



Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
RIMPAC 2014 Closing
Aboard USS Ronald Reagan
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN
August 1, 2014
As prepared for delivery

It's an honor to be here with all of you and to have this opportunity to add my words of thanks and congratulations to those of Admiral Floyd and Admiral Hall. I would like to take a moment and personally thank a few of the many leaders who made this exercise so successful, including:

- CTF Commander: U.S. Vice Adm. Kenneth Floyd
- The Vice CTF Commander: Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Rear Adm. Yasuki Nakahata
- Deputy CTF Commander: Royal Australian Navy Rear Adm. Simon Cullen

And our component commanders:

- CFMCC: Royal Canadian Navy Rear Adm. Gilles Couturier
- CFACC: Royal Australian Air Force Air Commodore Chris Westwood
- CFLCC: U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Richard Simcock
- CFSOCC: U.S. Navy Capt. William Stevens
- and our first time ever, Task Force Energy and Environment Commander, Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Also, a big shout out to the entire Third Fleet staff for your tremendous effort. I know it's been a lot of hard work, and it's truly appreciated by all. So thank you.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't thank every Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Airman, Coastguardsman and civilian, from every nation here today, for all of your hard work during this exercise. All of you have much to be proud of. Thank you, too.

You know, it was 43 years ago that three nations sailed together for the very first Rim of the Pacific exercise. They sailed together to enhance military-to-military relationships among nations, they sailed together to improve the interoperability among navies, and they sailed together so that they could successfully respond to crisis in the region. Today we conclude our 24th biennial Rim of the Pacific exercise and they just keep getting bigger and better.

From those humble beginnings so long ago, we welcomed 22 participating nations, and six observer nations, for RIMPAC 2014. This includes several nations from as far away as Europe, like France, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom, each participating, and Denmark, Germany and Italy observing.

All of us sailed together to foster cooperative relationships between our navies, increase transparency between old friends and new friends alike, and to maintain stability and security in the Indo-Asia-Pacific.

Today, as we conclude RIMPAC 2014, let us not forget all that we've accomplished here. We certainly lived up to the motto that was chosen for this exercise: "Capable, adaptive, partners." So let's remember the importance of the relationships that we built and established, and let us remember the hard work, the training and the learning we have done, together.

As we sail into the future let us continue to build upon this success as we work to ensure that trade among nations remains free and secure, that the use of marine resources by any nation is done according to the rule of law; that when the need arises, we appropriately respond to crisis, and that we always work to resolve disputes and disagreements through dialog, peacefully and fairly.

Nations from all around the Rim of the Pacific came together in the middle, to sail as one in the heart of the Pacific. Mark Twain once described Hawaii as "the loveliest fleet of islands that lies anchored in any ocean." So let us always remember how we came together here, so that we could work together in peace, and in friendship.

I wish each of you fair winds, following seas and a safe voyage home. I thank each of you for your participation, for your professionalism and your commitment.

Thank you and aloha 'oe – until we meet again.