



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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U.S. 7th Fleet Executing Global Operations

"We are America's forward deployed, 'away team' that is absolutely crucial to the defense and the security of the United States of America. What you are doing in the Pacific is making history. What you will do in the Pacific will determine the future of the United States, not only in the Pacific but our place in the world for a long, long time to come."

– **The Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy**

The [7th Fleet](#) area of responsibility, the largest of the Navy's numbered fleets, covers more than 48 million square miles of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. U.S. naval forces have maintained a continuous forward presence in this region for nearly two centuries, directly supporting U.S. interests, upholding key alliances, and expanding maritime partnerships.

Forward Presence

- Mitigating the time it takes for ships based in the continental United States to reach the potential trouble spots in Asia, the constant presence of 7th Fleet's forward-deployed forces facilitates rapid response to both natural and manmade crises in the region. On any given day, there are more than 70 ships, hundreds of aircraft, and over 40,000 Sailors and Marines on station in the 7th Fleet.

Power Projection

- Both the [USS George Washington](#) and the [USS Nimitz](#) Carrier Strike Groups are at sea conducting operations in the Western Pacific, bringing together the massive striking power of both carriers, [USS Chosin \(CG 65\)](#), [USS Cowpens \(CG 63\)](#), [USS Fitzgerald \(DDG 62\)](#), [USS McCampbell \(DDG 85\)](#), [USS Mustin \(DDG 89\)](#), [USS Pinckney \(DDG 91\)](#), [USS Rentz \(FFG 46\)](#), [USS Sampson \(DDG 102\)](#), and more than 120 aircraft from [Carrier Air Wings 5](#) and [11](#).

Maritime Security

- [USS Russell \(DDG 59\)](#) and [USS Crommelin \(FFG 37\)](#) are participating in Naval Engagement Activity 2009 in Indonesia. These ships also recently participated in [Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training \(CARAT\)](#). CARAT is a series of bilateral exercises held annually with Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand to promote security at sea. These exercises are conducted in association with the regional exercise [Southeast Asia Cooperation Against Terrorism \(SEACAT\)](#).

Deterrence

- 7th Fleet and its eight Task Forces are participating in [Ulchi Freedom Guardian \(UFG\)](#), a computer-assisted exercise that demonstrates U.S. Navy and Republic of Korea Navy interoperability. Our solid alliance and constant readiness have successfully deterred aggression on the Korean peninsula for more than five decades.

Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response

- [USNS Richard E. Byrd \(T-AKE 4\)](#) along with the [240-member Pacific Partnership \(PP09\) team](#) are in Kiribati conducting humanitarian and civic action projects as part of a four-month mission to five countries in the Oceania region, conducted with partner nations, non-governmental organizations and other U.S. agencies, to help thousands across the region.

Key Messages

- 7th Fleet promotes regional stability and enables prosperity by maintaining credible combat readiness.
- 7th Fleet forces operate on a continuous basis and obtain critical local knowledge – increasing opportunities to train and operate with U.S. allies, friends and partners.
- 7th Fleet's Forward Deployed Naval Forces allow for a rapid response to any crisis, natural or manmade.
- 7th Fleet is first and foremost a warfighting command. In peace, we build partnerships and deter aggression. In war, we will prevail.

Facts & Figures

- The 7th Fleet area of responsibility is home to more than 50% of the world's population, speaking more than 3,000 languages.
- There are 35 maritime countries in the 7th Fleet, which includes two of the world's three largest economies (China and Japan) and 10 of the 14 smallest.
- The U.S. has longstanding security treaties with five nations in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility, as well as security assistance programs involving a total of 25 nations.