



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



September 22, 2008

## Pacific Partnership 2008

*"There can be no questioning the motives or aspirations of the people who run the medical programs we have listed here. These are signs of humanity's innate goodness, of people from fortunate backgrounds who are willing and ready to help out the less fortunate of the world."*

**-An editorial from the Papua New Guinea Post Courier, Aug. 7, 2008.**

[Pacific Partnership 2008 \(PP08\)](#), a humanitarian civic assistance mission in direct support of the Maritime Strategy, drew to a close Sept. 12. Starting in May 2008, the naval hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) visited the Republic of the Philippines, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia. A joint, multi-national and non-governmental (NGO) team of more than 1,000 people delivered medical care and conducted engineering projects to demonstrate the goodwill and commitment of the United States in the Asia Pacific region.

### Committed to Working Together with Friends, Partners and Neighbors

- The U.S. Navy executed PP08 to provide the type and level of care that was needed to assist the people of the region and build on the partnerships gained during previous missions.
- In addition to providing humanitarian assistance, PP08 also provided valuable experience for our medical personnel, including the opportunity to learn from and train with regional medical experts. This experience will contribute to the ability of the U.S. military to respond rapidly as directed to support relief efforts anywhere in the world.

### Committed to Regional Peace and Stability in the Asia Pacific Region

- The relationships built and sustained with our multinational partners in the Asia-Pacific region through exercises and professional and military exchanges help in humanitarian efforts and preserve peace and stability in the region.
- The PP08 deployment to the Southeast Asia and Oceania exemplifies the longstanding ties between the U.S. and Western Pacific nations, as well as our continued commitment to work together to address mutual issues and concerns.
- The U.S. military is flexible and maintains readiness to respond rapidly to a wide range of situations.

### Sustaining Cooperative Relationships with our Partners

- Medical and engineering professionals from the partner and host nations of Australia, Canada, Chile, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Portugal, Singapore, Republic of the Philippines, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia served on the Pacific Partnership team.
- Members from 27 NGOs, including, Operation Smile, East Meets West, 3P Foundation, UCSD Pre-Dental Society, International Relief Teams and Project Hope, also worked on the team.

### Key Messages

- In partnership with nations in Southeast Asia and islands in the vicinity of the Pacific Ocean, the hospital ship USNS Mercy conducted medical, dental and civic action programs both ashore and afloat.
- Pacific Partnership 08 proved a collaborative effort with partner nations and non-governmental organizations in executing Maritime Strategy.
- The Pacific Partnership team worked together with our friends, partners, and the regional community to support the host nation efforts to help the people of the region.

### Facts & Figures

- Total patients treated: 90,693
- Total surgeries conducted: 1,370
- Dental patients: 14,866
- Animals treated: 6,665
- Construction projects: 26 projects ranging from the construction of a waste water treatment facility in the Philippines to the construction of a community center in Papua New Guinea.
- USNS Mercy Pacific Partnership 2008 photo gallery is available at:  
[http://www.navy.mil/view\\_gallery.asp?category\\_id=106](http://www.navy.mil/view_gallery.asp?category_id=106)