



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



November 6, 2008

Monthly Update

"The importance of these gatherings cannot be overstated, and I also believe that we should consider these types of events, these symposiums, to be a continuum around the world. We can continue our conversations, continue our discussions, continue our initiatives so that we can build momentum that allows us to develop solutions to the challenges and issues that we face."

– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

In October CNO travelled to Venice, Italy, to participate in the 7th Regional Seapower Symposium for the Mediterranean and Black Sea Countries. This symposium brings together coalition partners from NATO and nearly 40 countries in the region to increase cooperation between participating navies and world organizations. CNO also spoke at the christening ceremony for USS Wayne E. Meyer (DDG 108) in Bath, Maine, and celebrated the Navy's 233rd birthday.

Current Readiness – Enhancing Cooperation and Building Partnerships with Maritime Partners

We work closely with our global maritime partners to be present globally, using the capabilities outlined in the Maritime Strategy. We have moved proactively with maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and these are truly cooperative efforts. We must seek ways to expand and link our cooperative efforts beyond and across traditional regional maritime boundaries, and seek to bridge regional initiatives to build that network of partnerships around the world. Sharing information and conducting personnel exchanges in joint exercises is key to enhancing our global partnerships.

"We've also moved proactively with humanitarian assistance. In the past two years, working with many of your navies and maritime forces and agencies from your government, and working with non-governmental organizations, we have participated together in humanitarian assistance operations in Africa, South America, Central America and in Southeast Asia. And in those operations, we have taken care of, 320,000 patients—people around the world—who never thought that they would have access to the assistance, the help, and medical care that you and your professionals have been able to provide. That is truly a cooperative effort, one that we are proud to participate in."

Future Readiness – Innovation is Moving the Navy Forward

Wayne E. Meyer (DDG 108) was named after the admiral who is considered the father of Aegis and modern-day ballistic missile defense. It is important that we continue to look forward and develop capabilities that, like Aegis, will change the face of Fleet operations in the future.

"Admiral Meyer delivered a great leap in defense technology. One that has given us the flexibility to adjust to emerging threats over several decades and as we have seen recently it will be able to adjust to emerging threats for decades to come. Who would have thought? And I will tell you that as a young officer serving in USS Barry and later in USS Port Royal, if someone had told me that from one of these ships a failing satellite would be shot down in space, I would have questioned that. But that is exactly what has happened in the past year."

People – Sailors and Navy Civilians Are the Pioneers of Tomorrow's Navy

Sailors today have the unique opportunity to make a difference in the Navy of tomorrow. Rear Adm. Wayne E. Meyer pioneered a new standard in combat systems technology when he envisioned Aegis, and like him, every Sailor can accomplish great things. In developing and acquiring the technology for tomorrow, Sailors and Navy civilians should look for the next big thing like Aegis – the next big thing that will provide us with the flexibility and the capability to meet our current and future threats. Our Sailors and Navy civilian professionals who work so hard to achieve that end would do well to study the journey of Rear Adm. Wayne E. Meyer

"Our obligation is to provide the very best ships to our Sailors with relevant combat capability so that when they go forward into harm's way they will not be in a fair fight. They should never be in a fair fight. They must prevail every time."