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# US Navy Red Sea operations provide lessons for Western Pacific

**Date Posted:** 21-Jun-2024

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**Publication:** Jane's Navy International

**UPDATED**

The tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) the US Navy (USN) has developed and honed for Red Sea operations against Houthis will be applicable in the Western Pacific against any near-peer competitor there, according to Rear Admiral Marc Miguez, commander, Carrier Strike Group 2, anchored by aircraft carrier USS *Dwight D Eisenhower* (CVN 69).



*US Navy officials say operations conducted aboard aircraft carrier USS Dwight D Eisenhower in the Red Sea can be employed in the Western Pacific. (Janes/Michael Fabey)*

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Speaking to *Janes* on 11 June onboard *Eisenhower* in the Red Sea, Rear Adm Miguez said the lessons learned are “feeding to the real fight. You know what I’m talking about. The TTPs are feeding into the fight in the Western Pacific. All these TTPs are feeding right into that fight, the one we are preparing for”.

He underscored manoeuvrability and the lethality of the carrier, compared with other military airfields. “I know exactly where Guam is, I know where Anderson airfield is. I can be 800 n miles, 1,000 n miles in 24 hours. We have the striking power of 75 aircraft. All those nations are trying to

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get a carrier. They are trying to achieve this.”

In the Red Sea now, the USN and coalition forces are operating with a greater distribution of forces that expands the area they can patrol and control, USN officials noted.

“Our strength is that we have the command-and-control (C2) structure to support that [operational concept], distributed away ... from one another,” Rear Adm Miguez said.

*For more information on USN efforts to integrate such distributed systems, please see [Surface Navy 2024: US Navy eyes new means for integrating distributed assets](#).*

That C2 depends on individual ship commanders being able to make their own decisions independently, thanks to the USN's “delegated authority to engage”, he said. “They don't need to ask me or anyone else if [facing a] threat. They've been trained since they were an ensign.”

The USN Red Sea TTPs are being captured in a post-deployment brief to be provided to navy leadership, Rear Adm Miguez said.

“We have lessons learned applicable to [the] whole fleet, applicable to the future fight,” Captain Chris Hill, *Eisenhower's* commanding officer, told *Janes* . “We are in the process of documenting all those things. It's on-the-fly learning. That's what happens in any combat situation to apply to any theatre so they can adapt faster.”

#### Comment

One of the lessons learned during operations like those being conducted by the USN in the Red Sea is how quickly such lessons can be extracted.