

Operation Tomodachi

Disaster relief and humanitarian assistance for Japan after a 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami March 11, 2011.



U.S. Pacific Fleet contribution as of April 5:

Currently, 4 ships, 54 aircraft and 4,295 personnel are in the area of operation. U.S. 7th Fleet forces have delivered over 260 tons of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief supplies to survivors of the tsunami and earthquake in support of Japan Self Defense Force efforts.

Operational Highlights (April 5, JST)

- The residents of Oshima island, a small isolated island off the coast of Kesenuma in the north east of Honshu, today experienced some personal relief in the form of showers due to the efforts of Sailors and Marines from the USS Essex (LHD 2) Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). Portable water heaters and shower facilities arrived from Essex and Marines and Sailors assembled those facilities at a local elementary school.
- A previous concept was to transport the island residents by helicopter to the mainland for shower opportunities, and then transport them back after completion. The portable shower facilities now in operation are more suitable and allow the residents to stay local and assist the Marines and Sailors in the island clean up efforts.
- Other Operation Field Day efforts include the continuation of clean up efforts on the shores of the Uranohama, Yogai and Komagata harbors on the island.
- Yesterday, representatives from CTF 76 port clearance operations, met with representatives of the Japan Coast Guard, JGSDF, and the Mayor of Kesenuma to determine areas of salvage and clearance focus. The channel between Kesenuma and Oshima was chosen as the primary area of concentration as it is the primary waterway that connects the open sea into Kesenuma and Oshima allowing trade ships access to the ports. After this meeting, landing craft utilities (LCUs) and small boats equipped with side scan sonar began scanning the Uranohama harbor bottom to determine locations of obstacles for divers to mark obstacles for salvage operations. The side scan sonar was very successful in determining underwater hazards and obstacles during port clearance operations at the ports of Hachinohe and Miyako.
- USNS Safeguard (T-ARS 50), USS Tortuga (LSD 46), Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 1, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 and Underwater Construction Team 2 postponed efforts at Oshima today due to high seas and winds and will resume operations as soon as conditions clear.
- The USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Carrier Strike Group, which includes the USS Chancellorsville (CG 62), USS Preble (DDG 88), USS Shiloh (CG 67), and USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54) have departed active support of Operation Tomodachi after receiving warm and heartfelt thanks from Japan. Defense Minister Toshimi Kitzawa and other distinguished visitors of Japan's government yesterday in a ceremony offering thanks to the U.S. military and the American people for the support to Japan in the aftermath of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

Supporting Ships

- USS Essex (LHD 2)
- USS Tortuga (LSD 46)
- USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19)
- USNS Safeguard (T-ARS 50)