

**Chief of Naval Operations
Adm. Jonathan Greenert
Opening Statement as Delivered to
the House Armed Services Committee**

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GREENERT: Thank you sir, that's very kind when you're talking to a submariner as well, I'll take it aboard. Chairman McKeon, ranking member Smith, and distinguished members of the committee, first, Mr. Chairman I'd like to thank the Chairman for 22 years of exceptional support you have given the men and women of our Navy. Your efforts, sir, have really helped ensure the eminence of American seapower. You're always thanking us for our service, so Mr. Chairman we salute you and Patricia for your service and we'd give you a standing ovation. But, we're all crumpled in here at the table and the table would probably fall over and it'd be very disruptive so we'll keep the decorum if that's okay with you.

I am honored to represent 633,000 Sailors, Navy Civilians, and their families, especially the 50,000 sailors deployed and operating forward around the globe today. The dedication and resilience of our people continue to amaze me, and the citizens of this nation can take great pride in the daily contributions; those of their sons and daughters in places that count.

I am pleased to testify this morning beside Secretary Mabus and General Amos. Your Navy-Marine corps team is united in fulfilling our longstanding mandate – to be where it matters, when it matters - and ready to respond to crises to ensure the stability that undermines the global economy. General Amos has been a great shipmate; our services' synergy of effort has never been better. Secretary Mabus has provided Jim and I the vision, guidance and judiciousness to build the finest Navy and Marine Corps this nation is willing to afford.

Forward presence is our mandate. We operate forward to give the President options to deal promptly with contingencies. As we conclude over a decade of wars and bring our ground forces home from extended stability operations, your naval forces will remain on watch. The chartlet that I gave each of you front of you shows today's global distribution of deployed ships, as well as our bases and places that support them. In the block in the lower left it will also tell you how long it will take if we're not there to get from respective bases in the United States. Our efforts are focused in the Asia-Pacific, I think you can see that, and Arabian Gulf, but we provide presence and respond as needed in other theaters as well.

With this forward presence over the last year, we were able to influence and shape the decisions of leaders in the Arabian Gulf, northeast Asia, and the Levant. We patrolled off the shores of Libya, Egypt, and Sudan to protect American interests, and induce regional leaders to make the right choices. We relieved suffering and provided assistance along with our Marine Corps brothers and sisters and recovery in the Philippines in the wake of a devastating typhoon. Our

presence dissuades aggression and it dissuades coercion against our allies and friends in the East and South China seas. We kept piracy at bay in the horn of Africa. And, we continued to support operations in Afghanistan, while taking the fight to insurgents, terrorists, and their supporting networks across the Middle East and Africa with our expeditionary forces and supporting our special operations forces.

The FY 2014 budget will enable an acceptable forward presence. It's acceptable. Through the remainder of FY 2014 we will be able to restore fleet training, maintenance, and operations, and we'll recover a substantial part of FY 2013's backlog that we talked about quite a bit in this room.

The President's 2015 budget submission enables us to continue to execute these missions but we will face high risk in specific missions articulated in the Defense Strategic Guidance.

Our fiscal guidance through the FYDP for PB-15 is about halfway between the BCA caps and our PB-14 plan. It's a net decrease of still \$31B versus PB-14. So, to prepare our program within these constraints, I set the following six priorities and Secretary Mabus supported me:

1. Set the sea-based strategic deterrence
2. Forward presence
3. Capability & capacity to win decisively
4. Readiness to support the above
5. Asymmetric capabilities & maintain tech edge
6. Sustaining a relevant industrial base

Now, using these priorities, we built a balanced portfolio of capabilities within the fiscal guidance provided. We continue to maximize our presence in the Asia-Pacific and Middle East using innovative combinations of rotational forces, forward basing, and forward stationing forces.

We still face shortfalls in support ashore and a backlog in facilities maintenance that erode the ability of our bases to support the fleet. We have slowed modernization in areas that are central to remain ahead of, or keep pace with, technologically advanced adversaries. Consequently, we face higher risk if confronted with a high-tech adversary, or if we attempt to conduct more than one multi-phased major contingency simultaneously.

Chairman, as I testified before you in September 2013, I am troubled by the prospects of reverting to the BCA revised caps in FY 2016. That would lead to a Navy that is just too small and lacking the advanced capabilities needed to execute the missions the nation expects of its

Navy. We would be unable to execute at least 4 of the 10 primary missions that are laid out very clearly in the Defense Strategic Guidance and QDR.

If you look at the back of the chartlet that I showed you, that's got the ships on the front, you will see our ability to respond to contingencies is dramatically reduced in this future scenario of being retained at BCA caps. It limits our options limiting our options and it limits the nation's decision space, and we would be compelled to inactivate an aircraft carrier and air wing. Further, our modernization and recapitalization would be dramatically reduced, threatening readiness and our industrial base.

If we revert to the BCA caps, year-by-year it will leave our country less prepared to deal with crises, our allies' trust will wane and our enemies will be less inclined to be dissuaded or deterred.

So, Mr. Chairman, I remain on board with the efforts to get our fiscal house in order. I look forward to working with this committee to find solutions that enable us to sustain readiness while building an affordable but relevant future force. This force must be able to address a range of threats, address contingencies, and high-consequence events that could impact our core interests.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today. Thank you and the committee's continued support for the Navy. I look forward to your questions.

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