

US and Canada, Exercise in South China Sea to Support Japan Deployment



Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Higgins (DDG 76), center, cruises in formation with Izumo-class multi-purpose destroyer JS Izumo (DDH 183) left, and a Japanese submarine while conducting routine operations in the South China Sea, Oct. 1. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Donovan K. Patubo*

SOUTH CHINA SEA – Maritime forces from Canada, Japan and the United States concluded exercises in the South China Sea Oct. 1, demonstrating a shared commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, said Commander, Task Force 71/Destroyer Squadron 15 Public Affairs.

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) led the exercise in support of their Indo-Pacific deployment,

The exercises included JMSDF's JS Izumo (DDH 183) and JS Takanami (DD 110). The multi-lateral training for the three maritime forces served to strengthen skills in maritime operations, anti-submarine warfare operations, air warfare operations, live-fire missile events, and advanced maneuvering scenarios.

"Through increased practical exercise, together we improved tactical capabilities and interoperability between the JMSDF, the U.S. Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy, and we promoted cooperative relationship of Japan-U.S.-Canadian naval forces in order to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific," said Rear Adm. Hirata Toshiyuki, commanding officer of Escort Flotilla 4.

Representing the U.S. Navy was Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Higgins (DDG 76) and fleet replenishment-oiler USNS Rappahannock (T-AO 204).

"Participating in multinational operations over the last month provided a fantastic opportunity to work with our friends and allies in the South China Sea," said Cmdr. Joseph McGettigan, commanding officer of USS Higgins. "The seamless interoperability between all ships demonstrates the strength of our alliances and goes a long way to promote a free and open Indo-pacific. Thank you to the JMSDF for leading a well-run and professional operation!"

Canada was represented by HMCS Winnipeg (FFH 338) and HMCS Vancouver (FFH 331).

"It has been a pleasure to sail with our partners and allies over the past month," said Cmdr. Kevin Whiteside, HMCS Vancouver commanding officer. "Working together, we were able to leverage each other's experience and familiarity operating in the area and build upon it for follow-on deployments. Supporting each other's separate, yet similar, deployments to the Indo-Pacific demonstrates our common goal of supporting

peace, security and prosperity in the region.”

Higgins is assigned to Commander, Task Force 71/Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15, the Navy’s largest forward-deployed DESRON and the U.S. 7th fleet’s principal surface force.

Navy’s VP-9 Conducts Harpoon Shot in Atlantic Thunder 2022



An AGM-84D Harpoon missile is deployed off the wing of the P-8A by VP-9 during Atlantic Thunder 2022. *U.S. NAVY / Lt. Joseph Reed*

SIGONELLA, Sicily – Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) recently had the unique opportunity to participate in Atlantic Thunder 2022, a joint, multi-phase, multinational exercise designed to

increase NATO interoperability and strengthen the United States-United Kingdom strategic partnership, the squadron said in a release.

The highlight of the exercise for VP-9 occurred with a coordinated time-on-target strike of the decommissioned Oliver Hazard Perry Class frigate USS Boone.

Various joint and multinational assets collaborated on the Hebrides Deep Sea Range off Scotland's northwest coast in order to achieve the exercise's main tactical objective, sinking the decommissioned USS Boone. Combat Air Crew Six (CAC-6) was selected to carry out the coordinated time on target strike portion of the exercise with the AGM-84D Harpoon, an anti-ship missile developed by Boeing. Among the other assets that joined CAC-6 and VP-9 in other phases of the exercise were the Royal Navy's HMS Westminster and its Agusta-Westland AW159 Wildcat Helicopter, three Royal Air Force Typhoons of the 41st Squadron, one U.S. Air Force McDonnell-Douglas F-15E Strike Eagle, and a U.S. Navy submarine. Additionally, range clearance safety was provided by other U.S. P-8As from VP-9's sister squadron, VP-46.

Atlantic Thunder 2022 proved to be a rousing success for all participants, as it not only accomplished all of its primary objectives and sunk the decommissioned USS Boone, but according to the U.K.'s after action report, the process "achieved several firsts for the U.K. and U.S. in terms of advanced warfighting techniques and delivering complex weapon effects against a realistic target."

