



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



May 4, 2009

Chief of Naval Operations' Monthly Update

"I would like to assure everyone that we are doing these force shaping measures very thoughtfully, very carefully and with an eye on making sure that we remain the best Navy in the world."

– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

At the end of March, CNO recorded a [podcast](#) about the Navy's adjustments in force stabilization and overall manpower concerns. In April, CNO made two overseas trips. He traveled to South Africa to meet with his counterpart and China to attend the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy's International Fleet Review. While in the U.S., he spoke to the Navy Corporate Business Course at the University of Virginia about the business of the Navy and was also the principal speaker at the USS Truxtun (DDG 103) commissioning in Charleston, S.C.

People – Total Force

In his podcast, CNO said he appreciated the personal sacrifices our Sailors and families make everyday and the measures being taken are absolutely necessary in order to remain within budget. Through the month of April, CNO took various measures on the way ahead, stressing to Navy leadership to avoid directly impacting Sailor's paychecks while continuing to provide combat forces forward. He also empowered leaders to ensure the reason and intent of these actions are communicated clearly and directly to our people and their families.

Also, as an investment into Navy Total Force, CNO spoke to the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps in Annapolis, Md., stating that now is the time to serve in the world's greatest Navy and become a part of the culture that makes it so great. Balance, accountability, character, integrity and respect of diversity are the tools that Sailors need to continue the extraordinary culture of the Navy today and in the future.

"Fundamental to the value of our Sailors is culture; it's our culture that makes our Sailors different. Clearly the training and equipping does, but it's the culture of the Navy and the culture of innovation that make our Sailors so very different: they simply get the job done, they identify a problem, they self-organize, they execute well, they're collaborative and when the time comes for them to leave, they put their responsibilities into a package to turn over to a successor who can be more successful than they were. That is something that we as a Navy can never lose and that's the culture that exists today."

Current Readiness – Working with Our Partners is Key to Maritime Security

Adm. Roughead is the first CNO to visit South Africa. He met with his counterpart, Chief of the South African Navy Vice Adm. Johannes Refiloe Mudimu, and toured South African Navy ships and bases. CNO traveled to China for working meetings with his counterpart, Commander in Chief Adm. Wu Sheng Li. The purpose of the visit was to foster the Navy to navy and overall military relationship between our two navies and explore possible areas for enhanced cooperation. In conjunction with the visit, he also attended the PLA Navy's 60th Anniversary International Fleet Review, along with USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) and more than 40 naval vessels.

"I believe the most important thing is that navies continue to work cooperatively for the peace and security and stability of the world and the oceans that are so important to our commerce and prosperity."

Future Readiness – Arleigh Burke Destroyers are Essential to Our Fleet

In his remarks at the DDG 103 commissioning, CNO said that the Arleigh Burke class of guided missile destroyers is the most advanced, capable and versatile surface combatant class in the world. He said the utility and importance of USS Truxtun and ships of its class has been clear in the decision to restart the production line and increase the number of ballistic missile upgrades to the existing DDGs.

"These ships dominate the air and sea whenever they sail and wherever they sail with an ability to launch Tomahawk cruise missiles, to prosecute submarines, and to provide air and missile defense capabilities without equal. They give today's warfighters the technology they need to ensure victory and to assure both our allies and our adversaries that we will not be defeated."