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April 22, 2008

Media Release No. 09-2008

U.S. NAVY ADMIRAL TAKES FSM PRESIDENT TO SEA

FSM President Emanuel Mori and a small delegation landed by tail-hook aboard the USS *Nimitz* as the aircraft carrier conducted operations at sea on April 18. Rear Admiral William French, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, welcomed the President aboard ship with full honors. The visitors observed carrier flight operations in action, watching several launches and recoveries of naval strike, electronic warfare, precision bombing and anti-submarine aircraft. They also toured the ship's air and sea combat information centers and were briefed on the missions of the various ships and aircraft that make up the carrier battle group.

Under the Compact of Free Association, the United States is pledged to the defense of the Federated States of Micronesia. U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships work closely with their FSM counterparts during periodic ship visits and occasional transits of FSM territorial waters to accomplish this key mission. The FSM contribution to the alliance was underscored by the presence of U.S. Senior Airman Elmae Mori, the President's daughter, who currently serves on active duty with the U.S. Air Force at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. She joined her father at Andersen, where the official party boarded a Navy COD (Carrier Onboard Delivery) flight that flew directly to the USS *Nimitz*.



Pictured from left to right:
FSM President's Chief of Staff Kasio Mida (left rear)
Rear Admiral William French, USN, COMNAVMAR
FSM President Emanuel Mori
U.S. AirForce Senior Airman Elmae Mori (Daughter of President Mori)
Mr. Roy Tsutsui, CIV USN CNRM

This extraordinary tour allowed the FSM official visitors to see first hand the effort and resources that go into maintaining this important security partnership. President Mori concluded the tour by saying, "Young men and women ... they go out and risk their lives, they commit themselves to our defense and security, and I want to thank them and their families very much. I want to thank the entire leadership of the United States, from the President down to the military personnel, and then the people of the United States. Our relationship is very strong as I have said over and over. It's a special one. It's the only one where our people are able to live, work, go to school, and then work side by side with the young men and women of the military for our defense

and security, not only for ours but for the world's. So that is a privilege for our young men and women to work with the United States mission."

Admiral French added, "I was pleased to be able to show President Mori the incredibly professional sailors who protect his nation under the Compact of Free Association. Security and stability in this region are vital to our national security and our maritime strategy. The men and women who make up our all volunteer force are the best in the world and are committed to protecting the Federated States of Micronesia. Many of them are from the Federated States of Micronesia ... their service enhances the diversity of our Navy and military."

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