



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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U.S. 5th Fleet Executing Global Operations

"We are always the away team; we are always forward deployed. We are always ready for whatever mission comes along. We have got to be flexible; we have to be quick; we have got to be able to change missions."

– **The Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy**

With more than 24,000 U.S. Navy personnel serving throughout the region ashore and afloat, it is important to understand how the U.S. Navy is carrying out the maritime strategy in the [U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility](#).

Power Projection

- [USS Ronald Reagan \(CVN 76\)](#) and [Carrier Air Wing \(CVW\) 14](#) are currently providing close air support and reconnaissance missions in support of coalition forces on the ground in Afghanistan, in order to defeat violent extremists. [U.S. Naval Air Forces](#) are tactically flexible, highly disciplined and provide a variety of effects, both kinetic and non-kinetic.

Maritime Security

- The U.S. Navy leads the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), comprised of 22 nations. Coalition Naval forces conduct maritime security operations throughout the region and are assigned to CMF's three principle task forces— Combined Task Forces (CTF) 150, 151 and 152.
- The U.S. Navy conducts operations in the North Arabian Gulf as part of CTF-Iraqi Maritime helping provide maritime security, infrastructure protection, and training to the Iraqi Navy.

Forward Presence

- There are more than 5,300 Sailors serving in Iraq and 3,100 Sailors serving in Afghanistan.
 - Sailors serve in Riverine Squadrons, Explosive Ordnance Disposal platoons, Seabee Naval Construction Forces, Provincial Reconstruction Teams, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Groups and as [Individual Augmentees](#).
- More than 10,000 Sailors operate at sea aboard 36 ships (USS, USCG and USNS) in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

Counter Piracy Operations

- In response to the increase in piracy, the U.S. Navy is leading a multinational effort to patrol the waters off the Horn of Africa. Piracy is an international problem that requires an international solution.
- Currently, there are 35 vessels from 16 different nations operating off the coast of Somalia supporting counter-piracy operations. These units deploy independently or as part of CTF 151, European Union and NATO efforts.

Key Messages

- Operations in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility are focused on reassuring regional partners of the United States' commitment to security and stability, which is key to regional and global prosperity.
- The U.S. is providing an opportunity for the governments of Iraq and Afghanistan to establish secure foundations for democracy.
- The U.S. Navy leads a coalition of nations sending ships and aircraft to [deter pirate activity](#), allowing the shipping industry time to implement self-protection measures and the international community to establish a legal framework to hold pirates accountable for their actions.

Facts & Figures

- Since launching its first sorties into Afghanistan in July, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) has flown 635 sorties, delivered 16 weapons, conducted 15 strafing missions and 68 shows of force in support of coalition ground forces.
- [Piracy](#) impacts less than 1% of shipping, more than 33,000 vessels transit the Gulf of Aden annually. In 2009, there have been 135 attempted attacks - of which, 34 were successful and 101 were unsuccessful.
- [CTF-151](#) and other cooperating naval forces have encountered more than 496 pirates; 251 were disarmed and released, 235 were turned over for prosecution.