



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



May 31, 2012

## U.S. Fleet Forces - Contributing to Global Operations

*"Our primary mission at United States Fleet Forces Command is to provide combatant commanders with responsive, relevant and sustainable Navy forces ready for tasking."*

**-- Adm. John C. Harvey, Jr., Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command**

U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) trains, certifies and provides combat-ready Navy forces to combatant commanders (COCOM) that are capable of conducting prompt, sustained naval, joint, and combined operations in support of U.S. national interests. The command provides operational and planning support to COCOMs and integrated warfighter capability requirements to the CNO. USFF is also CNO's executive agent (EA) for anti-terrorism/force protection (AT/FP), individual augmentees (IA), and sea-basing.

### Warfighting First

- As Global Force Management provider, USFF provides carrier strike groups (CSG) with embarked air wings; amphibious ready groups (ARG) with embarked Marine expeditionary units (MEU); and independent deployers to deter and defeat aggression and project sea power.
- USFF, as CNO's EA for IAs, manages [programs](#) supporting IA Sailors and their families.
- USFF-led [Bold Alligator 2012](#) was the largest amphibious exercise on the East Coast in 10 years, showcasing the advantages of sea-basing. The exercise revitalized the full range of amphibious operations and reinvigorated the Navy and Marine Corps culture of conducting combined operations from the sea.

### Operate Forward

- Twenty-eight percent of USFF ships and submarines are currently forward-deployed around the globe.
- USS Ponce, redesignated as an interim afloat forward staging base (ASFB-I), will soon deploy to meet U.S. Central Command's requirement for maritime security operations. Ponce will support mine countermeasures and coastal patrol ships, as well as aircraft operations.
- USFF is forward-deploying four destroyers to [Rota, Spain](#), for ballistic missile defense of Europe and security cooperation.

### Be Ready

- The signing of the [Surface Force Readiness Manual](#) in March provides our surface forces with a collaborative, robust, and detailed readiness policy to generate and sustain surface ship material and operational readiness to perform operational tasking and reach expected service life for our units.
- As the EA for AT/FP, USFF routinely conducts fleet-wide training to adapt to changing conditions and enhance the training and readiness of Navy security forces to respond to threats.
- USFF manages training ranges, to include synthetic training infrastructure, along the Atlantic Coast while overseeing focused training orchestrated by Afloat Training Group and Strike Force Training Atlantic.

### Key Messages

- USFF trains, certifies and provides combat-ready Navy forces to COCOMs capable of conducting prompt, sustained naval, joint, and combined operations in support of U.S. national interests.
- USFF exercises command and control of subordinate Navy forces and shore activities during the planning and execution of service functions and joint missions.
- USFF provides operational planning and coordination support to [U.S. Northern Command](#), North American Aerospace Defense Command, and [U.S. Strategic Command](#).

### Facts & Figures

- U.S. Fleet Forces is comprised of:
  - [Five CSGs/airwings](#) and three ARGs
  - 141 ships and submarines, more than 1,200 aircraft and 132,000 Sailors and civilians
  - Merging [Riverine](#) and Maritime Expeditionary Security forces to form Coastal Riverine Force East and West with three active and four reserve squadrons
- USFF has more than 14,000 people and 44 activities conducting Network Warfare operations