



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



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## Surface Warfare

*"The global environment presents complex and uncertain challenges. We need the right Surface Fleet with the right warfighting capabilities and readiness to ensure we remain engaged with other nations, operating forward, projecting credible combat power, and ensuring stability and security across the strategic crossroads. We must encourage innovation in both concepts of operation and new capabilities to develop the "game changers" that will ensure we remain the world's most dominant Navy."*

– Commander Naval Surface Forces Vice Adm. Richard W. Hunt

### The Surface Navy directly supports the Sailing Directions:

**Warfighting First.** Our primary mission is warfighting. All efforts to improve capabilities, develop people, and structure our organizations are grounded in this fundamental responsibility.

- The Surface Force provides the nation credible combat capability for deterrence, sea control, and power projection around the globe to discourage or contain conflict, fight and win wars, and advance our interests during a time of uncertainty.
- During just one week last year, the Surface Navy was conducting kinetic strike support in the Mediterranean, [tactical recovery of a downed Air Force pilot](#) in the heart of the Libyan combat zone, and providing sorties to coalition ground forces in Afghanistan.

**Operate Forward.** We deliver and sustain a full spectrum of combat-ready Surface Forces prepared to deter aggression at sea, protect global freedom of action and win our nation's wars.

- On any given day, approximately 40% of the current Surface Force of 170 ships is [underway](#) away from homeport, patrolling strategic crossroads and ensuring the networks of trade and information vital to our nation's interests remain clear.
- Surface ships operate forward in every ocean of the world to keep our nation secure by maintaining relationships with [allies and partners](#) and by meeting threats abroad before those threats can harm us at home.
- Operating forward, in the [Strait of Hormuz](#) and elsewhere around the world fully combat-ready, allows us to prevent conflict – always a desirable alternative to fighting.

**Be Ready.** The Surface Force will continue to evolve by leveraging new technologies, operating concepts, and nurturing the talent of our Sailors to remain the world's most effective, persistent, resilient Surface Navy.

- Sustaining fleet capability through [maintenance](#) of ships to expected service life, timely modernization, and production of proven platforms is essential to warfighting readiness.
- We will continue to rely on coordination, collaboration, and alignment to responsibly employ our resources and innovate to improve effectiveness while operating within fiscal constraints.
- We are [building ships](#) for the fleet of the next 30 to 50 years. This fleet must have both capability and capacity to meet the full spectrum of tasking, from winning current wars to preventing future conflict.

### Key Messages

- The Surface Force is uniquely positioned to stay in constant contact with allies, partners and others, consistently influencing the maritime domain.
- The embarkation and utilization of game-changing technology, such as the [rail gun](#), on every platform is a Surface Force priority.
- The Navy-Marine Corps team is the nation's premiere warfighting force, and the Surface Force is committed to enhancing this partnership.

### Facts & Figures

- Of the current total deployable battle force of 285 surface ships and subs, more than 120 ships are deployed (42% of total).
- There are 54,712 Surface Warriors in the force (51,512 Sea; 3,200 Shore).
- 2,213 billets have been restored from optimal manning cuts.
- [2012 Surface Navy Association National Symposium](#) is being held in Crystal City, Arlington, Va., Jan. 10-12.