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United States
Coast Guard



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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U. S. COAST GUARD

STATEMENT OF

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ON THE

COOPERATIVE STRATEGY FOR 21ST CENTURY SEAPOWER

BEFORE THE

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and distinguished Members of the Committee. It is my pleasure to be here today to testify on the tri-service document, *A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower*.

Thank you for the invitation to speak to the U.S. Coast Guard's role with the U. S. Navy and U. S. Marine Corps in defending our Nation at sea and securing the marine transportation system.

I want to begin by recognizing the leadership of Admiral Roughhead and General Conway in developing an integrated strategy for our Nation's sea services. We share a vision for seapower that will strengthen our national defense and economic security. It is a common vision about how to move our Nation forward into an uncertain future; into an era of persistent conflict and of irregular conflict; into an era where the next challenge may be something disruptive and unanticipated. To succeed in such an environment we need flexibility, agility, and adaptability -- all characteristics which are embedded in this strategy. We also need a strategy that integrates the three services' unique capabilities into a single vision.

The Coast Guard is a multi-mission, military and maritime service, responsible for the safety, security and stewardship of our Nation's ports, waterways, maritime borders and international maritime interests. Its wide civil maritime authorities empower the Coast Guard with the unique competencies that it brings to its defense role, defined in statute (14 USC 1 and 2, and 10 USC 101). We traditionally provide capabilities and resources in mission areas that support naval operations, such as maritime interception operations; domestic and expeditionary port operations/security and defense; theater security cooperation; military environmental response operations; and coastal sea control operations. Increasingly, however, we contribute our law enforcement, humanitarian assistance, and civil governance competencies in defense operations. These essential military tasks may be performed by the Coast Guard as an element of joint and combined forces in peacetime, crisis and war. The Coast Guard participates with the other military services and combatant commanders in the Department of Defense's (DoD) deliberate and crisis planning processes. Coast Guard forces are apportioned to combatant commander operation plans and are regular participants in joint and combined military operations.

About two years ago, the Coast Guard testified before our authorizers in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure regarding the newly released *National Strategy for Maritime Security*. That testimony highlighted the Coast Guard's extensive Title 14 responsibilities in securing our ports, waterways and the maritime domain. My testimony today on *A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower* highlights how the Coast Guard integrates its Title 10 responsibilities with the Navy and Marine Corps in a wide spectrum of military operations. For me, this "closes the circle" in describing the Coast Guard's unique contributions to the security and defense of our Nation, and highlights the value of integrated, synchronized operations among the three services.

The Coast Guard subscribes completely to *A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower*. It reinforces the time-honored military and humanitarian missions that we have carried out for the Nation since 1790 and it reflects the global reach and influence of our maritime services. The strategy emphasizes the need to integrate, synchronize and act with our coalition and international partners not only to win wars, but as Admiral Roughead said, to prevent wars, too.

National Defense Capabilities of the U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard's contributions to the combatant commanders include cutters, aircraft, patrol boats, Maritime Safety and Security (MSST), Law Enforcement Detachments (LEDET), Port Security Units (PSU) and other specialized capabilities. These assets deliver essential maritime surveillance, security and response capabilities, particularly where hostile intent is not immediately discernable or is intermingled with civil maritime operations.

The Coast Guard deploys assets to support DoD operations and theater security cooperation requirements. With more than 40 of the world's 70 naval forces structured and focused on performing coast guard type functions, combatant commanders continue to seek Coast Guard capabilities to support their theater security cooperation initiatives that are intended to improve the governance and security. Working with combatant commanders, the Coast Guard allocates forces to the highest priority requests.

The Coast Guard's 2007 defense activities illustrate the various contributions it makes to the six key military capabilities highlighted in the maritime strategy.

Forward Presence: Coast Guard cutters and other forces provided specialized and important theater security cooperation operations supporting national security and defense strategies. Multinational exercises included annual Coast Guard cutter deployments with the U.S. Navy to the Caribbean, South America and Central America. In 2007, a major cutter deployed for U.S. European Command to conduct security operations and combined training exercises with numerous countries in West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea. Also, a high endurance cutter deployed for U.S. Central Command to conduct maritime security operations, including piracy suppression operations off Somalia, the Horn of Africa and the Gulf of Aden.

