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## Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Ships Arrive in San Diego to Participate in Amphibious Exercise

By Commander, U.S. Third Fleet and I Marine Expeditionary Force Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO - Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMDSF) ships, landing ship tank JS Shimokita (LST 4002); destroyer JS Atago (DDG 177) and helicopter destroyer JS Hyuga (DDH 181) arrived in San Diego May 31.

During the visit, the ships' crews will participate and engage in local community outreach and conduct office calls with local leaders. All three JMDSF ships will also participate in multilateral amphibious exercise Dawn Blitz June 11-24.

Dawn Blitz is a scenario-driven exercise that will test participants in the planning and execution of amphibious operations in a series of live training events to improve naval amphibious core competencies. It is designed to train the Navy and Marine Corps in operations expected of an amphibious exercise and will test staffs in the planning and execution of amphibious operations.

This exercise is one of a series of amphibious training events on both coasts of the U.S. that take place annually. Exercises like Dawn Blitz 2013 provide realistic, relevant training necessary for an effective global Navy and Marine Corps.

For more information, please contact U.S. Third Fleet Public Affairs at (619) 767-4387 or I MEF Public Affairs at (760) 763-7047.