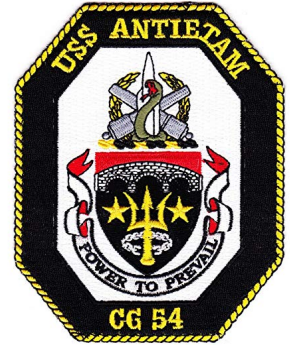




Another example of a mission ready ship because of a U.S. Navy Port Engineer

A Quarter-Century of Naval Partnership: U.S. and Thailand Kick off 25th CARAT Exercise



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SATTAHIP, Thailand (NNS) -- The U.S. Navy's [USS Antietam \(CG 54\)](#), Marine Corps and Coast Guard, and Royal Thai Navy and Marine Corps kicked off the 25th annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) during an opening ceremony at Sattahip Naval Base, May 29.

CARAT, the U.S. Navy's oldest and longest-running regional exercise in South and Southeast Asia, strengthens partnerships between regional navies, and enhances maritime security cooperation throughout the Indo-Pacific. The Royal Thai Navy has been a part of the annual CARAT series since the exercise began in 1995.



"Thailand is a key partner and an enduring ally," Rear Adm. Joey Tynch, commander, Task Force 73, said. "CARAT represents the good relationship between the Royal Thai Navy and U.S. Navy," Rear Adm. Paisarn Meesri, commander of Frigate Squadron 2, said.

The CARAT exercise series remains a model of cooperation that has evolved in complexity and enables partner navies to refine operations and tactics in response to traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges. Its continuing relevance for a quarter of a century speaks to the high quality of exercise events and the enduring value of maritime cooperation among allies and partners in South and Southeast Asia.

For more news from Commander, Task Force 73, visit www.navy.mil/local/ctf73/.

Webmaster's Note: [USS Antietam \(CG-54\)](#) is a *Ticonderoga*-class guided missile cruiser of the United States Navy. *Antietam* was named for the site of the 1862 Battle of Antietam, Maryland, between Confederate forces under General Robert E. Lee and Union forces under Major General George McClellan, during the American Civil War.