

## Chief of Naval Operations

Adm. Jonathan Greenert opening remarks to the

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee

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Chairman Culberson, ranking member Bishop, distinguished members of the committee, it is my honor to appear before you for the first time to discuss Navy's budget submission. Because of the dedication of our 625,000 active and reserve sailors and civilians, and their families, the Navy and our primary joint partner, the Marine Corps, remain a vital part of our national security. I am honored to lead and serve the Navy in these challenging times. I thank this committee again for your continued support. This afternoon, I will discuss my enduring tenets and priorities, and how they shaped our budget submission.

Today, our Navy is the world's preeminent maritime force. Our "global fleet" operates forward from U.S. bases and partner nation, I call "places," around the world to deter aggression, respond to crisis, and – when needed, and when called upon – win our nation's wars. If you refer to the chartlet in front of you, you can see that on any given day we have about 50,000 sailors and 145 ships underway, with about 100 of those ships, that are underway, deployed overseas.

These ships and sailors allow us to influence events abroad because they ensure access to what I refer to as the "maritime crossroads." These are areas where shipping lanes and our security interests intersect. These crossroads are indicated by the orange bow-ties on the chartlet. We can remain forward in these areas because of facilities abroad and support from nearby allies and partners. When I assumed the watch as CNO, about 6 months ago, I established three key principles for our decision making, which I call tenets – to me they are clear unambiguous direction for Navy leadership as we deal with challenges. They are: warfighting first, operate forward, and be ready.

Warfighting first means the Navy must be ready to fight and win today, while building the ability to win tomorrow. This is our primary mission and all our efforts must be grounded in this fundamental responsibility. Our fy2013 budget submission makes deliberate, targeted investments in facilities and programs ashore so our sailors and their ships, aircraft and equipment can maintain warfighting capability.

Operate forward that means we will provide the nation offshore options to deter, influence and win in an era of uncertainty. Our ability to operate forward depends on U.S. bases and host nation "places" overseas where we can rest, repair, refuel and resupply as necessary. Our fy2013 budget submission funds these facilities to support forward deployed naval force destroyers in Rota, Spain, and minesweepers and patrol craft in Bahrain. Additionally, funding supports command and control and logistics in Djibouti, Diego Garcia, and Souda Bay, Greece.

Be ready that means we will harness the teamwork, talent and imagination of our diverse force to be ready to fight and responsibly use our resources. This is more than maintenance, parts, and supplies. "Being ready" also means supporting our Navy families, providing training facilities, and ensuring adequate housing.

Applying these tenets to meet the defense strategic guidance, we built our 2013 budget submission around three main investment priorities:

Priority 1: we will remain ready to meet our current challenges, today. I am committed to fund base operating support, and facilities sustainment and modernization. Our fy2013 budget submission funds port operations, flight line operations, safety programs, public works, and facility upkeep.

Priority 2: we will build a relevant and capable future force. In addition to supporting my tenet of operating forward, our fy2013 budget submission invests in facilities to support new platforms and systems such as the broad area maritime surveillance unmanned air system called BAMS, Aegis Combat System upgrades, E/A-18G growler, and MH-60 helicopter.

Priority 3: we will enable and support our sailors, civilians and their families. We have a professional and moral obligation to lead, train, equip, and motivate them.

And our budget submission supports the family and professional readiness of our sailors and civilians. We are funding construction, restoration, and sustainment of our homes and barracks. We are also funding programs to address operational stress, support families, eliminate the use of synthetic drugs like spice, and aggressively prevent suicides and sexual assaults.

In closing, your Navy will continue to be critical to our nation's security and prosperity by assuring access to the global commons and being at the front line of our nation's efforts in war and in peace. I assure the committee and congress, and the American people, that we will be focused on warfighting first, operating forward, and we will be ready. I would like to thank you and your staffs for the support through the years.