



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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Building Maritime Partnerships

“We see Africa Partnership Station as a promising U.S. Navy-led initiative that, along with our international partners, will create the foundation for future regional cooperation in meeting our common maritime concerns.”

– **Senegal Navy Lt. Cmdr. Omar Wade (part of APS Nashville’s embarked international staff)**

Fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships with international partners is a key component of the Maritime Strategy. The Navy is building and expanding upon maritime partnerships each and every day around the world by promoting mutual understanding and respect.

Southern Partnership Station (SPS)

SPS began as part of Global Fleet Station. U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO) launched the pilot program in 2007 for the Chief of Naval Operations.

- The goal of SPS is information sharing between U.S. specialty platforms and navies, coast guards and civilian services throughout the Caribbean, Central and South America.
- High Speed Vessel 2 Swift has returned to the region and is providing a variety of training, including security, leadership, instructor training, maintenance, search and rescue planning, combat patrol and urban raid tactics.

Continuing Promise (CP)

CP began in 2007 when USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) deployed as part of the “Advancing the Cause of Social Justice in the Western Hemisphere” initiative and was followed with CP in 2008.

- CP is an equal partnership mission designed to combine partner nation, non-governmental organization and U.S. relief capabilities to demonstrate the lasting bonds and shared interest among neighbors.
- In 2009, Comfort will deploy in support of NAVSO and U.S. 4th Fleet’s CP initiative and will travel to Antigua, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and Panamá.

Africa Partnership Station (APS)

The concept for APS originated at the Benin Ministerial in 2006 in when the United States and a number of African and European countries came together to discuss ways of improving maritime safety and security in Africa.

- This enduring mission began in fall 2007 with the voyage of USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) and embarked international staff to West Africa and has since and expanded to East Africa.
- USS Nashville (LPD 13) is supporting Africa Partnership Station in the Gulf of Guinea with an even larger international staff and training agenda than in 2007.

Pacific Partnership

Pacific Partnership evolved from the U.S. response to the December 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia. The U.S. Navy has conducted a dedicated humanitarian and civic assistance mission in the Pacific each year since 2006, conducting various medical, dental and engineering civic action programs.

- Pacific Partnership is a partnership between host and partner nations, non-governmental organizations and other U.S. government agencies.
- Pacific Partnership is designed to strengthen alliances, improve security cooperation among partner nations and support the host nation efforts to assist their citizens.

Key Messages

- Expanding cooperative relationships with other nations contributes to the security and stability of the maritime domain for the benefit of all.
- The U.S. Navy can surge forces when necessary to response to crises, and is more effective because of the trust and cooperation that has been built and sustained.

Facts & Figures

- To date, SPS has provided training to more than 1,000 students in twenty-one countries in the region.
- Eighteen countries from Africa, Europe and the Americas participate in Africa Partnership Station.
- Since 2006, Pacific Partnership has partnered with 12 nations and more than 30 non-governmental organizations to enable nine Pacific-region host nations to assist tens of thousands of their citizens.