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Today, the men and women of the United States Navy face challenges like never before. Deployed at sea and ashore all around the globe, they are expected to fight and win the long war on terror, remain prepared for large-scale conventional campaigns, help defend the homeland, and provide humanitarian assistance in the wake of natural disasters.

And they do it all—every day—in absolutely magnificent fashion.

Iraq... Afghanistan... Indonesia... Pakistan... the Philippines... our very own Gulf Coast. Pick the place; pick the operation. Wherever there is a need for rapid, agile, and flexible military forces, there is the Navy and there, too, are our Sailors.

We must preserve their ability to contribute in this manner. We must give them—and their families—every tool, every system, and every weapon we can to ensure their success. As the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review makes clear, “The complex strategic environment of the 21st Century demands greater integration of forces, organizations and processes, and closer synchronization of actions.”

The Navy we put to sea in the future will meet these demands. It will permit the unfettered access of joint and combined forces in blue, green, and brown waters. It will be a larger and more lethal fleet of ships, aircraft, and submarines with the capacity to deter and defeat our most capable adversaries and bolster emerging and enduring partnerships. It will employ joint sea basing for sustained air and ground operations. It will leverage both manned and unmanned technologies. And it will build upon the programmatic foundation of FORCEnet and *Sea Power 21*.

Clearly, we live on the cusp of a new era—an era plagued by uncertainty, change, and unrestricted warfare. The degree to which we embrace new skill sets, deeper partnerships, and a broader view of sea power will largely determine our ability to mitigate uncertainty and adjust to change.

Sea Power for a New Era provides a comprehensive overview of the programs that will empower our Fleet by first empowering our people. Together with our partners in industry, we will put into the hands of Sailors the tools they will need to accomplish their many missions. I invite you to turn the page now and learn more about how your Navy today is preparing for a better tomorrow.

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