



**PEOPLE'S CARAVAN  
AGAINST WAR DRILLS**

## **People's Caravan Against U.S. War Drills:**

### **Struggle for sovereignty against imperialist wars and war preparations**

April to November 2026

Resist U.S. Led War Movement

#### **Objectives**

1. Build and strengthen solidarity amongst anti-imperialist, anti-war and people's movements fighting for sovereignty and independence through waging a coordinated campaign against U.S.-led joint military exercises. Uplift the demands of liberation movements struggling for self-determination as the antidote to the path to world war
2. Coordinate and unite with activists and struggles in global regions to demonstrate opposition to RIMPAC, REFORPAC, Talisman Sabre, Balikatan, Garuda Shield and Freedom Shield military exercises. Seek out and unite with other struggles against exercises in other regions
3. Co-organize educational and propaganda activities to expose impacts of U.S. military exercises on the people that culminate in the protest actions on the ground against U.S. military exercises against the countries sending their militaries to participate in RIMPAC (primarily) and other military exercises (secondarily)
4. Educate and expose primarily on Asia Pacific front of U.S. war (U.S. against China and DPRK) in addition to Europe, Latin America, Africa and West Asia. Win over more of the peace movement to the analysis of and resistance to the build up to future U.S. wars.
5. Expose the impacts of war games on the people, environment and sovereignty of nations
6. Broaden contacts and expand the Resist U.S.-Led War Movement
7. Learn from peoples movements on the conditions and fight against military exercises

**This concept lays out a plan for a coordinated, mobile and decentralized campaign against U.S.-led military exercises, to rally the peoples resistance as the conditions of rivalry between U.S. and its adversaries and war preparations escalate.**

Each caravan "stop" may look different, based on:

- Local conditions (repression level, access, specific targets, community consciousness)
- Existing organizing level around anti-exercises / anti-bases work.

## Context

In today's global geopolitical situation, three "fronts of U.S.-Led war" have emerged, aimed at preserving sole U.S. hegemony: the US-Western alliance including NATO for Eastern Europe against Russia; the US-Israel-Gulf-Turkish alliance against Iran; and an iron web of alliances in the Pacific including the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS), Japan-South Korea-US (JAKUS), Japan-Philippines-US (JAPHUS), and Japan-Australia-India-US (Quad) against China and the DPRK. At the same time, U.S.-led war and aggression also operates all over Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Military spending on the part of the US and its allies has grown explosively over the past year. As the Trump administration calls for a \$1.5 trillion budget for the Department of War, it is also pressuring other nations to expand their military spending.

In 2024 Resist U.S.-Led War co-convoked a campaign exposing the RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) Naval exercises, culminating in a large mobilization and counter-summit in San Diego, at the launching point of the RIMPAC exercises. Throughout 2025, we coordinated on exposure propaganda through weapons watch with partners in the Philippines, Guam, Hawai'i, Australia, and Korea. The Resist US-Led War Asia Pacific campaign also launched a "Peace Caravan" campaign exposing the growing militarization in the Pacific and asserting that the people will build solidarity and a chain of peace to counter the build up of U.S.-led war (bases, exercises military policy) across the island chains.

Through the blatant unprovoked U.S. wars of aggression against Venezuela and Iran just in the first 4 months of 2026, and the continued drive toward more wars, we see the urgency of strengthening resistance against the forms of war preparation, especially in Asia Pacific, as the rivalry between the U.S. and China explodes on many fronts.

### ***Military exercises are war preparations***

Military exercises are "structured, large-scale training operations conducted by armed forces to simulate combat conditions, test strategic readiness, and maintain tactical proficiency". They function as an instrument by the U.S. to escalate tensions between its rivals towards wars and also to subjugate neo-colonies and colonies to U.S. war agendas.

The people directly impacted by the exercises and war build-up are essentially already living in conditions of war. On the beaches, neighborhoods, and seas where people fish, care for their families and try to sustain their livelihood, U.S. military exercises are violent disruptions and attacks on their daily lives. Being blockaded in their home for weeks, denied access to fishing and livelihood, living with the environmental contamination from missile and bombings tests, and massive state budgets drained into exercises and war spending deprive countries of welfare services.

