

### INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Navy conducts both small-scale and large-scale training exercises in the Southern California (SOCAL) Range Complex. The large-scale training exercises, or major range events, sometimes incorporate other military services and allied nation forces.

Major range events are composed of multiple small operations and extend over a longer time period, providing more complex training and sustaining deployment readiness through coordinated training activities. They are the most complex of all Navy and U.S. Marine Corps training operations that take place in the SOCAL Range Complex.

In the SOCAL Range Complex, strike group exercises, such as Carrier Strike Groups (CSGs) and Expeditionary Strike Groups (ESGs), conduct Composite Training Unit

Exercise (COMPTUEX) and Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) training events and are comprised of similar types of ships. CSGs are formed and disestablished on an as needed basis and one group may be different than another. CSGs can be employed in a variety of roles that involve the gaining and maintenance of sea control. An ESG centers on the flexibility and readiness of a combined expeditionary unit and an amphibious readiness group. The total ESG provides operational freedom and expanded warfare capabilities on land with embarked Marines and at sea.

The goal of strike group exercises is to certify naval forces in mission essential tasks, which the strike group's ships and aircraft are expected to perform during deployment. These exercises conduct traditional warfare mission area operations and peacetime missions like surveillance, operations-other-than-war, embargo, and humanitarian operations.

## THE STRIKE GROUPS

### CARRIER STRIKE GROUP

CSGs are the core of the Navy's warfighting strength. CSGs are formed and disestablished on an as-needed basis for gaining and maintaining sea control through establishing a naval presence, and protecting economic or military shipping and Marine amphibious forces in transit to an objective area. A typical CSG consists of:

**Aircraft Carrier** — provides a wide range of options from simply showing the flag to attacks on airborne, afloat, and ashore targets. Because carriers operate in international waters, their aircrafts do not need to secure landing rights on foreign soil. These ships also engage in sustained operations in support of other forces.

**Guided Missile Cruiser** — multi-mission surface combatant equipped with Tomahawk cruise missiles for long-range strike capability.

**Two Guided Missile Destroyer** — multi-mission surface combatant used primarily for anti-air and anti-submarine warfare.

**Attack Submarine** — operates in a direct support role, seeking out and destroying hostile surface ships and submarines.

**Combined Ammunition, Oiler, and Supply Ship** — provides immediate logistical support enabling the Navy to sustain forward presence.



*Nimitz Class Aircraft Carrier*



*Los Angeles Class Attack Submarine*



*Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer*

# THE STRIKE GROUPS

## EXPEDITIONARY STRIKE GROUP

ESGs provide operational freedom and expanded warfare capabilities, not only by land with embarked Marines, but at sea, as well. The makeup of a typical ESG consists of:

**Amphibious Assault Ship** — a smaller aircraft carrier for helicopters, designed to put troops on hostile shores. In a secondary role, these ships perform sea control and limited power projection missions using aircraft and anti-submarine warfare helicopters.

**Amphibious Transport Dock Ship** — a warship that embarks, transports, and lands elements of a landing force for a variety of expeditionary warfare missions.

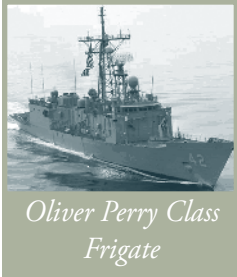
**Dock Landing Ship** — supports amphibious operations including landings onto hostile shores via Landing Craft Air Cushion, conventional landing craft, and helicopters.

**Guided Missile Cruiser** — multi-mission surface combatant equipped with Tomahawks for long-range strike capability.

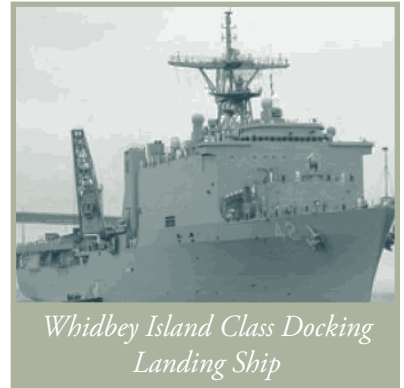
**Guided Missile Destroyer** — multi-mission surface combatant used primarily for anti-air and anti-submarine warfare.

**Frigate** — primarily used for anti-submarine warfare.

**Attack Submarine** — operates in a direct support role seeking out and destroying hostile surface ships and submarines.



*Oliver Perry Class  
Frigate*



*Whidbey Island Class Docking  
Landing Ship*

## STRIKE GROUP TRAINING EXERCISES

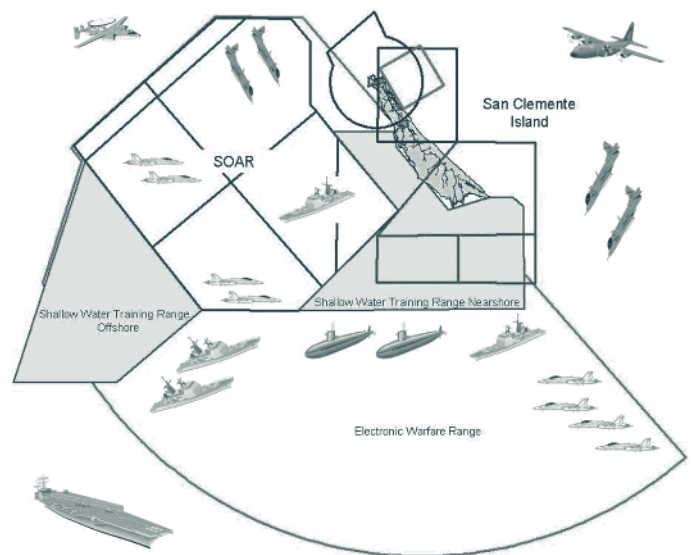
### CARRIER STRIKE TASK FORCE PACIFIC COMPTUEX AND JTFEX

The Navy and Marine Corps use the Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) and Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) as at-sea certification events for deploying Carrier Strike Groups and Expeditionary Strike Groups. These complex exercises are “sea control” and “power projection” exercises that evaluate the readiness, interoperability, and proficiency of naval forces in realistic scenarios. COMPTUEXs provide integrated, intermediate certification, and JTFEXs provide final phase, advanced certification. COMPTUEXs, at an intermediate level, are more structured, frequent, and varied than JTFEXs.

Participants in a COMPTUEX or JTFEX generally include 10 surface combatant ships, three submarines, 100 aircraft, and 8,000 personnel.

Individual training events within COMPTUEX and JTFEX include:

- ◆ Aircraft strike sorties
- ◆ Training related to command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence
- ◆ Tactical reconnaissance
- ◆ Mine warfare
- ◆ Combat search and rescue
- ◆ Special operations
- ◆ Naval surface fire support
- ◆ Supporting arms coordination exercise
- ◆ Amphibious landings



*Elements of a typical JTFEX*

