

COMMANDER, U.S. SEVENTH FLEET



CHANGE OF COMMAND

YOKOSUKA, JAPAN



ONE TEAM!
ONE TEAM!

COMMANDER, UNITED STATES SEVENTH FLEET

VICE ADMIRAL FRED W. KACHER
AND
VICE ADMIRAL PATRICK J. HANNIFIN

WELCOME YOU TO THEIR CHANGE OF COMMAND
YOKOSUKA, JAPAN, NOVEMBER 13, 2025

VICE ADMIRAL HANNIFIN
WILL BE THE 55TH SEVENTH FLEET COMMANDER

Schedule of Events



ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

INVOCATION

VICE ADM. KACHER - WELCOME

VICE ADM. OMACHI - REMARKS

VICE ADM. KACHER - REMARKS

ADM. KOEHLER - REMARKS/AWARD

CHANGE OF COMMAND

VICE ADM. HANNIFIN - REMARKS

BENEDICTION

OFFICIAL PARTY DEPARTS

STAFF AND GUESTS DISMISSED

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW FOR INVITED GUESTS



Vice Adm. Katsushi Omachi

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force

Vice Admiral OMACHI Katsushi is a native of Okayama, Japan. He joined the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) after graduating from National Defense Academy in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering. He is a 1991 graduate of JMSDF Officer Candidate School and also graduated from JMSDF Command and Staff College in 2003 as well

as Royal College of Defence Studies, United Kingdom in 2010.

Trained as a helicopter pilot, his air tour began with Air ASW Helicopter Squadron 122, followed by Air Development Squadron 51. He then served at Air ASW Helicopter Squadron 122 back again, this time as Chief Flight Division. Based on the operational experience, he later commanded Air ASW Helicopter Squadron 22.

Not only is he an experienced flight officer, but has a lot of experience at shore, during which time he has mostly served at Marine Staff Office (MSO). His recent tours at MSO include serving as Director, Plans and Programs Division and Director General, Operations and Plans Department. He also experienced several tours at JMSDF Command and Staff Collage, above all, as Vice President.

Before he reported to Commander, Self Defense Fleet in July 2024, he most recently served as Commander, Maritime Material Command. His other flag assignments include Commander, Fleet Air Wing 22 and Commander, Air Training Command.

His military decorations include various personal and unit awards and ribbons in JMSDF.



Adm. Stephen T. Koehler

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Adm. Steve Koehler grew up in a Navy Family and is a 1986 graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder with a Bachelor of Science in Physics, where he was commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC).

Designated a naval aviator in March 1989, he has flown over 3,900 hours in the F-14 Tomcat and F-18 Super Hornet with 600 carrier landings. He holds a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College and is a graduate of the Joint Staff College and the Navy Nuclear Power Program.

At sea, he served with Fighter Squadron (VF) 211, VF-41; was executive officer aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), and commanded Fighter Squadron (VFA) 143; USS Bataan (LHD 5); USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69); and Carrier Strike Group Nine. During these operational tours he supported Operations Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Inherent Resolve, Freedom's Sentinel, Deliberate Guard, and Unified Protector in support of operations in the Middle East, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Libya, Operation Unified Response providing emergency disaster relief to Haiti, and peer competition operations in the East and South China Seas.

Ashore, Koehler has served as an instructor pilot with VF-101, placeent officer at the Bureau of Naval Personnel, and chief of staff at Joint Task Force Horn of Africa in Djibouti. As a flag officer, he served as director of Fleet Training at U.S. Fleet Forces Command; director for Operations (J3), U.S. Indo-Pacific Command; deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet, and director for Strategy, Plans and Policy, J5, Joint Staff. He assumed command of U.S. Pacific Fleet on April 4, 2024.



Vice Adm. Fred W. Kacher

Commander, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet

Vice Adm. Fred W. Kacher is a native of Oakton, Virginia and graduated with honors from the United States Naval Academy in 1990 with a degree in English. He holds a master's degree in public policy with a concentration in International Relations from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

A career surface warfare officer, Kacher has served primarily on cruisers and destroyers, deploying multiple times as part of both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. At sea, he most recently served as commander of Expeditionary Strike Group 7 forward deployed to the western Pacific, executing four at sea patrols with AMERICA expeditionary strike group. Previously, he served as commodore of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 7 forward deployed to Southeast Asia. Additionally, he served as the first commanding officer of USS STOCKDALE (DDG 106) and executive officer on USS BARRY (DDG 52), which was selected for the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy as the most improved ship in the Atlantic fleet.