Deterrence: The Coast Guard's principal contributions were close to home in deterring transnational, unconventional threats -- principally drug smuggling -- that test our national sovereignty and border integrity, as well as weaken regional political stability and order at sea. Coast Guard, Navy, U.S. law enforcement and Allied military and law enforcement cooperation through Joint Interagency Task Forces (JIATF) South and West showcased the strength of integrated military and law enforcement operations, and were integral to enabling the Coast Guard to remove on average 319,945 lbs. of cocaine from the Transit Zone each year between 2004 and 2007. These were the four highest years for maritime cocaine removals ever, culminating with a record breaking removal of over 355,000 lbs of cocaine in 2007. Highly successful Coast Guard airborne use of force operations have also been extended from the Atlantic to Pacific Coast, where continued operation of Coast Guard crews on Navy helicopters in 2007 have brought an effective new joint-service capability to securing our borders. This ever tighter integration of our naval services in hemispheric maritime security operations creates a stronger deterrent effect against a range of unconventional, irregular threats to our Nation. The Coast Guard also supports the Navy's essential strategic deterrence capability through its Maritime Force Protection Units (MFPU), commissioned in 2007 that enforce Naval Vessel Protective Zones (NVPZ) for the Ballistic Missile Submarine (SSBN) fleet.

Sea Control: In 2007, the Coast Guard continued to support National interests in the Arabian Gulf. Working alongside Navy and allied naval units, six patrol boats, two LEDETs and associated logistics and command and control elements supported the naval component commander's ability to prosecute the war on terrorism at sea and continued the protection of the

vital offshore Iraqi oil infrastructure. The Coast Guard also continued port security deployments to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in support of DoD operations. Detachments from PSUs were used to fulfill this commitment.

Power Projection: In support of the Global War on Terrorism, the Coast Guard protected and escorted Navy high-value units in 2007, including 75 Military Sealift Command ship arrivals and departures at 20 U.S. seaports of embarkation/debarkation, moving over 6 million square feet of military cargo. About one half of the over 800 Coast Guard men and women supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) in 2008 will be conducting domestic and expeditionary port operations/security and defense activities. The Coast Guard plays a specialized and essential role in supporting the military sealift that underpins power projection.

Maritime Security: The President's Maritime Operational Threat Response (MOTR) Plan provides for the coordinated U.S. Government response to threats against the United States and its interests in the maritime domain by establishing roles and responsibilities enabling rapid and decisive response. The Coast Guard, as the Nation's leading maritime law enforcement agency, fulfills DHS's role as one of the lead MOTR agencies in the maritime domain. With its experience working both law enforcement and military operations, the Coast Guard brings broad authorities as well as planning and execution skills to operations requiring interagency coordination through the MOTR process in support of both homeland defense and homeland security missions. The operations can include the deployment of integrated and adaptive capabilities (including use of force) required to locate, identify, intercept, apprehend, exploit, and, when necessary, defeat maritime threats. The Coast Guard continues to play an important supporting role to DoD within the interagency MOTR process used in countering piracy and suppression of unlawful acts at sea.

Humanitarian Assistance /Disaster Relief (HA/DR): With long-standing domestic authority and experience in organizing and responding to maritime and civil disasters, the Coast Guard brings highly-practiced skills to the expanded core naval service mission of HA/DR. This is second nature to us, as illustrated when tropical storm Noel struck the Dominican Republic last month. The Coast Guard rapidly deployed three helicopters, coordinating rescue and aid operations with U.S. Military Assistance and Advisory Group (MAAG) while using fixed wing air reconnaissance and the Coast Guard Cutter Tampa in Dominican Republic waters to serve as a command and control platform during the response. This joint forces effort saved over 50 lives, transported critical medical teams, and distributed vital food and water rations to victims in distress.

