Sailing Directions assist mariners in planning a long voyage by describing the destination, providing guidance on which routes to take, and identifying the conditions, cautions, and aids to navigation along the way. CNO’s Sailing Directions likewise provide a vision, tenets, and principles to guide our Navy as we chart a course to remain ready to meet current challenges, build a relevant and capable future force, and enable and support our Sailors, civilians, and their families.

A Navigation Plan draws from Sailing Directions to describe in greater detail how a ship will use its resources to safely and effectively sail to a new destination. Similarly, this CNO’S NAVIGATION PLAN describes how Navy's budget submission for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-2017 pursues the vision of the CNO’s Sailing Directions. It highlights our investments that support the missions outlined in the new defense strategic guidance, Sustaining U.S. Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense, viewed through the lens of my three tenets: Warfighting First, Operate Forward, and Be Ready. The Navigation Plan defines the course and speed we will follow to organize, train, and equip our Navy over the next several years. To help identify our long-term destination, we are conducting assessments of the number and type of ships and aircraft required to implement the defense strategic guidance. These assessments will inform future updates to the Navigation Plan.

We will continue to experience a dynamic security environment and fiscal challenges. These factors may cause our intended plans to change or cause us to experience some “set and drift” to our course. To ensure we stay on track, I will depend on feedback from the fleet to take a fix each year or when conditions require. I will use each fix to evaluate our track and, as needed, issue updates to the Navigation Plan.
The Navy must be ready to fight and win today, while ensuring the ability to win tomorrow. This tenet is exceptionally important as we address tensions in the Arabian Gulf, increase our focus on the Asia-Pacific, and support our partners and allies around the world. Our warfighting investments directly support the missions outlined in the new defense strategic guidance. In our FY 2013 – 2017 budget submission, we:

- Maintain the Carrier Strike Group (CSG) with its embarked air wing and the Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) with its embarked Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) as our main instruments to deter and defeat aggression and project power.
  - Sustain 11 carriers and 10 air wings, one each in Japan.
  - Sustain 10 ARGs, one in Japan.
- Increase near-term mine warfare capability with Quickstrike mines; the Seafox Mine Neutralization System; upgraded MCM-1 class ship sonar, hull, and engineering upgrades; and Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUV) for shallow and bottom mine detection.
- Improve near-term capability to counter fast attack craft by fielding enhanced gun and surface-to-surface missile systems for Patrol Coastal (PC) ships and Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) and laser-guided rockets for helicopters and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV).
- Move new platforms under development and construction to the Fleet: LCS, Ford-class carrier, America-class amphibious assault ship, Zumwalt-class destroyer, P-8A Poseidon, Joint Strike Fighter, and Broad Area Maritime Surveillance UAV.
- Improve the reach of today’s platforms through new payloads of more capable weapons, sensors, and unmanned vehicles to include: SM-6 missile, submarine-launched conventional strike weapon, long range surface-to-surface weapon, Air and Missile Defense Radar, Firescout UAVs, and the Unmanned Carrier–Launched Air Surveillance and Strike vehicle.
- Maintain our warfighting edge and implement the Navy/Air Force Air-Sea Battle Concept through innovation in our CONOPS and tactics, and integration of the next generation of weapons, sensors, and unmanned vehicle payloads for our current ships and aircraft.
- Continue to dominate the undersea environment with a combination of Virginia-class submarines, Virginia-class Payload Modules, improved torpedos such as the Mk-54 lightweight torpedo and P-8A High-Altitude ASW Weapon Capability, and Large Displacement UUV. We also strengthen our defense against submarine threats with additional periscope detection systems and new torpedo countermeasures.
- Fully exploit cyberspace and the electromagnetic spectrum as warfighting domains with upgrades to Ship’s Signal Exploitation Equipment and the SLQ-32 surface electronic warfare system, and continued development of the Next-Generation Jammer for airborne electronic warfare.
Defend our computer networks, sustain information assurance, develop network operations technology, as well as educate the next generation of cyber operators at the U.S. Naval Academy, Naval Postgraduate School, and Naval War College.

