U.S., Indian Navies Practice Submarine Hunting in Indian Ocean



190415-N-GC637-1030
INDIAN OCEAN (April 15, 2019) An Indian navy P8I Poseidon aircraft conducts a low altitude fly-by alongside the guided-missile destroyer USS Spruance (DDG 111) during a bilateral anti-submarine warfare exercise with the Indian navy in the Indian Ocean, April 15, 2019. Spruance is deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Ryan D. McLearnon/Released)
DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory (NNS) – P-8 aircraft from the U.S. and Indian navies conducted cooperative activities in the Indian Ocean on April 15, the U.S. 7th Fleet said in a release.

The U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyer USS Spruance (DDG-111) also joined the drills, which focused on anti-submarine warfare training, information sharing and coordination between maritime patrol aircraft and ships.

“The U.S. Navy is committed to engaging with regional partners in establishing common practices and developing mutual capabilities. Spruance is proud to exercise alongside the Indian navy,” said Cmdr. Matthew Smidt, commanding officer of Spruance. “We were greatly impressed by the professionalism and competency of their MPRA. The exercise was a wonderful experience and opportunity from which we learned and honed our skills.”

Spruance, based in San Diego, and P-8A aircraft from Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 “Fighting Tigers,” based in Jacksonville, Florida, are conducting routine operations in 7th Fleet. The

Indian Navy P-8I aircraft is with Naval Air Squadron 312 based at Indian Naval Station Rajali.”Flying ASW (anti-submarine warfare) in the 7th Fleet AOR (area of operations) is a team event, and we eagerly seize every opportunity to work with our allies and partners,” said Lt. James Lowe, pilot with VP-8. “Our goal is to further standardize our procedures so we can work more efficiently in future real-world operations. I think, in the end, we are fortunate to be able to operate out of beautiful Diego Garcia and learn about our Indian counterparts as well!”

U.S. Navy ships and aircraft train routinely with the Indian navy between annual port visits and exercises like Malabar. These events reaffirm a shared commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

“We look forward to developing useful lessons through this engagement and laying the groundwork for future integration efforts between our Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Forces,” said Cmdr. Zachary Stang, VP-8 commanding officer.

U.S. 7th Fleet provides security alongside allies and partners throughout a free and open Indo-Pacific. As the U.S. Navy’s largest forward-deployed fleet, 7th Fleet operates roughly about 50-70 ships and submarines, and 140 aircraft with approximately 20,000 Sailors.