



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



May 17, 2010

## U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet Executing Global Operations

*"U.S. Naval forces are ready and capable across the full range of maritime operations... right now and right here. But, our perspective is for the long term. We have been here almost 60 years, and we will continue to work with regional nations to enhance cooperation, ensure maritime security and promote stability for years to come."*

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

### Power Projection

- [USS Dwight D. Eisenhower](#) (CVN 69) and [Carrier Air Wing \(CVW\) 7](#) are currently providing close air support and reconnaissance missions in support of coalition forces on the ground in Afghanistan, in order to defeat violent extremists. [U.S. Naval Air Forces](#) are tactically flexible, highly disciplined and provide a variety of effects, both kinetic and non-kinetic.

### Maritime Security

- The [Nassau Amphibious Ready Group](#) and embarked [24th Marine Expeditionary Unit](#) contribute to maritime security through routine patrols; conducting visit, board, search and seizure training; the apprehension of six pirates; and conducting bilateral training with numerous regional partners in the 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet area of responsibility (AOR).
- The U.S. Navy conducts operations in the North Arabian Gulf as part of [Combined Task Force \(CTF\)-Iraqi Maritime](#), providing maritime security, infrastructure protection, and training to the Iraqi Navy.
- [Combined Maritime Forces](#) (CMF), comprised of 24 nations, conduct maritime security operations throughout the region through its three task forces – CTF [150](#), [151](#) and [152](#).

### Forward Presence

- Currently, more than 24,000 Sailors serve in 5<sup>th</sup> fleet AOR.
- 2,700 Sailors serve in Iraq, and nearly 6,300 Sailors are serving in Afghanistan in riverine squadrons, explosive ordnance disposal platoons, naval construction forces, and Navy expeditionary logistics support groups; on provincial reconstruction teams; and as Individual Augmentees (IA). [CTF-IA](#) tracks and provides administrative support to IAs throughout the AOR.
- More than 9,600 Sailors operate at sea aboard more than 30 U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and Military Sealift Command ships.

### Counter Piracy Operations

- CTF 151 coordinates with naval forces from NATO, the EU and independently operating nations to provide more than 30 vessels from approximately 20 nations for counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia.

### Key Messages

- Operations in the 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet AOR are focused on reassuring regional partners of U.S. commitment to security and stability, which is key to regional and global prosperity.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet enhances cooperative relationships and is well-positioned to respond to emergent situations through operations and training with regional partners.
- CMF leads a coalition of nations deterring piracy and other destabilizing activities 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 a successful pirate attack.

### Facts & Figures

- As of May 8, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) has flown 5,963 sorties totaling 18,165.9 flight hours since launching its first sorties into Afghanistan in February 2010, in support of coalition ground forces there.
- [Piracy](#) impacts less than 1% of shipping. More than 33,000 vessels transit the Gulf of Aden annually. In 2010, there have been 67 attempted attacks – of which, just 19 were successful.
- Since 2008, CTF 151 and other cooperating naval forces have encountered more than 1,106 pirates, disarmed 629 and turned over 465 for prosecution.