

U.S. Aircraft Carrier Arrives in South Korea for Joint Military Exercises



Seoul, March 15 (RHC-Xinhua), -- A nuclear-powered U.S. aircraft carrier arrived in the South Korean port city of Busan on Wednesday to join the ongoing spring war games, according to local media reports.

The ongoing U.S.-South Korean joint military exercises, codenamed Key Resolve and Foal Eagle, last from March 13 to March 24 and from early March to the end of April, respectively.

Seoul and Washington have claimed the annually-held war games are defensive in nature to protect from nuclear and missile threats of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), while the DPRK has denounced it as a dress rehearsal for northward invasion.

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier and its attendant fleet are accompanied by 24 F/A-18 fighter jets, 10 aerial tankers, 10 S-3A anti-submarine airplanes, six SH-3H anti-submarine helicopters, four EA-6B electronic warfare aircraft and four E-2 airborne early warning aircraft.

The U.S. forces are reportedly set to mobilize other strategic assets during the joint drills, including F-35B stealth fighter jets that were deployed in the U.S. military base in Japan in January.

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