Kacher most recently served as the acting superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy. His other flag assignments include vice director for operations on the Joint Staff, assistant deputy Chief of Naval Operations for operations, plans, and strategy, N3/N5B, and executive officer to the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and Commander, U.S. European Command (EUCOM).

Other shore and staff assignments include serving as chief of staff to Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet and as lead speechwriter to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In 2006, he was selected as a White House fellow serving on the homeland security council at the White House.

He assumed duties as commander, U.S. 7th Fleet in February 2024.

Kacher holds various individual and unit awards including multiple Battle Efficiency Awards earned by the crews he was honored to serve alongside. In 2005, Kacher was selected for the Adm. Elmo Zumwalt Award for visionary leadership after being nominated by members of USS BARRY crew, and in 2015 he was named as the recipient of the U.S. Navy League's John Paul Jones Inspirational Leadership Award during his command of DESRON 7. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, he is author of the book, Newly Commissioned Naval Officer's Guide and co-author of the book, Naval Officer's Guide to the Pentagon and the seventh edition of Command at Sea (U.S. Naval Institute Press).



Vice Adm. Patrick J. Hannifin

Prospective Commander, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet

Vice Adm. Pat Hannifin is a native of San Diego, California. He was commissioned in 1991 after earning a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and Master of Arts in International Relations from the University of San Diego. He is also a graduate of the Joint Advanced Warfighting School (JAWS) and the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School.

Operationally, he flew the F/A-18C Hornet with Strike Fighter Squadron 27 (VFA 27) "Royal Maces" and commanded the "Sunliners" of Strike Fighter Squadron 81 (VFA 81). He served as executive officer of USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), and commanding officer of both USS Arlington (LPD 24) and USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76).

Ashore, Hannifin served as legal officer for the "Bandits" of Fighter Squadron 126 (VF 126) and tested F/A-18 A-Fs and T-45s for the Naval Strike Aircraft Test Squadron in Patuxent River, Maryland. He served as the VFA readiness officer for Commander Naval Air Forces Atlantic Fleet, the Joint Force Coordinator (JFC) division chief for the Joint Staff J3, and the Carrier Requirements division chief for OPNAV N98.

As a flag officer, he served as Deputy Director for Political-Military Affairs – Asia, Joint Staff, J5, Washington, D.C. and Commander, Carrier Strike Group FIVE embarked onboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Hannifin most recently served as the USINDOPACOM Director for Operations, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii.

His personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Air Medal and several other personal, unit and campaign awards. He has accumulated over 3000 flight hours in 33 different type aircraft.



TASK FORCE 70

Controls the preponderance of forward deployed air and surface maneuver and striking forces in 7th Fleet to integrate dynamic operations and fires.

TASK FORCE 72

The maritime patrol, reconnaissance and surveillance commander with control of maritime patrol, reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft and specialized RADAR surveillance ships, as assigned.

TASK FORCE 77

The mine warfare commander, exercising control of mine countermeasures ships and aircraft. These units form one of the U.S. Navy's only two continuously forward-deployed mine countermeasures task forces.

TASK FORCE 73

The logistics commander, maintaining control of Commander, Fleet Air Western Pacific and assigned Military Sealift Command ships, as well as Combat Logistics Force ships, Strategic Sealift Ships, Maritime Prepositioning Force ships, Service Support ships, and SMS.

TASK FORCE 76

The U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps integrated littoral warfare commander, maintaining control of all assigned littoral amphibious sea-based and land-based forces.

TASK FORCE 75

The expeditionary warfare commander, maintaining control of 7th Fleet Expeditionary Forces, including an Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit, Coastal Riverine and Seabee units.

TASK FORCE 74

The theater anti-submarine warfare commander, maintaining control of assigned assets to prosecute the undersea domain in support of Fleet objectives and high-value unit defense.





U.S. SEVENTH Fleet

The Indo-Pacific region is of immense and growing importance to the world and U.S. interests. For a century and a half, the U.S. Navy has maintained a presence in the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean to promote peace, regional cooperation, and stability.

