



# Africa Partnership Station

## U.S. Africa Command Fact Sheet

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### Program Overview

Africa Partnership Station (APS) is U.S. Naval Forces Africa's (NAVAF) flagship maritime security cooperation program. The focus of APS is to build maritime safety and security by increasing maritime awareness, response capabilities and infrastructure.

Through APS, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and NAVAF conduct engagement activities with international partners and governmental/non-governmental organizations to enhance African partner nations' self sustaining capability to effectively maintain maritime security within their inland waterways, territorial waters, and exclusive economic zones.



DAKAR, Senegal—Chief Yeoman Arthur King, APS West staff, talks with Senegalese ship riders before they take part in training aboard USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44), April 6, 2010. (Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Martine Cuaron)

APS is inspired by the belief that effective maritime security will benefit all nations and contributes to development, economic prosperity and security, and will help deter violent extremist ideology ashore.

One major focus in 2011 was the beginning of African partners taking the lead in training other APS participants.

Since 2007, APS has progressed from a series of bilateral port visits to a series of regional training engagements ashore and at sea. These skills are put to test in regional exercises and in the Africa Maritime Law Enforcement Program (AMLEP).

### Objectives

As a maritime security cooperation program, APS seeks to improve capabilities with partner naval forces using four "pillars" to increase maritime safety and security:

- Develop Maritime Domain Awareness—maintaining a clear picture of the maritime environment
- Build maritime professionals
- Establish maritime infrastructure
- Develop response capabilities while building regional integration.

These four pillars are addressed through a regional and comprehensive approach.

### Facts and Figures

APS engagement has involved over 30 African, European and South American nations, and interest to participate continues to grow.

Some recent maritime successes:

- The Cape Verdean coast guard, in coordination with Italian assets, seized \$100 million of cocaine during a maritime interdiction operation in Oct. 2011
- The Liberian coast guard boarded and fined an illegal fishing trawler \$150,000 in July 2011
- Djibouti, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Uganda, Tanzania, and Seychelles participate in exercise Cutlass Express for the first time in Oct. 2011

### Impact

APS is developing African solutions to global problems and builds upon long-standing relationships. African, European and North and South American partners, and non-governmental organizations share a common goal of regional prosperity, stability and peace. APS helps to create partnerships to achieve common goals through collaboration.

### Other Sources

U.S. Naval Forces Africa: <http://www.naveur-navaf.navy.mil/apshome.html>

APS on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AfricaPartnershipStation>