



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

## USS Wasp and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Ships Sail in the Philippine Sea



Story Number: NNS190618-02 Release Date: 6/18/2019 8:47:00 AM

From U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Public Affairs

PHILIPPINE SEA (NNS) -- The **USS Wasp (LHD 1)** Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), with embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) ships, led by Hyūga-class helicopter destroyer JS Ise (DDH 182), completed a transit through the Philippine Sea, June 16.



"It has been great to be out at sea with our high-end partners, increasing our interoperability," said Capt. Jim McGovern, commander, Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) Eleven. "I continue to be impressed with the JMSDF, and their complementary capabilities with the Wasp ARG and 31st MEU."

"This bilateral exercise will improve the interoperability between Japan – U.S. amphibious units and contribute to the Indo-Pacific regional peace and stability," said Rear Adm. Shirane, Commander, Mine Warfare Force, Japan Maritime Defense Force. "I am convinced that our strong partnership will be long lasting."

The Wasp ARG, 31st MEU team is deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations to enhance interoperability with partners and serve as a ready-response force for any type of contingency.

**Webmaster's Note:** **USS *Wasp* (LHD-1)** is a United States Navy multipurpose amphibious assault ship, and the lead ship of her class. She is the tenth USN vessel to bear the name since 1775, with the last two ships named *Wasp* being aircraft carriers.

