



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



June 2, 2010

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles

"U.S. Pacific Fleet continues to play a critical role in helping to enhance the security, stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region as a forward, engaged and trusted partner. Together with our allies and friends throughout the region, we are focused on maintaining a resilient force capable of responding to any crisis across the operational spectrum, from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to armed conflict."

– Adm. Patrick M. Walsh, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

The mission of U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) is to protect and defend the collective maritime interests of the United States and its allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific region. In support of U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) and with allies and partners, PACFLT enhances stability, promotes maritime security and freedom of the seas, deters aggression, and when necessary, fights to win.

Vision

The vision is a combat-ready and surge-capable fleet that is ready to respond rapidly to any contingency; that cooperates with allies and partners to promote maritime security and freedom of the seas; that deters – and when necessary, defeats – threats to national security through decisive naval, joint, and combined operations.

Guiding Principles

PACFLT has six principles that guide daily tasks – plans, policies, operations, activities, engagement – with the aim of promoting peace and preventing conflict, while setting the conditions for a successful response to any contingency:

- Warfighting mission will be the focus
- To shape a strong, resilient fleet posture
- To strengthen and deepen alliances and partnerships to promote collective security
- To be prepared to operate in naval, joint, and combined environments
- To be good stewards of our nation's resources – fiscal, material, and environmental
- To value our people and their families

Area of Responsibility (AOR)

As the world's largest fleet command, PACFLT encompasses 100 million square miles, more than half the Earth's surface and population, from the West Coast of the United States to well into the Indian Ocean.

- To give a better perspective, 15 of 20 of the world's largest ports are in PACFLT's AOR.
- Several key chokepoints are in PACFLT's AOR, including the Strait of Malacca where approximately 1,000 ships transit every day (70, 000 large container ships per year).
- Five of seven U.S. treaty alliances – Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Philippines, and Thailand – reside in PACFLT AOR.

Key Messages

- As leaders it is our job to train and maintain a strong, resilient, and capable warfighting force.
- A forward-thinking operational posture is imperative to sustaining operational readiness.
- Our people are as important as our mission.
- In order to promote peace we must be ready at all times to defend it.

Facts & Figures

- U.S. Pacific Fleet is comprised of:
 - 180 ships, nearly 2,000 aircraft and 125,000 Sailors, Marines and civilians
 - Two numbered fleets (3rd Fleet and 7th Fleet)
 - Six carrier strike groups & six expeditionary strike groups
- PACFLT hosts approximately 120 combined exercises annually, including this summer's Rim of the Pacific, the largest multilateral exercise in the world.