



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



January 5, 2010

Chief of Naval Operations' Monthly Update

"It's that passion, the commitment that you see played out on the field today that later on translates into service to our country, and so that passion leaves the field and goes forward on every land and every sea around the world. That's what this is all about. It's a tough game, it's a hard fought game, but when the game is over, we lock arms and go forward together."

– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations, remarks at Army vs. Navy game

In December, CNO participated in the Special Operations Command and Tri-Service War Fighter talks in Washington and Suffolk, Va. He traveled to Colombia and met with his Colombian counterpart, Adm. Guillermo Barrera, commander of the Colombian naval forces. He attended the 81st [Army/Navy football game](#) in Philadelphia, Pa., and in the middle of the month, cycled more than 53 miles on the [Ride 2 Recovery Florida bike challenge](#) and spoke to Sailors stationed at Naval Station Mayport. CNO wrapped up the month by recording a [podcast](#) on the joint service Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands program.

Current Readiness – Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands Program

During his podcast, CNO spoke about the newly implemented Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands program, a joint service effort established to provide more continuity in the regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. CNO said the billets are mostly for officers, with a few offered to enlisted personnel. The Hands will be made up of servicemembers from all military branches, designators and job fields. CNO said they will learn the languages and know the cultures which will help establish stronger relationships with the regions. He went on to explain that this program will also provide the resources to better assess the progress of the overall mission in the region.

"We will have people in those areas who really understand the country, the culture, the language; they'll have enduring relationships with people who are the leaders in the various areas of the country or of the various agencies where they may be assigned."

Future Readiness – Future Combat Tools

During his all-hands call at Naval Station Mayport, CNO talked about the future resources that will be available to Sailors to carry out their missions. He spoke about the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) 1 early deployment in spring 2010 and the LCS 2 commissioning in January 2010. CNO also addressed the progress of the DDG 51 class and the importance of the Navy's increasing role in ballistic missile defense. Finally, Roughead spoke of the Navy's aggressive plans for the Unmanned Combat Aerial System, which is an innovative unmanned multi-mission aircraft that will be able to operate from an aircraft carrier.

"It is important for all of us to realize and recognize that the strength of the nation really comes from our accomplishments. Today's Sailors and those who have yet to join the Navy are going to be the future global navy that makes a difference."

People – Honoring our wounded active-duty servicemembers and veterans

CNO cycled on the last day of the Ride 2 Recovery Florida bike challenge. The ride benefits programs for wounded active-duty servicemembers and veterans, serving as an opportunity to physically challenge and further encourage their rehabilitation. CNO said the Ride 2 Recovery was a great way to incorporate a worthy cause with one of his favorite sporting events. He went on to talk about how inspired he was to ride alongside the great men and women who have sacrificed so much.

"Ride 2 Recovery was a great experience, professionally and personally. It allowed me to spend some good time with some of our wounded warriors to understand the challenges that they face and the opportunities that they have, and also to see the continuing drive that they have to recover and begin leading their lives given some of the setbacks that they may have had."