U.S. 4th Fleet and Partner Nations Will Unite for Exercise Unitas



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) fires its 5-inch gun as part of a gunnery exercise with partnering navies during Unitas LX, an exercise that took place from June 24-July 3. U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Justin R. Pacheco

MAYPORT, Fla. – Chile will host maritime forces from 12 countries to participate in exercise Unitas LX (60) Pacific from June 24-July 3, the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command-U.S. 4th Fleet said in a July 1 release.

Joining the U.S. and Chile this year are 11 countries including Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Germany, Honduras, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

This year's exercise will include 10 warships that will conduct maritime maneuvering operations in the Pacific Ocean through July 2.

U.S. forces participating in Unitas this year are USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112), Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2, Patrol Squadron (VP) 4, Destroyer Squadron 40 and U.S. 4th Fleet. While participating in the exercise, U.S. forces will be under the operational control of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet, Rear Adm. Donald Gabrielson.

Unitas, Latin for 'unity,' is the world's longest running multinational maritime exercise. Conceived in 1959 and first

executed in 1960, Unitas is a demonstration of U.S. commitment to the region and the strong relationships forged between partner nations and their militaries. In addition to the Pacific phase of Unitas LX, there will be Atlantic and amphibious phases hosted by Brazil in August.

Unitas will focus on strengthening existing regional partnerships and encouraging the establishment of new relationships through the exchange of maritime mission-focused knowledge and expertise during the exercise. The exercise develops and tests participating navies’ capabilities to respond to a wide variety of maritime missions as a unified force.

U.S. Naval
Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet is responsible for U.S. Naval forces in
the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility, including the Caribbean,
Central and South America.