# 7th Fleet expands partnership with Indonesian navy

**By U.S. 7th Fleet Public Affairs**

JAKARTA, Indonesia - Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet said June 17 the U.S. Navy will expand its "strong and growing" friendship with the Indonesian Navy.

Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, commander, U.S. 7th Fleet, made the comments to about 100 students at the Indonesian Navy's staff college in Jakarta.

His remarks came on the heels of a meeting with Indonesian Navy Chief of Staff Adm. Soeparno Djasmin. The two met June 16, to discuss areas of mutual concern, including piracy, maritime security, and territorial disputes around the region.

It was their first meeting since Van Buskirk took command of the 7th Fleet in September 2010.

Van Buskirk said the annual exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, (CARAT), which concluded in Indonesia earlier this month, would continue to be the centerpiece of United States-Indonesia navy-to-navy engagement, but the two sides would seek to "grow CARAT in scope and depth in the future, while looking for new opportunities outside of CARAT to work together."

More than 1,500 U.S. Navy and Marine Corps personnel participated in CARAT Indonesia, to include the ships *USS Howard* (DDG 83), *USS Reuben James* (FFG 57) and *USS Tortuga* (LSD 46).

The exercise featured joint medical, dental and civic action projects ashore, as well as at-sea events including maritime interdiction, formation steaming, gunnery exercises, and anti-piracy drills.

"Our partnership at the navy-to-navy level is growing," Van Buskirk said. "I believe that is a very good thing."

Van Buskirk cited several recent examples of engagements between the two navies outside of CARAT, including a visit by *USS Reuben James* to Jakarta in February that featured combined seminars on anti-submarine warfare and surface warfare; a visit by *USS Germantown* (LSD 42) to Surabaya in March that included an amphibious warfare symposium; and combined mine countermeasures exercises with *USS Guardian* (MCM 5) in May.

Van Buskirk said the United States and Indonesia have common maritime interests including freedom of navigation, which is important to keeping the oceans safe for commerce and the development of resources.

"The [United States] and Indonesia have much in common," Van Buskirk said.

**Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet, Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk speaks with Indonesian Navy Chief of Staff Adm. Soeparno. The two met at Indonesian Navy headquarters to discuss US-Indonesian maritime cooperation June 16.**
**U.S. Navy photo by Cmdr. Jeff Davis**

"We are both democracies; we both have a free and independent press; we both have multicultural and multi-ethnic societies; we have both been the victims of terrorism and we both rely on the seas for our livelihood."

# Navy initiatives focus on work-life balance for Sailors

**Story and photo by**
**MCC(SW/AW) W. Scott Mishley,**
**Chief of Naval Personnel - Diversity Directorate**
**Public Affairs**

NEW YORK (NNS) -- The chief of naval personnel visited New York City June 13 to participate in a panel discussion at the Families and Work Institute's annual Work Life Legacy Award Dinner.

Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson discussed various aspects of life-work initiatives in the Navy and the various roles women have in today's force at the event, which was attended by more 200 corporate and non-profit leaders and human resource professionals.

Ferguson said a key aspect of the Navy's life-work integration efforts involves providing workforce options that assist in the retention of the Navy's top talent.

"Our social contract with our people is more important than the financial one," said Ferguson. "We need to continue to weave both professional development and the importance of family needs in developing the careers and lives of all our Sailors to ensure we're retaining our best and brightest."

Ferguson gave examples of how the ever-growing diversity of people in uniform and their varying family needs are also taken into account when planning life-work initiatives.

"We have 30 women ready to command warships in the coming year," Ferguson said. "Single fathers outnumber single mothers in the Navy. To ensure our Sailors are ready to meet the mission, we must have a robust family support program."

The Navy's commitment to providing Sailors access to a balance of home and work life has led to a number of initiatives, including paternity and adoptive leave, a one year deferment of sea duty for new mothers, the Career Intermission Pilot Program and telework programs.

**Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, Chief of Naval Personnel, addresses more than 200 business leaders and human resource professionals while taking part in a panel discussion, June 13, at the 2011 Families and Work Institute's Work-Life Legacy Dinner in New York City.**

In addition to receiving Families and Work Institute's Work Life Legacy Award in 2008, the Navy's initiatives have been recognized nationally with the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility, the Optimas Award for General Excellence from Workforce Management Magazine, the Work-Life Innovative Excellence Award from the Alliance for Work-Life Progress and by the Telework Exchange.

Many of these initiatives are of great interest to a specific segment of the workforce that is rapidly growing in both size and influence. Commonly referred to as "Millennials," members of this generation are described as "digital natives" having known and grown up with cell phones, computers, and the internet for much of their lives.

Incorporating more digital and social media can be more than just a matter of keeping up with the latest technology. And that is not lost on the Navy.

Ferguson said the proper use of social networks like Facebook allow for much quicker information sharing than standard methods of the past.

"Social media is important in the future of communications," Ferguson said before explaining how vital it was during recent storms and flooding at military facilities in Tennessee and family evacuations in Japan.

Details on the Navy's life-work integrations programs can be found at http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/tflw.