



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



May 25, 2010

U.S. 3rd Fleet Contributing to Global Operations

“Third Fleet is continually focused on maintaining and improving combat readiness and capabilities ensuring, our fleet forces are ready now for sustained global operations.”

– Vice Adm. Richard W. Hunt, Commander, U.S. Third Fleet

U.S. 3rd Fleet provides maritime security throughout its area of operations while developing and operating a worldwide-deployable, combat-ready naval force that is capable of deterring aggression and is prepared to fight, and win, against any adversary.

Homeland Defense

- 3rd Fleet, fulfilling its primary mission of Homeland Defense, hosted the North American Maritime Security Initiative conference with senior leaders from Canada, Mexico, the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Northern Command, and U.S. Fleet Forces Command to discuss operations and exercises to improve Maritime Homeland Defense.

Maritime Security

- USS Freedom (LCS 1) recently completed her maiden deployment conducting counter-illicit trafficking patrols and theater security cooperation port visits in Colombia, Panama, and Mexico.

Deterrence

- USS Higgins (DDG 76) improved the missile defense readiness of several partner and allied nations by participating in several exercises, demonstrating its ballistic missile defense capabilities.
- I Marine Expeditionary Force and 3rd Fleet will conduct Exercise Dawn Blitz, a Marine Expeditionary Brigade-level amphibious landing exercise that incorporates more than 1,000 Marines and Sailors operating from multiple amphibious assault ships.

Sea Control

- USS Ingraham (FFG 61) escorted two newly built Iraqi patrol ships from the Suez Canal to Iraqi territorial waters, in addition to supporting CTF 51 with Approach and Assist Visits, deterring smuggling and piracy in the Red Sea.
- The 22nd biennial, multinational naval exercise, Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2010, takes place this summer. Designed to strengthen relationships, improve interoperability and tactical proficiency, RIMPAC 2010 will include 14 nations, 34 ships, five submarines, more than 100 aircraft and 20,000 personnel.

Humanitarian and Civic Assistance / Defense Support of Civil Authorities

- USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) is deployed in support of Pacific Partnership 2010 (PP10), the fifth in a series of humanitarian and civic assistance missions. PP10 will reach out to Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Palau and Papua New Guinea.
- 3rd Fleet participated in the Marine Corps-led Wildland Firefighting Exercise. The live-fly portion featured helicopters from 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 85 and California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), along with ground-based CAL FIRE firefighting assets, resulting in increased readiness for the 2010 wildfire season.

Key Messages

Imperatives for 3rd Fleet are:

- Offensive minded and combat ready
- Battle Force oriented with effective C2
- Self-sufficient, properly trained and educated
- Ethically sound and routinely self-assessing
- Fiscally responsible
- Total force integration and Navy-family committed

Facts & Figures

3rd Fleet assets include:

- 60,000 Sailors and Marines
- Five Carrier Strike Groups, four big deck amphibious ships, 35 submarines, 69 combatant ships, including 11 of the Navy’s 20 ballistic missile defense-capable ships, and more than 350 aircraft

For more on 3rd Fleet, visit: <http://www.c3f.navy.mil/>