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Straight Lines to Navigate By



January 7, 2010

Executing the Maritime Strategy: 2009 in Review

"We are delivering on the Maritime Strategy...We're a global Navy; we're forward deployed, we're exercising power projection, sea control; we're able to respond to disasters and provide humanitarian assistance, and we're involved in maritime security."

– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

With the arrival of 2010, we reflect upon the Navy's operations and accomplishments in 2009, 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](#).

Building Maritime Partnerships

- [USS Dwight D. Eisenhower \(CVN 69\)](#) became the first Nimitz-Class aircraft carrier to pull pier side in Bahrain, 60 years since the last pier side aircraft carrier visit, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen relationships, increase interoperability and address maritime strategies.
- The [Iraqi Navy assumed control of the Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal](#) during a ceremony held Apr. 30 aboard the terminal in the North Arabian Gulf. This turnover was the first step of a multi-step naval transition plan that will eventually transfer security responsibilities to the Iraqi Navy.
- The [Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group, joined by 13 foreign ships](#) from nine nations completed [Joint Task Force Exercise \(JTFEX\) 09-4](#), Sept. 22. [JTFEX functions as a certification evolution](#) designed to test the capabilities of multiple carrier strike groups operating in a multinational, joint environment.

Forward Presence

- Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Gary Roughead officially reestablished [Expeditionary Strike Group Five](#) on Nov. 8. ESG 5 provides command and control afloat or ashore of assigned forces in the conduct of contingency, maritime security and theater security cooperation operations in support of Naval Central Command and 5th Fleet.
- [USS Lassen \(DDG 82\)](#) and USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) visited Da Nang, Vietnam. Lassen is commanded by [Cmdr. H.B. Le](#), whose visit marked the first time the Vietnamese-born officer has returned to the country of his birth since his family fled during the fall of Saigon nearly 35 years ago.
- Past and present crewmembers from [USS Blue Ridge \(LCC 19\)](#) gathered with Japanese shipyard workers and members of the Yokosuka community to [commemorate the 7th Fleet flagship's three decades of continuous forward presence](#).

Deterrence

- The [John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group](#) completed a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific Ocean during which they participated in an undersea warfare exercise with the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force, Exercise Foal Eagle with the [Republic of Korea Navy](#) and exercise [Northern Edge](#).
- USS Alabama (SSBN 731) completed the 126th successful launch and flight test of the Trident II D-5 missile in the Pacific Ocean on Feb. 13. Also during the month, the [Submarine Force marked the successful completion of the 1,000th Trident strategic deterrent patrol](#), with ceremonies in Kings Bay, Ga., and Bangor, Wash.
- More than 50 ships deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in 2009. 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](#).

Power Projection

- The George Washington Carrier Strike Group completed their summer deployment Sept. 3 and [returned to their forward-deployed home of Yokosuka, Japan](#). While underway, the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier traveled 4,552 nautical miles, participated in exercise Talisman Saber 2009 with the Australian Defense Force, and visited Perth, Australia; Singapore; and Manila, Republic of the Philippines.



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- Ships, submarines, aircraft and approximately 8,500 U.S. Naval personnel from the U.S. 7th Fleet participated in [Annual Exercise 21G](#), a bilateral exercise with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Nov. 10-17.

Sea Control

- [USS Defender \(MCM 2\)](#), [USS Guardian \(MCM 5\)](#), USS Patriot (MCM 7) and Helicopter Mine Counter-measures Squadron 14 participated in exercise Clear Horizon Nov. 20-29. The annual mine counter-measures exercise was conducted with the Republic of Korea to practice clearing routes for shipping as well as conducting training surveys for clearing operational areas.
- [USS Pittsburgh \(SSN 720\)](#) was the first submarine to deploy under the newest combatant commander, U.S. Africa Command. Pittsburgh's crew acted as ambassadors for the United States Navy during port calls to Cape Verde and Tunisia and supported operations within the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations.

Maritime Security

- The USS George Washington Carrier Strike Group and the USS Essex Expeditionary Strike Group with the embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, operated in Australian waters alongside eight Australian ships for [Talisman Saber 2009 \(TS 09\)](#).
- U.S. 6th Fleet command ship, USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20), along with naval forces from 12 other countries participated in [Baltic Operations 2009](#), 6th Fleet's largest multinational naval exercise in 2009.
- U.S. Naval forces in 6th Fleet participated in exercise [France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States \(FRUKUS\)](#) as the first military-to-military engagement with Russia following the Georgia-Russia conflict. FRUKUS was created in 2003 to aid in talks between France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the U.S.
- [Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Gary Roughead](#) hosted the [19th International Sea Power Symposium](#) at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., Oct. 6-9 to provide a forum for senior international naval leaders to discuss common maritime challenges and opportunities to enhance international maritime security cooperation.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response

- The Navy conducted [humanitarian assistance efforts in Indonesia](#) from Sept. 30 to Oct. 16 utilizing units assigned to Amphibious Force, 7th Fleet with [USS McCampbell \(DDG 85\)](#) and the forward-deployed amphibious transport dock USS Denver (LPD 9). [Service members from all branches](#) worked side-by-side throughout the joint-service operation, [successfully delivering more than 182 tons of food](#), water and medical supplies. [Medical personnel](#) also treated nearly 2000 patients at the [Humanitarian Assistance Rapid Response Team \(HARRT\) field hospital](#).
- During Africa Partnership Station, Seabees constructed a [breakwater jetty](#), installed floating piers, constructed clinic additions and renovated barracks side-by-side with host-nation military engineers in Cameroon and [Liberia](#).

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

- 7,258 Reserve Component Sailors were mobilized, including 7,249 filling [Individual Augmentee](#) billets.
- More than 14,000 Sailors served on IA orders throughout 2009.
- The Navy's fleet of 14 SSBN's provided the nation with the most survivable leg of U.S. nuclear deterrent.
- Navy deployed 122 U.S. ships and submarines in 2009.