



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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Combined Maritime Forces

"We are strengthening our global maritime partnerships and revealing to the world how our coalition is united to the continued security of the maritime environment and ensuring that the sea lanes are available to all nations, which is an absolute necessity for global prosperity."

– Vice Adm. Bill Gortney, Commander, Combined Maritime Forces / U.S. Naval Forces Central Command / 5th Fleet

[Combined Maritime Forces](#) (CMF) consists of 24 nations committed to ensuring regional security. CMF conducts Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions. These operations counter violent extremism and terrorist networks in maritime areas of responsibility; work with regional and other partners to improve overall security and help strengthen regional nations' maritime capabilities; counter any activities which threaten to destabilize the maritime domain; and when requested, respond to environmental and humanitarian crisis.

CMF is commanded by Vice Adm. William E. Gortney, U.S. Navy, in the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR). The deputy position (DCCMF) is held by Commodore Tim Fraser, Royal Navy, who also serves as United Kingdom Maritime Component Commander (UKMCC). CMF is co-located with Headquarters U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and U.S. 5th Fleet in Bahrain.

Combined Task Forces 150, 151 and 152

- [Combined Task Force \(CTF\) 150](#) conducts MSO in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman. Since its inception, CTF 150 has been commanded by the U.S., Australia, France, Netherlands, U.K., Canada, Germany and Spain. Rear Adm. Zafar Mahmood Abbasi SI (M) of the Pakistan navy currently commands CTF 150. This marks Pakistan's fourth time commanding the task force.
- [CTF 151](#) operates in the Gulf of Aden and Somali Basin to deter, disrupt and suppress piracy, protecting the safe passage of maritime vessels of any nationality. CTF 151 coordinates with naval forces from NATO, EU and independently operating nations. On average, they combine to provide 25 vessels from approximately 16 nations dedicated to conducting counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and Horn of Africa. It is currently commanded by Rear Adm. Beom-rim Lee of the Republic of Korea navy and has been commanded in the past by the U.S., Turkey and Singapore.
- [CTF 152](#) operates in the Arabian Gulf conducting MSO in conjunction with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) partners in order to prevent destabilizing activities. Kuwait navy Colonel Jassim M. Al Ansari is the current Commander of Combined Task Force 152. Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, the U.K., Australia, Italy and the U.S. have all previously had command of CTF 152.

Key Messages

- CMF leads a coalition of nations focused on conducting Maritime Security Operations and deterring piracy to ensure safety and security in the maritime arena.
- In addition to providing ships, aircraft and expertise, CMF is a strong advocate of the best management practices commercial vessels can use to reduce their likelihood of falling victim to pirate attacks.
- CMF provides direction and support for some two dozen ships and numerous aircraft from the Arabian Gulf to the Suez Canal – from Pakistan to Kenya.

Facts & Figures

- Some CMF nations complete four to six months of duty commanding one of the three CTFs: 150, 151 or 152.
- [Piracy](#) impacts less than 1% of shipping. More than 33,000 vessels transit the Gulf of Aden annually. This year (as of June 20, 2010), there have been 82 attempted piracy events - of which, just 22 were successful.
- CTF 151 and other cooperating naval forces have encountered more than 1,129 pirates, disarmed 638 and turned over 478 for prosecution since 2008.