Ultimately, the ship formerly known as the USS Boone stood no chance against the "remarkable amount of combined firepower within a short period."

First to hit the ex-Boone were two SM-6 missiles, courtesy of the HMS Westminster. This was followed in short order by the coordinated Harpoon shot conducted by CAC-6 and the HMS

Westminster. At precisely 1521Z, the AGM-84D Harpoon launched from the P-8A had a rendezvous with two surface launched AGM-84D Harpoons via the HMS Westminster into the hull of the ex-Boone. The HMS Westminster's portion of coordinated time on target strike included passive over-the-horizon-targeting generated by U.S. Naval Integrated Fires, marking the first time this type of targeting has ever been accomplished against a real life target with multinational collaboration.

Raymond O'Toole, Principle Deputy Director, Operational Test and Evaluation from the Office of the Secretary of Defense remarked on this coordinated targeting, saying, "What we've demonstrated through this exercise is a new capability – to gain and exchange information for targeting purposes."

Coordinated time on target shots such as the one conducted by CAC-6 and the HMS Westminster require precise multinational cooperation via detailed planning, communications, and tactical data link employment from multiple nations and services. Successful coordinated shots are remarkably effective in overwhelming a potential combatant's defenses by delivering rapid amounts of ordnance on target simultaneously and from multiple trajectories and domains.

"What we've seen in Atlantic Thunder today, is that with Royal Air Force, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, and Royal Navy all operating together [with] helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, ships, and a submarine, every one of which is capable of going to war tomorrow, we've proven it today for the first time in decades in the Atlantic," summed up Royal Navy Rear Adm. James Parkin.

Following VP-9's successful coordinated Harpoon shot with the HMS Westminster, the ex-Boone endured several more rounds of punishment from exercise participants. The three RAF Typhoons arrived in short order to deploy four Paveway IV precision guided missiles onto ex-Boone. This was quickly followed by the Wildcat Helicopter's two Martlet missiles and shortly

thereafter two Joint Direct Attack Munitions dropped by the F-15E Strike Eagle. The sub-launched munition and explosive ordnance disposal live charges delivered the final blow against the ex-Boone, sending her to the depths of the North Atlantic in over 6,500 feet of water.

Notably, the decommissioned USS Boone was prepared and configured specifically to meet stringent Environmental Protection Agency standards. This was done to mitigate potential adverse effects and keep risk to the environment as low as practicable. In addition to the ex-Boone's configuration, strict acoustic and visual monitoring from multiple sources on the range ensured that the risk posed by the exercise to marine mammals was extremely low.

VP-9's contribution to Atlantic Thunder 2022 was critical to the exercise's overall success and demonstrated the P-8A's and MPRF's ability to provide long range, coordinated strike capability in the maritime domain, with the added challenge of multi-national and multi-service planning and coordination.

Commanded by Cmdr. James J. Donchez, and based out of NAS Whidbey Island, Washington, the 279 Sailors assigned to VP-9 are currently deployed to the 6th Fleet area of responsibility and operate the P-8A Poseidon Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

USNS Mercy Concludes Pacific Partnership 2022



Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) returns to San Diego, Sept. 30. Mercy participated in the 17th annual Pacific Partnership mission, the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted throughout the Indo-Pacific region. *U.S. NAVY / Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Rosa Paschall*

SAN DIEGO – Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) returned to its homeport Sept. 30 following completion of the 17th annual Pacific Partnership mission, U.S. 3rd Fleet Public Affairs said in an Oct. 1 release.

Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

“It has truly been an honor to lead a diverse crew of committed men and women on the Pacific Partnership 2022 team,” said Pacific Partnership 2022 Mission Commander Capt. Hank Kim. “We set out to strengthen ties and create new friendships with our host and partner nations, and we achieved this with

resounding success.”

The mission team worked collectively with participating host and partner nations to enhance regional interchangeability and disaster response capabilities, increase security and stability in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific.