The changing nature of the threats and challenges facing the Nation and our combatant commanders has not only shaped the Coast Guard's role in traditional naval warfare mission areas but has also introduced new demands for specialized skill sets that the Coast Guard is uniquely suited to fill. New and emerging mission areas which support combatant commanders include:

Rotary Wing Air Intercept (RWAI). Responsibility for National Air Defense (AD) operations rests with U.S. Northern Commands, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). Coast Guard RWAI forces seamlessly integrate into the NORAD air defense command and control structure, allowing unity of command and enhancement of the layered defense and law

enforcement response. In 2007, the Coast Guard is providing RWAI capability for several different AD missions, including:

- National Special Security Events (NSSE)
- Special Events Level 1-5
- NASA Space Shuttle Launches
- National Capital Region (NCR)

Coast Guard aircraft provided low/slow air intercept of aircraft in the National Capital Region under NORAD. In 2007, we responded to over 50 incidents in the prosecution of this mission. The Coast Guard is participating in planning and exercises with U.S. Northern Command to further hone this capability, including the development of an air-to-maritime concept.

Combatant Commanders support operations for the war on terror are conducted when regional combatant commanders request specific capabilities be added to deployed forces to expand capability. The Coast Guard provides forces with special capabilities and competencies often useful to DoD overseas, especially in Phase 0 “shaping” operations, including training host nation military and government forces to build capacity for maritime governance, security and basic civil administration. The Coast Guard provides training assistance to sixty nations with mobile training teams worldwide. For example, Coast Guard support has been instrumental in ensuring the success of the Search and Rescue Training Center (SAR-TC) in Malta. The SAR-TC graduated three classes last year which included students from Nigeria, Cape Verde, Tunisia, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia and nations of the European Community. The ability to field Coast Guard capabilities in areas where DoD forces lack civil authorities, expertise and access can give combatant commanders the benefit of relationships the Coast Guard has built with the civil ministries (e.g., Ministers of Interior) of many foreign countries.

Implementation Priorities for the U.S. Coast Guard

The maritime strategy captures the challenges facing our Nation and our sea services in a globalized maritime world. For the Coast Guard to serve its role in National defense operations, four implementation priorities bear highlighting.

Cutter and aircraft fleet recapitalization through the Deepwater acquisition program is my highest priority. Unless we are able to continue delivering the program’s much-needed assets, our ability to secure the Nation’s maritime borders, save lives, ensure national security and protect natural resources will be severely limited. The Deepwater acquisition program fully aligns with the National Fleet Policy, and by design implements the essential service interoperability called for in this strategy. The National Security Cutter was designed from the keel up to integrate with the Navy in C4ISR, weapons systems, and operational capability. Our new HC-144A CASA aircraft will also provide interoperability with DoD and other partners. There are huge returns from the Deepwater program to our homeland security and national defense readiness, as well as operational and economic efficiencies. For example, in March 2007, we opened our new C4ISR systems training facility at the Coast Guard Training Center in Petaluma, California. This facility is equipped with state-of-the-art simulators, and radar and electronics equipment to train Coast Guard crews assigned to new Deepwater cutters and has also been used to train U.S. Navy personnel on common C4ISR systems.

Building and sustaining a talented, adaptable workforce is essential to the Coast Guard's success in implementing this strategy. The modernization of our fleet of cutters and aircraft coupled with the progression of technology in the maritime industry are creating new training and education demands for Coast Guard men and women. It is especially important for our Coast Guard professionals to remain competent and technologically-current in their maritime safety, environment, and stewardship, maritime security and Title 10 roles. In fact, it is these civil competencies and authorities that are often the most valuable contribution a small Coast Guard presence can add to the combatant commanders' spectrum of operations.

Deployable Operations Group. The Coast Guard's response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita demonstrated its ability to respond quickly and effectively to one of the most costly and damaging natural disasters in American history. However, the Coast Guard also saw it could improve its response by building adaptive force packages to meet operational requirements and achieve greater interoperability with partner agencies and DoD. Because of this experience, the Coast Guard has consolidated and integrated its deployable forces under the Deployable Operations Group (DOG), which achieved initial operating capability (IOC) in July 2007. Deployable Specialized Forces (DSF) in the DOG force structure include Maritime Safety and Security Teams (MSST), the Maritime Security Response Team (MSRT), Tactical Law Enforcement Teams (TACLET), Port Security Units (PSU), National Strike Force (NSF) Strike Teams and the National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC). An additional force in the DSF community is the Coast Guard personnel assigned to the Navy's Coastal Warfare (NCW) Squadrons. The DOG structure promises not only to greatly improve Coast Guard response to domestic disasters and incidents of national significance, but also to more tightly integrate training and doctrine with our Navy and Marine Corps partners and bring highly effective maritime service force packages to the combatant commanders.

