

**Chief of Naval Operations
Adm. Gary Roughead delivers remarks at the Senate Appropriations
Committee's for Defense
March 16, 2011**

Thank you very much Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, and members of the committee, it is my honor to appear before you in my fourth year as the Chief of Naval Operations, representing more than 600,000 Sailors, Navy civilians and families who operate and live globally. I appreciate your continued support for them as they continue to carry out our Maritime Strategy. I echo the Secretary's comments in extending our condolences to the people of Japan, with whom we enjoy a very unique relationship with our forward deployed naval forces assigned there.

Our Navy continues to meet operational commitments and respond to crises as they emerge.

We're engaged in Afghanistan and in Iraq with about 14,000 Sailors on the ground in those countries and another 14,000 at sea at the region. From our aircraft carriers there we fly about 30 percent of the fixed wing aircraft sorties over Afghanistan. Our presence in the Middle East also gave us the flexibility to respond to the events that we see taking place there and elsewhere. We have elements of Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group with 26th MEU in the waters off Libya, and several destroyers and submarines in the Mediterranean available for tasking as required.

Our interests extend beyond the Middle East and so do our operations. Today we have about 70,000 Sailors deployed globally with 40 percent of our ships and aircrafts and submarines deployed as well. They're globally present and persistently engaged. We provide deterrence in northeast Asia and forward presence in the Western Pacific, which has enabled our swift response to the natural disaster in Japan and

our good friends and allies there. The ships of the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group remain underway off the east coast of Honshu, with significant fixed-wing and helicopter assets supporting search & rescue, and humanitarian assistance.

At least five more ships will soon arrive from exercises in Southeast Asia. These include ships from the Essex Amphibious Ready Group, which has the 31st MEU embarked, and which will bring additional humanitarian aid, advanced medical capability, and seaborne lift support to the Japanese government.

We continue our counter-piracy efforts in the Indian Ocean. We continue to build maritime partnerships in Africa and South America and throughout the Pacific.

These operations represent part of the growing demand for the offshore option that our Navy and Marine Corps team provides the nation. We assumed the lead for the first phase of ballistic missile defense of Europe and are working with missile defense agencies on providing that same capability ashore.

We created the new Information Dominance Directorate on my staff, which has enabled us to make better decisions and investments in countering the anti access and aerial denial strategies that we see in the world today. We recently established the US Tenth Fleet – our cyber fleet – which has demonstrated its expertise by conducting joint and naval operations in the cyber, network, cryptology, and space arenas.

To deliver the above, we've been pushing the fleet hard. We have 288 ships today. It is the smallest fleet since 1916, when our interests and responsibilities were nowhere near what they are today. And that's why 313 ships remains the 'floor' of our future force. And why sustaining fleet capacity is essential to reaching that floor.

Since I became CNO I've focused on ensuring that the Navy is ready, that our quality of work and quality of life are fulfilling to the men and women of our Navy, and that we place underperforming programs back on track. We have introduced stability, affordability, and capacity into our shipbuilding and aviation plans and with the assistance of Congress, we have advanced capabilities to meet the most likely evolving threats.

We've secured a fixed-price dual award for 20 littoral combat ships as the secretary has mentioned. We've addressed our strike fighter capacity with a multi-year F/A-18 procurement and pending a decision on the 'Continued Resolution,' we will build 2 Virginia class subs per year, another DDG-51, start the mobile landing platform, construct and refuel our aircraft carriers as planned, and continue the design of our replacement strategic submarine. I am pleased with our accomplishments to date, and I thank Congress for their continued support of our acquisition strategy.

Our fiscal year 2012 budget request is a balanced approach to increasing fleet capacity, maintaining warfighting readiness, and developing and enhancing our Navy total force. This budget goes beyond ships and aircraft. It enhances electronic warfare, information dominance, integrated air and missile defense, and anti-submarine warfare capabilities for evolving challenges. It continues to develop a "family" of unmanned systems that will work in concert with our manned systems to secure access and establish maritime superiority where and when we choose. It continues our effort over the last two years to reduce total ownership cost, and leverages the opportunity presented by the Secretary of Defense's efficiencies to reduce excess overhead, improve readiness, and reinvest in warfighting capability and capacity that improves the long-term sustainability of our force. Importantly, it supports the Secretary of Defense's health care initiatives included in the President's budget, which continues our efforts to improve

health care, improve internal efficiency, incentivize behavior and ensure all our beneficiaries are treated equitably, and enhance our ability to deliver high-quality health care for years to come.

You can be exceptionally proud of our Sailors and Navy civilians – who they are and what they do.

Today's Sailors are the best with whom I have ever served. I ask for your strong support of our fiscal year 2012 budget, and I thank you for all that you do to support the men and women of the United States Navy – our enduring global force for good.