



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



September 28, 2010

Materiel Readiness

"High materiel readiness relies on leaders who establish a culture of professionalism, and aggressively take ownership of their equipment, personnel and training with constant adherence to high standards and leadership. This will ensure our forces are ready for tasking to meet all global commitments."

- Vice Adm. D.C. Curtis, Commander, Naval Surface Forces

The Navy's mission of conducting sustained combat operations at sea and carrying out the core capabilities of maritime power hinges upon maintaining the [materiel readiness](#) of our ships, submarines, aircraft and equipment. Executing that mission today *and tomorrow* requires that Navy assets reach their expected service life (ESL). Achieving ESL requires effective training, frank self-assessments, recurrent third-party inspections, robust maintenance planning, consistent maintenance execution, and an unwavering commitment to quality assurance.

Surface Forces

- In early 2010, the Fleet Review Panel (FRP) for Surface Force Readiness identified the cumulative effects of past decisions that – when viewed in the aggregate – contributed to the negative trends that were being observed in the materiel and operational health of the Surface Force. The FRP findings confirmed what fleet commanders suspected and, as a result, had already begun addressing with corrective actions to enhance current and future surface force readiness.
- The Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) conducts regular materiel inspections of ships and service craft to assess their materiel readiness and fitness for further service. INSURV provides timely, candid, and accurate findings and recommendations to fleet commanders, type commanders, NAVSEA, and OPNAV.

Air Forces

- The pairing of seasoned artisan experts with intermediate maintenance-level Sailors in fleet readiness centers is a Naval Aviation Enterprise (NAE)-facilitated initiative that rapidly improves the skill and knowledge base of Sailors and Marines.

Submarine Forces

- During annual Operational Reactor Safeguards Examinations (ORSE), an inspection team evaluates the engineering department's state of training, proficiency at operating the propulsion plant, administration, and the materiel condition of the propulsion plant.
- A Tactical Readiness Evaluation (TRE) is conducted once each deployment cycle for SSN and SSGN crews, usually near the beginning of the dedicated deployment preparations period. The TRE evaluates each submarine crew's ability to safely accomplish both peacetime and wartime missions while simultaneously focusing the crew on key areas for improvement as they prepare for their upcoming deployment or patrol.

Expeditionary Forces

- Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) is implementing the Maintenance Figure of Merit (MFOM), a 2.0 web-based software tool to calculate NECC's materiel condition. MFOM allows NECC to track all maintenance actions, generate the cost of readiness, track operational availability, project future readiness, and identify degraded systems.

Key Messages

- We work to ensure U.S. Navy assets can serve effectively throughout their full service lives.
- The Navy is committed to providing our Sailors with combat-ready resources to fulfill their mission.
- The fleet will continue to effectively carry out scheduled deployments, respond to crises, and meet security requirements around the globe.

Facts & Figures

- INSURV has conducted approximately 50 materiel inspections each year for ships (including CVNs) and submarines for the past 2 years, in addition to roughly 15 new construction trials each of those years.
- The NAE initiative facilitated a cost avoidance of \$2.6 million in maintenance charges at Naval Station Mayport.