



# RHUMB LINES

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Oct. 4, 2010

## Celebrating 235 Years of Naval Service

*"A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace."*

– President Theodore Roosevelt (1902)

This month is cause for celebration as the Navy observes 235 years of service to the nation. While preparing for celebrations around the fleet, visit the [Naval History & Heritage Command website](#), which is an excellent source for videos, facts and links to other resources on the Navy's storied history. For current information on today's Sailors and naval operations around the globe, visit [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil).

### America's Navy - A Global Force For Good

Sailors and Navy civilians have answered the call to serve America, protecting the nation's security and carrying out the Maritime Strategy every day around the globe. Some examples of how the Navy carried out the core capabilities of the Maritime Strategy this past year are:

- **Forward Presence** – The George Washington Carrier Strike Group (CSG) and the [USS Essex](#) Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), part of the Forward Deployed Naval Force in the Western Pacific, brought peace and security to the Asia Pacific region. The continuous [forward presence](#) of U.S. naval forces provides ready forces capable of immediate response to a wide range of missions, from threats to natural disasters.
- **Deterrence** – The Navy's [ballistic missile submarines](#) continuously patrolled, ensuring strategic deterrence. Other ships, aircraft and Sailors provided conventional deterrence that was achieved through demonstrations, such as the [exercises](#) off the coast of Korea following the Cheonan sinking, as well as other exercises with global partners.
- **Sea Control** – The Navy maintained sea control to enable joint and interagency operations and maintain freedom of maneuver and access. The [submarine force](#) and other anti-submarine warfare platforms conducted exercises year-round to hone their skills to ensure sea control was maintained.
- **Power Projection** – From CSG operations such as [Abraham Lincoln CSG](#) in 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet or [Harry S. Truman CSG's](#) support of Operation Enduring Freedom, to ARG deployments in the Gulf of Aden, the Navy extended its capability globally from America's shores.
- **Maritime Security** – Drug, weapons and human trafficking, piracy and other crimes at sea require global response. The Navy worked alongside coalition partners in Combined Task Force-151 on [anti-piracy](#) operations in the Gulf of Aden, bringing safety and security to mariners. From keeping freight safe around critical chokepoints to stopping vessels from carrying illegal drugs to our shores, America's Navy operates cooperatively around the globe to protect U.S. and global interests.
- **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response** – America's Navy is making the world a better place. Navy ships deployed to provide proactive humanitarian assistance with global partners in missions such as [Pacific Partnership](#) and [Continuing Promise](#) in the Caribbean. And when disaster struck, as with the devastating earthquake in [Haiti](#) or the floods in [Pakistan](#), the Navy responded compassionately.

### Key Messages

- America's Navy is "A Global Force for Good," protecting this nation's vital interests even as it joins with others to promote security and prosperity across the globe.
- Although our forces can surge when necessary, trust and cooperation cannot be surged.
- Seapower will be a unifying force for building a better tomorrow.

### Facts & Figures

- [The United States Navy was formed](#) October 13, 1775, when the Continental Congress passed a resolution to acquire the first two warships.
- 235 years later, the Navy now operates 288 ships and submarines, more than 3700 aircraft and employs almost 600,000 active and Reserve Sailors and Navy civilians.
- Click [here](#) to view or download the CNO's Birthday video message.