

Department of the Navy 1995 posture statement

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Department of the Navy 1995 Posture Statement

*Excerpts From a Report by
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Secretary of the Navy,
Admiral Jeremy M. Boorda, United States Navy,
Chief of Naval Operations, and
General Carl E. Mundy, Jr., United States Marine Corps,
Commandant of the Marine Corps
on the Posture and the Fiscal Year 1996 Budget of
The United States Navy and
The United States Marine Corps*

OUR VISION

Overview

The Department of the Navy has enacted a broad range of forward-looking programs, policies, and organizational changes designed to keep the Navy and Marine Corps in step with rapidly changing national security challenges. Our ability to successfully conduct a wide range of demanding, real-world operations over the last year has validated our approach, and the foundation on which it was based.

Our plan this year is to follow through on the changes we have begun, making modest course corrections where practical and necessary. Our goal is to maintain a balance in our programs that will best provide for both the current and future readiness of America's Naval forces. The broad outlines of our program are well established: we are committed to a rightsized, recapitalized and ready force. These three themes—*rightsizing, recapitalization and readiness*—underpin this report. At the same time, we also remain focused on key continuing priorities, including our people, technology, and our efficiency.

Highlights

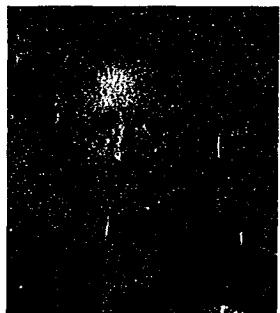
We would like to highlight a few important points that you will find discussed in further detail in this Posture Statement.

The touchstone of all our plans for the Navy and Marine Corps is based on two defining naval tasks: Forward Presence and Power Projection. Both

tasks were formally endorsed in *A National Security Strategy of Engagement and Enlargement*, signed by the President in July 1994. In fulfilling these tasks naval forces provide unique, critical, and enduring contributions to the Nation.

In 1994, we paid close attention to the balance between the size of our force structure and our readiness to meet national security commitments—what we have called *rightsizing*. We are continuously assessing the interlocking components of our Navy-Marine Corps Team, making appropriate adjustments to the force mix to maintain our flexible, combat-credible naval expeditionary forces in the highest possible state of readiness. Our continuing rightsizing strategy includes: aggressively reducing our overhead; restructuring our shore support infrastructure through the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process; completing our schedule of decommissioning classes of ships, aircraft, and equipment; and stabilizing our personnel end-strength after a long period of reduction and turbulence.

If we are to realize the benefits of a modern force in the next century, we must continue to streamline and modernize—to *recapitalize* our future force. Part of our strategy for enduring future Navy-Marine Corps readiness lies in our modernization program. Our ability to fulfill national defense roles in 2025 depends on the weapons systems we are designing for future introduction to the Fleet and Force. Examples include the con-



struction of our first Flight IIA *Arleigh Burke*-class guided missile destroyer; our advanced Strike-Fighter F/A-18E/F, which passed the Critical Design Review stage in June and is on track for the first flight in 1995; our Marine Corps medium-lift aircraft which came a step closer to reality when the Defense Acquisition Board recommended the V-22 Osprey for Low Rate Initial Production in FY97; commencement of DVN 76, our tenth nuclear-propelled aircraft carrier; the Navy's Cooperative Engagement Capability, a program that the Secretary of Defense directed to be accelerated due to its critical role in joint battlespace situational awareness; the Maritime Prepositioning Force, for which Congress has appropriated funds for an additional ship; the *Seawolf*-class submarine program which will assure continued battlespace dominance well into the next century; and the New Attack Submarine, which will more affordably maintain that dominance.

We are taking further steps toward closer Navy-Marine Corps integration. In our joint Navy-Marine Corps Team, officers of each Service work side-by-side on the staffs of the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and the Secretariat. We are convinced that the Department of the Navy serves as the role model for the successful integration of joint planning, programming and budgeting, acquisition, training, operational deployment, and warfighting.

