



FLEETWERX

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FLEETWERX, NPS CAMRE and Industry Partners to Demonstrate Historic Advanced Manufacturing Operations During RIMPAC 2026

Largest advanced manufacturing exercise in Department of Defense history will test how military units can make, move and use critical parts at the point of need across the Pacific

OAHU, Hawaii — FLEETWERX, in support of the Naval Postgraduate School's Consortium for Advanced Manufacturing Research and Education (NPS CAMRE), the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and leading industry partners, will demonstrate the largest advanced manufacturing effort ever conducted during a military exercise as part of RIMPAC 2026.

During the exercise, military operators and industry innovators will 3D print drones, manufacture mission-critical readiness parts aboard warships and ashore, employ artificial intelligence tools to help determine where parts should be produced and use autonomous systems to deliver components across the operational environment.

Participating organizations include leaders in advanced manufacturing, autonomous systems, artificial intelligence, logistics technologies and expeditionary production systems. A full list of participating organizations and technologies is included in the appendix.

The USS Essex will serve as a centerpiece of the effort, hosting multiple expeditionary manufacturing systems capable of producing readiness parts and unmanned systems at sea. The broader effort will span multiple operational locations, including aboard the USS Essex and USS Theodore Roosevelt, at military installations across Oahu and through a distributed network of more than 50 manufacturing nodes located across military installations, universities, manufacturing centers and operational locations worldwide.

Participating technologies will include modular drone production systems, hybrid metal manufacturing platforms, autonomous surface vessels and AI-enabled decision tools designed to help connect production, logistics and operational requirements.

FLEETWERX is coordinating military, academic and industry participants across a distributed network of manufacturing, logistics and decision-support technologies. The objective is to connect capabilities that are often tested separately and evaluate how they perform as part of a single operational workflow.

The demonstration will connect advanced manufacturing systems, autonomous logistics platforms and AI-enabled decision tools across ships, military installations and a global network of production partners in what organizers describe as the largest advanced manufacturing effort in Department of Defense history.

"Many of these technologies have been demonstrated independently. What makes RIMPAC unique is the opportunity to bring them together in an operational environment," said Morgan Bower, Director, FLEETWERX. "We're manufacturing parts aboard ships, producing drones at sea and using autonomous systems to move critical components where they're needed."

At its core, the effort is focused on readiness. Participants will evaluate whether emerging manufacturing and logistics capabilities can help reduce repair timelines, improve responsiveness and provide additional options when traditional supply chains are delayed or constrained.

The exercise will help military leaders better understand how advanced manufacturing, autonomous logistics and AI-enabled decision tools perform when integrated into a single operational workflow and tested in realistic field conditions.

For forces operating across the Indo-Pacific, where logistics networks span thousands of miles, even modest reductions in repair timelines and delivery delays can have an outsized impact on readiness and operational flexibility.

RIMPAC 2026 is scheduled to take place from June 24 to July 31 in and around the Hawaiian Islands. The exercise is expected to include 31 participating nations, approximately 40 surface ships, five submarines, more than 140 aircraft and over 25,000 military personnel operating under the theme "Partners: Integrated and Prepared."

The demonstration builds on lessons learned during previous RIMPAC exercises, including a successful 2024 operation in which NPS CAMRE personnel manufactured and machined a replacement component aboard USS Somerset, returning a critical shipboard system to service in approximately 34 hours.

The exercise will test a complete workflow that begins with identifying a requirement from an operational unit, digitally assigning production to the most appropriate manufacturing node, producing the component through distributed manufacturing systems and delivering the completed part using autonomous platforms.

While many of the individual technologies participating in RIMPAC 2026 have been demonstrated previously, the exercise represents one of the first opportunities to evaluate them as part of a coordinated operational workflow spanning ships at sea, military installations and industry partners. The effort is intended to help military leaders better understand how emerging manufacturing and logistics capabilities can contribute to readiness, resilience and operational flexibility in future operations.

"RIMPAC provides an opportunity to test these technologies in realistic operational environments and alongside the people who may ultimately use them," said Chris Curran, CAMRE Program Manager. "The lessons learned help shape future research, experimentation and capability development across the force."

About FLEETWERX

FLEETWERX serves as a Partnership Intermediary Agreement that connects the Naval Postgraduate School, operational military units, industry and academia to accelerate the testing, refinement and transition of technologies into real-world military use. Through field experimentation, operational demonstrations and ecosystem development, FLEETWERX helps bridge the gap between innovation and mission execution.

About NPS CAMRE

The Consortium for Advanced Manufacturing Research and Education at the Naval Postgraduate School focuses on how manufacturing can support military operations, improving how parts are made, repaired and delivered in the field.

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APPENDIX: PARTICIPATING COMPANIES AND TECHNOLOGIES

Firestorm Labs is bringing modular, open-source architectures supporting the Department of Defense requirements to create Affordable Mass. Firestorm is redefining military expectations for on-site modularity to support the widest array of mission areas. During RIMPAC, Firestorm will use its xCell expeditionary additive manufacturing factory in a box to produce drones and naval readiness parts both at sea on the USS Essex and ashore during the duration of the RIMPAC exercise.

Fieldmade is focused on metal additive manufacturing in compact, deployable systems. Its role in the exercise is to produce metal components based on incoming taskings and evaluate how field-ready systems can operate within a broader manufacturing network.

ADDiTEC is contributing hybrid manufacturing technology that combines 3D printing with precision machining. During the exercise, ADDiTEC will produce and refine metal parts aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt, helping assess whether hybrid systems can meet both speed and quality requirements under real conditions.

Snowbird Technologies is supporting the effort with its deployable SAMM-Tech advanced manufacturing platform, a containerized hybrid system designed for point-of-need production. Snowbird will operate both ashore and at sea aboard the USS Essex.

Phillips Corporation will deploy a containerized hybrid manufacturing system, a HAAS TM-1P/Blue Meltio aboard the USS ESSEX to produce point of need readiness parts as a rehearsal for a FLEEWERX proof-of-concept Western Pacific deployment with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit in the Fall/Spring 2026/2027.

Splash Industries is supporting the logistics side of the exercise with unmanned surface vessels. These platforms will be used to carry manufactured parts across the test range, demonstrating how components can be moved without relying on traditional crewed transport.

HavocAI is contributing autonomous systems designed for delivery missions. Its platforms will receive taskings, plan routes, provide security and execute delivery runs. Marines at Combat Logistics Company 33 will assemble and deploy a HavocAI 3D-printed autonomous vessel to practice rapidly regenerating attritable assets in theater.

3YourMind is helping manage how parts are selected and assigned for production. Its AI-enabled decision support platform helps direct requests to the appropriate manufacturing partner based on capability and requirements.

Avathon is providing AI-enabled tools that help operators process system information, production requirements and workflow data, improving visibility across the manufacturing and logistics process.

DINA, the Defense Innovation Navigation Assistant, led by the Inland Empire Tech Bridge and California Baptist University, is focused on capturing operational data and identifying lessons learned throughout the exercise.