



RHUMB LINES

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U.S. 6th Fleet Executing Global Operations

"Today, as I consider the 6th Fleet mission, their relevance is as critical as any fleet around the globe. The geopolitical landscape is constantly changing, and 6th Fleet positions themselves to allow me to respond to emerging threats and to increase critical capacity in peaceful environments. They are the face of today's Navy."

– Adm. James Stavridis, Commander, U.S. European Command

U.S. 6th Fleet is maximizing its ability to have a positive impact on the maritime environment. Our ships are forward-deployed to gather information, deter threats and maintain peace in volatile regions of the world. Sailors and civilians in the 6th Fleet area of responsibility are doing the hard work to build the core skills and professionalism of U.S. partners, including NATO, in both Europe and Africa.

Sea Control

- The Sailors of USS Miami (SSN 755) have been underway in the Atlantic Ocean, monitoring maritime activities in an area often trafficked by ships to move people, raw materials and finished goods between continents.

Maritime Security

- USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) recently visited Mauritius and Reunion on the eastern side of Africa in support of Africa Partnership Station. Courses offered to their Coast Guards included small boat operations; navigation; and visit, board, search and seizure tactics. Building resident skills increases the ability to properly patrol and secure the maritime environment.
- U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Legare (WMEC 912) is working with African maritime partners in West and Central Africa in joint law enforcement patrol operations as part of the operational side of Africa Partnership Station. Joint patrol operations increase a nation's ability to respond to maritime criminal activities and build a greater understanding of both legitimate and unlawful activity at sea.

Forward Presence

- As part of Africa Partnership Station, personnel from High Speed Vessel Swift (HSV 2) taught chart characteristics and plotting to Ghanaian Sailors.

Deterrence

- USS Stout (DDG 55) is operating in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea as part of a routine deployment that provides a tailored presence and promotes stability in the region. USS Stout earlier conducted goodwill port visits to Batumi and Poti, Georgia.

Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response

- Nearly every U.S. ship that participates in Africa Partnership Station has delivered humanitarian supplies donated through Project Handclasp. From Maputo, Mozambique, to Dakar, Senegal, the U.S. Navy has brought books for school children, medical supplies and other humanitarian supplies.
- In September 2009, High Speed Vessel Swift will conduct a Medical Civil Action Program and Veterinary Civil Action Program in Monrovia, Liberia, as part of Africa Partnership Station.

Key Messages

- U.S. 6th Fleet is strengthening regional maritime partnerships.
- The U.S. Navy's long-term commitment to improve maritime safety and security is part of a larger U.S. strategy.
- Maritime security is required to ensure freedom of the seas for all lawful users.
- U.S. 6th Fleet's goal is to increase host nation capability and capacity to respond to maritime threats.

Facts & Figures

- 105 countries are in the 6th Fleet area of responsibility.
- The 6th Fleet area of responsibility covers 20 million square nautical miles of ocean, touching three continents and 67 % of the world's coastline.
- The 6th Fleet flagship is USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20), home ported in Gaeta, Italy.
- For more information on U.S. 6th Fleet, visit <http://www.c6f.navy.mil/>