



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



April 30, 2008

Pacific Partnership 2008

"This is an opportunity for countries in the region to see a face of our Navy that is a very friendly one and an opportunity to get acquainted with us and our efforts to promote prosperity in the region, in this case through medical, dental and engineering contributions."

-- Adm. Robert F. Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

On May 1, USNS Mercy deploys to the Western Pacific in support of Pacific Partnership 2008 (PP08) for a humanitarian assistance and theater security cooperation mission. PP08 seeks to build upon relationships and goodwill established during 2005 earthquake and tsunami relief efforts in the region, Mercy's 2006 deployment, and USS Peleliu's (LHA 5) PP07 deployment. PP08 is a clear example of the Maritime Strategy and demonstrates U.S. commitment to the region and promotes peace and stability in the Western Pacific.

Naval forces partnering with host nations and non-governmental organizations

PP08 is truly a partnership with many nations in the Western Pacific. Mercy will conduct various medical, dental and civic action programs, providing focused humanitarian assistance with host nations.

- Medical, dental and civic action programs are coordinated with host nations and most are designed to assist local professionals in already existing community facilities with providing a wide range of services.
- Mercy crewmembers will work together with members of several humanitarian aid and medical non-governmental organizations and more than ten partner nations.
- Mercy is revisiting nations USS Peleliu visited in 2007 – Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines – strengthening mutual trust and relationships.
- PP08 provides a valuable opportunity to learn about the local environment from the host nation and civilian experts, ensuring the Navy is able to rapidly respond in support of emergency relief efforts in the future.
- Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 is also deploying for PP08, and will facilitate construction of health clinics, community centers, classrooms, water towers, and other renovations to community buildings.

Promoting regional peace and stability

Mercy's deployment to the region in support of PP08 exemplifies a collective commitment to Asia-Pacific nations. The relationships built through humanitarian assistance missions enable future participation in military-to-military exchanges and exercises. Developing our interoperability with regional partners then facilitates international support and information sharing, enhancing global stability and security.

- This deployment is a partnership with Asia-Pacific nations who share a common interest in maintaining a stable and secure Asia-Pacific region.
- Mercy is an enabler for collaboration between military and non-governmental organizations.

Key Messages

- Pacific Partnership is a collaborative effort in executing the Maritime Strategy with many nations and non-governmental organizations.
- Mercy is capable of providing medical and dental services and has engineering capabilities to rapidly respond to a range of situations on short notice.
- PP08 seeks to continue to build collaborative relationships by providing medical, dental, engineering and civic assistance to the region.
- Promoting peace and stability in the region is the overarching mission of Mercy's deployment.

Facts & Figures

- This is the third Pacific Partnership mission. During the first mission in 2006, Mercy visited several countries in the Western Pacific region.
- Last year, USS Peleliu provided medical and dental care to thousands in the region.
- This year's four-month mission will visit five countries – the Philippines, Vietnam, the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste.
- Additional information on PP08 can be found at www.cpf.navy.mil.