



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



June 8, 2009

## Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2009

*“CARAT is the ideal venue for us to address the spectrum of operations from disaster response to military crises and ensure that we are prepared to respond – not just as individual operating units, but as cooperative regional partners.”*

– Rear Adm. Nora Tyson, Commander, Task Force 73

Since its inception in 1995, the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise series has helped the United States build and expand maritime partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region. CARAT 2009, which [began May 20 in the Philippines](#), brings together the U.S. and six sovereign partners for four months of bilateral exercises.

### Enhancing regional maritime security cooperation

The security of all waterways is vital to peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. CARAT training is designed to develop maritime security capabilities and cooperation among participants.

- CARAT focuses on enhancing cooperation with our partner nations, with training focused on the strategic interests of each participating country.
- Skills exercised in CARAT include maritime intercept operations, amphibious operations, naval gunnery and tactical freplay scenarios which vary by exercise phase.
- A U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST) will embark aboard the CARAT flagship to train host nation armed forces on maritime security and law enforcement techniques.

### Increasing operational readiness and interoperability

Interoperability through combined training is another focus of CARAT. U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel train with host-nation counterparts to increase everyone’s operational readiness.

- Individual CARAT phases consist of a number of scheduled operational training events at sea, including diving and salvage and disaster response, as well as at-sea maneuvers and tactical events.
- Multi-national responses to regional contingencies, such as the December 2004 tsunami in Indonesia, highlight a need for integrated training. By working together before a crisis, nations are better prepared to provide a timely and effective response.

### Sharing institutional knowledge and improving operational familiarity.

CARAT events cover the entire range of military operations from undersea, surface, and air warfare, to maritime security and humanitarian assistance. By honing warfighting skills in a variety of competencies, CARAT enables U.S. and host nation participants to share valuable knowledge and experience while building professional relationships.

- No two CARAT phases are the same. Participating navies work closely to plan meaningful tactical training events to achieve well-defined objectives specific to each country’s dominant security concerns.
- CARAT events include personnel exchanges and use of combined watch teams to promote tactical knowledge exchange. These exchanges on a personal level allow Sailors to build meaningful relationships with their counterparts that will endure for years.
- Use of the Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System allows participating navies to communicate securely and share information in various scenarios.

### Key Messages

- CARAT demonstrates cooperation to address shared maritime security concerns.
- The overarching goal of CARAT is to enhance regional cooperation, promote understanding between participating military forces, and bolster the operational readiness of participating forces.
- Our CARAT partners are skilled professionals, and this exercise series sharpens warfighting capabilities and increases our interoperability.

### Facts & Figures

- CARAT partner nations include the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei. Additionally, the U.S. will participate in a separate bilateral exercise with Indonesia, called Naval Engagement Activity.
- Seven U.S. Navy ships, numerous fixed and rotary-wing aircraft and approximately 1,600 U.S. personnel will take part in CARAT 2009.