

@USNPEOPLE WEEKLY WIRE

1.) CNO: Cruises shortening from 'unsustainable' lengths/ 30 MAR 15

NAVY TIMES, David Larter

Greenert began the conversation by saying that taking care of Sailors is both a short and long term issue. Today, the Navy is focused on improving manning and manpower by filling gapped billets at sea, stabilizing promotion opportunities, and working to make deployment lengths shorter and more predictable. In the future, CNO said the focus will be on recruiting, training and retaining the right force to meet tomorrow's challenges.

2.) Carter: Change promotion and retention rules/ 30 MAR 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

MILITARY TIMES, Andrew Tilghman

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1.) CNO: Cruises shortening from 'unsustainable' lengths/ 30 MAR 15

NAVY TIMES, David Larter

The Navy's top officer is fighting to shorten deployments that have frequently stretched to eight months and beyond during his three years on the job, the result of crises around the globe and budget woes at home. These challenges remain, with the campaign against the brutal Islamic State group underway and looming budget shortfalls.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jon Greenert says deployments are shortening and will continue until amphibious ready groups and carrier strike groups sail for an average of seven months. He calls anything beyond that "unsustainable."

"It is not my plan to go back to long deployments," Greenert said in an exclusive March 24 interview. "It is not my intent to go back to eight- or nine-month deployments: I believe they are unsustainable. We would have to reconcile what that presence means under [a sequestered 2016] budget."

In the wide-ranging interview, Greenert also laid out his goals for speeding up uniform development and overhauling how sailors' body shapes are assessed. But reining in deployments is a priority for the former Fleet Forces Command boss, who as CNO was a forceful advocate for adopting a new pay for sailors on extended deployments, becoming the first service to do so.

Greenert says the fleet is making headway on shortening deployments. The carrier strike groups are coming off a wave of long deployments, including the Bush CSG, which returned in November from a nine-month cruise, among the longest cruises in years.

"The [Carl] Vinson is on a nine-month deployment," Greenert said. "The Theodore Roosevelt is en route to relieve her on an eight-month deployment. The [Harry S.] Truman, which will relieve her, is scheduled for a seven-month deployment. ... It would be my sense that we will be able to sustain seven-months at that point."

Greenert pointed to the recent return of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group after seven months as a success, and said the ARG deployment should also stick to the seven-month plan.

"The Iwo Jima is on what is scheduled to be a seven-month deployment," he said. "So far, I do not see an extension right now. As we all say, the world gets a vote."

Deployment outlook

Greenert said the carriers will see a steady decline in deployment lengths until the Truman carrier strike group deploys late this year.

The 2016 deployment plan factored in sequestration budget cuts, the across-the-board cuts that leaders across the services have fought to roll back, Greenert said. Beyond that point, however, it's too early to tell what effects limited budgets might have on deployments, he said.

There are a few factors that could upset the apple cart, including continuing issues in the shipyards that prevent ships from getting back to the fleet on time. Greenert said furloughs, hiring freezes and an exodus among shipyard employees put the yards behind schedule.

Hiring in the public yards, which handle the vast majority of maintenance for nuclear-powered submarines and carriers, is going slowly.

The other caveat is getting sailors to the ships on time, a major component of the Optimized-Fleet Response Plan ginned up and championed by Adm. Bill Gortney, former FFC head, and carried on by his successor, Adm. Phil Davidson.

"That is the covenant that we have between the bureau and the fleet, to bring them there about 180 days ahead of time, not 60 days ahead of time," Greenert said.

Another potential upset would be a delay getting the Ford-class carrier to the fleet on time. Greenert said the new super carrier is slated to be delivered on time in March 2016. But there are a lot of tests to be done and a lot of bugs to be worked out with the ship's high-tech launch and recovery gear.

"I think what I will acknowledge is that we have a lot of testing to do, particularly in the EMALS, which is the electromagnetic launch system, the advanced launch system, and the advanced resting gear," Greenert said. "We have challenges left. If she is late to delivery, I do not see a dramatic impact of four months, five months or six months. If she is a year, then we have to re-sequester and look at what we want to do."

Iran & 5th Fleet

One of the major drivers of deployment lengths has been unrest in the Persian Gulf. Tensions with Iran drove the fleet to a two flattop presence in U.S. 5th Fleet in late 2010, a demand still in place when Greenert took over as CNO in 2011.

