



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



October 2, 2009

Chief of Naval Operations' Monthly Update

"Our forces are extraordinarily capable, extraordinarily professional, extraordinarily lethal and we have the flexibility to operate in places where many others cannot."

– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

In September, CNO attended the [Department of the Navy Sexual Assault Prevention Summit](#) to discuss sexual assault prevention and policies with senior Navy leadership. He also spoke at a panel discussion at the [Government Executive Leadership Breakfast](#) in Washington, D.C., about the current status of the Navy today and tomorrow. On Sept. 11, Adm. Roughead attended a wreath-laying ceremony at the Pentagon Memorial with the President, Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and also [presented a Purple Heart](#) to a Navy nurse for wounds she received while serving as an individual augmentee in Afghanistan. CNO recorded a [podcast on the end of the summer safety campaign and spoke about his new Facebook and Twitter pages](#). CNO wrapped up the month posting his [official statement regarding the integration of women into the submarine force](#), discussing service and Navy opportunities at the National Youth Leadership Forum and discussing October's International Seapower Symposium with media at the [Foreign Press Center](#).

Current Readiness – Maritime Strategy Is Being Fulfilled Every Day

CNO stressed that our Navy today gives the Commander in Chief a great deal of flexibility to be able to use our naval force globally, in all six core capabilities laid out in the Maritime Strategy: forward presence, deterrence, sea control, power projection, maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster response. We are exercising the core capabilities from the Navy's ships, airplanes, submarines and amphibious force, on the ground and at sea in every corner of the globe.

"As we operate globally, we are delivering on the Maritime Strategy that we set forth about two years ago. And I am proud to say it is not just a glossy booklet. But if you look at where the Navy is today, what we are doing today, we are performing those six capabilities that we set forth in our strategy, and that we remain a global, forward-deployed Navy."

Future Readiness – Information Dominance Essential to Future Fight

Adm. Roughead recorded a [podcast about the stand up of Fleet Cyber Command/10th Fleet](#) and how it will revolutionize the Navy's warfighting capability and better position the Navy to achieve information dominance. He said that our lives are shaped by information, not just in our jobs, but in our personal lives, and that these changes will enable us to operate more agilely in this new area of warfare: cyber warfare. It will also work better to support the new national command, U.S. Cyber Command.

"We have to organize ourselves, we have to train ourselves and we have to make sure that we're making the right investments so that we can remain the dominant information force, not just in the United States, but I would say globally. Because our job is to be able to make better decisions faster than any adversary. The changes that we're putting in place with 10th Fleet, the changes that we're making here on my staff are going to allow us to do that."

People – Contributing to the Front Lines

During his discussion at the Government Executive Leadership Breakfast, CNO stressed that we are a very busy Navy. Fifty-two thousand Sailors are deployed around the globe at any given moment. And about 25 percent of those Sailors are on the ground in Iraq, Afghanistan and in the Horn of Africa. He stressed that today's force is an all-volunteer force and that he admires the young men and women who are called to put on the uniform every day and put themselves in harms way to fulfill the mission of the Navy and the nation.

"I serve in the best Navy today that I have ever served in because of the people that we have. The quality that we have, the motivation that we have, the intellect that's there, the professionalism is the best that I have ever been a part of." The countries and the navies of the world have realized that through cooperation we can do more than we can individually, that by sharing information, sharing ideas, that we can have a better offense to eliminate some of these problems [piracy]. And that's why I believe we've seen this growth in the international dialogue that's taking place."