U.S. SEVENTH Fleet's Area of Operations encompasses more than 48-million square miles (more than 124-million square kilometers) - from the Kuril Islands in the North to the Antarctic in the South, and from the International Date Line to the 68th meridian East, which runs down from the India-Pakistan border. The area includes 38 maritime countries and the world's five largest foreign armed forces - China, India, North Korea, South Korea and Russia. Five of the seven U.S. Mutual Defense Treaties are with countries in the area - Australia, Japan, South Korea, Philippines, and Thailand.

Our presence in the region is more important than ever. U.S. naval forces help encourage dialogue, promote growth, and ensure the free flow of trade, of which the oceans have significant importance. More than 90 percent of the world's commerce travels by sea, the vast majority of the world's population lives within a few hundred miles of the oceans, and nearly three quarters of the planet is covered by water. Half of the world's population lives within the SEVENTH Fleet Area of Operations.

The Indo-Pacific region is one of the most dynamic areas of our rapidly-changing world. The fleet has to be flexible and responsive to address a range of activities that are particularly important in the region. It can take more than two weeks for a ship to get from San Diego to the eastern boundary of the Area of Responsibility, and a similar amount of time to the western boundary from Norfolk, Virginia. The presence of SEVENTH Fleet's forward-deployed forces facilitates rapid response to natural and manmade crises in the region.

At any given time there are 50-70 ships and submarines, 150 aircraft, and more than 20,000 Sailors in U.S. SEVENTH Fleet. This includes forces operating from bases in Japan and Guam, and rotationally-deployed forces based in the United States. U.S. SEVENTH Fleet is embarked aboard USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19), forward-deployed to Yokosuka, Japan. The flagship commands and controls the Fleet and fosters military-to-military relationships through scheduled port visits and military exercises.

U.S. SEVENTH Fleet units take part in as many as 100 bilateral and multilateral exercises each year. In addition to these exercises, Fleet ships conduct more than 250 port visits every year.

The always-ready presence of U.S. SEVENTH Fleet helps ensure the security and stability of this key region.



USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19)

Named after the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Appalachians of the Eastern United States, USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19) has an illustrious history of service to the Pacific Fleet that includes de-mining operations in North Vietnamese waters in 1973, the evacuation of Saigon in 1975, and a nine-and-one-half-month deployment as flagship for the Commander, United States Naval Forces Central Command during Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM in 1990 and 1991.

Originally designed to serve as a command and communications hub to support large amphibious operations, USS BLUE RIDGE has served since 1979 as the command ship for the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet. It has been continually forward-deployed from Yokosuka, Japan; not once entering American waters, other than Guam, for 31 years. No other ship in U.S. Navy history has remained continually deployed for that long.

Today, this 18,500-ton ship is the most capable command ship ever built; with an extremely sophisticated system of computers, communications equipment, and other electronic facilities that enable the Fleet Commander and staff to remotely conduct operations of U.S. and Allied naval forces around the region. USS BLUE RIDGE is the only ship in the Navy to continually host a Fleet Commander and staff year-round and can serve as flagship for a Commander Joint Task Force (CJTF) when national interests require.





