



RHUMB LINES

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January 8, 2009

Executing the Maritime Strategy: 2008 in Review

"Today, we are forward in all corners of the world, on watch and working with joint and international partners across the range of operations, providing safety and security for our Nation, and ensuring the free flow of maritime commerce upon which our Nation's prosperity depends."

– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

With the arrival of 2009, we reflect upon the Navy's operations and accomplishments in 2008, operations that furthered maritime partnerships and spanned our core capabilities of the Maritime Strategy – forward presence, deterrence, power projection, sea control, maritime security and humanitarian assistance/disaster response. [Year In Review Photo Gallery](#)

Building Maritime Partnerships

- The 21st [Rim of the Pacific exercise](#), the world's largest multinational exercise, was conducted in the Hawaiian operating area from June 29 to July 31, demonstrating the Navy's commitment to working with our global partners in protecting maritime freedom as a basis for global prosperity and to ensure stability throughout the Pacific Rim.
- [USS Theodore Roosevelt \(CVN 71\) visited Cape Town, South Africa](#) in October. The visit was the first by a U.S. aircraft carrier in more than 40 years and strengthened the U.S. Navy's relationship with this key global maritime partner.
- High Speed Vessel (HSV) 2 Swift deployed Nov. 25 to U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) in support of [Southern Partnership Station \(SPS\)](#). HSV-SPS will operate in the Caribbean, Central and South American region through April 2009. As part of the Global Fleet Station concept, SPS seeks to support regionally-sustained, focused training and multinational/interagency collaboration. The mission expands on the Navy's strong partnerships and demonstrates the goodwill and commitment of the U.S. in the region.

Forward Presence

- Carrier Air Wings embarked aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), and USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) flew more than 12,800 sorties in support of coalition forces on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- [USS George Washington \(CVN 73\) arrived in Yokosuka, Japan, Sept. 25](#) replacing USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) as the forward-deployed aircraft carrier in the Western Pacific and Indian oceans. USS George Washington Strike Group participated in the Republic of Korea-sponsored Fleet Review in Busan, visited Guam and conducted the major exercise, Annual Exercise, with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.

Deterrence

- More than 50 ships deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in 2008. While in 5th Fleet, these ships conducted Maritime Security Operations, which helped provide security and stability to the region and ensured Sea Lines of Communication remained open throughout the Arabian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean.
- USS Lake Erie (CG 70), a Pearl Harbor, Hawaii-based AEGIS warship, [fired a single modified tactical Standard Missile-3](#) on Feb. 20, intercepting a non-functional National Reconnaissance Office satellite and rupturing its fuel tank, dissipating approximately 1,000 pounds of hydrazine, a hazardous fuel, before it entered into Earth's atmosphere.

Power Projection

- USS Ohio (SSGN 726), the first operational Trident guided-missile submarine, [completed its maiden, 14-month deployment](#) in December. Since deploying from its homeport in Bangor, Wash., Oct. 14, 2007, Ohio became the first guided-missile submarine to complete an equator and prime meridian crossing, achieve SEAL/diver dry-deck shelter certification, complete three national-tasking missions, host a joint special operations task force and earn two Navy Expeditionary Medals.



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Sea Control

- Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead [officially reestablished U.S. 4th Fleet](#) on July 12 and named Rear Adm. Joseph D. Kernan as its commander. Kernan also assumed command of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO). NAVSO/4th Fleet is responsible for US Navy ships, aircraft and submarines assigned from east and west coast fleets to operate in U.S. Southern Command, which encompasses the Caribbean, Central and South America and surrounding water.
- Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe (NAVEUR) added the title of U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF) on Oct. 1 and assumed the responsibility of supporting Commander, U.S. Africa Command in addition to supporting U.S. European Command (EUCOM). NAVEUR had always maintained a focus on Africa but is now dual-hatted as the Navy component command (NAVEUR-NAVAF) for two combatant commanders.

Maritime Security

- U.S. ships operated as part of Coalition Task Forces 150, 152 and 158 while deployed to the Middle East in order to help ensure a lawful maritime order throughout the region.
- Africa Partnership Station (APS) conducted operations throughout the year in West and Central Africa. Highlights include the first dedicated deployment in support of APS ([USS Fort McHenry \(LSD 43\)](#)) and the first-ever foreign law enforcement detachment conducted aboard a U.S. ship ([USCGC Dallas](#)). APS, modeled after the Global Fleet Station concept, is designed to improve maritime safety and security in West and Central Africa.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response

- [U.S. 6th Fleet participated in Operation Assured Delivery](#), the U.S. military humanitarian assistance mission to the country of Georgia from Aug. 20 to Sept. 8 that responded to a request from Georgia after being invaded by Russia. The mission included more than 20 sorties of continuous airlift along with a three-ship flotilla loaded with more than 440 tons of humanitarian assistance supplies to various ports in the country.
- The amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4) was directed to proceed to the Gulf of Mexico in September and to take station off the Texas coast to [render support to civil authorities in the wake of Hurricane Ike](#) as needed.
- [Continuing Promise 2008 \(CP08\)](#) – a humanitarian civic assistance mission – drew to a close Dec. 2. During CP08, which began in August 2008, USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) provided humanitarian civic assistance and disaster response to six countries in the SOUTHCOM area of focus, triaging more than 47,000 patients. The mission quickly diverted to Haiti to conduct health assessments of communities suffering in the aftermath of tropical storms Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Hurricane Ike.
- During [Pacific Partnership 2008](#), a joint, multinational and non-governmental (NGO) team of more than 1,000 people deployed to five countries, the Republic of the Philippines, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia, aboard USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) for a four-month humanitarian mission.

Key Messages

- United States' seapower is a force for good, protecting this nation's vital interests even as it joins with others to promote security and prosperity across the globe.
- Although our forces can surge when necessary to respond to crises, trust and cooperation cannot be surged.
- Seapower will be a unifying force for building a better tomorrow.

Facts & Figures

- 4,885 Reserve Component Sailors were mobilized, including 2,135 filling Individual Augmentee billets.
- Two ships and two submarines were commissioned, including the first Littoral Combat Ship, USS Freedom, which was commissioned Nov. 8.
- April 2008 was the peak for Navy GWOT Support Assignment Sailors and Individual Augmentees deployed with 10,168 Sailors "Boots on Ground." More than 27,000 Sailors served IA orders throughout CY 2008.