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Maritime security: Navy intensifies intelligence patrol

• CNS inaugurates refurbished NAVDOC HQ, new runway, others

THE Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Vice Admiral Awwal Gambo has ordered 24 hours intelligence driven patrols of the maritime environment to deny criminals the opportunity to carry out their illegality within the Gulf of Guinea.

This, the CNS said, was to stop foreign shipping companies from re-introducing war risk insurance premiums on vessels coming to the region.

Gambo spoke at the Headquarters, Naval Doctrine Command (NAVDOC), Bonny

By Precious Igbonwelundu

Camp, Victoria Island on Monday evening, where he inaugurated the newly refurbished office complexes, the first since its establishment 32-years-ago.

The CNS also inaugurated several projects in Lagos area including a 300-metre runway with in-built lights and non-directional beacons to aid training and operations in restricted visibility for the Naval Air Wing, Ojo; shoreline revetment at Nigerian Navy

Ship BEECROFT; automated gates and repaired armoury at the Nigerian Navy Ship (NNS) QUORRA; a girl's hostel at the Nigerian Navy Secondary School, Ojo, among others.

Speaking after unveiling the projects, Gambo said there were speculations that some Gulf of Guinea countries were being reconsidered to be tagged with the War Risk Premium due to recent piracy related incidences.

He said sustained intelligence led round-the-clock patrols would therefore, ensure that criminals trying to spoil

the feat achieved by the NN since 2022, which led to the delisting of the Gulf of Guinea from International Maritime Bureau's (IMB) piracy high risk zones, were not allowed a breather.