



“**O**ur control of the sea allows us to use it as a vast maneuver space - 365 days a year. Seabasing allows us to project influence and expeditionary power in the face of access challenges, a distinct asymmetric advantage. These capabilities allow maritime forces to support our partners and to deter and defeat adversaries in a complex and uncertain future.”

General James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps
December 2007

The Operational Need

Seabasing will enable the joint force to have unimpeded battlefield access, even in areas where the United States is denied use of support facilities.

- For diplomatic or political reasons, countries sometimes refuse to allow U.S. troops to operate out of their territory or severely limit the operations. A recent example, prominent in the news, was Turkey’s refusal to allow U.S. and coalition troops to be based there for the liberation of Iraq.
- The Sea Base will provide a sovereign, maneuverable and secure area that can be used to assemble, project and sustain combat power relatively unconstrained by political and diplomatic restrictions.

As the 21st century unfolds, unique and powerful capabilities will be delivered by global sea-based forces, providing an independent and secure maneuver space for joint military forces. A unified battlespace, which extends across sea, land and air, will provide a strategic and operational advantage from the vast international domain of the world’s oceans. Advanced weapons, sensors, and communications systems will integrate maritime forces, creating a seamless, solidified joint presence—and power.

Seabasing is the core of Sea Power 21, which places at sea the Navy’s capabilities—offensive and defensive firepower, maneuver forces, command and control, and logistics. Critical to joint and coalition operational success, Seabasing minimizes the need to build up forces and supplies ashore, reduces force vulnerability and enhances operational mobility.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDUSTRY

If your corporation or organization:

- Supports the U.S. defense or national industrial bases,
- Sells goods and services to the various Departments of the Executive Branch of government,
- Advises and/or assists the DoD in the business or technical aspects of government policies and practices concerning:
 - Acquisition,
 - Research and Development,
 - Procurement, and/or
 - Logistics support . . .

. . . The U.S. Navy Needs You!

Do you have an idea for improving the readiness or capability of the Seabase Branch?

For example, could your company:

- Develop technologies that will enable future Seabasing capabilities, including:
 - Selective offload for MPF(F)?
 - High-speed and heavy-life technologies to move troops and equipment?
 - Equipment to facilitate at-sea transfer of personnel and munitions, modular storage and container transfer, and wide-area command-and-control networking for connecting various elements of the Sea Base?
- Participate in upcoming experimentation and demonstrations?
- Assist in other ways to improve capabilities?

If so, please contact:

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<http://www.navy.mil/n85>

EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE DIRECTORATE

Sea Base Branch

Transforming Naval Expeditionary Warfare for a New Strategic Environment



Sea Base Today

The Navy's Newest and Most Formidable At-Sea Asset

Seabasing Capabilities

The Navy's Seabasing capabilities, which have been operational for the past year, are already proving to be valuable assets in fighting the Global War on Terrorism. In Afghanistan, Army, Marine and Navy Special Operations Forces were launched and supported from the sea for extended operations deep inland. In Iraq, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) launched operations from the sea into Baghdad.

Another way Seabasing is proving to be invaluable is in assessing the effectiveness of new naval platforms, systems and other technologies. Seabasing assessments have been done on the Joint Forces Maritime Component Command Wargame in November 2003, Sea Viking '04 Advanced Warfighting Experiment, Joint Task Force Exercise in June 2004, Global Engagement 7 in July 2004, and various Naval Supply Systems Command demonstrations, such as Smart Store Project, Inter-Ship Stores and Combat Feeding Tracking.

Exploiting the Sea

Seventy percent of the earth's surface is covered with water, and the U.S. Navy views these massive waterways as a vast maneuver area for its Seabasing operations. While an obstacle for those who cannot control it, the sea serves as a sanctuary for U.S. and other friendly forces. By controlling the sea, the Navy is capable of presenting an adversary with a mobile and multi-dimensional threat.

Seabasing capabilities could not come at a more critical time, as political and military barriers to access international shores are growing worldwide. In a world of hidden and fleeting enemies, seaborne offensive and defensive power assures a sense of security for the United States and its friends and allies. It also enhances coalition building and guards against international coercion—missions that will grow in importance as advanced warfighting technologies proliferate.

From the enemy's perspective, a seaborne threat creates a major dilemma. He can dissipate his force along the length of his coast or concentrate forces at strategic points. But the enemy is in a no-win situation because, in either case, U.S. and joint forces will maneuver throughout the battlespace, defeating his forces and striking critical nodes. By creating this quandary for the enemy, Seabasing significantly contributes to the joint campaign and fully exploits the advantages of sea control.



Sea Base of the Future

Distributed, Networked Platforms Deploy and Sustain Troops At-Sea

A Family of Maritime Platforms

Future Seabasing capabilities include being able to support at-sea arrival and assembly, selective offload, employment of forces, and the indefinite sustainment and reconstitution of troops.

• At-Sea Arrival and Assembly

Seabasing provides the ability to match arriving troops with their equipment, without requiring an in-port offload. Maritime Prepositioning Force (Future), or MPF(F), is key to this capability, as is the High Speed Connector (HSC) and MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft.

• Selective Offload

The ability to offload only the cargo that is needed at any given time, without having to pull into port and offload an entire vessel, is another major strength of Seabasing. MPF(F) will be key to this capability.

• Employment of Forces

Another core capability of Seabasing is its ability to rapidly bring forces to bear. Movement from the sea base to objective will be facilitated by assets, such as the Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC), LCAC (X), HSC, Expeditionary Fighting Vehicles (EFVs), MV-22 Osprey, CH-53X assault support helicopter, and Advanced SEAL Delivery System (ASDS).

• Indefinite Sustainment

The ability to provide material directly from the sea base, without accumulating potentially vulnerable supply stores ashore, is yet another asset of Seabasing. Supplies will be provided via MV-22, CH-53X, HSC, LCAC, and LCAC(X), using streamlined, sense-and-respond logistics processes.

• Reconstitution

The ability to move back to the sea base to rest, rearm and refuel is another significant benefit. Troops and equipment will get back to the sea base via MV-22, CH-53X, HSC, LCAC, and SSC.