“One of the mission highlights was seeing the multinational knowledge exchange and passion for learning from everyone who was a part of Pacific Partnership,” said Capt. Jeffrey Feinberg, Mercy’s commanding officer. “Every participant brought something new to the table, whether it was a safer way to construct the foundation for a building, a new approach to a patient procedure, or a more efficient means for disaster response. That collaboration is what enhances every nation’s capacity to respond to crisis and provides an enduring impact. That, and the friendships we make, are what will remain long after Mercy returns home.”

Host nations included Vietnam, Palau, the Philippines, and Solomon Islands. Partner nations included Australia, Chile, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom.

Pacific Partnership saw more than 15,000 patients, completed 10 major construction projects, participated in more than 80 host nation outreach events, and conducted humanitarian assistance and disaster relief workshops in each mission stop during the five-month mission.

Coast Guard PSU Returning

Home Following 9-Month Deployment



Coast Guardsmen from Port Security Unit 307 conduct seaward security for Department of Defense assets and personnel at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, April 25. During the nine-month deployment, unit operations focused on maritime defense, providing more than 30,000 hours of around-the-clock waterside and shore side anti-terrorism and force protection. *U.S. COAST GUARD / Lt. Cmdr. Glenn Sanchez*

CLEARWATER, Fla. – Members from Coast Guard Port Security Unit (PSU) 307 returned home to Clearwater Oct. 3 following a nine-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

During the deployment, unit operations focused on seaward security, providing more than 30,000 hours of around-the-clock waterside and shore side anti-terrorism and force protection defense security to Department of Defense assets and personnel at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

“I could not be more proud of the crew of Port Security Unit 307 for their highly successful deployment, where they flawlessly executed their mission with skill and precision,” said Cmdr. Gregory S. Rogers, PSU 307’s commanding officer. “Our members excelled in every task that was assigned and proved their ability to execute complex operations and training in a joint operating environment.”

PSU 307 also escorted marine traffic in and out of port and enforced the naval defense sea area security zone around the base. Unit personnel worked closely with service members from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Security Forces, Marine Corps Security Forces Company, and Air Force and Army personnel conducting interagency operations and training at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

“Our personnel lived up to the Coast Guard’s core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty and truly set the example. It is my privilege to have served with this outstanding crew,” said Rogers. “I want to thank our families, because without their support this deployment have been impossible. We have now completed our mission and it is now time spend valuable time with our families.”

Commissioned in 1999, PSU 307 is one of eight U.S. Coast Guard port security units located across the United States. PSUs are Coast Guard Reserve-staffed units and deployable specialized forces assigned to the commander of Coast Guard Pacific Area in Alameda, California. PSUs support our nation with well-equipped, trained, and organized expeditionary forces who can rapidly deploy worldwide for anti-terrorism and force protection operations or point defense of high value assets.

PSU 307 has an extensive operational history. They have deployed to the Middle East four times since 2001 in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, PSU 307 secured Boston Harbor and protected U.S. naval vessels in Providence,

Rhode Island. The unit also conducts humanitarian service missions, including deployments to New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Haiti following the earthquake in 2010, Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria in 2017, and New Orleans following Hurricane Ida in 2021.

As both a federal law enforcement agency and an armed force, the Coast Guard is uniquely positioned to conduct defense operations in support of combatant commanders on all seven continents. The service routinely provides forces in joint military operations worldwide, including cutters, boats, aircraft, and deployable specialized forces.

Navy Recruiting Announces Results for Fiscal 2022 and Goals for 2023



Approximately 100 future Sailors from across Navy Recruiting District Houston took the Oath of Enlistment Wednesday, March 4, during a joint swear in ceremony at the Houston Rodeo. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Chris Fahey MILLINGTON*, Tenn. – Fiscal year 2022 Navy recruiting completed Sept. 30, with the Navy reaching its goal in enlisted active duty recruiting, while falling short of its goals in reserve enlisted and both active and reserve officer recruiting, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Cody Anderson of Navy Recruiting Command in a release.

FY22 has been a highly challenging recruiting environment, with competition for top talent fierce within the branches of the Department of Defense and the private sector, where major corporations have begun offering incentive packages to compete with the military. As all branches of the military have struggled to make mission, the Navy implemented multiple initiatives in order to accomplish their accession goal.

The Navy finished FY22 with the following numbers.

FY22 Goal Actual

Enlisted (Active) 33,400 33,442

Officer (Active) 2,507 2,298*

Enlisted (Reserve) 7,400 5,442*

Officer (Reserve) 1,360 982*

*Preliminary numbers, which may change slightly based on Sept. 30 activity.

“We’ve completed a very challenging year, and I am very proud of the tremendous efforts our Recruiters gave to bring in the nation’s top talent and build the future of the fleet,” Rear Adm. Alexis “Lex” Walker, commander, Navy Recruiting Command said. “The coming year promises to be even more challenging, as we are not starting the year in as strong a position as FY22. In order to achieve our mission goals this year, we will need an all-hands-on-deck effort, not only from our recruiters, but from throughout the active and reserve fleet, our retired Navy veterans, and our community leaders around the country who are centers of influence in the lives of the young people we are trying to recruit. We are going to do everything within our power to ensure that our recruiters are empowered and have the assets they need in order to accomplish the mission.”

While the enlisted active accessions reached their mission goal, this came at a heavy price. The Navy entered FY22 with a relatively healthy Delayed Entry Program (DEP) pool and finished the year with the lowest DEP pool in 40 years. DEP allows future Sailors to be contracted to join but remain on hold before shipping off to Recruit Training Command (boot camp). The goal of the program is to acclimate future service members to the military environment, military rank structure, history, customs and courtesies and to improve their physical fitness prior to shipping out. It also allows the military flexibility in when they ship future service members to regulate the flow of future Sailors to boot camp and follow on training schools.

Draining the DEP pool to critically low levels brings many new challenges for the upcoming year. Around a third of those remaining in DEP are future Sailors who are seniors in high school, who cannot ship until after graduation in May/June 2023. So the Navy is expected to be in a contract-and-ship posture, where future Sailors are shipped to boot camp within weeks or even days of contracting to serve. This posture is expected to persist through FY23.

For fiscal 2023, the goals are 37,700 enlisted (active); 8,100 enlisted (reserve); and 1,732 officer (reserve). The goals for active-duty officers are usually released in the first quarter of the fiscal year.

To bring more future Sailors into the DEP pool, the Navy has been offering multiple incentives to generate a greater interest in naval service among qualifying applicants. In August, Navy Recruiting Command announced enlistment bonuses up to \$50,000 and student loan repayment up to \$65,000. This offers the opportunity for future Sailors to earn a substantial sum as they begin their careers. The loan repayment program remains in place for FY23, and the bonus structure for the start of FY23 is posted at [this link](#), with a maximum bonus remaining \$50,000.

“The maximum current enlistment bonus is \$50,000, and the maximum loan repayment is \$65,000,” said Walker. “They are not mutually exclusive, so if a future Sailor maximizes both, that adds up to a life-altering \$115,000, and the opportunity to serve in the world’s finest Navy.”

In addition to bonuses and loan repayment, leadership throughout the Navy is engaged in helping to improve Navy recruiting numbers. Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro has begun sending letters to high school principals to promote military service and to foster school access for recruiters. These initial letters will be followed up with a letter from

Commander, Navy Recruiting Command to further foster a relationship with these centers of influence.

CNRC also began the Every Sailor is a Recruiter program in July. The goal of the program is for U.S. Navy Sailors all over the world to share their positive experiences of naval service with qualifying applicants and provide referrals based upon these interactions.

“Every Sailor has a voice, and it’s not just up to recruiters to represent the Navy back at home, but it is their duty to share their experiences and inspire people to serve their country,” Master Chief Navy Counselor Gerald Allchin, NRC national chief recruiter said. “Growing up in Cleveland, Ohio, I know first-hand how rare it can be in non-fleet concentration areas to hear anything about the Navy. So, I tell my shipmates to share your stories!”

This program will be a force multiplier and will make the Navy more competitive in today’s challenging labor market. Navy leadership is currently determining the best way to recognize and award Sailors that provide referrals who ultimately join.

