



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



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## Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2010

*"CARAT is an excellent venue for us to engage both new and long-standing regional partners in Southeast Asia, to promote security and stability. Many CARAT partners are actively engaged in fighting piracy, smuggling and human trafficking on a daily basis, and have greatly reduced these threats in the region."*

– Rear Adm. Nora Tyson, Commander, Task Force 73, CARAT Executive Agent

[Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training](#) (CARAT) is a series of annual bi-lateral exercises between the U.S. Navy, its sister services and the maritime forces of eight Southeast Asian countries.

Founded in 1995, CARAT began with six partner countries - Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. In 2010 Cambodia and Bangladesh joined the exercise series.

### CARAT Exercise Series Overview

- Each CARAT phase typically lasts 7-12 days, and each is planned in concert with the host nation's maritime forces to ensure both nations achieve their training objectives.
- Shore-based phases include medical, [dental](#), civil engineering projects, community service projects, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training, [shipboard engineering and maintenance training](#), maritime interdiction and humanitarian response exercises, as well as Marine Corps jungle training events.
- At-sea phases typically involve ships from the U.S. and host nation, and include formation drills, communication exercises, [amphibious operations](#), surface and air gunnery exercises, anti-submarine warfare exercises, hostile boarding events and tactical free-play events.
- [CARAT 2010](#) training includes two new warfare areas: Riverine warfare units from [Riverine Squadron 1](#) (CARAT Brunei, Thailand and Indonesia), and an unmanned aerial vehicle team from the Naval Postgraduate School (CARAT Brunei and Thailand).

### Capacity and Relationship Building

- One of CARAT's many advantages is its flexibility; when partners request additional training with different assets such as submarines, or in new warfare skills, assets can be added to increase the training value of the exercise to ensure training remains relevant as new threats emerge.
- CARAT is a key element in fostering relationships with partner navies and nations in Southeast Asia. Sailors experience new cultures and build enduring friendships with the people they meet and train with.
- CARAT contributes to regional maritime security by enhancing capabilities in areas such as maritime interdiction, information sharing, anti-piracy and anti-smuggling planning and exercises, and combined operations at sea.

### Key Messages

- CARAT is a model of how navies can cooperate and work together to address shared security concerns.
- The overarching goals of CARAT are to enhance regional cooperation, promote understanding and build trust between participating military forces, and increase operational readiness of participating forces.
- CARAT contributes to regional maritime security through capacity building and fostering relationships with partners.

### Facts & Figures

- CARAT is a 91-day exercise, involving more than 17,600 personnel and 73 ships from the U.S. and eight Southeast Asian countries.
- U.S. Navy and Coast Guard assets participating in various phases of CARAT 2010 include: USS Tortuga (LSD 46), USS Princeton (CG 59), USS Lassen (DDG 82), USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), USS Vandegrift (FFG 48), USS Jacksonville (SSN 699), USNS Safeguard (T-ARS 50), USNS Salvor (T-ARS 52) and Coast Guard Cutter Mellon (WHEC 717).