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NEWS RELEASE

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Combined Alliance Naval and Air Exercise Concludes

YONGSAN GARRISON, SEOUL, Republic of Korea -- The Republic of Korea and the U.S. concluded combined alliance maritime and air readiness exercise "Invincible Spirit" in and around the seas east of Korea Wednesday evening.

The naval portion of the exercise featured 20 alliance ships that took part in extensive training in the areas of anti-submarine warfare, battle group air defense and surface warfare training, to include live fire exercises. Complimenting the naval effort was a robust air component with over 200 alliance aircraft flying a variety of missions in the skies over and around the Republic of Korea.

"This was the first in a series of alliance exercises. These defensive, combined training exercises are designed to send a clear message to North Korea that its aggressive behavior must stop, and that the ROK and U.S. are committed to enhancing our combined defensive capabilities," said Gen. Walter L. Sharp, Commander, Combined Forces Command.

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Approximately 8,000 Alliance Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine personnel participated in the exercise.

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