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**Africa Partnership Station 2011
High Speed Vessel Swift (HSV 2)
Public Affairs**

PRESS RELEASE

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SWIFT TO HOST MARITIME STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE

LAGOS, Republic of Nigeria – High Speed Vessel Swift (HSV 2) will host a Maritime Stakeholders Conference Aug. 9 on board the vessel.

The aim of the conference is to share maritime security best practices from a civilian and military perspective, to better understand the tools Nigeria already possesses to ensure maritime security, and to further establish a comprehensive approach among key stakeholders on how to achieve security goals. The conference also seeks to provide a forum for dialog between U.S. and Nigerian maritime professionals, so that both partners can learn from each other's experiences and problem solving methods.

Representatives from the Nigerian Navy, Indigenous Ship Owners Association, Nigerian Association of Master Mariners, Nigerian Initiative for Oceanography and Marine Research, and Nigerian Trawlers Association are expected to attend.

Nigerian Navy Commodore Adejimi Osinowo will facilitate the conference, along with U.S. Navy Capt. David Rollo, West Africa Maritime Affairs Officer. Osinowo served as the Deputy Commander of Africa Partnership Station West aboard USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44) from November 2009 to May 2010.

The U.S. Navy's Rear Adm. Kenneth J. Norton, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategy, Resources, and Plans, and acting U.S. Consul General to Lagos Carl Cockburn will also attend the conference.

High Speed Vessel Swift, a ship that is crewed by both civilian mariners and military service members, is a unique example of civil-mil teamwork and unity at sea. Swift's civilian captain, Capt. Nicholas St. Jean, and the military detachment's officer-in-charge, Lt. Cmdr. Charles E. Eaton, will also share their experiences and insights with participants.

Swift arrived in Lagos Aug. 1 as part of Africa Partnership Station. APS focuses on building cooperative partnerships with regional maritime services in order to achieve common international goals, primarily stability and security.

APS began in October 2007 with the deployment of Swift and USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) to West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea. Now in its fourth year, maritime partners continue a mission that has grown to bring together 34 African, European and South American countries. APS is motivated by the belief that effective maritime security and safety will contribute to development, economic prosperity and security ashore within Africa.

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