To address Reserve recruiting shortfalls, the Navy altered its recruiting command structure this summer, standing up Navy Recruiting Reserve Command to specifically tackle these challenges. Part of this restructure’s focus is on Canvasser Recruiter professionals. They make up 65% of NRRC and carry a critical portion of the NRRC enlisted goal and 100% of the officer mission goal.

“Our success depends upon CANREC professionals, and I am continually amazed at their commitment,” said Capt. Karen Muntean, commander of NRRC. “These individuals are Selected Reservists and civilian professionals who have committed themselves to joining our challenging recruiting charge. Their role is to recruit for the reserve mission, educate active duty, civilians and veterans on the benefits of serving in the

Navy Reserve, and partner with military and industry organizations.”

CNRC consists of a command headquarters, two Navy Recruiting Regions, NRRC, and 26 NTAGs that serve more than 1,000 recruiting stations around the world. Their mission is to attract the highest quality candidates to assure the ongoing success of America’s Navy.

Cruiser USS Port Royal Decommissioned at Pearl Harbor



USS Port Royal Decommissioning at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Sept. 29. U.S. NAVY / *Ens. Brianna McLaughlin*

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii – USS Port Royal (CG 73), the 27th ship of the Ticonderoga class guided-missile cruiser, recognized more than 28 years of naval service during a decommissioning ceremony Sept. 29 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs said in a release.

During the ceremony, guest speaker Capt. Joe Ring, commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC) wished current and former crew members and their families fair winds and following seas as they bid farewell to their ship.

“The operations Port Royal Sailors supported when the nation called provided tremendous significance to their lives as well as the legacy of the United States Navy,” said Ring. “They left an indelible legacy for the future. To remain ahead of our competitors, we must now invest and provide our Sailors with the most advanced systems and warfighting capabilities that will enable us to maintain our competitive edge.”

Port Royal’s commanding officer, Capt. Michael “Mike” Wagner, reflected on the service of his crew and those who came before.

“USS Port Royal and generations of Sailors served our nation with honor and distinction for more than 28 years,” said Wagner. “Port Royal deployed all over the globe and earned numerous awards and accolades during her time of service. We are proud of what this ship and her crews accomplished.”

Port Royal maintained a crew of 40 officers, 31 chiefs and 300 enlisted Sailors. The ship was built in Pascagoula, Mississippi, by Ingalls Shipyard Company and commissioned July 9, 1994, in Savannah, Georgia.

CG 73 is the second ship in the U.S. Navy to be commissioned as Port Royal. The first ship of the fleet to bear the name

“USS Port Royal” was a wooden 1163-ton “double-ender” side wheel steam gunboat, built in New York City. Commissioned in April 1862, Port Royal was soon sent to the Hampton Roads and James River areas, taking part in the battle at Sewell’s Point on May 8-9, 1862, and at Fort Darling on May 15, 1862. The first USS Port Royal was decommissioned in May 1866 and sold in October of that year.

The current Port Royal’s rich deployment history spans two decades, starting in December 1995 as part of the Nimitz battle group Carrier Group Seven. Following her first deployment, Port Royal became the first Navy cruiser to integrate women into the crew. The ship returned from her final deployment in July 2022. During the ship’s 28 plus years of commissioned service, Port Royal made numerous deployments to the Arabian Gulf, Mediterranean Sea, and operated prominently throughout the Indo-Pacific region supporting peace and stability and working alongside allied and partner navies.

Navy Announces Flag Officer Assignments

ARLINGTON, Va. – The secretary of the Navy and chief of naval operations announced Sept. 29 the following assignments:

Rear Adm. Robert T. Clark will be assigned as reserve deputy, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, N7, Washington, D.C. Clark is currently serving as reserve vice commander, Seventh Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan.

Rear Admiral Joey B. Dodgen will be assigned as deputy director, Navy Reserve Fighting Instructions, commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command, Norfolk, Virginia. Dodgen is currently serving as special assistant to the chief of Navy Reserve, Washington, D.C.

Rear Admiral Eileen H. Laubacher will be assigned as special assistant to the assistant to the president for national security affairs, National Security Council, Washington, D.C. Laubacher is currently assigned as special assistant to the chief of Navy Reserve, Washington, D.C.

