



RHUMB LINES

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Surface Warfare: Core Capabilities to Meet the Nation's Maritime Strategy

"The Surface Navy Association's Annual National Symposium is the perfect forum for warfighters to discuss professional and career issues of interest. These discussions are critical to my highest priority - increasing warfighting readiness of the Surface Force to support the Combatant Commanders in their execution of the Nation's Maritime Strategy around the globe. It's an exciting time to be a Surface Warrior!"

– Vice Adm. D.C. Curtis, Commander, Naval Surface Forces

In an increasingly interconnected and uncertain world, the Navy's Surface Forces protect U.S. vital interests, protect the homeland and operate with global partners to prevent war. Surface Force people, ships, and combat systems are central to all core capabilities of the Maritime Strategy.

Forward Presence

- Surface forces are on station around the world, offering combatant commanders persistence, presence and flexibility. Surface ships are operating with Carrier Strike Groups, Expeditionary Strike Groups, as part of Forward Deployed Naval Forces, deployed independently, and serving with coalition task forces.
- Surface force personnel are serving in Individual Augmentee (IA) assignments in Afghanistan, Iraq and other locations around the world, bringing Navy expertise to Combatant Commanders.

Deterrence

- The expeditionary character of maritime forces—our lethality, global reach, speed, endurance, ability to overcome barriers to access, and operational agility—provide the joint commander with a range of deterrent options. Ballistic Missile Defense-capable cruisers and destroyers provide a significant capability to engage ballistic missiles, serving to deter adversaries from employing them against the U.S. and its partners.

Sea Control

- Surface ships assure access for commerce and control of the seas – from the blue water open-ocean environment to asymmetric threats such as mines, submarines and fast attack boats in the littoral.

Power Projection

- Surface combatants have strike capability to engage targets hundreds of miles inland. Expeditionary forces can deliver and support Marine Corps Air-Ground Task Forces to achieve military objectives ashore.

Maritime Security

- U.S. surface ships are underway today with partners from around the world to combat piracy, stop movement of drugs and illicit cargos, and fight terrorism. The Navy works closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, international partners and interagency participants across a wide spectrum of maritime security endeavors.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response

- Surface forces can rapidly arrive on the scene of a disaster virtually anywhere in the world to render immediate assistance, and remain as long as required. Surface forces can facilitate the delivery of medical and logistics support to remote locations.

Key Messages

- USS Freedom's commissioning and future LCS ships are a positive step to ensuring the Navy's capabilities must keep pace with rapidly evolving threats. The capabilities required to counter these threats continue to be the resource driver for surface combatants.
- The Surface Forces' people, ships, and combat systems are central to all core capabilities of the Maritime Strategy.

Facts & Figures

- The Aegis-equipped fleet totals 52 destroyers and 22 cruisers, with 10 more destroyers to be built.
- Navy is 12 for 14 in SM-3 midcourse intercepts and 1 for 1 in SM-2 Block IV terminal intercepts on ballistic missile targets between 2002 and 2007.
- The Surface Navy Association 2009 [Annual National Symposium](#) is being held January 13-15 at the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City in Arlington, Va. Details can be found at www.navysna.org