High latitude operational capacity. The Coast Guard Cutter HEALY, one of our two operational icebreakers, returned in October 2007 from a science mission off the North Slope of Alaska, an effort to determine the extent of the United States continental shelf. This was a very topical deployment given receding ice, growing maritime activity in the Arctic and related challenges presented to the United States government. The Arctic contains 2,500 plus miles of U.S. shoreline and perhaps 25 percent of the world's energy reserves. The changing National security and sovereignty implications in the Arctic are noted in the strategy, and are emerging challenges for the Coast Guard and the Nation.

Maritime domain awareness. Three weeks ago I returned from London, where I led the U.S. delegation to the International Maritime Organization. High on our agenda were long-range tracking initiatives that complement shorter-range transponder systems, such as the safety-related Automated Identification Systems (AIS) used on commercial vessels around the world. The Coast Guard is a global leader in advancing systems that make maritime commerce safe and more transparent, allowing peaceful forces around the world to have a higher degree of certainty about legitimate shipping on known routes. With the additional information that will become available through the global Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) system, we will be able to target anomalies and disrupt threats as far from our shore as possible. The Navy is an enthusiastic and close partner in building maritime domain awareness to protect our Nation and provide security on seas around the world. We have a Navy flag officer working with an integrated staff at Coast Guard Headquarters, and the Navy is a true leader in the effort to better share information among navies and the coast guards of the world, particularly in the European theater. Maritime Domain Awareness -- our ability to understand what's out there, and what a

potential threat is – requires the joint-service team effort highlighted in the strategy, and we are putting it into action.

A Cooperative Strategy for Global Maritime Engagement

Cooperative engagement of navies and coast guards throughout the world is the organizing principle of the new maritime strategy. This is a natural extension of the globalized nature of maritime activity, the common interest of peaceful nations in good order at sea, and the strategic advantage of defense in depth. I admire Admiral Roughead and General Conway, as well as Joint Service Chief Chairman Admiral Mullen, for having the strategic vision to expand our thinking about the relationships among maritime forces globally, and their common purpose to safeguard the maritime domain.

The Coast Guard has a unique role in this strategic concept because the service is both an armed force of the United States and a federal law enforcement agency. This dual character allows it to operate in many roles and venues. In dealing with coastal nations around the world, the Coast Guard necessarily moves beyond the traditional military-to-military relationships with the defense ministries. In other Nations, many coast guards work under the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) -- some under public safety and others under transport -- not under Ministries of Defense (MOD). Our ability to interact with those various ministries and departments in pursuit of shared civil maritime authorities and roles allows us to expand the concepts that are contained in the maritime strategy across broader elements of international governments.

To this end, we play an important role globally in managing seams between MODs and MOIs. Moving forward, the full range of interagency power must be brought to bear to deal with the challenges we face in today's world. The security provided by the Navy and Marine Corps is the essential foundation upon which our maritime Nation relies for its prosperity and way of life. But, to prevent wars and to ensure peace, we must also be able to help create and sustain the elements of a civil society and order around the world. That too is the vision of this strategy. What the Coast Guard "brings to the peace" is integration and synchronization capability to deal with civil departments and ministries of coastal nations around the world regarding search and rescue, oil and hazmat spill response, illegal migration, counter-drug operations, piracy and polar operations.

In closing, the Coast Guard will continue to be a strong partner to the Navy and the Marine Corps. We will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our shipmates to ensure the security and prosperity of our Nation, and our maritime interests around the world. I am committed to implementation and execution of this strategy, because it's the best thing for the Coast Guard, it's the best thing for the sea services of the United States, and it's the best thing for the security of this country and our partners around the world.

I look forward to your questions.