



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



June 4, 2009

Chief of Naval Operations' Monthly Update

"The Navy today is meant to win battles at sea, to be sure. But it is much, much more. The fleet must cover America's responsibilities around the world, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and at an unforgiving pace of operations."
– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

In May, CNO delivered remarks to the [Center for Strategic International Studies Military Strategy Forum](#), the [Navy League's Sea, Air, Space Exposition](#), the 1000th Ohio Class Strategic Deterrent Patrol Ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard, and the [FY 2008 CNO Environmental Awards ceremony](#) at the Navy Memorial. CNO also testified before the [House Appropriations Committee for Military Construction](#) about the Navy's shore infrastructure and the [House Armed Services Committee](#) about the status of the Navy and his priorities to Build Tomorrow's Navy, Remain Ready to Fight Today, and Develop and Support our Sailors and Navy Civilians. Today's update provides highlights.

Build Tomorrow's Navy

CNO emphasized in a speech prior to his testimony, that now is the time to communicate to the nation the importance of the U.S. Navy's dominance at sea and to reignite the debate on what is needed to ensure that our operations and way of life can be assured for generations to come. During the testimony he said we are working diligently to build tomorrow's Navy, increasing oversight of our programs to ensure timely delivery at the right cost. We are adding new ships including the Freedom-class Littoral Combat Ship, the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), and three Zumwalt-class destroyers. We are also continuing the construction of our versatile Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and Virginia-class submarines. We are adding new aircraft including the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the P-8A Poseidon, and the Broad Area Maritime Surveillance unmanned aerial vehicles. These new platforms, when combined with our existing ships, submarines, and aircraft, will provide capability to meet the challenges we are likely to face in the future.

"We continue to build tomorrow's Navy. Our Navy needs a stable shipbuilding program that provides the right capability and capacity for our Fleet while preserving our nation's industrial base."

Remain Ready to Fight Today

Our Navy is more versatile and agile than we have ever been, providing more than 14,000 Sailors on the ground in Central Command supporting Navy, Combatant Commander and Army and Marine Corps requirements. Additionally, we are an expeditionary force with 50,000 Sailors on station around the world capable of conducting missions across the spectrum of warfare. We are engaged in missions from the Horn of Africa, to the Caribbean to the Philippines. Our operations range from tracking attempted ballistic missile launches from North Korea, to interacting with international partners at sea, to providing medical and humanitarian assistance from the sea.

"While we have been building our Navy for tomorrow, we have also been focused intensely on today's fight. Our Sailors are fully engaged on the ground, in the air, and at sea in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Develop and Support our Sailors and Navy Civilians

Through a continuum of care, the Navy provides all Sailors and their families support to ensure individual medical, physical, psychological and family readiness. We provided additional care managers and ambulatory care clinics for our 1,800 wounded warriors and their families and increased the number of counselors available at Fleet and Family Support Centers. We also plan to construct 17 new child development centers to increase child care spaces. These are resources that are invaluable to Sailors and their families.

"My commitment to developing and supporting our Sailors and Navy civilians in their global operations endures."