These so-called exercises are in reality preparations for war under the U.S. doctrine of "full spectrum dominance", carried out through Trump's "Peace through Strength" doctrine. The concept of "full spectrum dominance" was formally articulated by the U.S. Department of Defense in its "Joint Vision 2020" blueprint, defining it as the ability of U.S. forces, operating alone or with allies, "to defeat any adversary and control any situation across the range of military operations". This doctrine extends to connect all the parts of the US military with all the military components of its allied militaries (like those of the Philippines, Korea, Japan, Australia etc) to make their systems more and more "interoperable". This comes from a depraved history of subjugating entire national militaries like the Philippines and Korea as expansions of the U.S. command and control. Now, in order to prepare for war in a "multipolar world", the U.S. is escalating its regime of war games with more countries, greater scale and with more frequency to race in this direction of preparation for a World War III scenario.

## ***U.S. imperialism in crisis escalates Rivalry with China + militarization across the Asia Pacific***

As U.S. imperialism is dying and heightening the inherent crises of imperialism, endless expansion, overproduction, and facing growing international and domestic resistance, it uses even more desperate, and relies more and more on militarist and fascist tactics.

The U.S. is rolling out an aggressive, expansionist military strategy in Asia and the Pacific to expand its domination of the region, which is projected to soon make up half of the entire global economy. As a result of the rivalry between China and the U.S., the U.S. Indo Pacific Strategy seeks to use countries in the "first island chain" to encircle China. U.S. posturing and military aggression, provision of military aid, and regular U.S. military exercises in the region are intensifying provocations against China. The U.S. has taken every move to paint the economic, diplomatic and military rise of China as "aggressive", engendering a new Cold War mentality and preparing public support for a future war. This rivalry and build up to war shows an already deadly and possibly catastrophic military confrontation in the Asia Pacific. The U.S.' constant assertion of "military readiness" is nothing more than imperialist posturing to assert their power in the region and to justify the ever increasing military industrial complex to control access to land, sea and trade routes for multinational corporations. Ultimately, it is the people, not their governments, who endure the worsening deterioration of human rights because of these military expansionist activities. Increased tensions between and among rival superpowers, compounded by multilateral military alliances, ensure that if there is war, it will be more devastating for the people and the environment.

While this campaign focuses primarily on the Asia Pacific, simultaneously, Washington's aggressive "America First" posture has widened rifts with traditional partners. The resurrection of the Monroe Doctrine, using military drills to project power, secure resources, and force U.S. agendas at gunpoint, most starkly illustrated by U.S. military actions in Venezuela, were preceded by massive military drills, arms and troop staging, and war preparation in the Caribbean. The massive U.S. military operation currently taking place in West Asia against Iran was preceded by the positioning of a U.S. armada, staging aircraft carriers in the region, and a massive war build up indicating the imminent attacks against Iran. This was on top of the existing U.S. military bases and installations in Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq and elsewhere, threatening the sovereignty of the countries of the region.

Ultimately, these exercises have evolved from mere preparedness drills into symbols and mechanisms of a renewed great-power competition, where the projection of hard power seeks to define spheres of influence and re-divide the imperialist control over trade routes, resources and markets, with the people themselves caught in the crosshairs.

This means that resisting these exercises are a key component to resisting the wars. Because the people are more powerful than their puppet or imperialist governments and the corporations that profit from war, it is through the coordinated peoples resistance in each country against military exercises and war build up that we will fight to stop these imperialist war games.

### ***Target exercises***

#### **Freedom Shield - Korea- March 9-19, 2026**

Freedom Shield 26, a massive series of U.S.-ROK military exercises scheduled for March, continues a pattern of destructive and provocative war games. Last year's preparations led to the U.S.-ROK bombing of Pocheon, injuring dozens and damaging hundreds of homes, with most affected residents still awaiting government aid. These drills rehearse invasion and nuclear use against the DPRK under the guise of defense, advancing US geopolitical interests at the expense of Korean safety and regional

stability. While the Trump administration speaks of peace, it oversaw over 270 days of war games in both 2024 and 2025, contradicting its own rhetoric. Cancelling Freedom Shield, a step that previously enabled dialogue with Pyongyang, is a necessary move to make future talks possible.

### **Balikatan - Philippines - April 20 to May 13 2026**

Balikatan is a joint U.S.-PH military exercise featuring 16,000 troops from all major branches of the military. Balikatan 2025 featured a "full battle test" and the firing of several deadly missile systems, which can only be treated as war provocations against the U.S.' main rival in the region, China.

The Marcos government's ambitions for increased weapons, military aid, and economic deals with the U.S. is not rooted in a concern for the Filipino people and Philippine sovereignty. It is a complete selling out of Philippine land, resources, and labor in exchange for political and material support for the bureaucrat capitalist elite. Marcos is opening our territory up to U.S. imperialism and its twisted war games. But the Filipino people refuse to be caught in the crossfire of a war they do not want and are organizing resistance exposing the U.S.-Marcos Regime for using the Filipino people as pawns and Philippines as the U.S.'s chessboard.

### **Rim of the Pacific - Occupied Hawai'i - exact 2026 date TBD (June -August)**

The 2026 RIMPAC exercises, the 30th iteration, will be the largest ever ostensibly to "strengthen interoperability and commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific". In reality, the U.S. uses RIMPAC to enhance allied militaries' capabilities for global aggression amidst rising tensions between China and the U.S. This year's exercises include Israel, which is carrying out a U.S.-backed genocide in Gaza and an unprovoked war on Iran, generating massive profits for defense contractors. The 2026 RIMPAC will be an arena to exchange death-making technology and war tactics amongst 37 (invited) national governments including the Philippines, India, South Korea, Australia, Canada, Germany, and the settler state of Israel. RIMPAC's true purpose is to advance U.S.-led wars, which fuels environmental destruction, social neglect, and the violation of native Hawaiian sovereignty.

### **Talisman Sabre - Australia - exact 2026 date TBD (Mid July - early August)**

Exercise Talisman Sabre is the largest military exercise conducted in Australia. Talisman Sabre is bilaterally designed between Australia and the United States. While led by Australia and the U.S., the exercise includes multiple partner nations, often bringing together over 35,000 troops from countries such as the UK, Japan, France, and South Korea. In 2025, the exercises included three weeks of intensive training and high-end war fighting scenarios across Australia, and complex training exercises in Papua New Guinea, more than 40,000 military personnel from 19 participating nations and two observer nations.

### **REFORPAC - Guam - exact 2026 date TBD (Mid July - early August)**

REFORPAC 2025, is one of the largest Air Force exercises in recent history, that takes place annually across the Pacific including Hawai'i, Guam, Japan, and international airspace, involving 350 aircraft and 12,000 personnel to prepare for future U.S. wars. These war games cause environmental damage through explosions, hazardous emissions, and noise pollution, harming vulnerable communities and wildlife like the endangered Marianas fruit bat. Munitions left in surrounding waters also endanger marine life. We must resist these war games and the hyper-militarization of the Pacific, which lead to violence and environmental destruction. We condemn these lethal training exercises on lands and waters producing hyper-militarization of the Mariana Islands and the Pacific region, while the same weaponry is used to slaughter civilians abroad.

### **GARUDA SHIELD - Indonesia exact 2026 date TBD (Late Aug/Early Sept)**

Through collaboration with 11 other troop-contributing nations, the Super Garuda Shield exercise took place across Jakarta, Baturaja in South Sumatra, and Dabo Singkep in Lampung from August 25 to September 4, 2025. This year, Super Garuda Shield brings together more than 6,000 troops from Indonesia, the United States, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, Brazil, South Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Germany, and France. Commander of United States Indo-Pacific Command Admiral Samuel J. Paparo said, *“Super Garuda Shield has grown into one of the region’s premier exercises... whether its airborne operations, littoral and jungle operations, maritime maneuver, or staff planning, this exercise builds interoperability and resilience. It ensures that, as a team of nations, we can meet regional challenges and keep the Indo-Pacific free and open.”*

### **PANAMAX - U.S., with participation of militaries from Latin American countries**

This exercise includes military forces from the United States (more than 1500), Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, and Peru. More than 1,500 U.S. forces from USSOUTHCOM, USARSOUTH, U.S. Marine Forces South, Special Operations Command South, 12th Air Force (Air Forces Southern), and U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet and other joint force enablers, along with 500 participants from 18 partner nations participated in PANAMAX 2024 at various U.S. locations to include Florida, Texas, Virginia, and Arizona. Maj. Gen. Phil Ryan, U.S. Army South commander said *“Space and cyber as well as the information operations are really key to this [exercise] because we might be able to do some of these operations non-kinetically, through influence, through information, and ensure that we are getting into the mindset of the populations and not using bullets to transmit our messages.”*

### **Plus others pending interest from movements -- Tradewinds, Operation Total Extermination, UNITAS**

#### **Concept**

1. Campaign of shared education, propaganda and efforts to mobilize the people to resist U.S.-led military exercises.
2. Conduct of the campaign would involve on the ground mobilizations in the countries where exercises are taking place, in the format of a "caravan" linking one mobilization to another in the participating countries
  1. a coordinated, mobile and decentralized campaign against U.S.-led military exercises, to rally the peoples resistance as the conditions of rivalry between U.S. and its adversaries and war preparations escalate. Each caravan "stop" may look different, based on
    1. Local conditions (repression level, access, specific targets, community consciousness)
    2. Existing organizing level around anti-exercises / anti-bases work.
3. Components
  - On the ground mobilizations against exercises targeting participating governments + U.S.
    - Including:
      - Direct actions at U.S. embassies, military bases, military command centers, recruiting offices, outside where exercises are conducted
      - Forums and sharing testimonies
      - Mobilize against local city/local government for specific roles in war games
      - Public prop and art exposing the war drills, press conference talking to media
      - Protest arms manufacturers