Rear Admiral William G. Mager will be assigned as reserve deputy, Operations, Plans and Strategy, N3/N5, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. Mager is currently serving as reserve director, Maritime Operations, United States Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Rear Admiral (lower half) Putnam H. Browne will be assigned as director, Assessment Division, N81, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. Browne is currently serving as special assistant to the deputy chief of naval operations for personnel, manpower, and training, N1, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and Chief of Naval Personnel, Arlington, Virginia.

Rear Admiral (lower half) Marc S. Lederer will be assigned as reserve deputy for fleet readiness and logistics, N4R, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. Lederer is currently serving as deputy commander, Military Sealift Command, with additional duties as reserve deputy commander, Naval Surface Force, United States Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, Virginia.

Rear Admiral (lower half) Jacquelyn McClelland, selected for promotion to rear admiral, will be assigned as deputy commander, Naval Supply Systems Command, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. McClelland is currently serving as vice

director, Navy Staff, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Rear Admiral (lower half) Pamela C. Miller, selected for promotion to rear admiral, will be assigned as deputy chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Reserve Policy and Integration, Falls Church, Virginia. Miller most recently served as command surgeon, United States Indo-Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii.

Rear Admiral (lower half) Eric L. Peterson will be assigned as deputy director, Reserve Medical Forces Atlantic, Portsmouth, Virginia. Peterson is currently serving as deputy commander, Naval Medical Forces Atlantic, Portsmouth, Virginia.

Rear Admiral (lower half) Donald M. Plummer will be assigned as reserve vice director for Joint Force Development, J-7, Joint Staff, Suffolk, Virginia. Plummer is currently assigned as deputy commander, Naval Special Warfare Command, San Diego, California.

Rear Admiral Eric C. Ruttenberg, selected for promotion to rear admiral, will be assigned as reserve deputy for maritime operations, United States Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Ruttenberg is currently assigned as vice chief engineer, Naval Information Warfare Systems Command, San Diego, California.

Rear Admiral (lower half) Jeffrey S. Spivey will be assigned as deputy commander, Military Sealift Command, Norfolk, Virginia. Spivey is currently serving as director, Maritime Partnership Program, Sixth Fleet/vice commander, Sixth Fleet, Naples, Italy.

Rear Admiral (lower half) Donald Y. Sze will be assigned as commander, Expeditionary Medicine, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Falls Church, Virginia. Sze is currently serving as deputy commander, Navy Support Command Reserve Component/Marine Corps Medical Officer, Falls Church,

Virginia.

Captain Charles M. Brown, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as reserve deputy, N2/N6, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. Brown is currently serving as chief of staff, Navy Reserve, Naval Information Force Reserve Headquarters, Fort Worth, Texas.

Captain David M. Buzzetti, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as deputy chief of staff, Reserve Component, N093, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. Buzzetti is currently serving as deputy chief of staff, Naval Medical Forces Atlantic, Portsmouth, Virginia.

Captain Robert J. Dodson, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as reserve deputy, Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington, D.C. Dodson is currently serving as navy reserve program manager, Naval Sea Systems Command Northwest, Bremerton, Washington.

Captain David H. Duttlinger, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as deputy commander, Naval Facilities, Washington, D.C. Duttlinger is currently serving as commodore, Seventh Naval Construction Regiment, Gulfport, Mississippi.

Captain David G. Faehnle, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as reserve deputy commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia. Faehnle is currently serving as commanding officer, Joint Task Force/Horn of Africa, Djibouti, Africa.

Captain Calvin M. Foster, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as director, Maritime Partnership Program, Sixth Fleet/vice commander, Sixth Fleet, Naples, Italy. Foster is currently serving as operations officer, Navy Reserve, United States Second Fleet, Norfolk,

Virginia.

Captain Charles Kirol, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as deputy director, Logistics, Fleet Supply and Ordnance, N4, United States Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Kirol is currently serving as deputy commander, Pacific Fleet, N4, Logistics Readiness Center, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Captain David G. Malone, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as deputy director, Reserve Medical Forces, Pacific, San Diego, California. Malone is currently serving as reserve commanding officer, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command, Camp Pendleton, California.

