



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



March 18, 2011

Japan Disaster Response

"The Japanese people are not alone in this time of great trial and sorrow... Disasters like this remind us of the common humanity we share... In the coming days we will continue to do everything we can to ensure the safety of American citizens... And will stand with the people of Japan as they contain this crisis, recover from this hardship and rebuild their great nation."

– President Barack Obama

In response to the magnitude-8.9 earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck Japan March 11, the President of the United States has called for a swift and coordinated response. [The U.S. Navy](#) has mobilized resources in anticipation of requirements to support the relief efforts. Humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HA/DR) is a core capability of U.S. maritime forces. In times of crisis, human suffering is mitigated by interagency and multinational efforts that build on established relationships.

Mobilizing Flexible and Ready Forces

- [Naval assets](#) continue to position themselves to provide a range of options to support the Japan Self-Defense Force, which is leading the disaster relief efforts. [U.S. 7th Fleet](#) remains committed with 12,750 personnel, 20 ships and 140 aircraft participating in Operation Tomodachi.
- The [Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group](#) (CSG), to include the cruiser USS Chancellorsville (CG 62), the destroyer [USS Preble \(DDG 88\)](#) and the combat support ship USNS Bridge (T-AOE 10), along with the guided-missile destroyers [USS Fitzgerald \(DDG 62\)](#), [USS John S. McCain \(DDG 56\)](#), USS McCampbell (DDG 85), [USS Mustin \(DDG 89\)](#) and USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54), continue HA/DR operations off the east coast of Iwate Prefecture, Japan.
- [USS Essex \(LHD 2\)](#), USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) and [USS Germantown \(LSD 42\)](#), with the embarked [31st Marine Expeditionary Unit](#), are currently in the Sea of Japan.
- [USS Tortuga \(LSD 46\)](#) transported 93 vehicles and 273 Japan Ground Self-Defense Force troops and equipment from Hokkaido to Honshu, Japan, and its helicopters delivered 13 tons of humanitarian aid cargo 80 miles south of [Misawa](#).
- [P-3 Orion aircraft](#) from Patrol Squadron 4 flying out of Misawa, Japan, are conducting aerial survey missions.

Ensuring the Safety and Security of American Sailors and Citizens in Japan.

- [The Secretary of Defense](#) issued a memorandum authorizing DoD-eligible family members located on the Island of Honshu, Japan, to [voluntarily depart](#) to a designated safe haven in the United States.
- U.S. Forces Japan is in close contact with all DoD units to ensure the necessary preparations are in place to protect U.S. military members and their families in Japan in the event of a nuclear incident.
- [NAVADMIN 084/11](#), released March 17, announced the [stop movement order](#) for permanent change of station and temporary duty for all Navy personnel and dependents to Japan, effective immediately.

Key Messages

- America's Navy is committed to Operation Tomodachi and supporting our longtime ally. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief is a core competency of the Maritime Strategy.
- U.S. Pacific Fleet remains committed to its regional responsibilities and is positioned to execute any and all operations required.
- The safety and security of our Sailors, civilians and family members remain a top priority.

Facts & Figures

- As of 18 March, U.S. 7th Fleet forces have delivered a total of 81 tons of relief supplies.
- [Navy helicopters](#) have delivered 28 tons of food, water, clothes, medicine, toiletries, baby supplies and kerosene to 15 relief sites in Japan.
- Sailors and families with questions on personnel matters related to the disaster in Japan should visit the [Commander Navy Personnel website](#) or call the Navy Emergency Coordination Center at 1-877-414-5358.