

**Remarks as delivered by ADM Gary Roughead
Maritime Strategy Testimony
December 13, 2007**

Chairman Skelton, Mr. Hunter, distinguished members of the committee, on behalf of our 600,000 Sailors, Navy civilians and families I am pleased to be here with General Conway and Admiral Allen to present to you today *The Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower*. That all three maritime Service chiefs are here together and are signatories to the strategy is a testament of our Nation's maritime forces commitment to an integrated approach in protecting our nation's vital interests.

We are a maritime nation, our founders recognized it, our history has shown it, and this committee with its leadership and interest continues to reinforce it. Our last maritime strategy, albeit a Navy only strategy, was issued in the 1980's. It contributed to the end of the Cold War, and because it was a Cold War Strategy, its efficacy ended there. We have been too long without strategic guidance for our maritime forces. I am pleased to have been part of this maritime strategy development.

It is a strategy that charts the right course for our maritime Services at this point in time. I am of the Fleet. My experiences of the past five years, as Commander U.S. Second Fleet/NATO Striking Fleet Atlantic, as a Maritime Homeland Defense Commander supporting USNORTHCOM, as the Commander of Joint Task Force 519 in the Pacific, as the Commander of the Pacific Fleet, and as the Commander of the United States Fleet Forces Command, these experiences have given me a perspective of our worldwide operations that convinces me of the relevance of this maritime strategy. As recently as the year that preceded its release, I led robust operations in the Western Pacific ranging in the full spectrum of seapower, from multi carrier operations in the Western Pacific to the proactive humanitarian assistance operations with our hospital ships MERCY and COMFORT and PELELIEU. While at opposite ends of the operational spectrum, these operations demonstrated the need to codify our strategy and build for a new future.

At the same time my experiences working with our partners and allies around the world have made it clear to me that international partnership and cooperation will underpin global, and therefore American, prosperity. Watching the successful Malaysian and Singapore and Indonesian operation enhance maritime security and maritime domain awareness in a vital strategic strait was incredibly important and also seeing our activities under the Proliferation Security Initiative to dissuade the transfer of weapons of mass destruction show that these cooperative opportunities and similar activities will be important to our future.

But my experiences and those of my colleagues were only part of what informed our new strategy. Through our "Conversations with the Country" I heard firsthand the demand of the American people to remain strong and to also cooperate internationally to secure our national interests. This solidified my conviction that the Navy needed a new strategy that would address the changing and increasingly integrated global environment while securing our prosperity through the seas and protecting our homeland.

At the International Seapower Symposium in Newport, RI, the three of us unveiled this maritime strategy that uniquely met those demands. Before a record attendance of 98 nations, 67 chiefs of Navy and 27 chiefs of coast guards, the symposium was the ideal venue to communicate our new vision and demonstrate our commitment to international cooperation. It was extremely well received.

While the maritime strategy reaffirms our unbending commitment to forward presence, to deterrence, to sea control and power projection, it is unique for three reasons. First, all three maritime Services participated in the development and are signatories. Second, we take the bold step of committing to a higher level of cooperation with maritime forces around the world – a commitment that we as sea-going forces are uniquely able to meet. And third, while we will remain the preeminent warfighting force this maritime nation expects, we also intend to pursue proactive humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and maritime security operations.

My guidance to the fleet is to execute our strategy, and my priorities - to build our future Navy, to maintain our current readiness, and support our people - reflect what is needed to do so. The imperative and challenge for the Navy is to remain a balanced Navy with the force structure and capability and capacity that can apply the enduring principles of seapower in a manner that protects vital national interests while promoting greater collective security, stability, trust, and prosperity.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that our maritime Services remain preeminent. And on behalf of all of our Sailors and Navy civilians, I thank you for your continued support and your commitment to our Navy and I would like to submit a copy of my written statement and a copy of the maritime strategy for the record. Thank you.