1. Vice Adm. Arthur S. Carpender Feb. 19, 1943 - Nov. 26, 1943
2. Vice Adm. Thomas C. Kinkaid Nov. 26, 1943 - Nov. 19, 1945
3. Vice Adm. Daniel E. Barbey Nov. 19, 1945 - Jan. 8, 1946
4. Adm. Charles M. Cooke Jr. Jan. 8, 1946 - Feb. 24, 1948
5. Vice Adm. Oscar C. Badger Feb. 24, 1948 - Aug. 28, 1949
6. Vice Adm. Russell S. Berkey Aug. 28, 1949 - April 4, 1950
7. Rear Adm. Walter F. Boone April 4, 1950 - May 19, 1950
8. Vice Adm. Arthur D. Struble May 19, 1950 - March 28, 1951
9. Vice Adm. Harold M. Martin March 28, 1951 - March 3, 1952
10. Vice Adm. Robert P. Briscoe March 3, 1952 - May 20, 1952
11. Vice Adm. Joseph J. Clark May 20, 1952 - Dec. 1, 1953
12. Vice Adm. Alfred M. Pride Dec. 1, 1953 - Dec. 19, 1955
13. Vice Adm. Stuart H. Ingersoll Dec. 19, 1955 - Jan. 28, 1957
14. Vice Adm. Wallace M. Beakley Jan. 28, 1957 - Sept. 30, 1958
15. Vice Adm. Frederick N. Kivette Sept. 30, 1958 - March 7, 1960
16. Vice Adm. Charles D. Griffin March 7, 1960 - Oct. 28, 1961
17. Vice Adm. William A. Schoech Oct. 28, 1961 - Oct. 13, 1962
18. Vice Adm. Thomas H. Moorner Oct. 13, 1962 - June 11, 1964
19. Vice Adm. Roy L. Johnson June 11, 1964 - March 1, 1965
20. Vice Adm. Paul P. Blackburn March 1, 1965 - Oct. 7, 1965
21. Rear Adm. Joseph W. Williams, Jr. Oct. 7, 1965 - Dec. 13, 1965
22. Vice Adm. John J. Hyland Dec. 13, 1965 - Nov. 6, 1967
23. Vice Adm. William F. Bringle Nov. 6, 1967 - March 10, 1970
24. Vice Adm. Maurice F. Weisner March 10, 1970 - June 18, 1971
25. Vice Adm. William P. Mack June 18, 1971 - May 23, 1972
26. Vice Adm. James L. Holloway, III May 23, 1972 - July 28, 1973
27. Vice Adm. George P. Steele July 28, 1973 - June 14, 1975
28. Vice Adm. Thomas B. Hayward June 14, 1975 - July 24, 1976
29. Vice Adm. Robert B. Baldwin July 24, 1976 - May 31, 1978
30. Vice Adm. Sylvester Robert Foley, Jr. May 31, 1978 - Feb. 14, 1980
31. Vice Adm. Carlisle A.H. Trost Feb. 14, 1980 - Sept. 16, 1981
32. Vice Adm. M. Staser Holcomb Sept. 16, 1981 - May 9, 1983
33. Vice Adm. James R. Hogg May 9, 1983 - March 4, 1985
34. Vice Adm. Paul F. McCarthy, Jr. March 4, 1985 - Dec. 9, 1986
35. Vice Adm. Paul D. Miller Dec. 9, 1986 - Oct. 21, 1988
36. Vice Adm. Henry H. Mauz, Jr. Oct. 21, 1988 - Dec. 1, 1990
37. Vice Adm. Stanley R. Arthur Dec. 1, 1990 - July 3, 1992
38. Vice Adm. Timothy W. Wright July 3, 1992 - July 28, 1994
39. Vice Adm. Archie R. Clemens July 28, 1994 - Sept. 13, 1996
40. Vice Adm. Robert J. Natter Sept. 13, 1996 - Aug. 12, 1998
41. Vice Adm. Walter F. Doran Aug. 12, 1998 - July 12, 2000
42. Vice Adm. James W. Metzger July 12, 2000 - July 18, 2002
43. Vice Adm. Robert F. Willard July 18, 2002 - Aug. 6, 2004
44. Vice Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert Aug. 6, 2004 - Sept. 12, 2006
45. Vice Adm. Doug Crowder Sept. 12, 2006 - July 12, 2008
46. Vice Adm. John M. Bird July 12, 2008 - Sept. 10, 2010
47. Vice Adm. Scott R. Van Buskirk Sept. 10, 2010 - Sept. 7, 2011
48. Vice Adm. Scott H. Swift Sept. 7, 2011 - July 31, 2013
49. Vice Adm. Robert L. Thomas July 31, 2013 - Sept. 7, 2015
50. Vice Adm. Joseph P. Aucoin Sept. 7, 2015 - Aug. 23, 2017
51. Vice Adm. Phillip G. Sawyer Aug. 23, 2017 - Sept. 12, 2019
52. Vice Adm. William R. Merz Sept. 12, 2019 - July 8, 2021
53. Vice Adm. Karl O. Thomas July 8, 2021 - Feb. 15, 2024
54. Vice Adm. Fred W. Kacher Feb. 15, 2024 - Nov. 13, 2025
55. Vice Adm. Patrick J. Hannifin Nov. 13, 2025 -