That was reduced to one carrier in early 2013, when the Pentagon canceled the Harry S. Truman's deployment only days before it was to leave.

Iranian saber rattling continues. The elite Revolutionary Guard recently staged an attack on a mock-up of a U.S. carrier. The propaganda video shows Iranian go-fast boats swarming a scale model of the carrier Nimitz and sinking it.

Asked about his reaction to seeing the video shown around the world, Greenert said he wasn't alarmed.

"My reaction was, 'Is it new? Is it anything we have not been prepared for and are preparing for?' " Greenert said. "The answer I got was, 'No, none of this is new.' "

Additionally, Greenert said, there is reason to believe parts of the video were doctored to appear more menacing, something he said Iran has been known to do. In 2008, Iran was accused of photoshopping an additional missile into a photograph of a missile test to make it seem more threatening.

Greenert said the Navy is prepared for the kind of attack seen in the video.

"You take the numbers that you saw, and that others saw, and everybody saw. Do we have the systems and the means? If the indications and warning of such an [attack] were to manifest, I am very comfortable" that the Navy could defend itself, Greenert said.

Another big change coming to the Persian Gulf is the scheduled 2017 arrival of the littoral combat ship in Bahrain, where 5th Fleet is headquartered.

Greenert said the Navy is on track to get the LCS to Bahrain in that time frame, which can be outfitted with a minesweeping package on short notice and fill the role traditionally done by minesweepers, which are leaving the fleet.

However, the Navy won't pull the mine countermeasures ship until leaders are confident the LCS's minesweeping capability is ready to rock.

"I am not going to sit here today and tell you the minesweepers will be gone in two years," Greenert said. "I am here to tell you that the integration will go on schedule. ... Then we will bring the minesweepers home. We have to maintain the mine capability in the Arabian Gulf."

Greenert expressed frustration with how slowly the minesweeping package for LCS has come along, saying "I'm impatient," but said he was comfortable that the capability would be ready for its 2017 debut in the Persian Gulf.

2.) Carter: Change promotion and retention rules/ 30 MAR 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

MILITARY TIMES, Andrew Tilghman

The demands of the 21st century may require the military to fundamentally change the way it evaluates, promotes and retains service members, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Monday.

In describing the "force of the future," Carter suggested breaking with key traditions that define military careers and culture. For example, he suggested promotion boards should give less weight to seniority and place more emphasis on merit by allowing the most talented young people to move up in rank more quickly.

"[We] have to look at ways to promote people based not just on when they joined, and even more on their performance and talent," Carter told an auditorium of high school students at his alma mater, Abington High School, in suburban Philadelphia.

Carter also questioned the custom of making all service members start at the bottom ranks. Instead, he said the military should allow well-trained people to begin military service in the middle of their career and grant them an automatic midcareer rank to reflect their civilian experience and skills.

"The military's rank structure still dates back to when Napoleon was invading Europe 200 years ago. There are some good reasons for that, but for certain specialty jobs, like cybersecurity, we need to be looking at ways to bring in more qualified people, even if they're already in the middle of their career, rather than just starting out," Carter said.

Carter also suggested the military consider a sort of reverse GI Bill that would promise to pay off student loans for recruits. "As college loans get bigger and bigger, for people with certain skills, we need to look at ways to help pay off student loans for people who've already gone to college," Carter said.

The secretary cast the proposed changes as a collective effort to recruit and retain the best and brightest people at a time when the military requires more high-skilled people and will face stiff competition from high-paying private-sector companies. Carter often cites cyberwarfare skills as a prime example.

Carter made his comments just a few weeks after taking office and suggest he will make reforming military personnel policies a key part of his tenure.

Carter also said retaining the best troops will require more flexible career paths. The military services should expand their small-scale pilot programs that allow some career troops to take a "sabbatical," or leave the active-duty force for a few years and use that time for "getting a degree, learning a new skill, or starting a family," Carter said.

"Right now these programs are very small. These programs are good for us and our people, because they help people bring new skills and talents from outside back into the military. So we need to look not only at ways we can improve and expand those programs, but also think about completely new ideas to help our people gain new skills and experiences.

Today's technology may spur changes to the performance evaluation system. "We need to be on the cutting edge of evaluating performance. Your generation's command of technology is beyond what we've ever seen, and we need to take advantage of the kinds of data-intensive technologies that you use every day ... and apply them to help measure and chart how a person is doing in all aspects of their job, and on a day-to-day basis," Carter said.