People are key to readiness. We are committed to maintaining personnel operating tempo at acceptable levels and providing the best possible working environment for our people. Sailors and Marines will be properly motivated, trained, compensated, and rewarded for their superb efforts. We have instituted a number of initiatives to enhance the quality of life for our Servicemembers and their families. These programs were enhanced through the support of the President and the Secretary of Defense, who successfully advocated that additional funds be authorized to improve quality of life. We will ensure that our minority accessions will, no later than

the year 2000, reflect the society the Navy and Marine Corps serve. Towards this end we are seeking to reach more of the available pool of recruits through greater recruitment efforts in minority communities. Our overall goal is to reach out and recruit the best possible candidates. Finally we continue to expand opportunities for women throughout the Department. Our goal is to have the best qualified Sailors and Marines, regardless of race or gender, serving our Navy-Marine Corps Team and our country.

Conclusion

We invite you to read on. As you will see, your Navy and Marine Corps is an exceptionally well-trained, well-equipped, and well-led force—two Services but one Team. The proof has been their performance during myriad fast-paced and complex operations around the globe. We are determined to provide the Nation with premier, combat-ready naval forces, able to execute their roles of forward presence and power projection. The Navy-Marine Corps Team is effective, relevant, and second to none. Our Nation deserves no less.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS	
OUR VISION*	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS*	3
I. OUR STRATEGIC CONCEPT: FORWARD . . . FROM THE SEA	4
Enduring Relevance*	4
Two Services—One Team*	5
Executing the Strategy*	6
Reserve Force Contributions	8
The Strategy In Action	8
Programming For Our Strategy	14
II. PEOPLE	16
Leadership	17
Staying the Force	18
Quality of Life Programs	20
Medical	21
Safety	22
III. READINESS	24
IV. TECHNOLOGY	27
Our Technology Plan	27
Modeling and Simulation	29
V. EFFICIENCY	30
Process Reform	30
Acquisition Reform	30
Base Realignment and Closure	31
Environmental Stewardship	31
VI. OUR PROGRAMS	33
Operational Framework	33
Elements of Our Program	34
VII. CONCLUSION	44

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OUR STRATEGIC CONCEPT: FORWARD . . . FROM THE SEA

Enduring Relevance

The Navy-Marine Corps Team provides our Nation potent, combat credible naval expeditionary forces ready to fight and prevail at key forward-deployed regions around the world: in the Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic, and Indian Oceans, Mediterranean, Adriatic, Caribbean, and Red Seas, and Arabian Gulf. By operating forward in these key littoral regions, our naval forces—both Active and Reserve—are visible reminders to friends and potential foes of U.S. strength, resolve, and commitment. Our forces can be moved rapidly, as needed, between theaters to firmly demonstrate intent, to act as the Nation's initial combat response and as the enabling force for the follow-on Army and Air Force in joint and multinational operations. Combining the power and operational maneuver of carrier battle groups, amphibious ready groups, Marine expeditionary forces, surface combatants, submarines, and maritime patrol aircraft our naval forces are readily positioned to respond swiftly to national tasking. Shaped for combat, when called on to fight, our forces are ready to win.

With the publication of "... From the Sea" in September 1992, the Navy and Marine Corps embarked on a fundamental shift in operational focus and a landmark reordering of warfighting priorities. This fundamental shift is well underway and is a direct result of the changes that were occurring in the strategic landscape. We have refocused from dealing primarily with a global maritime power on the high seas to projecting strength and influence along the littorals in response to regional challenges.

Littoral warfare has an inherently greater emphasis on fighting over land than over open ocean. The area of control necessary to support joint littoral operations will be dictated by the actual tactical situation, but notionally extends from the shore to open ocean, and inland from the shore over that extensive area that can be supported and controlled directly

from the sea. In our vision of the future, we seek to achieve full tactical integration with the other Services in order to enhance successful warfare in the world's littoral region.

In the years since we announced this warfighting vision, we have been provided Presidential guidance about our role in national defense. *A National Security Strategy of Engagement and Enlargement* provided that guidance. The strategy reaffirms that America's military forces will remain engaged overseas, able to rapidly project decisive combat power in protection of vital U.S. interests, property, and citizens. It emphasizes the security threat of weapons of mass destruction (WMD)—nuclear, biological, and chemical—and the missiles that deliver them. And it validates the Department of the Navy's timely shift in strategic focus and mandates a robust forward naval presence.

