



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



June 25, 2009

Pacific Partnership 2009

"There are many non-governmental organizations and partner nations that contribute to the Pacific Partnership effort and we will work with them and do our best to get as much aid into the region as we can."
– Adm. Robert. F. Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Pacific Partnership 2009 starts June 30, when the 110-person mission team aboard USNS Richard E. Byrd (T-AKE 4) arrives in Samoa. Pacific Partnership is the dedicated, annual humanitarian and civic assistance mission conducted with and through partner nations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other U.S. and international government agencies in support of the Global Maritime Partnerships concept, which promotes cooperative maritime safety, security, and stability. Pacific Partnership 2009 will visit five countries in Oceania – Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga.

Strengthens regional alliances and builds capacity to respond to crisis

- Pacific Partnership provides valuable opportunities to learn from mission partners. This experience helps ensure the U.S. military is able to rapidly respond in support of emergency relief efforts in the future by increasing our ability to work with other nations and NGOs.
- At the end of the Pacific Partnership 2009 mission, not only will the U.S. have supported host nation programs, but alliances will be strengthened, as will the ability for the military and NGOs to work together for common purpose.
- Pacific Partnership supports ongoing NGO operations in the region and enhances U.S. capacity, and that of our partners, to provide foreign humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Partnering with host nations

- In partnership with the host nations, Pacific Partnership 2009 is conducting various medical, dental, veterinary and engineering civic action programs providing focused humanitarian civic assistance ashore.
- Host nation governments identified medical, dental, veterinary and engineering civic action programs designed to assist local communities with a wide range of services to support and enhance host nation governments' crisis response capabilities and public health capacity.
- Pacific Partnership coordinates with host nation governments to determine their priorities, as well as the availability and capability of port and anchorage facilities.

Key Messages	Facts & Figures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Partnership supports the Global Maritime Partnerships concept by enhancing relationships with and between regional partners in the Pacific region. • Pacific Partnership is designed to strengthen regional partnerships, build partner capacity, and improve multi-national interoperability. • Pacific Partnership allows us to prepare in times of calm to respond to crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the fourth Pacific Partnership mission. Pacific Partnership deployed to the Western Pacific on USNS Mercy 2006 and 2008 and on USS Peleliu in 2007. • Pacific Partnership 2009 will visit five countries in Oceania – Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga. • This year's mission includes 12 partner nations and nine non-governmental organizations.