



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



January 26, 2011

Africa Partnership Station (APS) 2011

"You can surge equipment; you can surge people; you cannot surge trust. The Navy and Marine Corps routinely conduct training exercises and multi-lateral operations with nations all around the world to solidify our relationships with traditional allies and forge partnerships with new friends."

– **The Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy**

[Africa Partnership Station](#) is the premiere partnership program for [U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa](#). The APS concept originated at the Benin Ministerial Conference in 2006 when the United States and a number of African and European countries came together to discuss ways of improving maritime safety and security in Africa. The enduring mission began in Fall 2007, when USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) and an embarked international staff sailed to West Africa. The APS mission has since expanded to [East Africa](#).

Supporting the Maritime Strategy

- Africa Partnership Station is a multinational security cooperation initiative, currently comprised of 34 nations and led by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa.
- APS is aimed at improving maritime safety and security in Africa while building lasting relationships. To do this, APS focuses on addressing: maritime professionals, maritime infrastructure, maritime domain awareness and response capability while simultaneously fostering both a regional and comprehensive approach.
- APS is in its fourth year and visits both coasts of Africa. APS 2011 will start in Lome, Togo, 1-18 Feb; it will consist of seven U.S. ships, engage 22 African nations and involve more than 7,000 maritime professionals.

Collaborative Partnerships, Teamwork, and Commitment

- APS efforts are focused on working together to nurture partnerships with African nations that help develop and improve maritime safety and security capabilities.
- Expertise shared during the mission includes law at sea, port security, maritime interdiction operations, [small boat maintenance](#), medical training and more.
- APS continues to work closely with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, [Project Handclasp](#) and non-governmental organizations such as the International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Network.

Partnership Milestones

- African navies are planning jointly, sharing information at sea and working together as a result of APS. This includes multi national exercises off the west and east coasts of Africa as well as in the Gulf of Guinea.
- African training teams will participate in APS 2011 deployments for the first time.
- Participation continues to grow. Currently 11 [Euro-Atlantic partner nations](#) provide staff members and training teams. By the end of 2011, seven European ships will have sailed representing APS.

Key Messages

- APS demonstrates U.S. and international commitment to African maritime safety and security.
- APS bolsters maritime safety and security by increasing African maritime capabilities and capacity, and by promoting economic prosperity and stability.
- The Navy aims to achieve common goals through partnership and collaboration.
- The Navy builds trust through transparency. Trust and cooperation cannot be surged.

Facts & Figures

APS 2010 Highlights:

- 14 African partner nations participated: Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Liberia, Benin, Equatorial Guinea, and Tanzania.
- Students trained: 340 APS staff from 17 African, European and South American partner nations.
- Project Handclasp: 169 pallets of high-nutrition meals, medical and hygiene kits, school desks, books and supplies delivered to 15 locations in 4 nations.