



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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U.S. 7th Fleet Executing Global Operations

“The U.S. 7th Fleet -- a ready power for peace -- has provided a foundation of security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region for nearly seven decades, enabling unparalleled economic progress and extraordinary benefits for the people of the region. Our nation has vital strategic interests in this region, and we have a shared stake in its continued security.”

-Vice Adm. John M. Bird, Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet

The [7th Fleet](#) area of responsibility (AOR) is the largest of the Navy’s numbered fleets, covering more than 48 million square miles of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The U.S. Navy has maintained a continuous forward presence in this region for nearly two centuries, directly supporting U.S. national interests, upholding key alliances and expanding maritime partnerships. On any given day, there are more than 70 ships, 100 aircraft, and 40,000 Sailors and Marines on station in the [7th Fleet](#) AOR.

Maritime Security

- [Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training](#) (CARAT) 2010, in its 16th year, is a series of bilateral exercises held annually in Southeast Asia with Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. In Indonesia, CARAT is known as Naval Engagement Activity. New countries joining CARAT in 2010 include Cambodia and Bangladesh. USS Tortuga (LSD 46), USS Vandegrift (FFG 48), USCGC Mellon (WHEC 717) and Marines of the 4th Marine Division will take part in CARAT – totaling about 1,600 U.S. personnel.

Power Projection

- The [George Washington Carrier Strike Group \(CSG\)](#), the world’s only permanently forward deployed CSG, operates at sea in the Western Pacific. In the past year, a total of 24 newer F/A-18E Super Hornets, as well as four upgraded E-2C Hawkeye 2000 aircraft, have replaced older aircraft at [Carrier Air Wing \(CVW\) 5](#) in Atsugi, Japan, giving the George Washington Strike Group the most capable and lethal air wing in the world.

Deterrence

- This year marks the [50th anniversary](#) of the U.S. and Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security – critical to the security and stability of the entire Asia-Pacific region. 7th Fleet and the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force train, operate, collaborate and share information on a daily basis, making it an enduring partnership that successfully deters aggression and promotes common values of freedom and democracy.

Forward Presence

- [USS Patriot \(MCM 7\)](#) returned to Sasebo this month following a series of exercises and engagements in Malaysia, Singapore, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia.
- In the past year, 7th Fleet has more than doubled its [countermine capability](#) with the addition of USS Avenger (MCM 1) and USS Defender (MCM 2) to the Forward Deployed Naval Force in Japan, and MH-53 “Sea Dragon” helicopters to Pohang, Republic of Korea.

Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response

- [USNS Mercy \(T-AH 19\)](#) conducts Pacific Partnership 2010, the fifth in a series of humanitarian and civic assistance endeavors aimed at strengthening relationships with host and partner nations in Southeast Asia. Mercy will conduct missions this year in Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste. USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19) will conduct a mission in Palau; and USS Crommelin (FFG 37) will conduct a mission to Papua, New Guinea.

Key Messages

- We promote regional stability and enable prosperity by maintaining credible combat readiness.
- We operate on a continuous basis and obtain critical local knowledge – increasing opportunities to train and operate with U.S. allies, friends and partners.
- We are first and foremost a warfighting force. In peace, we build partnerships and deter aggression. In war, we will prevail.

Facts & Figures

- 7th Fleet AOR is home to more than 50% of the world’s population, speaking more than 3,000 languages.
- There are 35 maritime countries in 7th Fleet, which includes two of the world’s three largest economies (China and Japan) and 10 of the 14 smallest.
- The U.S. has longstanding security treaties with five nations in the 7th Fleet AOR, as well as military-to-military relationships with a total of 25 nations.