



Chief of Naval Operations' Monthly Update

"The ship across the way is now ready to serve our great nation; ready to sail in harms way to prevent conflict when possible and to win decisively when necessary; ready to defend the interests of our nation by force if necessary; ready to secure the maritime commons for peaceful trade; ready to support our partners and allies through humanitarian assistance and aid; and ready to show the flag of our nation as a symbol and a message of freedom."

– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations, remarks at USS New York (LPD 21) Commissioning

In November, CNO spoke at the [Brookings Institute](#) in Washington to discuss the future of unmanned naval technology and its role in naval operations. He placed [USS New York \(LPD 21\) in commission](#) at Pier 88 on the Hudson River in New York City, recognized the two recipients of the [Vice Admiral Stockdale Award](#) at the Pentagon, made the first visit by a CNO to [Morehouse and Spelman Colleges](#) in Atlanta, Ga., and spoke at the MCPON Fleet and Force Conference in Jacksonville, Fla. CNO also traveled to [Egypt and Greece](#) to strengthen maritime partnerships between our navies and nations and to meet with Navy leaders and Sailors in the region. CNO wrapped up the month honoring [Capt. Richard Phillips of M/V Maersk Alabama](#) and the crew of USS Bainbridge (DDG 96) for their efforts in counter-piracy operations at the Nauticus Theater in Norfolk, Va.

Current Readiness – Counter-Piracy Efforts

At a ceremony in Norfolk, Va., CNO recognized the leadership of Capt. Richard Phillips and the readiness of the Bainbridge during Phillips' rescue from Somali pirates this past April. He said it was not the weapon systems on board the ship, but the high-caliber training demonstrated by the crews of Bainbridge and M/V Maersk Alabama that saved Phillips. CNO congratulated all Sailors, Navy and merchant, on their creativity, ingenuity, competence and patient determination used during the rescue and said that the event would go down in the history books.

"It was the decisions that you [Capt. Phillips] made, but moreover, it was the training of the crew, it was your personal courage and courage of your crew, it was the toughness that was displayed by American mariners; it was the fighting spirit, but most of all it was leadership that set the path for this extraordinary event."

Future Readiness – Unmanned Naval Technologies

CNO spoke at the Brookings Institute in Washington to discuss unmanned naval technology and the potential impact it could have on military strategy. CNO acknowledged the uniqueness of naval operations because they are executed in all domains of the planet and not just the seas. He also stated that unmanned technology does not completely exist, because some level of operation or maintenance of the technology will be conducted by a person.

"... I am also keenly aware as we deal with this topic of unmanned systems and the world of cyber warfare, that regardless of what the vehicles may be, we will still depend upon the innovation, the initiative, the competence, the skill, the professionalism and the standards of the young men and women who will operate, build and maintain them."

People – The Importance of Education

CNO met with both Morehouse and Spelman college presidents and with students, faculty and local Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) and Junior NROTC students during a question and answer session as part of the Morehouse College Presidential Chat and Executive Lecture series to discuss globalization, diversity and the Navy. During the session when CNO was asked about importance of education for Sailors, he called it 'an imperative.' He stressed the importance, not necessarily of a certain degree or field of study, but more so of being well-grounded in the fundamentals. He also advocated empowering oneself with the drive to always learn more and realize education will lead to opportunities.

"Always be looking to expand your horizons, expand the depth of your knowledge...believe that everyday you live, you will learn something new...the drive to learn should never end and it also opens great opportunities."