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Closing ceremony brings Angkor Sentinel 2015 to an end

Story and photo by Maj. Steve Keeton, 116th Brigade Public Affairs

KAMPONG SPEU PROVINCE, Cambodia – April 20 marked the conclusion of the annual Angkor Sentinel exercise between U.S. and Cambodian militaries, held in Kampong Speu, Cambodia.

Angkor Sentinel is an annual bilateral exercise sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and hosted by the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, focusing on humanitarian assistance and responding to disasters.

The closing ceremony that brought together soldiers from the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and the Idaho Army National Guard; 207th Aviation Battalion; Alaska National Guard; U.S. Army Pacific; 8th Army; U.S. Army Reserve; the Asia-Pacific Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Fusion Center; 18th Medical Command and the 413th Contracting Brigade.

The Deputy Chairman of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Staff, Lt. Gen. Hun Manet, when bidding farewell to the participants who trained tirelessly, thanked the troops for their professionalism.

“I want to thank the U.S. Army and the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces soldiers for their hard work to make Angkor Sentinel 2015 so successful. I want to say that both countries today are better off because of the success of this exercise.”

U.S. Army Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Pacific Maj. Gen. James F. Pasquarette also attended the exercise and thanked the RCAF for being a great host to this year’s event. “I have been a great admirer of Cambodia and I hope to return again to continue our great relationship. Angkor Sentinel has become increasingly important in this ever increasing small world. The evolution of Angkor Sentinel is proof the developing relationship of our two countries is stronger today than it has ever been,” Pasquarette said.

This year’s exercise was the largest Angkor Sentinel to date and has continued to build on the success of previous exercises. The two-



Idaho Army National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Bethany Stanley (Right), of Boise, Idaho, teaches a CPR class to the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces soldiers during Angkor Sentinel 2015. The first responder course will teach the RCAF lifesaving skills and techniques by using a combination of classroom lessons, hands on practice and proper response techniques they would need during Humanitarian Assistance / Disaster Response operations.

week Cambodian-hosted event included over 450 personnel from the United States and Cambodia who participated in Angkor Sentinel 2015- 33% more RCAF soldiers than the previous year's exercise.

Some of this year’s events include planning and executing a battalion-level command post exercise, engineering civic action projects and executing a medical civic action program. In all, each soldier received over 100 hours of training.

They also shared in the pride of improving the quality of life for the students and faculty at the Tirumket School in Chbar Morn City in the Civil Engineer Action Project, which aimed to improve their interoperability and contingency planning between U.S. and RCAF troops.

As an enduring exercise, Angkor Sentinel is not focused on any specific security situation, but instead promotes military readiness and interoperability between U.S. Armed Forces and Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and is USARPAC’s capstone Security Cooperation event with Cambodia. Angkor Sentinel

exercises began in 2010 and are conducted by the U.S. Army Pacific forces and hosted by RCAF to build Humanitarian Assistance / Disaster Relief capability activities in Cambodia. It directly contributes to achieving key U.S. and Cambodian security objectives by providing a rigorous training environment for both nations. Cambodia uses the exercise to prepare forces for domestic and regional HA/DR missions as well as United Nations missions around the globe.

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