



MAKING WAVES

A maritime news brief covering:

- MARITIME SECURITY
- MARITIME FORCES
- SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY
- MARITIME ENVIRONMENT
- GEOPOLITICS

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MARITIME SECURITY

INS SUNAYNA STRENGTHENS MARITIME SECURITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN CMF EXERCISE

INS Sunayna, an Indian Navy vessel, made a significant visit to Seychelles from 10th to 12th July 2023, as it actively participated in Op Southern Readiness 2023, a notable initiative organized by the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). The primary objective of this visit was to strengthen bilateral and multilateral ties while enhancing cooperation among participating nations through CMF Exercises. These Exercises are part of a multinational effort focused on bolstering maritime security and combating piracy, ensuring safety, and promoting freedom of navigation in the region.

Throughout the visit, personnel from various Navies, including the USA, Italy, UK, Seychelles Defence Forces & Marine Police, and member nations of EUNAVFOR, engaged in a wide array of professional interactions, subject matter expert exchanges, and site visits. INS Sunayna played a pivotal role in conducting lectures and practical demonstrations on crucial topics such as Navigation, VBSS (Basic and Advanced training), Maritime Domain Awareness, and mass casualty evacuation drills. The training Exercises onboard were witnessed by a distinguished delegation from CMF, led by Cmde Oliver, the Commander of CTF56 from Bahrain. Beyond the seriousness of maritime operations, a sense of camaraderie and cultural exchange was fostered through a combined yoga session organized onboard. This session witnessed enthusiastic participation from personnel representing Seychelles Defence Forces and CMF, alongside the ship's dedicated crew.

The visit of INS Sunayna to Seychelles and its active involvement in Op Southern Readiness 2023 exemplify the commitment of participating nations to regional maritime security and collaboration. Through such Exercises and interactions, the collective efforts aim to create a safer and more secure maritime environment, fostering lasting partnerships and camaraderie among navies in the region.

Source: [Here](#) 14 July 2023

INDONESIA SEIZES IRANIAN TANKER FOR SUSPECTED ILLEGAL OIL TRANSFER IN ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS

Indonesian authorities announced the seizure of an Iranian tanker, the MT Arman 114, on suspicion of conducting an illegal oil transfer within Indonesia's exclusive economic zone. The tanker was found to be transferring 2.3 million barrels of crude oil worth \$305 million to the Cameroon-flagged MT S Tinos near Natuna waters. The incident occurred after Indonesian coast guard vessels detected suspicious activities at dawn, prompting them to approach the tankers. To evade capture, the Iranian tanker fled towards Malaysian territorial waters, causing oil spillage as the hose connecting the two vessels came loose. Despite multiple signals to stop, including horns, loudspeaker warnings, and warning shots, the tanker ignored all attempts to halt its actions.

Indonesia's decisive action to seize the Iranian tanker and apprehend its crew members demonstrates its commitment to safeguarding its territorial waters and upholding international maritime laws. This incident highlights the importance of maintaining strict controls to prevent illegal activities that could have environmental and economic consequences.

Source: [Here](#) 12 July 2023

CHINESE NAVY IN NIGERIA AMID BASE CONCERNS

During the first week of July, a noteworthy event took place in Nigeria as the Chinese navy made a rare visit, prompting renewed concerns about China's military intentions in the strategically significant Gulf of Guinea. The visit involved three Chinese warships docking in the port of Lagos for a five-day duration, with officials from both Nigeria and China asserting that the purpose was to enhance maritime security in the region, known for its piracy challenges.

However, the visit has also raised suspicions due to China's existing military base in Djibouti on the east coast of Africa. Speculations have long circulated among US officials that China might be planning additional military bases on the continent. When questioned by VOA about the possibility of establishing a second military base in Africa, officials from the Chinese embassies in Nigeria and Washington declined to comment, with the latter stating, "Unfortunately we have nothing to offer on the specific question you mentioned." China's rare visit to Nigeria with three warships has drawn attention to its military engagement in the Gulf of Guinea region. While the stated objective of enhancing maritime security is crucial given the piracy challenges, the visit also raises questions about potential future military expansions in Africa. As the situation develops, regional and international observers will closely monitor China's activities in the area to better understand its strategic intentions.

