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# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



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## Monthly Update

*"I really believe that by working together and working in a very cooperative way we can ensure the safety and security of this very important part of the world."*

**-- Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations**

In April, CNO visited the Middle East to conduct his first official counterpart visit and meet with regional naval leaders in an effort to increase dialogue and cooperation and to ensure safety, security and prosperity in this vital region. CNO met with Sailors, providing guidance and collecting feedback, about experiences on the ground and at sea. These regional visits continue in May with stops in Europe, including a conference on global maritime security.

### Future force – anticipating changes in global naval forces and operations

The Navy's ability to develop and foster cooperative maritime relationships impacts future force structure requirements. This trip to the Middle East provided opportunities to meet with CNO counterparts and discuss items important to our navies now and in the future, including opportunities for engagement. In Europe, CNO will talk with Navy leaders there on a range of issues, including status of current forces and development plans for new technologies and future operations.

*"It is very important for me to see firsthand their navies and their people, so that when I am carrying out my duties in Washington, I have a firsthand sense of what the navies are and I have met their leaders."*

*"I am extraordinarily encouraged by the increased interest [in Global Maritime Partnerships]. [W]e have countries like Bahrain that are stepping up into leadership positions of maritime coalitions; that are focused on ensuring that this important area of the world is not affected by disruptive behavior and activities. I believe our approach of cooperative maritime security is one that has become quite attractive and at the end of the day the public benefits from it."*

### Warfighting readiness – evolving international relationships to increase security and achieve common interests in the maritime domain

The unimpeded flow of legitimate commerce on the oceans affects the security and prosperity of our nation as well as global prosperity. All nations must work together to ensure security in the maritime domain. As CNO heads to Europe, he will continue to emphasize the need for partnerships between maritime forces and will stress the importance of ensuring safety of the sea lanes as we move forward together in executing our cooperative maritime strategy.

*"Our counterparts in the Middle East are committed to building maritime partnerships with us and other nations in the region. We looked at ways to do things more closely together, so that we could share a common view of what it will take to maintain peace, stability and prosperity. The Maritime Strategy identifies the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean region as an important area in the world that affects that global prosperity, because it's one of the areas where economies are being fueled and where prosperity is being derived."*

*"[T]he sea lanes in the Indian Ocean region are so important to global prosperity, and the work that we're doing with our partners and our allies that deploy to this region allows that flow of commerce to continue, to be unimpeded and to be able to fuel the economies of the world. That is so important to our future and the work that our people are doing here and the contributions that our people are doing here are absolutely imperative and vital."*

### People – ensuring individual readiness and providing for the welfare of our Sailors and families

CNO met with Sailors at sea and ashore in the Middle East. He gathered important feedback from the deckplate level and heard firsthand how Navy policies were impacting Sailors. Next month CNO meets with Sailors in Europe.

*"The young men and women that wear our Navy's uniform who are on duty in this part of the world have the best insight into what that future looks like. It's from you [Sailors] that I learn, it's from you that I take those lessons back with me and it's from you that I set in place the policies that we need to have in place today and tomorrow."*

*"You can't find out what's going on in the Navy by sitting in Washington. By being able to come out and meet with Sailors and talking to the commanders, I get a better sense of what I need to do in Washington leading the Navy and putting in place not just the things that our Navy needs today, but the things that we're going to need for the future."*