And social media could "give our people even more flexibility and choice in deciding their next job in the military."

Carter offered few specifics about how these policies might look in practice. Some of them, like changes to promotion boards, would probably require Congress to change current laws. Others, for example, offering career troops the option of taking sabbaticals, can be pursued by individual services.

Carter warned against the insular mindset that can make the military resistant to change. "The Pentagon can be a pretty closed five-sided box, so we need to think outside of it, and we know that," Carter said.

Studies show only about one-third of today's young people are eligible and qualified for military service. Yet today's military needs to bring in about 250,000 people each year to fill its ranks.

Military recruiting benefited from the surge of patriotism following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. But that was temporary.

"As the so-called 9/11 generation begins to leave our ranks, the Defense Department must continue to bring in talented Americans, from your generation and others," he told the high school students.

"To meet all these challenges, the Defense Department has to think hard about how to attract, inspire and excite people like you."

3.) Thank you Chief/ 01 APRIL 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

NAVYLIVE, Vice Adm. Bill Moran, Chief of Naval Personnel

Today, on this 122nd Birthday of the Mess, there is no greater honor than to salute our Chief Petty Officers – past, present and future.

As the conscience of our Navy, Chiefs keep us grounded in our proudest traditions, while always looking for ways to make our service better.

We ask a lot of these men and women... to be watchstanders, deckplate leaders, technical experts, but perhaps most important of their many responsibilities is that of role model and coach to our newest Sailors.

As molders of talent, Chiefs quickly become the first teachers of what's right and what it means to make a difference. Whether to an Ensign, or an E-3, the direction to "ask the Chief" means problems will soon be solved and the chance to learn has just begun.

Over the last twenty months, our team has benefited greatly from the Chiefs, Senior Chiefs and Master Chiefs we have worked with around the Fleet. Never shy and always willing to tell us how we can do better, their thoughtful counsel has shaped our efforts to improve the lives of Sailors and families.

Happy Birthday, Chiefs. You make us who we are, and who we will become. I treasure every opportunity to be around my heroes – the selfless, humble quiet leaders of the Mess. Your professionalism and sacrifice make us the greatest Navy the world has ever known. Thank you for all you do.

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PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert met with members of a Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) group April 1, recognizing them as the 2014 CSADD Training the Chapter of the Year.

"The first time I heard of CSADD, I was amazed and excited about the idea of people like you coming together," said Greenert. "This is an outstanding example of your generation and we are all impressed that you are willing to take charge, working together to keep bad things from happening."

After presenting the Training Chapter of the Year plaque to the Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) CSADD chapter's board members, the CNO opened the floor for questions.

Air Traffic Controller 2nd class Michael Rivellette asked the CNO about expectations, since CSADD became an independent organization in October 2014.

"I don't have expectations, but I have recommended that CSADD chapters be given the opportunity by their commands to grow and succeed," said Greenert. "This includes use of facilities and support for the things that they want to do."

Supporting the NATTC student chapter is a cadre of senior petty officers serving as chapter advocates. Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Alexanna Williams serves as lead advocate, but stresses that it's the students that run the program. She added that it was an honor to win Training Chapter of the Year.

"The students-they come up with the ideas, they put in the man-hours and make this program a success," said Williams. "It was very impressive that the CNO took the time to speak with and recognize our CSADD chapter - it's easy to see that it's a program that he really believes in."

Cmdr. Vic Bindi, NATTC executive officer, pointed out that CSADD members also tend to be classroom top performers.

"I think the people who join CSADD, not only are they ones who are less likely to engage in disciplinary issues, they're the ones who time-and-time again are the leaders within every single class," said Bindi.

CSADD members come together voluntarily and grow with very basic command support. The NATTC chapter

began with 36 students in 2012 and now includes 323 service members, 56 of whom are Marines and 10 Airmen. The chapter typically schedules events that reinforce the idea of having fun without alcohol; ranging from formal black-tie affairs to monthly sporting events.

Many of the local CSADD members and advocates take the lessons they learn here in Pensacola back to the fleet.

"When I go to my next command, I'm taking all I learned here with me," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Melanie McCollum, NATTC chapter advocate. "It's been fun."

For more information on CSADD, visit: http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/21st_century_sailor/csadd/pages/default2.aspx

Additional information on the Naval Air Technical Training Center can be found through the NATTC website: <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/cnatt/nattc/>

For more news from Naval Education and Training Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnet/.

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