

USS JOHN C. STENNIS PARTICIPATES IN HISTORIC "SUMMER PULSE 04"

USS JOHN C. STENNIS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Beginning June 29, the USS John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group will participate in RIMPAC 2004, a multi-national exercise involving seven countries. This is the second exercise the strike group of six warships will be involved in since deploying from homeports on the West Coast of the United States in late May.

The first exercise was a multi-service exercise conducted in Alaska called Operation Northern Edge 2004.

The John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group (JCSCSG) is one of seven carrier strike groups to deploy as part of the new 'Pulse' Navy this summer.

Summer Pulse 04, which began in early June, is the Navy's first full scale exercise of its new operational construct, the Fleet Response Plan (FRP). The exercise will include scheduled deployments, surge operations, joint and international exercises such as RIMPAC 2004, other advanced training and many port visits.

FRP is about new ways of operating, training, manning and maintaining the fleet resulting in increased force readiness and the ability to provide significant combat power in a crisis situation as well reinforce our relationships and interoperability in five theaters of operations.

Commander, Carrier Group Seven, Rear Admiral Patrick Walsh said, "The FRP allows us to provide combatant commanders with ready forces able to respond quickly when needed."

The FRP is designed to allow the Navy to provide up to six carrier strike groups (CSG) to support any contingency world-wide in 30 days. Per the plan, two more CSG's can be ready within three months to reinforce or rotate out the forces that initially deployed. This allows for a continuous presence and the swift ability to respond to a different crisis situations.

Simultaneously deploying this number of CSG's this summer demonstrates the Navy's capability to execute the FRP should a surge of this magnitude be required by real world circumstances. Conducting exercises like Northern Edge and RIMPAC also allow armed forces from the U.S., and throughout the Pacific, to improve operational interoperability, cooperation and the ability to respond to crisis.

"Exercises like RIMPAC enhance regional security while building partnerships with our global neighbors," Walsh said. He continued, explaining that Summer Pulse and the multinational exercise RIMPAC demonstrates the participant's shared resolve for peace and security.

In addition to the John C. Stennis CSG, the other CSG's participating in Summer Pulse 04 are the Kitty Hawk CSG forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan; the Norfolk-based George Washington CSG, the Mayport, Fla.-based John F. Kennedy CSG which deploys overseas this summer; the Norfolk, Va.-based Harry S. Truman CSG which will conduct a scheduled training exercise followed by overseas pulse operations with the Norfolk-based Enterprise CSG; and the Ronald Reagan CSG which is conducting operations as

the ship makes an interfleet transfer from Norfolk, Va. to its Pacific Fleet homeport of San Diego.