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Straight Lines to Navigate By



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Monthly Update

“As a Navy, we can never forget what we are really about and what we have done since our founding. The core capabilities define who we are.”

-- Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations, .

Future force – building a Navy with the right force structure to implement the Maritime Strategy

In order for the Navy to continue to execute, we must ensure that we have the right ships and the right aircraft for now and the future. And it's paramount that we figure out what the right capabilities for these ships are at the right costs. Lowering costs in shipbuilding and figuring out what works will keep us the top Naval force in the world. I believe that if we stick to our plans and we innovate within those plans we can drive down costs and achieve the fleet of the future that is critical to our Nation.

“In our combatant lines, where we're building our new littoral combat ship, a ship that is going to be very important for our future – we're going to build 55 of them – we need to let that ship get some stability. We need to let it get some traction so that we can start producing them in numbers to add to the 313-ship fleet and to build out those ship classes. We also recently released contracts on the new DDG 1000. It introduces significant technology into the Navy. I am concerned that if you go into that combatant line and you pull money out to go do other ship classes, that we won't get the stability and we won't get the traction that we need to get the combatants moving into the future.”

Warfighting readiness – continuing to be the dominant and most influential naval force

The Navy's most valuable contribution to the Maritime Strategy is the speed in which we reach out and work with our maritime partners. As the forward deployed force of the sea, we can easily interact with many parts of the world simultaneously. We can be off the coast of Somalia one afternoon, guarding against piracy, and conduct exercises with Sao Tome and Principe, the next.

We can deter forces from above, below and on top of the oceans, across the globe. We are able to establish sea control with our synchronized network of ships. Our power projection can come off the decks of our carriers, it can come out of the tubes of our combatants and our submarines and it can also be projected by the United States Marine Corps and our amphibious forces.

The Navy is in the unique position of providing humanitarian assistance, as we have seen with USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort. Since the tsunami of 2004, we have put into place a series of missions with other services, inter-agencies, non-governmental organizations and international partners in Asia, South America and Africa. We are able to bring care directly to those who need it.

“The stability that we can provide, the cooperative work that we do has an effect on that commerce and there's no nation in the world that at some point does not depend on the flow of goods and resources on the world's oceans. So we're all affected and that's why I believe the strategy has resonated so well globally.”

“We believe it's important to get out among the American people and talk about our Navy, our Marine Corps and Coast Guard. What we do, why the strategy is important for the future of our nation, for our prosperity and for the relationships that we have around the world.”

People – a mission focus in a high-performing force

Every day young men and women who wear this uniform, the cloth of our nation, are doing things that many only dream of. They're diving to the depths of the ocean, they're flying high-performance airplanes, they're operating nuclear reactors on our aircraft carriers and on our submarines. They're doing the most advanced information technology. All of these things are what the Navy is and what it's about.

“The fact of the matter is that the Navy's not just a bunch of ships, airplanes and submarines, it's a lot of great Americans out there everyday in places far from home that are always mindful of the job they're doing and are totally committed to providing for the safety and security of the American people.”