



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



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## Global Engagement

*"The ability to win in combat is the core of the U.S. Navy and credibly demonstrating that ability is key to effecting behavior. But, our Navy also has the capability and responsibility to help prevent wars— shaping the international environment through partnership, capacity building, security of the high seas and assistance where needed— and where we choose."*

— VADM Doug Crowder, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy

Today, the U.S. Navy is engaged across the globe. Forward deployed, every day, covering all the world's regions, and executing the full spectrum of naval operations. This global engagement enables the Navy to:

### Engage in the current fight... by contributing forces to the Central Command theater of operations

- Working closely with the other military services, other agencies of the U.S. government, and coalition [partners afloat](#) and ashore, the Navy is on the front line conducting a range of combat, combat support, counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency, intelligence and logistics missions.

### Provide conventional deterrence... by posturing credible combat power in key regions

- The [U.S. Navy is providing conventional deterrence](#) day and night around the world, so that no potential aggressor can assume a free hand in using its military power.
- This was displayed in early 2008 when two Carrier Strike Groups were deployed to the Western Pacific to encourage China and Taiwan to pursue peaceful resolution of tensions surrounding Taiwan's presidential election.

### Enable diplomacy and assurance... by actively working with regional powers

- Unique among the services, the Navy can contribute support without leaving a "footprint." Naval forces are not only an exceedingly powerful tool of war, but also an easily scaled and flexible instrument of diplomacy.
- Immediately following the Russian invasion of Georgia, [USS McFaul \(DDG 74\)](#) and USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) provided almost 100 tons of [humanitarian supplies](#) to Georgia, signaling U.S. commitment to a regional partner.

### Build regional security... through steady-state, long term operations with partners and allies

- Forward U.S. naval engagement and the [ethos of global cooperation](#) contributes directly to the capability of our partners and helps to stabilize and develop many of the world's regions.
- Global partnership programs are executed by the Navy around the world, to include recent examples like [Pacific Partnership 2008](#), [Partnership of the Americas 2008](#) and [Africa Partnership Station 2009](#).

### Help those in need... to respond quickly and decisively to disasters

- The Navy brings unmatched capability to provide relief from disaster and to bring help to the needy. The Navy's flexibility allows forces to arrive quickly, help substantially, and depart quickly – leaving only the [image of a helpful America behind](#).
- No other organization does what the U.S. Navy can do, or is capable of doing it. In late 2007, USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) and its Expeditionary Strike Group was dispatched from the Horn of Africa to Bangladesh— shifting to a [humanitarian assistance mission— to provide disaster relief to areas devastated by Cyclone Sidr](#).

### Key Messages

- From the high end to the low end of the spectrum of operations, the U.S. Navy is there, on watch, answering America's call.
- The Navy is forward deployed and flexible, bringing capabilities that allow for a range of military and diplomatic options.

### Facts & Figures

- More than 40 ships with 9,300 Sailors aboard and 13,000 Sailors on the ground are operating in the Central Command theater of operations.
- [Continuing Promise 2008](#) facilitated the treatment of approximately 160,000 patients in the Caribbean and Central and South America.