Multiservice office to advance air-sea battle concept

From Air-Sea Battle Office Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – The Department of Defense announced Nov. 9 the creation of a new office to integrate air and naval combat capabilities in support of emerging national security requirements.

In the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review, former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates directed the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps to develop a comprehensive concept to counter emerging anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) challenges.

The services collaborated to develop the Air-Sea Battle (ASB) concept. On Aug. 12, 2011, Navy Adm. Jonathan Greenert, Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford, and Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove established the Air-Sea Battle Office (ASBO), creating a framework to implement the ASB concept.

The ASB concept will guide the services as they work together to maintain a continued U.S. advantage against the global proliferation of advanced military technologies and A2/AD capabilities.

Air-Sea Battle will leverage military and technological capabilities that reflect unprecedented Navy, Marine and Air Force collaboration, cooperation, integration, and resource investments.

The ASBO will oversee the concept implementation by facilitating coordination among the services, influencing service wargames, fostering development and integration of air and naval capabilities, and collaborating with the joint forces. The Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps will each dedicate a minimum of two field grade officers or civil service equivalents to the ASBO.

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Official U.S. Navy file photo

Implementation of the ASB concept by the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps will foster positive change in the institutional relationships among the services, the integration of acquisition strategies, and the conceptual approach to warfare.

The ASB concept is a natural and deliberate evolution of U.S. warfighting to counter emerging A2/AD threats that include conventional ballistic missiles, long-range precision cruise missiles, advanced integrated air and missile defense systems, electronic and cyber warfare capabilities, submarines, surface combatants, and modern combat aircraft.

Air-Sea Battle will enable the projection of force in defense of U.S. interests and those of our allies and by sustaining stability and freedom of access throughout the global commons.

JS Kurama joins in U.S. Navy Koa Kai exercise for first time

From Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR – The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) helicopter destroyer *JS Kurama* (DDH 144) will join U.S. Navy ships in exercise Koa Kai 12-1 beginning Nov. 10, marking the first time a JMSDF surface ship will participate in the semi-annual exercise in and around Hawaiian waters.

Koa Kai 12-1 is an integrated maritime exercise to prepare independent deployers in multiple warfare areas, while also providing training in a multi-ship environment.

Units participating in Koa Kai will conduct integrated flight operations, anti-surface and anti-submarine training, and dynamic ship maneuvers.

"We exercise across multiple warfare disciplines to ensure our ships are ready to meet operational requirements when they deploy," said Capt. Dave Welch, commander of Destroyer Squadron 31 (CDS 31). "Koa Kai is our primary integrated training event in the Middle Pacific to achieve deployment readiness and to complete integrated training objectives.

"We're extremely pleased that our partners in the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force have joined us for this version of Koa Kai. Their participation will add great value and depth to the exercise," he added.

Kurama joins the guided-missile destroyers *USS O'Kane* (DDG 77) and *USS Chafee* (DDG 90); frigate *USS Crommelin* (FFG 37); and underway replenishment ship *USNS Washington Chambers* (T-AKE 11).

The surface ships of CDS 31 are joined by assets from Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Helicopter Squadron Light 37, Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2, and the Royal Canadian Air Force 407 Long Range Patrol Squadron.

Hawaii-based surface combatants regularly deploy to the Asia Pacific region and often train with international partners while on deployment. Koa Kai demonstrates the Pacific Fleet commitment to forward readiness, and prepares Middle Pacific ships to meet current and future challenges.

JMSDF ship JS Kurama (DDH 144) at sea.

Official U.S. Navy file photo

GW Sailors interact with Ning Po College students

By MC3 Marcus D. Mince, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

HONG KONG – More than 20 Sailors and command-sponsored sports team members from the Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) visited Ning Po College during a port visit to Hong Kong Nov. 11.

The Sailors shared the opportunity to interact with young adults 14 to 18 years of age by volunteering one day of their five day port visit in Hong Kong for a community service project (COMSERV).

Upon arrival, Sailors were greeted by the Ning Po College students and the Sunshine Action volunteers who assisted in organizing the event.

"It's a great way for these students to interact with native English speakers," said Susanna Auyeung, a full-time volunteer for Sunshine Action. "It helps to build an established sense of self-confidence in their ability to speak proper English."

George Washington Sailors played sports, games and even gave a few drum lessons to the students, followed by an opportunity to speak one-on-one on how to deal with hardship and failure.

"The COMSERVs that we do allow everyone from the ship to give of themselves and they are very unique opportunities for all of us to share our experiences and what we've learned throughout our careers in the military," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuel) 1st Class Paul Hryhorenko, the COMSERV leader for the event.

The trip to Ning Po College was one of 14 COMSERVs *George Washington* Sailors had the opportunity to participate in during the port visit to Hong Kong.

Both the male and female soccer teams, the male and female basketball teams, and the ships rugby team were represented by volunteers for this COMSERV project.