Source: [Here](#) 06 July 2023

US NAVY SAYS IT PREVENTED IRAN FROM SEIZING TANKERS IN GULF OF OMAN

The US Navy successfully thwarted an attempt by Iran to seize two commercial tankers in the Gulf of Oman on July 05, marking another incident in a series of ship attacks in the area since 2019. At 0100 local time (2100 GMT), an Iranian naval vessel approached the Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker TRF Moss, which was navigating in international waters in the Gulf of Oman. However, the situation changed when the US Navy's guided-missile destroyer USS McFaul swiftly arrived on the scene, prompting the Iranian vessel to depart immediately. To ensure continued surveillance and security, the Navy deployed additional assets, including maritime patrol aircraft. In a separate incident, about three hours later, the US Navy received a distress call from the Bahamas-flagged oil tanker Richmond Voyager.

The prompt response and presence of the US Navy played a crucial role in preventing any further escalation of the situation and safeguarding the freedom of navigation in this strategic maritime region. The US Navy's rapid response and successful intervention highlight its commitment to ensuring the safety and security of commercial vessels in crucial waterways like the Gulf of Oman. These incidents serve as a reminder of the ongoing challenges in the region and underscore the importance of international cooperation in maintaining maritime stability and preventing acts of aggression on the high seas.

Source: [Here](#) 05 July 2023

MARITIME FORCES

9TH PACIFIC AMPHIBIOUS LEADERS’ SYMPOSIUM BOLSTERS INDO-PACIFIC MARITIME COOPERATION

In an essential gathering of regional amphibious and maritime force leaders, Lt. Gen. William Jurney, Commander of US Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, and Maj. Gen. Nur Alamsyah, Indonesian Marine Corps Commandant, co-hosted the 9th Pacific Amphibious Leaders Symposium in Bali, Indonesia, from July 9 to July 14, 2023. PALS, renowned as the premier event of its kind across the Indo-Pacific, brought together participating delegations with a common goal of upholding freedom of the seas and skies in the region. Each delegation plays a pivotal role in safeguarding maritime interests, ensuring security, and fostering stability.

The symposium served as a significant platform for strengthening relationships and collaboration among nations, acting as a cornerstone in building a free and open Indo-Pacific for all. By fostering robust partnerships and mutual understanding, PALS contributes to a shared commitment towards maritime security, enabling cooperation and collective efforts in addressing regional challenges.

Source: [Here](#) 13 July 2023

UNITAS LXIV COMMENCES IN COLOMBIA - STRENGTHENING MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COOPERATION

UNITAS LXIV, the world's longest-running multinational maritime Exercise, commenced on July 11, 2023, in Colombia, with the Colombian Navy serving as the host. US Navy and Marine forces arrived in Cartagena to support the Exercise, which includes the participation of 26 warships/vessels, three submarines, 25 aircraft (fixed wing/helicopter), and approximately 7,000 personnel from 20 partner nations. Throughout the Exercise, training operations will take place both off the coast of Cartagena and ashore in Covenas and Barranquilla, Colombia, spanning until July 21. This notable event marks the 64th iteration of UNITAS, a testament to its enduring significance in promoting maritime security and cooperation among nations.

In addition to UNITAS LXIV, this year holds particular significance for Colombia, as the country celebrates the bicentennial of its Navy. The bicentennial marks a historical milestone commemorating 200 years of the country's maritime forces and underscores Colombia's longstanding commitment to safeguarding its maritime interests.

UNITAS LXIV serves as a platform for enhancing interoperability and strengthening relationships among partner nations in the maritime domain. As the Colombian Navy hosts this prestigious Exercise and commemorates its bicentennial, the event symbolizes the collective efforts of nations to promote regional stability, security, and cooperation in the ever-evolving global maritime landscape.

