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Africa Partnership Station ... Developing Maritime Partnerships

"What you are doing is important for Ghana and our Navy. The sharing of information regarding activities in our maritime environment will help our awareness very much."
-- Commodore Frank Daly, Ghanaian Western Naval District

The first-ever Africa Partnership Station (APS) is currently deployed to West and Central Africa through May 2008. Part of the Global Fleet Station concept, APS seeks to support regionally sustained, focused training and multinational/interagency collaboration. During the 2007-2008 deployment, APS platforms USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43), USS Annapolis (SSN 760), and HSV Swift (HSV 2) are visiting several nations in West and Central Africa, including the Gulf of Guinea. To date, 12 nations have participated in APS.

Supporting the Maritime Strategy

APS represents another example of our cooperative approach in employing the new Maritime Strategy by:

- Focusing on enabling maritime safety and security – a core capability of the new strategy and a common concern in West and Central Africa.
- Using voluntary information sharing of both knowledge and best practices between all participating agencies and organizations for the core training curriculum.
- Relying completely on voluntary APS participation by African nations.

Partnership milestones from APS

- Non-Governmental Organization contribution – last month in Cameroon, the World Wildlife Federation held seminars on fisheries management.
- U.S. Maritime Forces – in November during USS Fort McHenry's transit from Senegal to Ghana, U.S. Coast Guard representatives conducted a Boarding Officer course for 25 ship riders from seven countries and provided training on maritime operations and planning.
- Humanitarian assistance – in December, APS donated 15 pallets of Project Handclasp-provided food to Cameroonian AIDS patients and orphans.
- Military-to-military training – to date, APS has trained more than 600 African Sailors from nine countries in various subjects, including leadership, logistics, navigation, small boat handling, port security and martial arts.
- Theater Security Cooperation – engagements with Ghanaian partners in both Tema port and Sekondi Naval Base used USS Fort McHenry's LCU as a delivery/support platform for the first time.
- Port calls – USS Annapolis recently completed an information sharing event in Cape Verde, the first visit by a U.S. submarine to an African nation outside the Mediterranean.

For more information on APS, visit <http://www.c6f.navy.mil/aps/>

Key Messages	Facts & Figures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APS demonstrates our long-term commitment to Africa. • APS bolsters maritime security and safety by increasing African maritime capabilities and capacity, promoting economic prosperity and stability over time. • We aim to achieve common goals through partnership and collaboration. We build trust through transparency. Trust and cooperation cannot be surged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niger Delta oil production is projected to increase 40% by 2016 [DoS]. Illegal oil bunkering in the Niger Delta is worth \$3M USD/day [Human Rights Watch, BBC, Shell, others]. • Total foreign investment in the Gulf of Guinea petroleum sector is \$10 billion USD [Goldwyn]. • 60% of human trafficking occurs in Sub-Saharan Africa [UN]. • In 2006, 62 piracy attacks were reported in African waters [IMB].