



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



November 1, 2012

Warfighting First

“Warfighting has to be first because this country evaluates us based on our effectiveness as warfighters. Every Sailor and Navy civilian should understand their job and how it fits into our overall mission.”

– Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations

The Navy’s primary mission is warfighting and all efforts to improve current capabilities, further develop our Sailors and Navy civilians, and structure our organizations should be grounded in this fundamental responsibility. Operating relevant capabilities on, above and under the sea is the essence of Navy warfighting.

Warfighting First – Expanding the Navigation Plan

- [Avenger-class mine countermeasures \(MCM\)](#) ships are undergoing modernization upgrades of their navigation and minesweeping systems and minehunting sonar to improve detection performance in high clutter environments, increase instantaneous area search rate for stealthy targets and enhance target resolution imagery.
- The Navy is developing the Surface MCM Unmanned Undersea Vehicle, known as [Knifefish](#), as part of Increment IV for the [Littoral Combat Ship MCM mission package](#). Knifefish, which is expected to reach initial operating capability in 2017, will use Low Frequency Broadband Synthetic Aperture Sonar technology to enable hunting mines in high traffic environments and provide improved detection, identification, and classification of stealthy mines.
- The new [Virginia Payload Module](#) will provide future [Virginia-class attack submarines](#) with an additional four large diameter payload tubes, much like those in guided missile submarines, increasing attack submarine [Tomahawk cruise missile](#) capacity from 12 to 40. The tubes will also be available for other payloads such as unmanned undersea vehicles (UUVs) or advanced undersea weapons.
- The U.S. Naval War College’s Center for Cyber Conflict Studies (C3S) is conceptualizing, promoting and supporting research and teaching of cyber warfare, cyberspace operations, and cyber conflict. As part of its charter, the Center equips graduates with the knowledge and education to employ cyber operations as a battlefield capability, in accordance with the laws of armed conflict, as with traditional weapons.
- [Patrol Squadron Thirty \(VP-30\)](#), the fleet replenishment squadron for the [P-8](#), has been training pilots, flight officers, aircrews and maintainers from their new facility in Jacksonville, Fla. Patrol Squadron Sixteen (VP-16), the first operational squadron to transition to the P-8 Poseidon, began Fleet Introduction Training in July. P-8 aircraft participated in Rim of the Pacific and Valiant Shield exercises, and are currently participating in Joint Warrior. P-8s from Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX-1) also [conducted operational evaluations](#) out of Naval Air Station Atsugi, Japan.

Key Messages

- America’s Sailors are warfighters, a fast and flexible force deployed worldwide.
- Navy warfighters are constantly deployed to preserve peace, protect commerce, and deter aggression through forward presence.
- [100% on watch!](#) Your Navy warfighting team is reliable, flexible, and ready to respond worldwide on, above, and below the sea.
- Navy has a 237-year [warfighting heritage](#) of defending freedom and projecting and protecting U.S. interests around the globe.

Facts & Figures

- The third Littoral Combat Ship, [USS Fort Worth \(LCS 3\)](#), was commissioned on Sept. 22, 2012.
- Naval Sea Systems Command completed the first installation of the [sonar upgrade on USS Guardian \(MCM 5\)](#) in early 2012, and additional installations are scheduled for seven other MCMs in the 5th and 7th Fleets from FY12-15.
- Nine [Virginia Class SSNs](#) are in commission with another seven under construction and two more under contract.