



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



March 4, 2009

Chief of Naval Operations' Monthly Update

"There is no other mission in the United States Navy that requires greater care, greater attention to detail, greater exacting adherence to procedure than the nuclear deterrent mission of our nation. It is a responsibility that we have to our nation, to our Navy and indeed to the world."

**– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations
1000th Trident Patrol Ceremony**

In February CNO travelled to Kings Bay, Ga., to speak at the 1000th Trident Patrol Ceremony. The ceremony marked the milestone of the ballistic missile submarine conducting 1,000 successful patrol periods since the first patrol of USS Ohio (SSBN 726) in 1982. He also travelled to Washington State to speak with Navy leadership and Sailors stationed there, as well as personnel at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. On Feb. 21, CNO attended the Black Engineer of the Year Awards in Baltimore, Md., where he highlighted the importance of a diverse Navy and specifically recognized the talent and innovation of the Navy's Sailors and civilians.

Current Readiness – We are a Flexible and Global Navy

While conducting a series of all hands calls during his travels, CNO talked about the Navy's vital role in missions across the globe. From counter-piracy, counter-narcotics to missions like Africa Partnership Station, the Navy is showing its flexibility and strength around the world.

"I will tell you that your Navy is doing great work. If you look at the world today, we are the only military force in the world that is involved in so many places around the world and making a huge difference. Not only do we have our traditional forces that are supporting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but we have deployments that are ongoing off of Africa; we're getting ready to go back in on another deployment into South America with a hospital ship; our submarine force is out and about."

Future Readiness – Ballistic Missile Submarines are Vital to our Maritime Strategy

In the late 1950s, the United States faced a formidable opponent, capable of destroying our land and air-based defenses, and a credible deterrent was needed – a stealthy system able to survive a first attack and ensure that regardless of the actions of the enemy, the United States would not be defeated. That strategic necessity still exists today, but instead of one, known opponent, our nation now faces many dispersed around the globe. The strategic need for ballistic missile submarines has not changed, even though the threats we face have.

"What we needed was a credible deterrent – a stealthy deterrent, a deterrent that was able to survive any attack, regardless of what was thrown at us, and one that would not be defeated. The world has changed a lot. As I walked boats in Bangor and here, the one thing that hasn't changed and the one thing that we continue to need is a strong, stealthy, formidable, competent deterrent."

People – Our Sailors Continue to Set the Global Standard

CNO stressed that while procuring the next generation of submarines or surface ships is important, no ship or missile is more important to the mission than Sailors. Through the ages Sailors have set the standard for professionalism, safety and high standards. That is evident throughout the Navy's communities – aviation, surface and submarine. Navy leadership and more importantly, the nation expect nothing short of continued excellence.

"I am proud that our Sailors are here today, Sailors who for decades have sailed on the world's oceans, those who have enabled those Sailors to do their job and especially their families who stand by and support and encourage and enable the Sailors so that we continue to be able to uphold those high standards. They have never let us down, they never will let us down because the culture that they foster and the culture that they pass on to the next generation is what really makes a difference."