



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



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## Monthly Update

*"There is nothing more important to our Navy than honoring our commitment to care for our shipmates, especially those who have been wounded in combat... We honor our commitment to care for wounded warriors every day of the year."*

**– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations**

In November CNO released his [2009 Guidance](#) and approved the [Navy Ethos](#). These reaffirm the mission and values of our Navy, and provide a snapshot of the future of the Fleet. Days later, CNO [officialiated over the change of command](#) at U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Immediately following the change of command, he traveled to the Recruit Training Center at Great Lakes where he [served as the reviewing officer](#) for the graduation of 970 new Sailors. The next day, he delivered [remarks](#) at the commissioning of USS Freedom (LCS 1).

### **Warfighting Readiness – What was once a future plan is now a current capability**

Our Maritime Strategy takes us beyond the current fight and provides a strategic framework for how our Navy will operate now and in the future. Anti-submarine warfare proficiency is critical to our ability to execute the capabilities of the Maritime Strategy, and this month the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Navy on the challenge to Navy's use of sonar in training exercises off the coast of Southern California.

*"This decision is not a 'win' for the Navy over the environmentalists. It enables the nation to achieve a balanced, responsible approach to meeting the Navy's dual obligation for maintaining a trained and effective force and environmental stewardship."*

This month we also saw the commissioning of USS Freedom, the first ship in the class of Littoral Combat Ships. CNO welcomed USS Freedom to the fleet, praising its modular capabilities, speed, draft and size of class, and calling it "the banner of American Freedom."

*"Freedom is the first of the class. She brings to the Navy incredible capabilities, great flexibility, speed, the ability to operate in places of the world where we normally do not operate... She can change her configuration, the mission capabilities she has – it introduces a whole new operating concept for us, and we are really excited about that."*

### **Future Force – The 2009 Guidance lays the foundation for future fleet operations**

CNO released his Guidance for 2009, refining the scope of his intentions and how they will be measured in the future. By looking at the CNO's intentions and key measures, the Navy has a clear course for the Fleet of the future.

*"The 2009 Guidance is not much different from the 2008 Guidance because the direction that I saw the Navy needing to go in 2008 is the same direction where we must go in 2009. It's to carry out our Maritime Strategy: To perform and be competent in the capability areas that we talked about of deterrence, being a forward Navy, being able to provide power projection and exercise sea control and also to be able to conduct humanitarian assistance/disaster response and maritime security."*

### **People – The Navy Ethos is a statement of who we are as a Navy**

At the Recruit Training Center, CNO reminded new Sailors and their families of the privilege and importance of their service in the greatest Navy in the world. He explained how the Navy's Ethos is complementary to The Sailor's Creed.

*"As you set out into the Fleet – the Fleet of Sailors around the world and our Navy civilians who work closely with us – you must also become part of and demonstrate our Navy Ethos. That Ethos is our statement of beliefs, of values, of principles and distinguishing characteristics as Sailors in the greatest Navy in the world. It compliments our Sailor's Creed because it is not a statement of what we live by but it is a statement of who we are."*