



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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Chief of Naval Operations' Monthly Update

"As I tell my leaders today: it is easy to lead when things are going well; it's easy to lead when money is there...but leadership really matters when things are tough, when there are challenges, and that is when the value of a leader really becomes important."

– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

In March, the CNO spoke at the Naval Ship Repair Industry Conference and Valley Forge Alumni Reception in Crystal City, Va., the [26th Annual Seminar of the Conference of Defence Associations in Ottawa, Canada](#), and the [Seabee – Naval Facilities Engineering Command \(NAVFAC\) Washington-Area Anniversary Ball in Washington, D.C.](#) He received the [OPTIMAS Award](#) on behalf of the Navy, which was recognized as one of the top employers in the country. He testified in Congress before a number of committees and spoke at the Submarine Flag Officer Training Symposium in Kings Bay, Ga. The CNO engaged with Sailors at the [Naval Chaplaincy School and Center \(NCSC\) and with Sailors about to deploy as Individual Augmentees \(IA\) at Camp McCrady on Fort Jackson, S.C.](#) The CNO also welcomed his [Pakistani counterpart, Adm. Noman Bashir, in Washington D.C.](#), and wrapped up the month traveling to [Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar](#) to strengthen maritime partnerships, attend the 2nd International Maritime Defence Exhibition & Conference and meet with Navy leaders and Sailors.

Current Readiness – USS Freedom (LCS 1) and USS Independence (LCS 2)

Deploying two years early, USS Freedom has already contributed to the Navy's global mission. The CNO said he wanted her deployed early, so the Navy could begin learning about how to operate LCS ships to the maximum effect. The speed inherent in the LCS has already proven valuable as [USS Freedom has interdicted nearly \\$90 million worth of illicit drugs](#) being transported on the high seas by smugglers in "go-fast" boats. USS Independence (LCS 2) is also underway and currently sailing to Norfolk to commence initial testing and evaluation before transiting to her homeport in San Diego. The CNO said operating these ships will give the Navy more insight into the operational, logistical and personnel issues the upcoming fleet of littoral combat ships will require.

"It is extraordinarily important that we get through [the LCS downselect] process cleanly and quickly so that we can start building those ships in numbers."

Future Readiness – Navy's fiscal year 2011 budget and Quadrennial Defense Review

Early in February, the Department of Defense Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) was released, and the Navy budget was submitted to Congress. The CNO emphasized before three Congressional committees in March that the QDR validates the Maritime Strategy, and the Navy's fiscal year 2011 budget provides the appropriate amount of funds for the capabilities needed for the Navy's future. He also said the budget emphasized operational commands, because they play a vital role in maintaining today's fleet and the pace of operations.

"Most importantly in this budget are the programs that are so important to our people – to allow them, and their families to continue to serve and to enjoy the opportunities that exist in the Navy and the ability to go off and do the work that the nation asks of them."

People – Celebrating Seabees and their extraordinary efforts

In March, the CNO attended the Seabee-NAVFAC Washington-Area Anniversary Ball, where he encouraged the Seabees to continue the extraordinary work they do throughout the fleet. The CNO said the Seabees have a 'can do' attitude that takes them wherever the fight is and wherever disaster strikes, so they can build new infrastructure and improve those buildings that already stand. He congratulated them for their international recognition of being awarded the [Platts Award for green energy initiatives](#). He also thanked them for being the exceptional expeditionary force which makes the present Navy better than the one of the past.

"...Everywhere a disaster strikes somewhere in the world, you can bet that the Seabees are going to be there, they are going to be the first ones in, probably the last ones out, and when everyone looks back at that experience they're going to think that (the Seabees) were truly a gift that was sent to them for the terrific work (the Seabees) do to bring those communities back to life again."