



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



October 25, 2007

## Africa Partnership Station (APS)... Promoting Maritime Safety and Security

*"APS is about a long term effort to assist our African partners in developing the capacity to safeguard their territorial waters and their Exclusive Economic Zones. It is not about dispensing aid or delivering equipment."*

**-- Adm. Harry Ulrich, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe**

As part of an international effort to support African coastal nations with maritime safety and security, the first-ever Africa Partnership Station (APS) will deploy to West and Central Africa from November 2007 through May 2008. Africa is the subject of renewed strategic focus for the U.S. and the international community, mainly because today's environment relies heavily on relationships that are global in nature. The potential for both progress and peril invites this focus. Pervasive maritime insecurity is a significant obstacle to achieving the broader objectives that African nations have established for themselves.

APS, as part of the Global Fleet Station concept, was initiated to provide a platform with enough capacity and dwell time to support sustained, focused training and multi-national/organizational collaboration on a regional scale. During the 2007-2008 deployment, APS platforms USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) and HSV Swift (HSV-2) will visit several nations in West and Central Africa (WCA), to include the Gulf of Guinea (GoG).

### Collaborative Partnerships and Teamwork are the Focus

- APS responds to specific African requests for assistance coming out of the Benin Ministerial Conference in November 2006, is aligned with broad international community and U.S. objectives, and is reflective of the mission of the U.S. Africa Command.
- APS supports the underlying objectives of the new "Cooperative Strategy for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Seapower."
- APS is intended to enhance regional and maritime security and safety by assisting African nations in developing proficiencies in areas like Maritime Interdiction Operations, Search and Rescue Operations, counterterrorism, and overfishing of African waters.
- APS will employ Expeditionary Partnership Teams (EPTs) composed of people from the U.S. military, our allies, government and non-government organizations. These teams will provide persistent direct assistance using the USS Fort McHenry and HSV SWIFT as at-sea training platforms with a minimal presence ashore.
- Our efforts are focused on nurturing partnerships with African nations to help them develop maritime safety and security capabilities. Today, ships operating in the AOR make regular port calls in the Gulf of Guinea region.
- In addition, APS will provide a maritime support platform for more than 20 humanitarian assistance projects in eight countries. These projects will include construction and renovations at schools, orphanages and clinics.

For more information, visit [www.c6f.navy.mil/APS](http://www.c6f.navy.mil/APS)

### Key Messages

#### Africa Partnership Station...

- Bolsters maritime security and safety which promotes economic prosperity and stability
- Demonstrates long-term commitment in Africa
- Increases African maritime capabilities and capacity
- Builds trust through transparency
- Achieves common goals through partnership and collaboration

### Facts & Figures

- In 2006, U.S. total exports to sub-Saharan Africa rose by 17% over 2005, to \$12.1 billion.
- U.S. total imports from Africa increased by 17% to \$59.2 billion.
- 90% of the world's trade cargo is carried by ships.
- 66% of the world's petroleum is transported by sea.
- Current plans include visits to Senegal, Liberia, Ghana, Cameroon, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe.