

# STOP RIMPAC: Protect Our Oceans and Health



## Fact and Resource Guide

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# Contents



## Introduction

This Guide was created by Voice of Women for Peace Canada to be used as a resource for the Campaign to Stop RIMPAC. Fast facts, resources and arguments are consolidated by the following topics:

- 3. ....What is RIMPAC?
- 4.....Environmental Consequences
- 5 .....In the Time of COVID-19
- 7.....More Resources
- 8.....Get Involved



# What is RIMPAC ?



RIMPAC - Rim of the Pacific (Exercise Rim of the Pacific) is the world's largest maritime military exercise that involves forces from many countries.

- Runs every 2 years in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California
- Began in 1971 and is run by the United States Navy
- in past years it has drawn approximately 25,000 military personnel from at least 25 different countries
- in 2018 over 1000 Canadian sailors, soldiers, and aviators participated along with 5 ships and a patrol craft
- provides militaries an opportunity to showcase their latest weaponry
- participating militaries engage in hypothetical sea battle scenarios
- live-gunnery fire, missiles, sinking of decommissioned naval ships (SINKEX), vessel boardings, undersea warfare and air defense exercises are all preformed

# *Environmental Consequences*



RIMPAC has incredibly detrimental effects on marine life and on the environment.

- Sonar use, gun and missile fire can effect marine life up to 400 kms away, causing interruptions in feeding habits and behaviour, and also causing strandings leading to tragic mass mortality
- decommissioned naval ships are sunk as part of SINKEX (sinking exercise), releasing pollutants and crushing coral reefs and marine wildlife when they sink
- during RIMPAC 2018 U.S. Marine Corps helicopters started a large bush fire within an environmentally protected area, the fire consumed 2,000 acres of land

# *In the Time of COVID 19...*

In the midst of a global pandemic, war games are not essential. Naval ships do not offer adequate space or conditions for proper social distancing, risking personnel health and safety. The U.S. has shortened RIMPAC 2020 down to two weeks rather than the usual five, and some personnel from each country will be stationed on land in Hawaii. Any personnel being stationed on land puts Hawaiian civilians and personnel at risk.

Canada has also stated its full support of the United Nations (UN) call for a global ceasefire in order to combat COVID-19 effectively. The global ceasefire was called by the UN to mobilize countries to focus on the current global pandemic which requires resources, money, and consistent monitoring in order to lessen mortality rates.



# Resources

Want to call on the Canadian Government to end its participation in RIMPAC 2020? [Sign our letter campaign here and make your voice heard!](#)

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# Volunteer With VOW

- Gain **Hands on Experience** with a Feminist NGO Focused on National and International Security
- Monthly **Professional Development** Workshops, To enhance your skills
- **Letter of Recommendation** after completion of 120 hours
- **Work** in the office or **from Home**

