



***GENERAL JAMES F. AMOS***  
***COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS***

***IDGA Amphibious Ops Summit***

***27 July 2011***



# SecDef Strategic Priorities & Role of USMC

*"Marines facilitate seven of the nine SECDEF Priorities."*



**Defeat al-Qaeda**



**Win the war in Afghanistan and Iraq (and Libya)**

- **Ensure Iran and NK do not advance nuclear weapons programs**



**Enhance Departmental cyber-warfare capabilities**



**Preserve ability to project US power/influence in the world**

- **Maintain a strong nuclear deterrent while advancing arms control**



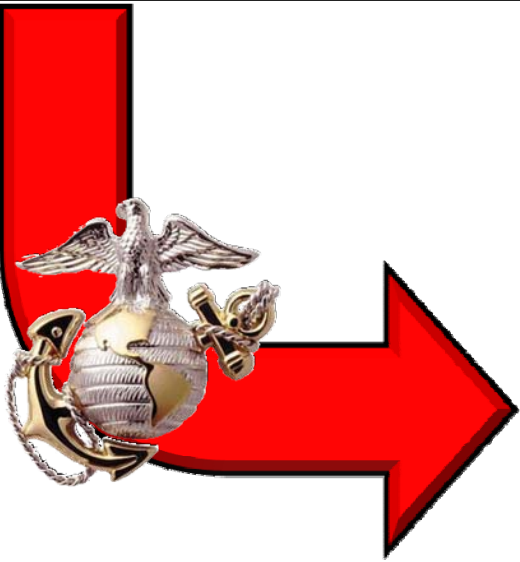
**Strengthen important security cooperation and partnerships**