America's armed forces fight and win the Nation's wars; "... From the Sea" articulates how naval forces contribute. Experience underscores, however, the reality that the most frequent use of naval forces occurs in situations short of war. This is because forward naval forces are the foundation of our Nation's overseas engagement. They are critical to our ability to promote and protect U.S. interests by deterring aggression, enhancing stability, promoting interoperability with allies, and providing timely initial crisis response and warfighting in joint and combined operations. Because of their ability to conduct extended operations in forward areas, the joint Navy-Marine Corps Team is most often the initial force called on to respond to emerging crises. They are heavily engaged during the transition from crisis to conflict, and later to ensuring compliance with the terms of peace. In recognition of this experience, we have recently expanded our strategic concept in "Forward . . . From the Sea." This White Paper underscores that naval forces must be sufficient for forward presence operations in peacetime, credible enough to act as a significant deterrent, and able to fight from the sea in time of war. In short, it addresses the unique contri-

butions of Navy and Marine Corps forces across the full spectrum of operations in peace and war necessary to assure the Nation's security.

Two Services—One Team

The two military Services of the Department of the Navy contribute Service-unique, but complementary capabilities to our Nation's defense.

The Navy provides sea-based forces that are relevant across the entire continuum of joint operations—from peacetime training through major regional conflict. The Navy's ability to operate unfettered at sea in international waters makes it the Nation's preferred choice for employment in the world's troubled regions. Forward-deployed, sea-based forces routinely permit our Nation to broaden engagement with our allies and potential coalition partners. By operating from sustainable sovereign seabases, the Fleet brings the full complement of military hardware alongside which our partners want to train. This is particularly attractive because it permits strengthening of the mutual professional trust and familiarity with nations who may not yet be willing to welcome U.S. forces onto their territory. Navy capabilities also include the ability to maintain close surveillance of a critical region and to establish and enforce maritime embargoes and flight denial regimes. In time of crisis or war, the Navy brings powerful carrier battle groups and amphibious forces to the battle space. Tomahawk-capable ships and submarines provide added flexibility to deep-strike planners. The Fleet is capable of sustained, around-the-clock operations necessary to attain sea control and project decisive power ashore.

The Marine Corps is a multipurpose and multicapable combined arms expeditionary force, adaptable to changing roles and future missions. It is mandated by Congress to be the most ready when the Nation generally is least ready. The Marine Corps is an expeditionary force-in-readiness. Marines provide a unique combat capability that combines air, land, and naval forces from the sea—the Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF). The key characteristic of

these forces is their expeditionary mindset. Marines differ from other land forces by their ability to adapt and engage upon arrival and then sustain operational momentum. Without the ability to be logically expeditionary, Marines would be merely "displacers," not deployers. Marine aviation is another element that characterizes the unique concept of MAGTFs. The primary function of Marine aviation is, and always has been, support of ground troops—focused, versatile, flexible, and responsive to needs on the ground. It is the Marine Corps' ability to deliver a unique blend of ground, air, and service support elements in a responsive and adaptive manner that makes it the Nation's most effective land combat forcible entry option.

We call this blending of two distinct Services the joint Navy-Marine Corps Team. Together, they form a military capability unique in the world—one that underpins the Nation's diplomatic initiatives and that provides a special expeditionary capability essential for halting enemy offensives and facilitating the deployment of heavier land-based ground and tactical air forces. The Naval Services specialize in providing inherently sustainable, forward-deployed, combat-capable forces. Operating from the sea, the Sailors and Marines of our Navy-Marine Corps Team prove daily why they are the Nation's "9-1-1 force" for global response.

Executing the Strategy

Two Navy-Marine Corps roles have become increasingly salient, and continue to underscore the value of our Team to the Nation. The first calls for the Navy and Marine Corps to be present overseas with combat-credible forces in order to demonstrate that the United States will perform a variety of functions in peacetime and in the face of crisis. The second calls for the joint Navy and Marine Corps Team to project overwhelming combat power from the sea during wartime. Both roles are enabled by the unparalleled sustainment ability of the Navy and Marine Corps; Naval forces are uniquely able to routinely deploy as

combat-credible forces, capable of extended, self-supported operations.

U.S. national security has long been grounded in preventing conflict through deterrence. Deterrence is achieved through application of the entire spectrum of national power—political, economic, and military—necessary to cause an adversary to decide against specific conduct. Our national security strategy seeks to produce a state of mind by presenting a credible threat of unacceptable counteraction, the perception that cost exceeds gain, and that hostile actions will not succeed.

