



RHUMB LINES

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The Future Force – Surface Combatants

“We have the flexibility to respond to diverse tasking around the world – executing all six core capabilities required by the Maritime Strategy – and to do so simultaneously”

– Rear Adm. Frank Pandolfe, Director of Surface Warfare

The Navy is building the future surface fleet to support U.S. global interests through resources and capabilities across the Surface Warfare Enterprise. The Navy provides combatant commanders with warships ready for tasking for many critical missions including ballistic missile defense, irregular warfare, open-ocean anti-submarine warfare, high speed and intra-theater lift, humanitarian and disaster relief and missions in the littoral. The surface force supports the [Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower](#) by providing visible and persistent forward presence around the world.

Building the Future Surface Force:

- **Littoral Combat Ships** – The LCS program will be a 55-ship class composed of fast, reconfigurable, focused-mission combatants designed to operate in the littorals against mines, submarines, and surface threats. [USS Freedom \(LCS 1\)](#) was delivered to the fleet on Sept. 18, 2008 – six years and one day after the program was established. [Independence \(LCS 2\)](#) is undergoing builder’s trials. [Fort Worth \(LCS 3\)](#) and [Coronado \(LCS 4\)](#) are under construction and are expected to be delivered to the fleet in 2012.
- **DDG 51-class Guided Missile Destroyers** – Technologies resident in the Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) class provide extended-range air defense and deep-water anti-submarine warfare capabilities. Increasingly these ships also provide the integrated air and missile defense capabilities demanded by combatant commanders. The Navy has accepted delivery of 57 of these highly capable ships and has five more currently under construction or contract. These ships continue to be delivered at the highest quality allowing seamless transition to the fleet.
- **DDG 1000** – The Zumwalt-class (DDG 1000) guided-missile destroyer is a next-generation, multi-mission surface combatant tailored for land attack and littoral dominance. The Navy will build three Zumwalt-class destroyers. USS Zumwalt (DDG 1000) is currently under construction at Bath Iron Works and Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding. Production quality continues to be excellent, and both shipbuilders are meeting cost and schedule goals.
- **Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense** – Combatant commander demand for ballistic missile defense (BMD) capabilities will only rise as ballistic missile threats proliferate. [Demonstrated and proven Navy Aegis BMD capability](#) is currently installed on 18 ships, with that number growing to 21 by early 2010.
- **Cruiser and Destroyer Modernization** – To ensure they remain highly effective until the end of their service lives, [22 Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruisers](#) and 62 Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers will undergo modernization. These ships will be fitted with new software, combat systems, and hull, mechanical and electrical upgrades to improve both quality of life and combat effectiveness.

Key Messages

- Delivering high-quality ships to the fleet that have the capabilities to meet Navy and combatant commander requirements – on cost and on schedule – is key to supporting the Navy’s Maritime Strategy.
- Affordability is critical for shipbuilding. Navy and industry teams work diligently to reduce cost, achieve steady production, and improve execution.
- The Navy’s operational tempo reaffirms the need for a minimum of 313 ships now and into the future.

Facts & Figures

- [Jason Dunham \(DDG 109\)](#) was christened on Aug 1, 2009.
- Dewey (DDG 105) delivered to the Navy on Aug 17, 2009.
- [Wayne E. Meyer \(DDG 108\)](#) will commission on Oct 10, 2009.
- [USS Bunker Hill \(CG 52\)](#), the first ship to receive full cruiser modernization upgrade, completed its shipyard availability in Feb. 2009. The ship is currently undergoing follow-on combat systems trials.