

# CNO Greets Commander in Chief of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy

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by Patrick Gordon NDW Waterline writer

U.S. Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert greeted Chinese Adm. Wu Shengli, the commander in chief of the People's Liberation Army Navy of the People's Republic of China in a full honors ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard Sept. 12.

The visit is Wu's first trip back to the U.S. since 2007. Greenert and Wu were touring Navy and Marine Corps installations to support the goals of both military leaders, to establish clear paths of communication, encourage transparency and trust, mitigate risks, and focus multilateral cooperative efforts to address common regional and global security challenges.



U.S. Navy Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Jonathan Greenert and China's, Commander, People's Liberation Army Navy, Adm. Wu Shengli get together for a group photo with students of the Maryland Howard County Chinese Elementary School. Greenert and Wu participated on a full honors ceremony held at the Washington Navy Yard. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Pedro A. Rodriguez)

During the ceremony, Sailors of the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard and Marines of Marine Barracks 8th and I performed a pass and review to accompaniment by the U.S. Navy Band prior to Greenert's remarks.

"Admiral Wu is the head of a great and a growing Navy," said Greenert. "They are actively modernizing, and the relationship between our navies is increasing as well. The purpose of his visit here this week has been to continue our military-to-military relations, and evolve and mature our relationship, looking for great opportunities to share common interests and move ahead in our cooperation."

Greenert added that the Chinese navy has been increasingly involved in a number of operations with the U.S. Navy including counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden, and humanitarian missions aboard the Chinese hospital ship, Good Ark.

The CNO concluded the ceremony by congratulating Wu on these efforts and the continued partnership of the two navies in the future.

"I look forward to our future engagements, and I look forward to the success of RIMPAC [Rim of the Pacific] 2014, because now that the Chinese Navy will be joining us, we have a full rim for the RIMPAC exercise," said Greenert.

RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime exercise, and is held every two years. The exercise will include more than 20 nations in 2014. The addition of China to RIMPAC 2014 is a recent development in the growing relationship between the U.S. and China. China's participation in the exercise was announced in June amid talks between President Barack Obama and Chinese president Xi Jinping, and is expected to build upon the cooperation of the two countries' navies.

After the ceremony, Greenert and Wu met with local and foreign media to discuss the continued partnership between the Chinese and U.S. navies. The two admirals then met with a group of students from the Howard County Chinese School, a non-profit school in Howard County, Md. The students presented Wu with a framed painting created by the students in appreciation to Wu for his visit and his efforts in building partnerships around the world.

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