

**Chief of Naval Operations  
Adm. Jonathan Greenert**

**All Hands Call Naval Station Kitsap**

**25 September 2013**

**Admiral Greenert:** First of all I want to congratulate the USS Maine for your meritorious commendations. I understand they're on the net here, on the line, for innovative ways to do maintenance and keep ships at sea while still maintaining your crew rotation. That makes sense and it's proper. This is just exactly the kind of innovation that we need as we go forward.

This morning earlier I was talking to Admiral Smith and he asked me to put a shout-out to the Stennis folks. Anybody here from the Stennis? All right.

I've got to tell you, about a year and a half ago the Stennis was effectively our protection, if you will, our front line out there in the Arabian Gulf; and a tip of the hat to you all for shifting Nimitz and getting it done right now out there, the Nimitz strike group. That's what we do.

It seems like every time I come up here, and it's been a while, but at that time I think it was Nimitz out here and somebody else was getting ready to go, the Reagan was getting ready to go. It's all about that as you do that.

We're out and about today. Your Navy, your ship, your brothers and sisters are out there *providing right now the credible threat to Assad in Syria to make sure that they meet their* commitment on reducing and getting rid of chemical weapons. Without that threat, we don't have what we need. The President himself stated, in a meeting, said this is what means that threat.

A story in the Eastern Med, Nimitz in the Red Sea with her destroyers. So well done to that. A lot of our Navy comes out of the Pacific Northwest, from Whidbey Island down through this area, so make no mistake about it, I was stationed up here and sometimes we wonder wow, I'm up here doing my business day to day, what part of the bigger picture are we? You're a major part of the bigger picture.

So speaking of it. First, let me speak to, last week where we had been, the terrible tragedy at the Washington Navy Yard.

Some of you up here working in the shipyard and doing the things that you do connect to the folks at NAVSEA. Don't forget one thing. Those people at NAVSEA, what they do is they are the beginning of American seapower. They design all our ships, they make sure they're built and built on time, that they come out with quality and they maintain that, so all that we do can't be done without them. Just like all that they do can't be done without you. You man the ships and operate them, and you're the difference. You're the asymmetric advantage we have. But it's a team effort. They are our civilian shipmates. So when you put your head on your pillow tonight

take a minute and say a little prayer for those folks who are recovering. There's a lot of hurt back there from this tragedy. They will recover. We will continue to press on eventually, but it will take a little bit of time. I needed to say that.

Put the first graphic up there.

I've got just a few things, then I want to take questions.

Here's where we are today. As I mentioned, the Eastern Med over here, and right here, the Red Sea. Those are the two big areas today where the Navy is holding the fort down for the country with regard to Syria. There are other things in the press today going on here and there, but that's still going on.

We have 285 ships and about a third of your Navy is deployed. Twenty years ago, 25 percent of your Navy was deployed. Ten years ago, 30 percent of your Navy was deployed. It's a little more now.

A lot of that is because we are upping the number of non-rotations. That's the ships in Japan, ships in Guam, the Freedom who is in Singapore, and that increasing number of ships that we forward deploy and we forward station. That issue will be continuing on as the countries who are friends invite us to bring ships in. When we have non-rotational ships, we have assets that are in theater, and they can shape the theater, they can respond in theater very quickly. And they provide a deterrence in the theater. So 50,000 of your shipmates are out there.

What are the important aspects? Well, from over here it's Rota, it's Italy and Suda Bay and Sigonella, it's Djibouti. Djibouti -- a very important place where we stop, refuel, refresh. It's Bahrain, Diego Garcia. If you're an SSGN person you know what I'm talking about. It's now Singapore, Darwin, it's Korea, Japan and it's Okinawa, and don't forget Guantanamo Bay. If it wasn't for Guantanamo Bay, our success in responding to the Haiti earthquake a few years ago would not have occurred. That was a big big place that is out there.

These squares are not bases, they are places. They're places to refresh, to relax, to repair, and to get logistics done, and they are very very important as they go through the straits, I call them the maritime crossroads of the world.

If you look out in the future, we're coming up in FY14. We're going to have this many ships and this many deployed in that year. You can see here. As you go out through the rest of the decade, you can see in the budget that we have up there now, in the number of ships we have under construction today which is over 40, that that is our goal and our end state out here.

Sequestration and budget limitations. If they don't change, we won't get there, but this is the path we're on right now.

You can see the increase out forward, both rotational and non-rotational.

The last point I'd make, why am I making this deal about non-rotational? For us to keep one ship in the Western Pacific or one ship in the Mediterranean from the continental United States, to keep one out there, if they all came from Everett, I'd need four destroyers at Everett to keep one forward. Because one's over there, one's coming back, one's getting ready to go over and relieve the one that's over there, and one's in deep maintenance. But if you have the ship over there, you have it ready to respond. So non-rotational forces forward are a very very important part of what we're about.

Sequestration will affect this and it will affect the rebalance of the Asia Pacific, but it won't stop it. We're on that strategy, we're on that path.

Thanks, guys.

Just a few more clips and then I'll go to your questions and answer them.

FY14, a week away. You say what about the budget and sequestration? Remember, personnel programs and personnel are exempted from sequestration. So sequestration and budget changes, not the government shutdown, budget changes don't affect the personnel account. It doesn't affect your pay, it doesn't affect your entitlements. Tuition assistance is funded in FY14 the same as it was in FY13.

Your retirement is not affected by that. There is a Commission that will look at retirement but if you wear a uniform today your retirement is not affected by that. That's all in the future.

The last thing I will give you is the topic that remains today and it remains on my mind all the time and it is the issue for our times, and that is sexual assault. We have to deal with it. We have to extract it and defeat it. The way we do it is prevention and that's the climate and the environment that you all have in your units. It's victim advocacy, and that's what we have to provide and you have to nurture. We have to provide the right advocacy for our victims. It's prosecution, so that's [inaudible]. It's investigation to help the prosecutors and unit CO's to understand what we need to do to get that done. And it's accountability. It's accounting for what happens and making sure that we publish that and we're working on that very very strongly.

This is the challenge for our times so we've got to continue to press forward on that, educate ourselves, talk about it, find out why it happens, eliminate the causes and defeat this.

Let's open the floor for questions. Whatever you all want to talk about.

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