Captain Joaquin Martinez de Pinillos, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as vice commander, Seventh Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan. Martinez de Pinillos is currently serving as reserve chief of staff, United States Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Captain Mark R. Myers, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as reserve deputy judge advocate general/deputy commander, Naval Legal Service Command, Washington, D.C. Myers is currently serving as staff judge advocate, Navy Reserve, Navy Installations Command Headquarters, Navy Emergency Preparedness Liaison Office, Washington, D.C.

Captain Ingrid M. Rader, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as reserve deputy director for maritime information warfare, United States Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Rader is currently serving as region commander, Navy Information Force Reserve Mid-Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia.

Captain Michael S. Richman, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as deputy commander for

cyber engineering, Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington, D.C. Richman is currently serving as commanding officer, Navy Reserve, Strategic Weapon Engineering Facility, Smyrna, Washington, D.C.

Captain John D. Saccomando, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as reserve deputy director of maritime operations, United States Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Saccomando is currently serving as commanding officer, Navy Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer, Navy Installations Command, Washington, D.C.

Captain Andrew J. Schreiner, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as deputy commander, Naval Special Warfare Command, San Diego, California. Schreiner is currently serving as commanding officer, Navy Reserve, United States Northern Command Headquarters, Fort Carson, Colorado.

Captain Kimberley A. Walz, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as deputy commander, Naval Surface Force, United States Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, Virginia. Walz is currently serving as Navy Reserve commanding officer, United States Naval Forces Europe and Africa/Sixth Fleet, Detachment 802, Naples, Italy.

Coast Guard District 14 Commander Participates in Pacific Island Leaders Panel



Leaders from 14 countries representing the Pacific Islands met in Honolulu, Hawaii to convene Pu'uhonua: The Pacific Way Forward, Sept 12. *U.S. COAST GUARD / Chief Petty Officer Shannon Smith*

HONOLULU – Leaders from 14 countries representing the Pacific Islands met in Honolulu, Hawaii to convene Pu'uhonua: The Pacific Way Forward, the 12th Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders, Sept. 12, the Coast Guard 14th District said in a release.

The Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders is a multi-day leadership conference that strengthens and promotes interagency and multi-national cooperation within the Indo-Pacific region. This conference is a key opportunity for Pacific Island leaders to partner together and address pressing challenges, including economic and environmental resilience, water and food security, health security, maritime domain awareness, and strengthening democratic institutions and good governance.

Leaders representing the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam,

Tonga, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, French Polynesia, Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands, Fiji and the United States, gathered together to corroborate ongoing engagements in the Pacific Islands and build vital connections within and beyond the Indo-Pacific region.

U.S. Coast Guard District 14 Rear Adm. Michael Day provided key insight on the vital relationships the Coast Guard holds with partner nations and the crucial role the Coast Guard provides its Indo-Pacific allies. This cooperation promotes the 11 bilateral ship-rider agreements with Pacific Island Countries in addition to the Coast Guard's more traditional missions such as maritime law enforcement, safeguarding navigation, life, and property, and humanitarian aid. These ship-rider agreements ensure resource security and maritime sovereignty within the Indo-Pacific.

"Listening to the leaders at this conference reminded me of the important role the Coast Guard can play in supporting a rules based order in the Pacific," said Day. "When done the pacific way, governance in this region will continue to dissuade malign actors and encourage a care for our shared resources."

U.S. Coast Guard District 14 Operation Blue Pacific is one example of the U.S. commitment to advancing a peaceful and sovereign Indo-Pacific. Through Operation Blue Pacific, the Coast Guard has strengthened its relationships with Pacific Island Countries by supporting governments that may be threatened or weakened by powers that challenge rules-based international order through inter-state aggression, economic coercion, maritime hybrid warfare, gray zone activities, and overreaching territorial claims.

The Coast Guard collaborates with its Indo-Pacific partners with patrols that enforce their laws to protect fisheries and other natural resources within their EEZs, combat illegal

fishing and other maritime threats to the Pacific, and perform search and rescue and humanitarian assistance.

