



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



July 18, 2008

## Expanding Interoperability: Joint Task Force Exercise 08-4

*"This exercise is a tremendous opportunity to train; not only as the Navy and Marine Corps team, but with our joint and coalition partners as well. JTFEX 08-4 will flex our warfighting capabilities from the operational level through expeditionary strike force and strike group operations with several of our coalition partners – France, Brazil and the United Kingdom."*

– Vice Adm. Marty Chanik, Commander, Second Fleet

The security, prosperity, and vital interests of the United States are increasingly coupled to those of other nations. The foundation of international maritime security is a network of navies, coast guards and law enforcement authorities from like-minded nations committed to the peaceful use of the world's oceans and seas. Exercises like JTFEX 08-4 reinforce this global network while training forces to come together rapidly as a force to deter aggression.

Dubbed "**Operation Brimstone**," JTFEX 08-4 is a joint/combined exercise that will be conducted from July 21-31, 2008 off the Atlantic coast, principally in a maritime environment. The exercise serves as the certifying event for the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group (TR CSG) and the Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group (IWO ESG). For the Second Fleet Headquarters Staff, it will serve a sustainment event as a Joint Task Force Capable Headquarters (JTF HQ) and preliminary accreditation as a Maritime Headquarters with Maritime Operations Center (MHQ w/MOC).

- **Readiness:** JTFEX offers a realistic training environment that ensures effective and intense training to ensure our forces are interoperable, capable, and ready for deployment on short notice.
- **Naval Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC):** JTFEX 08-4 is the first time an East Coast NECC Adaptive Force Package Staff controlling a Navy Expeditionary Combat Task Group will be integrated into the training audience alongside the carrier and expeditionary strike group staffs. Expeditionary Security forces, Riverine forces, Cargo Handlers and Seabee forces will all participate in the exercise.
- **Interoperability:** Several Coalition partners will be participating in JTFEX 08-4 – France: submarine FS Amethyste (S 605), Rafale and Hawkeye aircraft; Brazil: frigate BNS Greenhalgh (F 46); United Kingdom: HMS Ark Royal (R07) and Sea King helicopters.
- **Combined and joint operations:** We train the way we fight. Military response, whether it be warfighting, peacekeeping, or humanitarian support, is a joint—often multinational—effort on the part of all the armed services and coalition partners. We must continue to work with like-minded nations to deter, detect and deny terrorist activities, and enhance maritime security.
- **Presence:** Deployed naval forces, immediately employable in support of our national interests, remain an essential component of national security. This provides a force with the power to shape events. Forward-deployed forces provide combat power in the critical early stages of any conflict, while creating conditions to assure access for the entire combined joint force.
- **Enabling the Maritime Strategy:** Coalition maritime forces train and operate together to ensure security and awareness in the maritime domain. Preventing war is preferable to fighting wars. Countering irregular and transnational threats protects our homeland, enhances global stability, and secures freedom of navigation for the benefit of all nations.

### Key Messages

- JTFEX 08-4 is "graduate-level" exercise providing effective and intense training, to ensure our forces are interoperable, capable and ready for deployment.
- Coalition maritime forces train and operate together to ensure security and awareness in the maritime domain.
- Exercises like JTFEX reinforce the global network of maritime forces by training them to come together rapidly as a force to deter aggression.

### Facts & Figures

- More than 15,000 U.S. and coalition personnel will participate in the exercise.
- More than 80 aircraft and 30 ships will participate in the exercise.
- JTFEX 08-4 will take place in designated operations areas in North Carolina and off the U.S. coast from Virginia to Florida.