Maintain credible and survivable strategic deterrence; develop SSBN(X) as the Ohio-class replacement while maintaining today’s number of available SSBNs.

We will provide offshore options to deter, influence, and win in an era of uncertainty. Our forward naval forces are increasingly called upon to provide stability in regional “hot spots” because of their responsiveness and flexibility. Consistent with the defense strategic guidance, Navy will prioritize deployments of combat-credible forces in the Middle East and Asia Pacific regions, ballistic missile defense in Europe, and mission-tailored forces elsewhere. Navy’s forward operating posture is an essential element of the new defense strategy, which places a premium on prompt action to deny an adversary’s objectives. In our FY 2013 – 2017 budget submission, we:

- Sustain the “places” our forward operating forces depend on to rest, repair, refuel, and resupply in Spain, Italy, Greece, Djibouti, Diego Garcia, Bahrain, Japan, Singapore, and Republic of Korea – as well as our forward base on Guam.
- Field improved Firescout UAVs, LCS, and Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) to support counterterrorism and irregular warfare missions at sea and ashore.
- Deploy an Afloat Forward Staging Base (AFSB) to improve our responsiveness for mine warfare, anti-surface warfare, and counterterrorism operations starting with USS PONCE and continuing with modified Mobile Landing Platforms.
- Forward station additional ships - LCS at Singapore and PCs at Bahrain - to improve our ability to cooperate with regional partners in maritime security operations.
- Forward deploy four DDGs to Rota, Spain for Ballistic Missile Defense of Europe and for security cooperation with our European allies.
- Provide amphibious lift for U.S. Marines operating out of Australia.
- Remain forward longer and in more areas by deploying more ships such as LCS with rotational crews or JHSV and AFSB with civilian mariner crews.
- Improve our ability to remain forward by studying options for rotational crewing of other classes of ships.
We will harness the teamwork, talent, and imagination of our diverse force to be ready to fight and responsibly employ our resources. As directed in the defense strategic guidance, our budget submission includes some reductions in Fleet capacity in order to sustain a ready and capable force. In our FY 2013 – 2017 budget submission, we:

- Seek a maximum return on our readiness investments by establishing a sustainable deployment schedule that affords sufficient time for maintenance and training.
- Ensure ships and aircraft reach their expected service life by fully funding planned surface ship and aviation maintenance, resourced in part by inactivating seven CG-47 and two LSD-41 class ships.
- Continue Homeport Ashore to provide a place for each single Sailor to live ashore by 2017.
- Support college, vocational, and professional education through tuition assistance, a leadership continuum, and transition assistance programs.
- Increase emphasis and funding for sexual assault prevention and response, synthetic drug use elimination, suicide prevention, and operational stress control. In particular, we increase our efforts to prevent alcohol abuse, because it is a contributing factor to several of these problems.
- Support deployed Sailors and their families through services including counseling, child care, and youth programs.
- Improve opportunities ashore for sea-intensive ratings with additional billets at Regional Maintenance Centers and Afloat Training Groups.
- Sustain Fleet manning increases from FY2012.
- Improve the “wholeness” of the Aegis Weapons System through data link and software upgrades while adding the Shipboard Self Defense System to more non-Aegis ships, such as amphibious assault ships.
- Improve ASW sensor reliability and performance, including towed array maintenance and modernization.
- Ensure legacy F/A-18 remain ready and relevant for their entire service life through life cycle sustainment and modernization.
- Provide additional targets, weapons, and ammunition to support Fleet live fire training.
- Increase the inventory of decoys, sonobuoys, and torpedoes for Fleet ASW training.
- Sustain Fleet Synthetic Training to provide a wider range of complex and demanding simulations than possible in the field, while conserving operating expenses where appropriate.
- Improve operational energy efficiency by investing in new technologies such as hybrid-electric drive.

Position Reports: I will update you on our progress in executing this Navigation Plan via my blog at appropriate intervals. These “position reports” will describe how well I think we are staying on course and speed.