



SIOS NEWS BRIEF (12-17 April)

Australia, Philippine, U.S. forces conduct multilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity (April 12)

The combined forces of Australia, the U.S., and the Philippines conducted a multilateral MCA (Maritime Cooperative Activity) within the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone. The commanding officer of U.S. Navy Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship USS Ashland, Cmdr. Adam Peeples said, “We embrace any chance to conduct at-sea operations with our allies, Australia and the Philippines, and reinforce our commitment to security in the region”. This activity demonstrated a commitment to strengthen regional and international cooperation in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

[URL:https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Articles/Article/4457261/australia-philippine-us-forces-conduct-multilateral-maritime-cooperative-activi/](https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Articles/Article/4457261/australia-philippine-us-forces-conduct-multilateral-maritime-cooperative-activi/)

Indonesia, US announce new Defence Partnership as Prabowo visits Russia (April 14)

The United States and Indonesia announced the establishment of a major defense partnership, a framework aimed at increasing bilateral military ties and enhancing regional stability in the Indo-Pacific, the same day President Prabowo met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. In a joint statement, the U.S. Department of War and Indonesia’s Defense Ministry said that the MDCP (Major Defense Cooperation Partnership), is the fruit of “decades of cooperation” and underscored “the strength and potential of the bilateral defense relationship.”

[URL:https://thediplomat.com/2026/04/indonesia-us-announce-new-defense-partnership-as-prabowo-visits-russia/](https://thediplomat.com/2026/04/indonesia-us-announce-new-defense-partnership-as-prabowo-visits-russia/)

Boat carrying 250 people, including Rohingya and Bangladeshis, sinks in the Andaman Sea (April 15)

According to the UN’s refugee and migration agencies, at least 250 people, including Bangladeshi nationals and Rohingya refugees, were missing after a boat capsized in the Andaman Sea. The agencies said, the trawler, had departed from Bangladesh and was bound for Malaysia, “reportedly sank due to heavy winds, rough seas and overcrowding.”

[URL:https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/boat-sinks-andaman-sea-rohingyas-bangladesh/article70863859.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/boat-sinks-andaman-sea-rohingyas-bangladesh/article70863859.ece)

Navy Chief reaffirms India’s ‘obligations’ in Indian Ocean Region calls for proactive engagement (April 17)

During a four-day biannual Naval Commanders’ conference, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi reaffirmed the force’s “obligations” to the IOR, stressing the need for a proactive and credible partnership with friendly foreign countries to navigate the evolving security landscape. The Navy said in a statement, the conference served as a crucial forum for a comprehensive review of the Navy’s material and operational preparedness, logistics, infrastructure, logistics, and human resource initiatives, along with an assessment of the prevailing operational environment with the ongoing situation in West Asia.

[URL: https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/national/2026/04/17/navy-chief-reaffirms-indias-obligations-in-indian-ocean-region-calls-for-proactive-engagement.html](https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/national/2026/04/17/navy-chief-reaffirms-indias-obligations-in-indian-ocean-region-calls-for-proactive-engagement.html)