Source: [Here](#) 12 July 2023

US ALLIED FORCES CONDUCT EXERCISE PACIFIC VANGUARD 2023

In early July, the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF), Republic of Korea (ROK) Navy, and the US Navy jointly participated in the cooperative maritime Exercise Pacific Vanguard (PV) 2023. This Exercise serves as a significant opportunity for the four Indo-Pacific navies to enhance their skills in various critical areas, including maritime operations, anti-submarine warfare operations, air warfare operations, live-fire missile events, and advanced manoeuvring scenarios. Representing Japan in the Exercise is the destroyer JS Shiranui (DD 120) and multiple aircraft. Australia's participation includes Exercise Control (EXCON) personnel, who actively contribute to the watch floor. The Republic of Korea is represented by the guided-missile destroyer ROKS Munmu the Great (DDH 976). The United States is taking part with the guided-missile destroyer USS Howard (DDG 83) and support from aircraft operated by Commander, Task Force 72. Cmdr. Kenji Igawa, commanding officer of USS Howard, emphasized the importance of cooperative engagements with allies during Exercises like Pacific Vanguard in ensuring a strong, effective, and interoperable force.

Pacific Vanguard 2023 showcases the commitment of Indo-Pacific navies to strengthening cooperation, mutual understanding, and readiness in safeguarding regional maritime security. Through joint Exercises and collaboration, these nations strive to foster a secure and stable Indo-Pacific environment, promoting peace and prosperity for all nations in the region.

Source: [Here](#) 08 July 2023

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

WORLD'S LARGEST CRUISE SHIP THAT'S 5 TIMES LARGER THAN THE TITANIC SET TO MAKE ITS DEBUT

The RMS Titanic, once celebrated as the largest ship in the world, met a tragic end in the Atlantic Ocean. However, Royal Caribbean International has now embarked on a groundbreaking venture by creating a "first-of-its-kind" ship that is nearly five times the size of the Titanic and is set to make a grand debut. Named the "Icon of the Seas," this cruise ship is an engineering marvel, measuring an impressive 1,198 feet in length with a massive 250,800 gross tonnage. Designed to accommodate 7,600 guests and 2,350 crew members, the vessel boasts an astounding 20 decks, along with seven pools and a remarkable set of six "record-breaking" waterslides, according to Royal Caribbean.

With its grand proportions and a host of state-of-the-art amenities, the Icon of the Seas represents a new milestone in the world of maritime luxury and passenger experience. The creation of the Icon of the Seas by Royal Caribbean International represents an extraordinary achievement in shipbuilding and maritime engineering. As a "first-of-its-kind" vessel, it surpasses the legacy of the RMS Titanic and sets a new standard for luxury and innovation in the cruise industry. With its impressive size, amenities, and passenger capacity, the Icon of the Seas promises an unforgettable experience for travelers seeking unparalleled grandeur on the high seas.

Source: [Here](#) 12 July 2023

UKRAINIAN GRAIN EXPORT RELIES ON ROMANIA'S CONSTANTA PORT AMIDST BLACK SEA DEAL UNCERTAINTY

The on-off Black Sea grain deal for Ukraine has created uncertainty and disruptions in grain exports, leading to the nearby port of Constanta in Romania becoming a crucial alternative. With volumes expected to double compared to previous record years, the situation is compounded by months of delays and the looming challenge of managing a domestic crop. Ukraine, a major global exporter of grains and oilseeds, faced blockades in its Black Sea ports following Russia's invasion in February 2022. The uncertainty surrounding the deal, with no new ships registered under it since June 26 and no clarity on a further extension, has prompted officials to turn to Romania's Black Sea port of Constanta as a critical transit point.

Constanta has emerged as a lifeline for Ukraine, handling approximately a third of the country's total grain exports, which stood at nearly 49 million tonnes. As the situation unfolds, Romanian port operators have taken on a significant role, shipping 8.6 million tonnes in the previous year and 6.3 million tonnes in the first five months of 2023, according to the Constanta Port authority. Amidst the challenging circumstances created by the conflict and uncertainty surrounding the Black Sea grain deal, the reliance on

Constanta highlights the importance of regional cooperation and alternative trade routes to sustain the crucial grain export industry for Ukraine.

