military supplies and weapons, then the relations with Iran may be strengthened, and in turn would lead to improved relations with Lebanon and a stronger U.S. position in the Middle East. Reagan was also hoping that if he were to place the U.S. in good standings with Iran, he may be able to release seven American hostages who were being held captive by Iranian terrorists.

This “arms-for-hostages” proposal was in direct violation of the Boland Amendment passed only a year prior. One specification of the deal made in July 1985, was that over 500 anti-tank missiles would be sent to Iran from Israel in exchange for American Reverend Benjamin Weir. Ironically, the initial trade of arms for three hostages had somewhat backfired as those released were replaced by three more. More trade of military weapons for hostages continued, resulting in the release of all of the American hostages and an accumulation of over 1500 American missiles of various types in Iranian hands.

Approximately thirty million dollars were recorded as received from the Iranians; however, only about twelve million of this ended up in the proper hands. This led to great suspicion in Washington — where did the rest of the money go? As it turned out, the money that was gained from selling the arms to Iran was used to support American contras in Nicaragua who were fighting the Sandinistas: a leftist political party founded by Augusto Cesar Sandino, a former insurgent leader. Reagan’s goal was to help the contras against a power that he deemed as a Communist threat. The funding and the process used to get it were in clear defiance of Boland Amendment. The Reagan administration had gotten around the laws of the amendment by using the National Security Council, whose actions were not restricted by the terms of the amendment. In charge of the affair were Robert McFarlane, John Poindexter, and Oliver North: leaders and staffer of the NSC respectively.

Eventually, the world learned of Reagan's actions regarding the Iranian arms deals through a Lebanese newspaper and a great deal of questioning arose. Though Reagan denied any knowledge of what was occurring in Nicaragua, Mr. North stated that both Reagan and his Vice President Bush knew of the events and their cover-up. As of yet, there has been no evidence which connects Reagan and the contra scandal. Eventually, North and Poindexter were pardoned from criminal charges under the condition that they testify in front of the Senate. Later, in 1992, the president at the time (Bush) pardoned others, including Weinberger, involved in the scandal that kept information secret or aided the affair in other ways — defined as charges of lying to Congress. Overall, the entire event was a blow to Congress and its ability to oversee all of its departments. Additionally, Reagan lost face with his public as many were upset about his dealing with terrorists.

### Operation Neptune Spear -

When he pulled the trigger on his silenced rifle in a darkened bedroom in Pakistan and shot a tall, unarmed man with a straggly beard in a prayer cap and shalwar kameez, he ended a nine-year manhunt for Osama Bin Laden, the man who claimed 2,973 lives on September 11, 2001.

But no-one - not even President Barack Obama - will ever know the name of that SEAL, nor of the comrade who wrapped Bin Laden's wives in a huge bear hug and dragged them aside in case they were wearing suicide bomb vests, knowing he would absorb most of the blast and save the men behind him.

For the first time, the full fascinating details of that world-changing raid on Abbottabad, Pakistan have been revealed, from the Costco sandwiches the White House ordered for the Situation Room to the SEAL's first words after he killed the world's most-wanted man: 'For God and country - Geronimo, Geronimo, Geronimo.'

According to the article in this week's New Yorker, it also emerged 'there was never any question of detaining or capturing' Bin Laden - even though the White House always insisted the terror leader would not have died if he'd surrendered.

It also revealed that the SEALs were not wearing cameras on their helmets, and Mr Obama and his colleagues spent nearly 25 minutes anxiously waiting to hear

from the 23 SEALs, one translator and a Belgian Malinois dog named Cairo who were engaged in the covert raid to kill the Al Qaeda mastermind.

As they waited, Vice President Joe Biden nervously fingered his rosary. After the first dramatic words from Abbottabad, the SEAL added: 'Geronimo E.K.I.A - enemy killed in action.' Geronimo was the codename for a hit on Bin Laden.

The president pursed his lips, and speaking to no-one in particular said: 'We got him'.

