USS Theodore Roosevelt Hosts International Helicopter Exchange



U.S. Navy Cmdr. Carlos Oroza, assigned to the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), right, speaks to a sailor from the Royal New Zealand Navy during an international helicopter experience exchange event on the flight deck of Theodore Roosevelt during Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2026, June 27, 2026. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Aaron Haro Gonzalez)

The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt hosted more than 45 international partners from eight countries during an international helicopter warfighter exchange at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, June 27, 2029, as part of Exercise Rim of the Pacific.

During the visit, military pilots from the U.S., South Korea,

Italy, Peru, Chile, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and Mexico compared procedures, discussed aviation challenges and strengthened relationships. The event was designed to build trust, improve communication and support cooperation among the different countries.

“We’re privileged to host the international helicopter exchange aboard the Theodore Roosevelt,” said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Andrew Poulin, USS Theodore Roosevelt strike operations officer. “It’s a great opportunity to showcase naval aviation and work with our partners from different countries.”

Sailors assigned to the Roosevelt highlighted flight deck procedures, launch and recovery operations and the coordination required to operate aircraft safely, while visiting sailors observed how U.S. embarked aviation units work in unison.

“It’s been a great experience for helicopter pilots to exchange ideas, share flight experiences, learn about different cultures and get to know more people,” said Peruvian Navy Cmdr. Antonio Gonzáles.

During the exchange, visiting sailors were taken to the hangar bay, flight deck and navigation spaces. The locations on the tour route all play a role in flight operations aboard the Theodore Roosevelt.

“We’re grateful for the opportunity to participate in exercises like this, which allow us to improve our tactical skills and build relationships with other navies,” said Mexican Navy Lt. j.g. Francisco Valencia.

The Roosevelt is participating in Rimpac to enhance readiness, strengthen partnerships and support regional security across the Indo-Pacific region. Thirty nations, over 30 surface ships, five submarines, 15 national land forces, more than 206 aircraft and 30,000 personnel are participating in the exercise taking place in and around the Hawaiian Islands from

June 24-July 31.

The world’s largest international maritime exercise, Rimpac provides a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships among participants critical to ensuring safety of sea lanes and security on the world’s oceans. This year’s exercise is the 30th iteration in the series that began in 1971.