



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



August 4, 2009

Chief of Naval Operations' Monthly Update

"Today, more so than in the past, the places where we go as a Navy, where we go as a nation, the countries and the organizations with whom we operate, the situations in which we find ourselves will require Sailors and leaders with different ideas and different experiences that will make us better as a whole."

– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

In July, CNO traveled to [Japan and the Republic of Korea](#) to reinforce the Navy's commitment to its partner nations and further enhance the friendship between the two navies and countries. He also travelled to Houston, Texas, to speak to the [National Naval Officers Association \(NNOA\)](#) and meet with Sailors at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. Admiral Roughead was the guest speaker at the [Fleet Forces Change of Command ceremony](#) held aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75). Later in the month, CNO attended the [Joint Strike Fighter carrier variant](#) and [P8-A aircraft rollout](#) ceremonies and the [Seattle Seafair](#) to engage with local Sailors and the base community.

Current Readiness – Global Operations

Currently there are 62,000 Sailors deployed around the world, above, on and below the oceans, as well as 14,000 Sailors on the ground in support of joint missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. Three aircraft carriers are deployed to the Middle East, Pacific and Europe and other carriers are gearing up and getting ready to relieve them. We have to ensure the right capability and capacity to meet the demands of the nation and to ensure we stay a global power.

"It is a global Navy, it's a Navy with global reach, a Navy with global interests that is supporting the nation's interests."

Future Readiness – Global Maritime Partnerships

CNO said that because we have a global Navy it is imperative that we connect with our coalition partners around the world. Operations such as those conducted by the counter-piracy task force in the Gulf of Aden are examples of how our Navy can come together with other navies to protect the nation's and the world's sea lanes. He said he hopes Sailors will be just as comfortable sipping three cups of tea in Afghanistan, as drinking high tea in London, as drinking green tea in China.

"Everyday they [Sailors] are out and about, every ocean of the world, not just doing things in our nation's interest but also working with other navies around the world to bring peace and stability and security and to solidify the maritime partnerships that are so much a part of this global world that we live in."

People – Leadership, Mentorship Key for Diverse Navy

CNO spoke at the NNOA conference about how leadership and mentorship are integral to the Navy's diversity initiatives. He spoke about how everyone in uniform has something in common: we share a country and we share in the defense of our country. He urged Sailors to talk among those already in the Navy and to the young men and women who may not know all the opportunities and advantages that are available to them in the Navy.

"It's up to us as leaders to lead the Navy, to provide that mentorship, to provide that support and to have that dialogue across the entire Navy. Giving good advice at key decision points is something that is a responsibility all of us must do. And as you move up through the ranks, as you move on to positions of greater responsibility in the Navy, don't forget that. Look for the opportunities, make the opportunities and bring along the generation that follows behind you."