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Monthly Update

"Partnerships are an integral part of our Maritime Strategy today. From the highest level of warfare to the humanitarian assistance missions, Global Maritime Partnerships are playing a decisive role in keeping the peace...What our Navy is doing today is what we said we would do last October when we unveiled the Maritime Strategy...We are out and about. We are operating in all corners of the world, operating with our partners across the spectrum of operations."

-- Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

In June the CNO was a keynote speaker for the [Naval War College's Current Strategy Forum](#) in Newport, RI. While there, CNO discussed the importance of maritime partnerships around the globe with students at the International Surface Warfare Officer School. Speech is available at www.navy.mil/navydata/people/cno/Roughead/Speech/CSF_transcript_17June08.pdf

This visit was followed by a week-long trip to the Eastern Mediterranean where CNO conducted a counterpart visit with the Israeli Chief of Navy, visited Israeli Navy bases and cultural sites, got underway on Israeli Navy vessels and held discussions with top military and government officials. From Israel, CNO traveled to Naval Support Activity, Naples, Italy, for an all-hands call with Sailors and meetings with leadership.

Future Force – LCS is critical to Global Maritime Security and building Global Maritime Partnerships

This month USS Freedom (LCS 1) will conduct its builder's dock and builder's sea trials in preparation for its future missions to support maritime security. Littoral Combat Ship is a critical part of the future fleet that fills warfighting requirement gaps that exist today in the littoral Counter-Mine, Anti-Surface and Anti-Submarine warfare areas. LCS will strengthen and build our Global Maritime Partnerships by allowing us to work closely with other navies to ensure the free flow of commerce and resources around the world.

"[Littoral Combat Ships] have completely new features and many new concepts. We will be able to change the capabilities of that ship in very quick time. We've never done that before. We've always built a ship that had everything on it. Littoral combat ships can be configured as a submarine hunting ship, a mine hunting ship or a surface action ship. We believe that that modular approach suits our Navy well."

Warfighting Readiness – Navy's operational BMD capability ensures Global Maritime Security

Our ability to use ballistic missile defense (BMD) in international waters for defending against established and emergent threats is a core component to ensuring global maritime security. The Navy's forward-deployed, flexible forces provide a platform to defend our homeland and ensure free and lawful use of the seas. They allow interoperability of these defense capabilities with our partners. Seven nations work with the Navy in various capacities to advance BMD capabilities around the world.

"[BMD is] a growth area for the Navy and it's an area where the Navy has proven itself. Our ballistic missile defense capability is not a bunch of scientists, it's not a bunch of research development folks who are doing those things. When we shot the missile down it was an active duty Sailor who pushed the button. It wasn't some scientist in some research lab somewhere. Our system is here, it exists, it is real and it is operated by Sailors and that's our strength."

People – The daily international partnerships fostered by Sailors, Navy civilians and their families add immense value to our overall naval force

"We are not a garrisoned force; 62,600 Sailors are out and about in the world and 14,400 of them are on the ground in the Middle East. Our presence, our maneuverability, our strength, and our ability to operate across the spectrum of operations in war and peace are what make our naval forces valuable. But none of this would be possible without the Sailors, Navy civilians and their families that make it happen day in and day out, 24 hours a day across the globe. The international experiences and global partnerships made today contribute greatly to the larger picture of our world and our Navy tomorrow."