



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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Global Maritime Partnerships ... A Strategic Initiative

"We have conducted operations with our friends and partners in NATO, maritime security operations in the Pacific, with more activity around South America and in Africa. The ability to bring these forces together, concentrate them, distribute them, and conduct operations adds to the cooperative environment we have around the world."

-- ADM Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

Global Maritime Partnerships (GMP) is an element of the Maritime Strategy and a new approach to cooperation among maritime nations who share a stake in international commerce, safety, security, and freedom of the seas. GMP is based on a common international need for effective maritime security through information sharing and acting on opportunities to assist one another in using the sea for lawful purposes, while limiting its use by those who threaten national, regional, or global security.

The Interagency Committee and Five Core Principles of GMP

Because GMP affects national interests, it cannot be accomplished solely by the military. The Maritime Security Policy Coordinating Committee, which includes representatives from multiple U.S. Government agencies including the Office of the Vice President, the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security, approved the following GMP principles:

- Effective maritime security is a common concern.
- Maritime awareness requires voluntary information sharing and shared best practices among nations.
- Maritime awareness promotes common opportunities and enhances security at sea, reduces risks, and lowers overhead costs to commerce.
- Partners promote greater cooperation with international and regional initiatives.
- Partner actions are consistent with national legal authorities and international laws.

Characteristics – the look and feel of GMP

The following characterizes GMP activities:

- Participation is voluntary, and not led by any country.
- GMP actions respect national sovereignty.
- GMP forces are free-form and self-organized based on partner requirements.

What the Navy is doing to promote GMP

- Demonstrate the core principles of Global Maritime Partnerships through our operations and exercises.
- Developing an informal maritime network that promotes global maritime security ... respects sovereignty ... does not rely on formal support structure or binding agreements.
- Working with the Office of the Secretary of Defense to build interagency consensus for support of GMP.

Key Messages

- Trust cannot be surged; in times of crisis the United States must have a foundation built on trust with other nations.
- Engagements build trust, trust enables partnerships, and strong partnerships increase maritime security.
- Global Fleet Stations (GFS) enable GMP by building capability and capacity in partner nations.

Facts & Figures

- Nearly 75% of the earth's surface is water; 90% of the world's commerce (\$8.9 trillion in 2004) travels by sea.
- More than 30 nations have naval forces with global reach; 160 nations have some maritime capability.
- Africa Partnership Station (APS) plans to visit seven countries in the Gulf of Guinea. APS is supported by eight partner nations along with eight interagency and non-governmental organizations.