The shifting dynamics in the Black Sea grain trade have underscored the significance of Romania's port of Constanta in providing a crucial alternative for Ukrainian grain exports. As Ukraine faces ongoing challenges due to geopolitical events, the reliance on neighbouring countries and their ports is a testament to the interconnectedness of global trade and the importance of finding viable solutions in times of uncertainty. Regional cooperation and flexibility in adapting to changing circumstances will play a vital role in ensuring the stability and success of the grain export industry in the Black Sea region.

Source: [Here](#) 06 July 2023

ALASKA-BOUND CRUISES REMAIN UNAFFECTED AMIDST STRIKES AT BRITISH COLUMBIA PORTS

Strikes at major ports in British Columbia, initiated by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada (ILWU) after unsuccessful negotiations with the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA), have raised concerns about potential disruptions to cruise operations. However, Alaska-bound cruises, which regularly utilize three major British Columbia ports – Vancouver, Prince Rupert, and Victoria – seem to be sailing smoothly as of now, defying the initial fears of widespread disruptions.

Vancouver, a crucial homeport for numerous vessels, and Prince Rupert and Victoria, popular as port calls, serve as pivotal gateways for the cruise industry in the region. The strikes stem from a dispute over significant issues such as contracting out, port automation, and the high cost of living, impacting around 7,400 port workers.

Despite the labor actions' potential economic consequences, the cruise industry has not experienced immediate disruptions. The ILWU's commitment to servicing cruise ships during the strike provides a sigh of relief to the cruising industry, dispelling initial worries. As the strikes continue at British Columbia ports, the resilience of Alaska-bound cruises has been a positive development for the cruise industry. While the situation remains dynamic and economic impacts may unfold over time, for now, the cruising operations have remained largely unaffected. The ongoing commitment of the ILWU to serve cruise ships during the labor actions has played a crucial role in maintaining the smooth flow of cruise operations. Nonetheless, stakeholders will closely monitor the situation to gauge the potential long-term implications on the cruise industry and the regional economy.

Source: [Here](#) 03 July 2023

DOCKWORKER STRIKE AT CANADA'S BIGGEST PORTS TO FUEL INFLATION

A strike at Pacific coast ports is posing a significant threat to Canada's economy, as it has the potential to disrupt millions of dollars of trade and exacerbate inflationary pressures. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union, representing over 7,000 dockworkers, initiated the strike on Saturday morning following failed negotiations mediated by federal authorities. Maritime hubs in British Columbia, including the Port of Vancouver and Port of Prince Rupert – the country's busiest and third busiest ports, respectively – are at the center of the turmoil. These ports play a crucial role in handling the export of natural resources and the import of raw materials and food products. The dockworkers' insistence on regaining lost purchasing power over the past two years has led to the prolonged strike. The unrest is now adding to wage pressures, creating disruptions in supply chains, and driving up costs for businesses. Consequently, prices for consumers are likely to rise, further fueling inflationary pressures and potentially

hindering efforts to cool down the economy. With these western ports accounting for a quarter of Canada's total traded goods, more than C\$800 million (\$604 million) worth of cargo is moved through them daily.

The impact of the strike is expected to cascade throughout the economy, leading to further economic challenges and affecting various industries. The ongoing strike at Pacific coast ports in Canada has raised concerns over its detrimental effects on the country's economy. With millions of dollars of trade at stake and the potential for inflationary pressures, there is an urgent need for resolution and cooperation between the concerned parties. The disruption to maritime operations and supply chains poses a significant risk to the overall economic stability, requiring swift action to find a mutually beneficial resolution.

Source: [Here](#) 02 July 2023

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

PH SEEKS INCLUSION OF SEAFARERS' CONCERNS IN IMO 'GREEN' SCHEME

The Philippines, represented by the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina), has taken a firm stance in advocating for the acknowledgment and prioritization of seafarers' concerns in the updated International Maritime Organization (IMO) strategy for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from ships. This resolute call to action was passionately voiced during the 80th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC). The session culminated in the adoption of the 2023 IMO Strategy on GHG Reduction from Ships, marking a significant milestone in the global efforts to combat climate change in the maritime sector.