- Advocacy + justice actions and support of victims of impacts from the exercises and military errors (accidents, contamination, displacement, lost work, health impacts)
- Education and Research (at least 2 joint webinars)
  - Online and face to face education on:
    - Impacts of military exercises
    - Resistance to U.S. military exercises
    - U.S. war strategy
    - U.S. military commands
    - War Preparations
  - Primer on US exercises (released in April with case studies from 5 countries)
  - Propaganda materials on social media and print
  - Media work (at least 2 op eds from frontlines resistance, at least 15 media hits covering protests, coordinated press conferences), local media work covering the mobilizations
  - Campaign exchanges among activists (April, before summer actions, after summer actions)
- Launch event and announcement of campaign, establish the basis and set the political line
  - Includes online members mtg of resist
  - Initial campaign exchange among participating orgs
  - Bilats with target orgs
  - Endorsement / support sign ons
  - Release webpage, social media announcements
  - Campaign branding
- Propaganda
  - Weapons Watch posts exposing military tactics and war profiteers
  - Podcast (Counter Attack)
  - Counter "Faces of RIMPAC prop" - <https://www.facebook.com/reel/816184420655693>
  - Testimonies from people on the ground, partner with organizations organizing and resisting
  - Recaps of actions through video, photo, audio testimonies

### **Partners and Campaign Coordination**

- Resist global secretariat will convene regular campaign meetings to oversee the implementation of the campaign
  - Coordination between Resist Global and Resist AsPac and key campaign partners
  - Purpose to coordinate on prop, learning about plans and calls for the ground mobilization, globally coordinated education
  - Resist US-led War responsible to bottom-line the needed coordination with partner organizations.
- The secretariat tasking and general oversight of the campaign administration would be assigned to the Resist global secretariat
- Target partners from Guam, Japan, Korea, Hawai'i, Australia, Indonesia, the Caribbean, Philippines, Panama, Colombia
- Endorsing organizations can join in the "Peoples Caravan" by doing any or all of the following:
  - attend campaign meetings

- add logo to campaign materials
- promote the campaign in your events, in media or on social media
- mobilize community
- contribute to campaign materials, share your experiences and perspective on war games in your country or that your country participates in
- organize actions against military exercises
- share educational materials
- register your mobilizations or actions on the shared website

Noting that some of the coordination is still happening at the time of drafting this concept, Resist puts forward the following campaign minimums and maximums so we can strive for further coordination without delaying launching. For the specific actions against exercises we would need to partner with the organizations in the main countries hosting the exercises, and those countries sending their militaries to mount actions to protest them. The campaign would not subsume local organizing, but could bolster it and complement it by linking one "caravan stop" to another and growing the solidarity actions with the people confronting each US-led military exercise.

<b>Minimums</b>	<b>Maximum (All of minimum, plus )</b>
Propaganda + popular education about at least 3 exercises	Propaganda + popular education about all exercises
2–3 on-ground mobilizations against Balikatan / +2 exercises	New partners & allies brought in on 6+ exercises, actions on all the above listed
Work with existing organizations & some allies on joint webinars, Resist puts on 1-2 topical webinars	Joint propaganda & education <i>throughout including joint propaganda, joint media work, joint educational events, with in-person and online dimensions.</i>
Clear overarching campaign call	Overarching campaign call, plus tactical coordination on specific demands per action (ie: call indopacific command and demand to not send troops from JBLM to RIMPAC)

## **References:**

Cancel RIMPAC 2024 campaign: <https://www.resistusledwarmovement.com/cancel-rimpac.html>

Cancel RIMPAC IG: <https://www.instagram.com/cancelrimpaccampaign/>

Cancel RIMPAC Launch [presentation](#)

RIMPAC press release from US Navy: <https://www.c3f.navy.mil/News/Article/4351418/us-3rd-fleet-concludes-mid-planning-conference-for-largest-ever-rimpac/>

Press release on conclusion of Talisman Sabre:

<https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/display-news/Article/4263100/exercise-talisman-sabre-2025-concludes/>