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Yokosuka strike group returns from Operation Iraqi Freedom

By *USS Kitty Hawk and USS Cowpens Public Affairs*

USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63), *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) and *USS John S. McCain* (DDG 56) returned to their forward-deployed port of Yokosuka Tuesday, May 6, after more than 100 consecutive days

underway in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Southern Watch (OSW).

During a deployment beginning Jan. 23, *Kitty Hawk* and embarked Carrier Air Wing 5, with a total complement of 5,336 crewmembers, received the call to transit to the 5th Fleet Area of Operations, Feb. 11.

Operating in the 5th Fleet region, the ship's crew suffered the loss of two officers. Lt. Tom Adams, a recently transferred crewmember of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 115, died in a helicopter crash during the opening hours of the operation. He was participating in a military foreign exchange program at the time. Lt. Nathan White of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 195 was killed in combat actions during a night close-air support mission on April 2.

The first ship to fire Tomahawk missiles in the Arabian Gulf on March 20, *Cowpens* executed over 30 cruise-missile launches in



MM3 Jose Gutierrez kisses his baby daughter, Alysia Marie, for the first time. She was born March 3 while her father was on the *USS Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Angela Bohon, CFAY Public Affairs)

support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the months of March and April, *Cowpens* also took over duties as the Air Defense Commander (ADC) for the 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility prior to the Abraham Lincoln Strike Group heading home. *Cowpens'* position was unique in that she had only been operating with the *Kitty Hawk* for a short time before assuming the role as ADC.

In the Arabian Gulf, *Kitty Hawk*, now affectionately known as the "Battle Cat," served at the forefront of operations with more than 3,000 sorties launched and nearly 900,000 pounds of ordnance expended in support of OIF. Approximately 39 million gallons of water were produced, and nine million gallons of fuel were expended.

Capt. Tom Parker, *Kitty Hawk's* commanding officer, says he is fortunate to have led the Battle Cat and her Sailors.

"The fact that this great ship has recently completed a combat cruise, and I have had the ineffable honor of commanding America's finest men and women in a combat zone, fills me with pride and a profound sense of gratitude that I have had this opportunity," Parker said.

"Taking command of the Battle Cat is the greatest honor of my life, and the culmination of my career," Parker added. "And I pray every day that I will be worthy of this responsibility. I've never had a more rewarding or fulfilling job. And I don't think one exists, either in or outside the service. Please don't tell the President, he'll want my job!"

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Friends and family members await the return of the *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) to Yokosuka. (U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Crystal M. Brooks, Fleet Imaging Center, Pacific)



USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) returns to Yokosuka from her deployment to the Persian Gulf. Departing Yokosuka on January 20, *Kitty Hawk* and the ships of her Strike Group participated in Operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom, along with aircraft of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5 and coalition navies in the Central Command and 5th Fleet area of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo by PH1(AW/SW) David A. Levy, Fleet Imaging Center, Pacific)

日米の医療チームの即応態勢を再確認

文：ビル・ダウティ、USNH 横須賀広報課

自衛隊の医療班にとっては米軍の黄色いスキッド(そのような担架)、米軍の医療班にとっては自衛隊のエアートント。4月23日に実施された日米衛生特別訓練では、横須賀米海軍病院の職員と海上自衛隊横須賀衛生隊及び自衛隊横須賀病院の職員が、お互いの資器材や処置の方法を見比べて学ぶ良い機会となった。

今回の訓練は、楠ヶ浦地区で起きた爆発事故によって米軍と自衛隊の双方にそれぞれ10名が負傷したと想定されたものである。「今回は米軍側の負傷者を自衛隊が、自衛



Navy Nurse Corps Officer Lt. Rhonda Bennett and hospital intern Dr. Nao Kimoto work together to help a simulated casualty during a bilateral disaster exercise with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force. Each nation's medical team learned the other's latest techniques and tools for mass casualty triage, treatment and evacuation. U.S. Naval Hospital, Yokosuka holds frequent drills throughout mainland Japan to be ready for any contingency. (U.S. Navy photo by Tom Watanabe)

隊側の負傷者を米軍が救護しています」と海上自衛隊横須賀衛生隊の石川尚顕隊長は語る。「このような訓練の仕方は初めての試みで、非常に有意義だと思います。」

合同訓練は、双方の資器材や処置の方法でいくつかの違いをあらわにした反面、基本的な部分では日米が同じ考え方であることを再確認させた。「救急処置等の主義は万国共通だと思います」と石川隊長は言う。「細かい手順や搬送方法の面で、海上自衛隊としては十分に米軍に学びたいと思います。」

横須賀米海軍病院の衛生兵達は、繭のような黄色いプラスチックのスキッドで傷者を危険地帯から救護現場へと搬送した。このスキッドを使用するのは今回の訓練が始めて。まずスキッドに負傷者を乗せて固定、1名ないし2名の救急隊員が安全な場所へと引きずっていく。この方法が能率的であることと、スキッドの優れた耐久性が証明された。「日本の担架は、大柄なアメリカ人の傷者を搬送するには多少不都合があるようでした」と米海軍病院企画部長のセドリック・コーパス大尉は言う。「身長が6フィートを越え、体重も200ポンドを超える米軍の傷者を搬送する途中、自衛隊の担架が壊れたと聞きました。」

コーパス大尉は、ほんの数分で設置が完了する日本の救護用エアートントに、彼自身もチームのメンバーも感心したと語る。「彼らのエアートントは大変優れたものでした。とても短い時間で設置ができ、様々な天候から保護してくれるものです」と彼は言う。「自衛隊の救急車も、特殊な格納式スロープによって傷者の搬入がスムーズにできる、素晴らしいものでした。」

米海軍病院でインターンとして働き始めて間もない厨芽衣子医師は、アメリカ人と日本人双方の負傷者の支援にあたった。この訓練は自然災害や人的災害の際にどのように対処すべきかを学ぶために有意義であった、と厨医師は語る。「この訓練を経験したことで、万が一実際に災害が起きても素早く行動し、適切な処置ができると思います。」

横須賀米海軍病院では、沖縄を除く横須賀や日本各地の基地で、大量傷者収容訓練等の訓練を頻繁に行っている。

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