

**Chief of Naval Operations (CNO)
Adm. Jonathan Greenert**

**Remarks at the
60th Anniversary of Underway on Nuclear Power Ceremony**

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GREENERT: Every time I come in this building, my palms are sweating, I feel like I'm here for remedial. The office blocked me for two hours- three years as CNO; I don't know what it is [about this building]. The Navy Yard is the centerpiece of American Seapower, this is where our ships are gestated, designed, and this where the contracts are written. This building is the centerpiece of readiness, the people here do more to set the standard to make sure our ships are read, than any other group of people that I can imagine. Give yourselves a hand, give these folks a hand for what they do every day. [applause].

When we walked in here, everybody including the Secretary of the Navy, said, 'who's name is on that seat?' I said, oh my gosh. Listen, Ms. Rickover, you have taken this from a good ceremony to a great ceremony, by your presence. Thank you very much for being here today. The time I've had to get to know you its just been an awesome experience. It's just been an awesome experience, thank you very much.

[applause]

Senator Warner, you look awesome, I could just go on and on. Congressmen Courtney, Cooper, thanks for what you do for seapower and what you of to take care of our Sailors, Civilians and of course their families. Secretary's Mabus and Klotz, Creedon and Admirals Mies, Bowman and Demars, thank you for what you do. As I came in here, when you sit here, John's kind of droning on, by the way, you got the Stockdale Award, so everything I did, he did better. It's better when he left it, than when I did- I'll just admit it. I can't help it, I was sitting here, and looking over there at that chair and I'm just imagining at one point Adm. Hyman Rickover said, "I think I met the love of my life, I'm have to ask this fine woman to marry me." He says, "Eleanor, I need to talk to you," and she says, "I hope," she says, "have a seat."

I'm just saying. I could go on and on on what I was asked to discuss, which is the value of the fleet with nuclear power. Man I could speak volumes on that. Let me talk about two things: the enduring advantage that we have shared, this institution and what it produces, and how it enables seapower. We in the Navy for a decade or so, this area, American Seapower, and we look for multi-mission, adaptable, reliable ships. What we call modularity, we have this integrated system that can't keep us with the changes of the world today. We just have to rip them out, and it takes years. We're looking for something that can adapt. That can move from one place to another.

And the ships that adapt since inception are nuclear ships. Think of the Enterprise, in 1962 she deployed she's got radars with vacuum tubes, and tight model series aircraft. Different types of aircraft, each pretty much has its own mission. Many of them on board and she went out and sailed the world. The fastest ship, by the way, certainly in tonnage the day until the day she retired. Except for the Littoral Combat Ship, but that's just a little ship.

In 2012, when she deployed, 50 years, she had the most cutting edge strike fighter in the world- the Super Hornet. 50 years. And if that's not adaptability, then what is adaptability? Nuclear powered ship. So nuclear power was certainly revolutionary, but it's also evolutionary. It's propulsion system is reliable, it's durable, and it's cost effective, as John Richardson mentioned before. What we call the expected service life of our ships, we always try to go as long as our nuclear powered ships. Nothing is as reliable or dependable. It's fuel efficient. One tank of gas. If you stop and think about it, it really is extraordinary. The same ship, the same hull, we swap out the payroll. SSBN's, we just use pretty much the same platform. We swapped out the A1 missile, to the B5 extension, that will take us decades and decades into the future. That concept, of the SSBN nuclear power is some of the most thoughtful process with that role that we use the SSBN. That same platform, we said, "why don't we take out the cruise missile and put a ballistic missile in?" What's 6 times 24, and you don't know where it is, it's out around the world and our combatant commanders cannot get enough of it. You should see how long it takes tanks to move from one area to another. It's amazing and it's truly cutting edge.

The U.S. military's number one mission is to protect the homeland. The Sea based strategic deterrent is the number one way we do it. It's the most survivable leg of the nuclear triad, has been and will be in the future, because it's nuclear powered. After an exhaustive study where we looked at the replacement for the Ohio? People said, "Don't just give us that nuclear answer; we need you guys to really look out and be innovative." So we did, for eighteen months we went to every lab, every kind of means of propulsion and it came back to nuclear power. And so we declared that that was our future. We looked at it in great detail.

Our number two mission, the military, the Navy's I mean, is presence. Our presence around the world to shape, to respond, to assure our allies to understand that they matter, to do those kinds of things- the nuclear power warship is the center of that presence. Both seen and unseen. The CVN, the nuclear powered carrier is the iconic symbol of us seapower. If you don't want to believe me, try to retire one. [laughter] It ain't so easy.

The nuclear carrier provides immediate options. The Herbert Walker Bush last summer is in the north Arabian sea. We say, hey we've got an issue in Syria/Northern Iraq and I need you to get over there. North Arabian Sea, to the North Arabian Gulf: 30 hours. Nothing else can do that. There you go. So we just heard the post deployment brief, they were describing this: within 30 hours they were ready to do the mission. That aircraft carrier with their carrier air wing was the only option the coalition had for 54 days. We had Tomahawk missiles but once you launch that it's kind of like, there's nothing else you can do. I'm just saying if you want to talk about impact,

that's the seen. Now the unseen contributions are just important are SSN's. As Admiral Richardson laid it out for you, they're where we're going. They are quiet, they are lethal, and they bring uncertainty to our potential enemies. And certainty to our allies and partners, such as the French. They provide us an access, anywhere around the world. We own the undersea domain because we have nuclear power. Access, denied areas, as Admiral Richardson said, happen shortly after inception after Nautilus to the North Pole. Range was demonstrated, when the Triton went around the world. The SSN has ruled the undersea domain and she's done that because she is nuclear powered.

So let me close, and get to the point- Admiral Rickover's and this institution's contribution is the American seapower. This nuclear propulsion is 36% of our Navy, but if you look at the impact of nuclear propulsion it's way beyond 36%. It's brought a fundamental essence to seapower and it will be a fundamental part of how we meet the challenges of the future. It's not just seapower, it's our national welfare. Thank you for all for all you do, ladies and gentlemen thank you for coming.

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