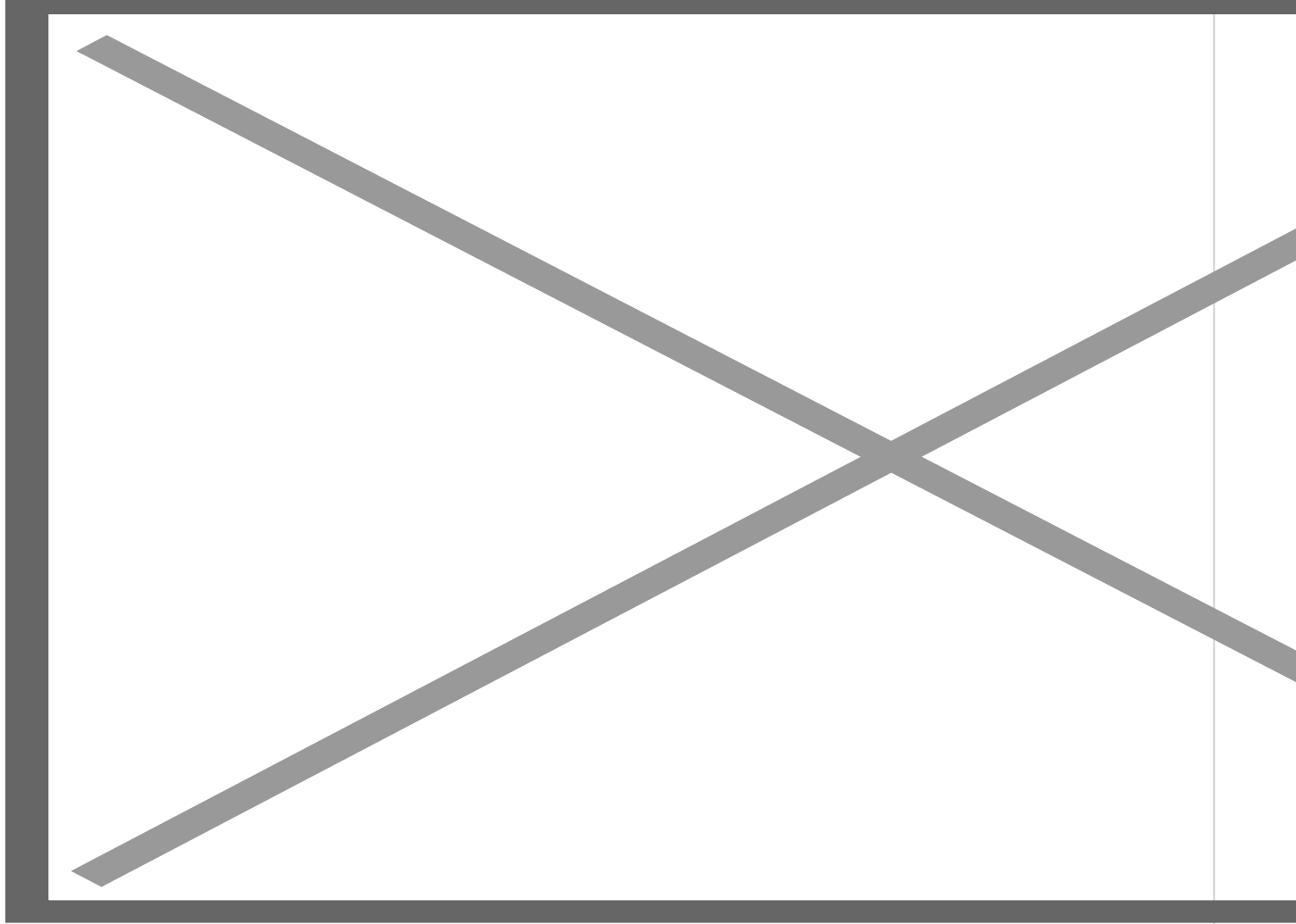


Pentagon says second aircraft carrier demonstrates ironclad commitment to Israel

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The nuclear powered aircraft carrier USS Dwight D Eisenhower

Washington, October 15 (RHC)-- Washington's deployment of a second aircraft carrier to the Eastern Mediterranean is a sign of the U.S.'s "ironclad commitment to Israel's security", US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has said.

Sending the USS carrier Dwight Eisenhower and its strike group to join the USS Gerald R Ford carrier in the region demonstrates Washington's "resolve to deter any state or non-state actor seeking to escalate this war," Lloyd said in a statement.

The two aircraft carriers will join a growing US force, including three U.S. Air Force squadrons already deployed, as part of efforts "to deter hostile actions against Israel," the statement added.

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