By actively advocating for the inclusion of seafarers' concerns, the Philippines has demonstrated its commitment to safeguarding the rights and welfare of the individuals who play a crucial role in the shipping industry. This recognition emphasizes the importance of addressing both environmental sustainability and the well-being of the workforce that drives this vital sector forward. In conclusion, the Philippines' assertive stance at the MEPC serves as an inspiring example of how countries can champion the interests of seafarers and contribute to a more sustainable and responsible maritime industry. As we collectively work towards a greener future for the shipping sector, it is imperative to remember that meaningful progress must consider the human element alongside environmental considerations.

Source: [Here](#) 12 July 2023

NO EXCUSE' FOR GLOBAL SHIPPING NOT TO CLEAN UP ITS ACT IMO TOLD

In a final, determined effort, Pacific nations have united to implore the United Nations governing body responsible for maritime transportation to take bold action in significantly slashing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The aim is to safeguard climate-vulnerable countries from the devastating impacts of climate change. Representatives from 175 countries, including governments and industry stakeholders, commenced the climate summit of the London-based International Maritime Organisation (IMO) on Monday. Building upon these discussions, they are on the verge of reaching an agreement on a crucial document that outlines the pathway to decarbonize the shipping sector by 2050. Among the prominent voices advocating for change are the Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Kiribati, and Tuvalu. These nations emphatically called on the IMO member states to adopt an ambitious and science-based target, aligned with the temperature goal

of the Paris Agreement, to effectively curtail GHG pollution from the shipping industry. Albon Ishoda, the Marshall Islands' Ambassador to the IMO, left no room for doubt when he stated that global shipping must take responsibility and clean up its act. He stressed that the IMO member states have an obligation to be guided by scientific evidence and assume leadership on this pressing issue.

In conclusion, the urgent and impassioned plea of the Pacific nations at the IMO climate summit underscores the critical need for immediate action to combat climate change in the maritime sector. With climate-vulnerable countries at stake, it is imperative that all nations collaborate and commit to ambitious measures to achieve the necessary decarbonization targets. By joining forces and adhering to the principles of science and responsibility, we can strive towards a more sustainable and resilient future for our planet and its people.

Source: [Here](#) 04 July 2023

GLOBAL SHIPPING POISED TO GET NEW EMISSIONS-FIGHTING STRATEGY

In a powerful video message at the commencement of the latest session of the MPEC, UN Secretary-General António Guterres issued a stark warning about the perilous state of our planet's climate. Humanity finds itself in treacherous waters, and urgent action is required to avert catastrophe. According to scientific findings, there is still a narrow window of opportunity to limit global temperature rise to the critical threshold of 1.5 °C. However, achieving this ambitious goal demands an immense and immediate global effort. The shipping industry, which contributes nearly three per cent of global emissions, must play a pivotal role in this endeavor.

The decisions made during these crucial days hold the potential to steer us towards a safer course. Secretary-General Guterres passionately urged all Committee members to come together and agree on a decisive strategy forward. In conclusion, the fate of our planet lies in the balance, and the time for action is now. Let us join forces, transcend barriers, and work tirelessly to protect the environment and secure a sustainable future for generations to come. Only through collective and determined efforts can we successfully confront the climate crisis and chart a path towards a more resilient and prosperous world.

Source: [Here](#) 03 July 2023

GEOPOLITICS

US, SOUTH KOREA, JAPAN CONDUCT MISSILE DEFENCE DRILL

The United States, South Korea, and Japan conducted a collaborative naval missile defence Exercise aimed at countering the evolving nuclear and missile threats posed by North Korea. The South Korean navy confirmed the joint Exercise, which comes in the wake of recent provocative actions from North Korea. As tensions in the region remain high, the trilateral Exercise serves as a clear demonstration of the commitment of these three countries to maintaining regional security and stability. The Exercise showcases their unified stance in addressing North Korea's continuous development of nuclear and missile capabilities. By conducting this joint Exercise, the US, South Korea, and Japan are sending a strong message to North Korea about their determination to protect their

interests and those of their allies in the face of potential security challenges. Additionally, the Exercise reinforces the close defence cooperation and coordination among the three nations, which is crucial for effectively addressing regional security threats.

