

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE RICHARD DANZIG
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
BEFORE THE
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SEAPOWER SUBCOMMITTEE
3 MARCH 1999
21ST CENTURY SEAPOWER VISION OVERVIEW AND MARITIME
IMPLICATIONS OF 21ST CENTURY THREATS

The Navy and Marine Corps deliver immense value to America today. Wherever our interests are at stake, anywhere on the globe, Sailors and Marines are there for America. Within the last few months, from the Sea, the Navy and Marine Corps team has provided all of the firepower against Usama Bin Laden and most of the striking power against Iraq in Desert Fox (including all of the first night attack). Day-in and day-out it provides the protective cloak that assures stability in the Far East and the free flow of oil in the Persian Gulf. From the Adriatic it provides critical protection and reinforcement for operations in Bosnia, and for potential operations in Kosovo. In Africa and Latin America, it provides disaster relief, counter-drug operations, and the capabilities for evacuation of our citizens.

The challenge for us is both to maintain these invaluable operations and to build a Navy and a Marine Corps that is even stronger in the future than at the present. The work of this Subcommittee is invaluable in these respects. The President's budget points us in the right direction. If translated into an authorization and appropriations bill, it will strengthen our Naval forces through: (a) a triad of benefit enhancements for our people, including basic pay increases, pay table reforms and retirement reform changes; (b) the procurement of keystone programs, including the F/A-18E/F, the future CVNX, the MV-22, and the Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAAV) – all fundamental to help deliver American might from the sea to the littorals; and (c) much needed increases in our maintenance, spare parts, and training accounts.

In reviewing the plans before you and the work of our Department, I would particularly encourage the Committee to focus on three things. First are the new capabilities that we have designed and tested, and now must bring to life. These include the first production of our new Virginia-class SSN, the development and production of our LPD-17 class of amphibious ships, the development and production of the T-ADC (X) logistics ships, the continuation of the production of our DDGs and LHDs and planned upgrades to our Aegis cruisers. Our new aircraft that will operate from the sea, the F/A-18 E/F and the V-22, will help build for us a force of immense capabilities. Second are the new technologies that will create the "Navy after Next" for the twenty-first century. These include Area and Theater Missile Defense, the DD-21, the continuing revolution in our software and communications capabilities as part of Network Centric Warfare and our now robust investment in Carrier Research and Development. Third, there are two particular programs I have placed special emphasis on -- Smart Ship and Smart Work -- that are designed to lessen the demands upon our Sailors and Marines by increased automation, better design, and more appropriate investments in equipment. The Smart Ship initiative takes advantage of automation to free up Sailors from work best accomplished by machines so that they will be available for more important assignments.

The program before you moves aggressively in this direction by funding "Smart Ship" installations in all 27 Cruisers and 26 of our 32 DDGs. Beyond that, we are developing plans for applying smart ship principles to our aircraft carriers and amphibious ships. I am also encouraging design innovations on our future classes of ships, such as DD 21, that will improve their working and living environments for our Sailors and Marines. More immediately, the Smart Work initiative gives our Sailors and Marines new tools

and equipment to make their work easier and more productive and to enhance the quality of the work place. It involves such simple, but fundamental actions as providing improved tools for required tasks, introducing equipment that requires less maintenance, and refitting spaces to make work easier to accomplish.

These changes will reduce the hours that Sailors and Marines work--- they are now working too hard. It will improve our economy and efficiency. And it will enhance our warfighting effectiveness. I ask your help to make sure these two initiatives thrive.

In sum, there are great opportunities being developed in your Navy and Marine Corps, even as we are meeting urgent and difficult everyday commitments. The Navy and Marine Corps have always been there for America. This Subcommittee has always been there for us. We thank you for your continued support.