



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



January 8, 2009

Chief of Naval Operations' Monthly Update

"It is great to see the attitude, the confidence and the culture that we as a Navy bring to this fight, and to see the progress that's being made in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the work that is being done by each and every Sailor serving in an IA assignment. I encourage you to take what you have learned in these assignments, and apply it when you go back to the Fleet. We are going to be a better Navy and live in a better world because of what you do."

– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

In December, CNO traveled to Chile to visit Chilean naval personnel and participate in the 2008 International Exponaval Conference where he had the opportunity to strengthen relationships with maritime partners from Asia, Europe and Latin America. He also traveled to Afghanistan to visit Sailors at International Security Assistance Force, Bagram Theater Internment Facility, Bagram Airfield and Provincial Reconstruction Teams Nuristan, Kunar and Khowst. He met with Sailors aboard USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7), USS Carter Hall (LSD 50), USS Ramage (DDG 61), and USS San Antonio (LPD 17). At MCPON (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa's retirement and passing of office ceremony to MCPON (SS/SW) Rick D. West, CNO highlighted the incredible work that MCPON Campa did, and discussed the important role of our Navy's senior enlisted leadership. He also participated in a panel discussion at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Current Readiness – We Maintain a Global Forward Presence

Along with our maritime partners, we ensure maritime security as we deter, dissuade, and intercept transnational criminals who are trafficking drugs, people and arms. HSV-2 Swift recently participated in Southern Partnership Station where it promoted maritime security through training and officer exchanges with partner nations. With the help of our partners, we see the opportunities to prevent conflict and promote prosperity for the good of our nation and the international community.

"We as a Navy are maintaining our forward presence globally. About 50 percent of the U.S. Navy is at sea on any given day, and 42 percent of my Navy is deployed and operating away from our shores. We have sent our ships to deter conflict in the Mediterranean and in the Middle East. We maintain our ability to control the seas through advanced training, through regular deployments, and by procuring – by buying – the right types of ships and aircraft and systems for the world that we face today and will face tomorrow."

Future Readiness – We Are Building a Fleet to Support Future Missions

Recent events – such as the Mumbai terrorist attacks and piracy off the Somali coast– remind us that it is vital that we continue to work closely with our partners to oppose threats today and in the future. We must also be prepared to respond to catastrophic events spurred by climate change and the shortage of energy and natural resources. For this reason, it is imperative that we continue to grow the size of the fleet.

"Though the global economy may slow, illegal activities will not. In fact it's quite possible that they may increase. We can still expect to combat an increasingly sophisticated narcotics trade, and the use of semi-submersibles vessels is an example of how that trade evolves. Likewise, human trafficking, arms smuggling, and illegal fishing will not diminish in the future."

"We have put together a good program on the number of ships that we are going to build. We just commissioned the Littoral Combat Ship, and we want to build at least 55 of those. We're going to be commissioning a new aircraft carrier on the 10th of January – the George Herbert Walker Bush. We've already started plans for construction of the Gerald Ford – the next aircraft carrier...Ships are very expensive, but it's important that we continue to grow the size of the fleet."

People – Our Senior Enlisted Leaders are the Bedrock of the Fleet

The retirement ceremony of MCPON Campa and passing of office to MCPON West highlights not only the great contributions of one Sailor to our Navy, but it illuminates the talent and great work of all those senior enlisted Sailors in our Fleet who work every day to ensure the training and success of all Sailors.

"I would like to thank all of the Sailors that are here today, serving and retired. You have dedicated your lives to service. You are the proud heritage of what we celebrate today. You have an opportunity to make a difference in the world everyday, and it's not an opportunity that anyone can have. Your courage and your selflessness make our Navy the greatest Navy that has ever sailed the seas. A Navy that deters aggression and builds partnerships, and a Navy that will ensure our nation's security and prosperity for years to come and long into the future."