



Another example of a mission ready ship because of a U.S. Navy Port Engineer

USS JASON DUNHAM AND EGYPTIAN NAVY CONDUCT PASSEX



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U.S. 5TH FLEET AREA OF OPERATIONS (NNS) -- The guided-missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109) and the Egyptian Navy frigate El Zafer (F951) conducted a passing exercise (PASSEX), July 1.

PASSEX is an exercise in which multiple ships, operating in close vicinity, practice evolutions together to improve crews' knowledge, navigation and familiarity with operability.

"This was another great opportunity to work with the Egyptian Navy and continue to build, foster and solidify rapport with a maritime-military nation who shares a lot of the same interests in this area of operations," said Cmdr. John Hamilton, Dunham's commanding officer.



The PASSEX commenced with Dunham and El Zafer performing divisional tactics and maneuvers.

"It's good to see how they operate, and it's good for them to see how we operate," said Hamilton. "If something were to happen in the region, we would already have that ground work, that foundation, and that general understanding."

The exercise concluded with a gunnery exercise. A floating smoke target was dropped for the ships to fire upon, and Dunham shot five rounds from the ship's 5-inch gun, followed by 20 rounds from El Zafer's 37mm machine gun.

"It's always exciting to get together with other navies," said Hamilton. "Even though they fly a different flag and wear a different uniform, Sailors are Sailors, and it reaffirms that there are others out here who share similar interests."

Dunham is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points.

For more news from Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/5th Fleet, visit www.navy.mil/local/cusnc/.

Webmaster's Note:

USS Jason Dunham (DDG-109) is an *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyer in the United States Navy. She is named after U.S. Marine Corps corporal Jason Dunham, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for service in the Iraq War.

Jason Lee Dunham (10 November 1981 – 22 April 2004) was a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for actions while serving with 3rd Battalion 7th Marines during the Iraq War. While on a patrol in Husaybah, his unit was attacked and he deliberately covered an enemy grenade to save nearby Marines. When it exploded Dunham was gravely injured and died eight days later.