Cold War Era Emissions Control Could Protect Navy Assets from Cyber Attacks, Expert Says



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Ignatius (DDG 117) sails through the Baltic Sea, Sept. 4. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aaron Lau*
ARLINGTON, Va. – A rediscovered Cold War practice and the U.S. Navy's unique command and control culture could protect the service's assets from cyberattack, according to a U.S. Naval

Academy cybersecurity expert.

While most information systems across the Defense Department tend to be similar, “the Navy has a different command and control culture,” Martin Libicki, holder of the academy’s Keyser Chair of Cybersecurity Studies, told a live-streamed panel discussion at Annapolis on Cyber Disruption and Disinformation Sept. 29.

Historically, the Navy has put a premium on independent action, “and one of the things navies do to protect themselves against sophisticated adversaries is not communicate. It’s called emissions control. We used to do it a lot in the Cold War, then we forgot it,” he said.

“Now we’re relearning it and that tends to isolate certain Navy assets from the rest of the world. The more you isolate them, the harder it is to carry out cyber operations against them,” noted Libicki, who researches cyberwar and the general impact of information technology on domestic and national security.

The discussion, presented by the U.S. Naval Institute, focused largely on Russia’s use of cyberattacks and disinformation before, as well as since it began its illegal invasion of Ukraine in February.

Bilyana Lilly, geopolitical risk lead at the Krebs Stamos Group and previously a cyber expert at Deloitte and the RAND Corp., noted that Russians hacked the Facebook accounts of Ukrainian military leaders to send messages urging their troops to surrender. “The Russians are trying to erode the Ukrainians’ will to fight,” she said.

Lilly also stressed the importance for the United States as well as Ukraine to practice cyber civil defense: Training the population to recognize disinformation and be aware that they could be a target. The Russian government has a military doctrine that stipulates “every single one of us is a target.

I think that message has to be made very clear," she said.

Navy Awards Advance Acquisition for Low-Rate Initial Production of MQ-25



A Boeing unmanned MQ-25 aircraft is given operating directions on the flight deck aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Hillary Becke*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Navy has awarded Boeing a contract for advanced acquisition of the MQ-25A Stingray aerial refueling unmanned aerial vehicle.

The Naval Air Systems Command awarded Boeing a \$47.5 million "firm-fixed-price advance acquisition contract for the production and delivery of MQ-25 Stingray low-rate initial production lot 1 for the U.S. Navy," a Sept. 28 Defense Department contract announcement said.

Boeing was selected Aug. 30, 2018, for the design, development, fabrication, testing, delivery and support of four MQ-25As, followed in April 2020 with an order for three more, according to the Navy's program office. The MQ-25 test asset, known as T1, made its first flight Sept. 19, 2019. In summer 2021, the MQ-25 T1 test asset successfully refueled three different carrier-based aircraft: F/A-18F, F-35C and E-2D aircraft in 2021. The Unmanned Carrier Aviation Demonstration was conducted in December 2021 on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). This event marked the first time the MQ-25 T1 test asset was tested aboard an aircraft carrier.

The MQ-25 will leverage existing line-of-sight and beyond-line-of-sight communications links and interface with existing ship- and land-based command and control systems. MQ-25 will be an integral part of the future carrier air wing, increasing the mission effectiveness range with its enhanced refueling capabilities and increasing the number of F/A-18E/Fs available for the strike fighter mission by relieving them of the tanking role. The MQ-25 will also pioneer manned-unmanned teaming and pave the way for future unmanned systems to pace emerging threats.

The MQ-25 Stingray is designed to deliver a robust aerial refueling capability and secondary intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability that extend the range and operational capability of the carrier air wing and carrier strike group, according to the Navy's program office. The MQ-25 will leverage existing line-of-sight and beyond-line-of-sight communications links and interface with existing ship- and land-based command and control systems.

The MQ-25A is scheduled to achieve initial operational capability in 2025. It is anticipated that 72 air vehicles will be procured.

Work under this contract is expected to be completed in September 2026.