In conclusion, the joint naval missile defence Exercise conducted by the US, South Korea, and Japan underscores the importance of collaboration and cooperation among like-minded nations to tackle common security challenges. As North Korea's actions continue to be closely monitored, this joint show of force reflects the resolve of the participating countries to deter any potential threats and maintain peace and stability in the region.

Source: [Here](#) 15 July 2023

FRANCE EYES MORE MARITIME INTERACTIONS IN PH TO PROMOTE PEACE

France has set its sights on bolstering its maritime presence in the Indo-Pacific region, including the Philippines, through the deployment of additional naval assets, most notably the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier in 2025. As a significant Indo-Pacific nation with a population of two million inhabitants in the area, France's commitment to the region reflects its geographical proximity and shared values with the Philippines. With the planned deployment of the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier and other naval assets, France aims to enhance its engagement and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, fortifying its ties with regional partners, including the Philippines. The move underscores France's strategic interest in fostering stability, security, and prosperity in the region, while also reaffirming its commitment to upholding shared principles and values. As France intensifies its maritime interactions in the Indo-Pacific, the Philippines stands to benefit from increased cooperation in areas such as maritime security, disaster response, and economic development. The strengthened partnership between the two nations holds the potential to address regional challenges and leverage collective strengths for the greater benefit of both countries and the broader Indo-Pacific community.

In conclusion, France's proactive approach to expanding its maritime engagements in the Indo-Pacific, particularly with the Philippines, signifies a commitment to building lasting partnerships and contributing to the region's peace and prosperity. Through cooperation and understanding, both nations can forge a path towards a more secure and resilient Indo-Pacific, fostering a dynamic environment for growth and progress.

Source: [Here](#) 14 July 2023

INDO-US NAVAL EXERCISE CONCLUDES

The seventh edition of the Indian Navy-US Navy (IN-USN) Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercises, known as Salvex, has successfully concluded in Kochi. During this joint Exercise, naval forces from both India and the United States collaborated and conducted various salvage and EOD operations, focusing on enhancing interoperability and tactical capabilities. The Exercises encompassed simulated scenarios involving the recovery of naval assets, handling, and neutralization of explosive ordnance, and practicing advanced salvage techniques. Salvex serves as a crucial platform for strengthening the existing ties between the Indian Navy and the US Navy. It allows both forces to exchange best practices, share expertise, and deepen their understanding of each other's operational procedures, thus paving the way for seamless cooperation in real-world contingencies. The successful conclusion of the seventh

edition of Salvex reaffirms

the commitment of both nations to promoting maritime security and regional stability. By working together in such Exercises, India and the United States demonstrate their dedication to fostering a safer and more secure maritime environment in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

Salvex stands as a testament to the collaborative spirit and professionalism of the Indian Navy and the US Navy. Through these joint Exercises, both forces continue to enhance their operational capabilities and build trust, laying the foundation for even stronger defence cooperation in the future.

Source: [Here](#) 07 July 2023

RUSSIAN NAVY SHIPS VISIT CHINA AHEAD OF JOINT DRILLS

Amidst Russia's war in Ukraine, a pair of Russian Navy ships has made a significant visit to China, reaffirming the strong military ties between the two nations. The Cold War-era frigates, Gromkiy and Otlichnyy, gracefully sailed into Shanghai, China's bustling financial hub, and the largest city with a thriving port. This crucial visit spans over seven days, symbolizing the enduring partnership between Russia and China in matters of defence and maritime cooperation. As the global geopolitical landscape evolves, this visit holds strategic importance, signifying the continuing bond between Russia and China. It serves as a demonstration of mutual trust and the commitment of both nations to bolster their military cooperation, despite ongoing global events.

In conclusion, the arrival of the Russian Navy ships in Shanghai not only showcases the strong military alliance between Russia and China but also sends a message to the international community about the strength of their bilateral relationship. As these two nations reaffirm their ties, the world watches closely, as their cooperation can have far-reaching implications for regional and global security dynamics.

Source: [Here](#) 06 July 2023