

4th US-Thailand Defense Strategic Talks

On Dec. 20, 2017, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs David Helvey hosted Thailand's Permanent Secretary for Defence General Theppong Tippayachan at the Pentagon for the 4th U.S.-Thailand Defense Strategic Talks, the first such talks since 2013.

The Defense Strategic Talks were a culmination of a year of senior-level defense engagement between the United States and our oldest ally in Asia, including an October visit by Secretary Mattis to Thailand for the royal cremation ceremony of His Late Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The two officials reviewed the broad range of U.S.-Thai defense cooperation and discussed ways to enhance the alliance's contributions to a free and open Indo-Pacific, including through maritime security cooperation and exercises such as COBRA GOLD. They also discussed ways to continue strengthening the defense trade relationship.

Acting Assistant Secretary Helvey and General Theppong reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the 184-year-old U.S.-Thai alliance, and to hold the 5th Defense Strategic Talks next year in Thailand.