



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



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## U.S. 7th Fleet - Contributing to Global Operations

*"Every day, both forward-deployed and rotational naval forces execute the Maritime Strategy in relevant and credible ways. With 35 countries, 7th Fleet is the largest and most diverse area of operation in the world. Each day, I am impressed by the professionalism that our Sailors and Marines show in warfighting readiness and as individual ambassadors practicing person-to-person diplomacy at its finest; the quality of our people is our ultimate asymmetrical advantage in meeting all missions assigned."*

– Vice Adm. Scott H. Swift, Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet

[U.S. 7th Fleet's](#) (C7F) area of operations (AOO) is the largest of the numbered fleets, including: more than 48 million square miles of the Pacific and Indian Oceans to include critical sea lines of communication; more than 50% of the world's population; five of the world's largest armed forces and two of the three largest economies. C7F has been permanently and consistently forward deployed since its founding in 1943. Operating with our allies, [partners](#) and [friends](#), we have been supporting U.S. national interests, upholding key alliances and expanding regional maritime partnerships ever since.

### Warfighting First

- On any given day, there are 70-90 ships, 200-300 aircraft and 40-50,000 Sailors and Marines in C7F.
- C7F welcomed amphibious assault ship [USS Bonhomme Richard \(LHD 6\)](#) and Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 141, adding capability and capacity to C7F forces.

### Operate Forward

- As host of the only permanently embarked fleet staff in the U.S. Navy, [USS Blue Ridge \(LCC 19\)](#) provides the platform for the U.S. 7th Fleet commander and staff to command and control the fleet, fostering military-to-military relationships through forward presence across the region.
- In addition to U.S.-based aircraft carriers and expeditionary strike groups conducting rotational deployments to the region, there are 23 ships and submarines forward deployed to U.S. facilities throughout U.S. 7th Fleet, to include the Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier, [USS George Washington \(CVN 73\)](#).

### Be Ready

- C7F units participate in more than 125 bilateral and multilateral exercises comprising more than 1,780 unit exercise days per year of engagement.
- C7F includes forces forward deployed to Japan and Guam.
- [Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training](#) (CARAT), in its 18th year, is a series of annual bilateral exercises between the U.S. Navy, its sister services and the maritime forces of nine Southeast Asian countries.

### Key Messages

- We are confident of our skill in naval warfare and of our ability to prevail in any conflict.
- Our alliances are the solemn promises of our nation. We are ready to honor those commitments.
- We translate security into stability by effectively employing our Sailors, Marines, and assets by anticipating potential threats, managing risk and positioning them for success.

### Facts & Figures

- U.S. 7th Fleet's AOO includes 35 maritime countries and the world's five largest foreign armed forces.
- More than 50% of the world's population, speaking more than 3,000 languages, with diverse religions and cultures, call C7F's region their home.
- Two of the world's three largest economies and 10 of the 14 smallest are all located within C7F's area of operations.