In peacetime we deter through the forward presence of U.S. military forces. Our sea-based forward presence, including highly survivable strategic submarines, is key to deterring strategic attacks on our Nation and allies, and for transitioning from peacetime to crisis management or war. Forward naval forces have unparalleled value which, though grounded in combat capability, surpasses mere utility in war. Our forward-presence forces also: Build regional interoperability; reassure allies of our commitment to mutual defense; demonstrate to potential foes our readiness, capability, and determination to secure vital interests; and allow us to perform other military operations. Historically, the Navy and Marine Corps have always been positioned in forward regions of the world. For half a century, their purpose was primarily to deter global conflict. In contrast, the world today is one of regional threats; a world in which we must be prepared to confront challenges of uncertain proportions, with uncertain goals, region by region. Our forward presence is powerfully important and even more central to the day-to-day operation of the Navy and Marine Corps in the current period because the United States is reducing its permanent overseas basing. As the Army and Air Force reposition to the United States, the Navy and Marine Corps sovereign seabases are providing the dominant portion of the Nation's forward presence.

When crisis appears imminent, we will employ naval forces able to undertake intensified surveillance of a critical region from international wa-

ters and air space, a task particularly suited to covert attack submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, and our space-based systems. We will also aggregate dispersed naval formation into larger, more capable on-scene forces which can generate significant combat power. At any time during a crisis, we are prepared to apply precision strikes with modern aircraft and cruise missiles against targets deep in the battlespace. This combat-ready power can be selectively revealed to potential foes or kept discretely out of sight, underwater as well as over the horizon. We will prepare our naval forces for sea-based operational maneuver, to mount amphibious landings, seize ports and littoral air-fields, and facilitate the introduction of heavier, CONUS-based follow-on forces. We will also position our forces to mount special warfare operations from the sea, extract U.S. and friendly personnel from threatened locations in nonpermissive situations, and establish and enforce maritime embargoes and flight denial regimes. In short, we are positioned and prepared to respond to rising tension, and stop wars before they start.

Proliferation of WMD is one of the most important issues our Nation faces today. The turbulence in the former Soviet Union (FSU) has increased the potential for the spread of WMD. When this is combined with the reality that weapon delivery system technology is also readily available, an environment with potentially grave consequences exists. The Navy and Marine Corps provide an important contribution in all phases of counter-proliferation—prevention, interdiction, neutralization, and active and passive defense. Our planning supports national policies that seek to limit proliferation. At the same time, we are taking the necessary steps to be able to fight in an environment where the enemy possesses WMD. We are focusing the highest level of attention on this issue.

The projection of overwhelming power from the sea during conflict is also a compelling defining role for Naval forces. Should hostilities break out, forward-deployed carrier battle groups and amphibious ready groups

will quickly respond to blunt our foe's initial objectives. Tomahawk-armed ships and submarines provide options for deep inland missile strikes with tremendous precision and lethality. When necessary, we are also prepared to augment all our carrier air wings with additional aircrews. Maritime prepositioning ship squadrons (MPSRons), already forward deployed, along with additional carrier battle groups and amphibious ready groups, will close on the region of hostilities. Expanded amphibious task forces will merge to make up an amphibious-based Marine expeditionary force, fully capable of forcible entry at the time and place of our choosing. The introduction of one or more MPSRons with an amphibious force provides the joint task force commander with a highly mobile, lethal combat capability fully sustained from its sea-based source. Our underway resupply ships make possible sustained, around-the-clock strike and combat support operations.

Finally, when hostilities conclude, the Navy-Marine Corps Team most often remains in place enforcing the terms of peace. The inherent diplomatic power and freedom by sea-based forces mean they are frequently the logical choice in the dangerous transitional period following hostilities.

The ships, aircraft, and Marine forces necessary to remain forward deployed around the globe are the Nation's most cost effective insurance policy. This is because the Navy and Marine Corps possess the full range of powerful capabilities critical to advance and defend our transoceanic interests in peacetime, crises, and war.

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>These excerpts are extracted from a much longer 44-page document. As noted in the table of contents on p. 23, the Gazette, has published the first 8 pages of the statement. Those readers interested in reviewing the complete Department of Navy 1995 Posture Statement should check with their local command when it becomes available.