That's how one of the most famous operations of all time, the operation which took down the most wanted man on the planet Osama Bin Laden took place. One of the most well planned missions ever done; the most interesting thing is that the attack was planned out of a foreign military base in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

Delegates must look to confirm the viability of these covert operations which take place, and ensure the legitimacy of these operations in terms of the sovereignty of the nation within which the covert operation is carried out.

### **Position paper requirements -**

Delegates, please check the sample position paper if there are any problems related to format. The position paper should start with the name of the delegate, school, topic, committee and the name of the country being represented.

The problem should be stated clearly, and delegates are to state issues which are pertinent to the topic, and discuss the impacts of those in their own countries. Any problems should be stated as well. Then, policy measures and initiatives are to be mentioned in detail, and any action taken by the country in relation to the topic. The policy of the nation towards foreign military bases and why this policy is followed must also be mentioned.

Delegates are encouraged to provide solutions and bring forth ideas on how to solve any disputes and problems which are at hand.

### **Questions a Resolution Must Answer-**

- 1) What are the different methods that could be employing for Revising Status of Forces Agreements and ensuring that future Status of Forces Agreements do not have any ill effects on the condition of the host nation?
- 2) Under what body must the revision of SOFAs be undertaken?
- 3) What is the viability of having policies such as the Asia Pivot?
- 4) What could be the methods to prevent the existence of secret bases in places and how could the deploying nation be punished or be held responsible in cases of damage?
- 5) What could be the effective measures employed in settling the DPRK-ROK dispute?
- 6) What are the various methods which could be employed to prevent the damage of the environment?
- 7) How could the economy of the host country be kept intact, if not bettered by the presence of Foreign Military Bases?
- 8) What could be the methods to prevent cases of human rights violation and the various jurisdictional controversies which arise from them?
- 9) Are the uses of covert operations viable under the framework of international law?

### **Conclusion -**

After reading the study guide as provided to you, I'm sure that you now have a very good idea of the topic that will be discussed. There are many issues at hand here, and they must be dealt with. The concept of 'host' and 'sending' country and status of forces agreement should be discussed and improved upon, especially as they are important when it comes to jurisdictional matters. They form an integral part of the development of these foreign military bases, and therefore must be researched for the basic backdrop to the topic.

The violation of these status of forces agreements are important as they clearly point out the flaws of existing agreements, which should be looked in to find solutions to the problems which are at hand, and solve them, to ensure that violations do not occur in the future. Uzbekistan's policy, the Asia Pivot, and Chinese non-intervention policy show the different opinions about these bases,

which play an important role in showing us how these foreign military bases are looked at. These policies help in the better understanding of the consequences of these bases. The Disintegration of the Soviet Union also helps in shedding light on the spread of Russian bases after the USSR split up.

The foreign military bases of the United States should be researched in detail, especially in South Korea, Afghanistan and Iraq. The USA have been employing this policy of deploying foreign military bases for quite some time now, and it is an important part of their foreign policy. The bases in Latin America must also be looked up, and especially the FARC issue should be looked into closely.

The issue of North Korea and South Korea is very important and must be treated with urgency. Delegates are encouraged to think about this topic, and provide solutions, however unconventional. This particular topic is not static, and research about this should be done till the last minute.

The environmental impacts must be taken into account as there have been various cases of pollution and spoiling of eco systems in and around the bases. The humanitarian aspects must be taken note of, especially in South Korea.

Since, there is a lot of money involved in creating a military base and deploying personnel and equipment, the economics of these bases are very important and should be clearly understood. Other than that, Covert operations must be discussed, and the viability and legality is a topic that is of utmost importance in recent times.

All in all delegates, I wish you all the best for the research, and hope that you will look beyond the realms of this guide and explore this topic, so that solutions can be made, and the issues can be resolved. Thank you, delegates.

For any queries, please contact: [disecmcmun@gmail.com](mailto:disecmcmun@gmail.com).