**Protect troops and their families**



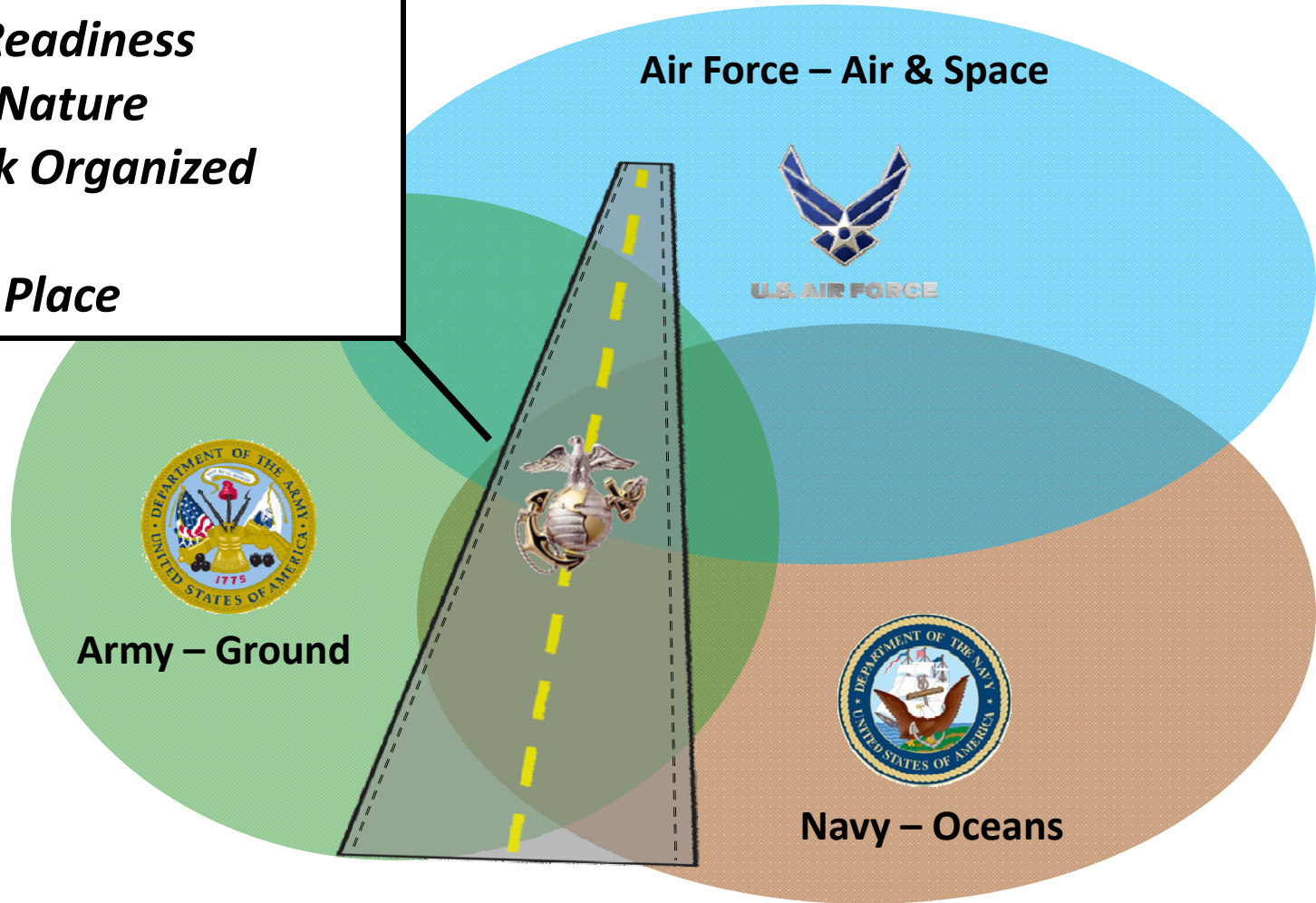
**Get the budget right**

- 
- **America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness**
    - **Balanced air-ground-logistics team**
    - **Forward-deployed ... Forward-engaged**
  - **We create options & decision space for our Nation's leaders**
    - **Respond to today's crisis... with today's force ... TODAY!**
    - **Responsive and scalable**
    - **Enable and participate in joint and combined operations**
  - **A Middleweight force**
    - **Operate throughout the spectrum of threats**
    - **Ready to respond whenever the Nation calls**
    - **Wherever the President may direct**



# ***USMC Lane vs. other DOD Forces Domain***

- Crisis Response Force***
- High State of Readiness***
- Expeditionary Nature***
- Scalable & Task Organized***
- Amphibious***
- Any Clime and Place***



***“...at the front door of crisis and conflict, we possess the finesse, the training and the tools to knock at the door diplomatically, pick the lock skillfully, or kick it in violently.”***



# The Importance of the World's Oceans...and Man's Transition to Amphibious Forces



Man's desire to reap the bounty of the sea, and to trade with his neighbors, resulted in a connection to the oceans that keeps large populations near the world's coastlines. Large, fertile river deltas that serve as agricultural centers and natural highways to the interior also make the world's littoral regions population "magnets." International commerce, national defense, and access to the bountiful, though limited, natural resources that exist in, and under, the world's oceans have fueled tremendous improvements in maritime capabilities ranging from ship design to port facilities the world over.

Access to the world's littoral regions, for trade, defense, and environmental management is an imperative for any maritime nation.



*95% of the world's commerce moves by sea...*





# ***“Over a Thousand”***



*Over one thousand applications of US amphibious capability in the past 20 years,  
Covering the range of activities described in the National Security Strategy.*

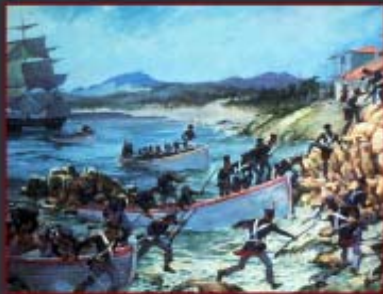


# The Tradition of Naval Expeditionary Operations

Since the American Revolution, the Navy-Marine Corps team has engaged in every conflict.

In the last twenty years alone, the Navy-Marine Corps team has applied its amphibious capabilities in over 100 crises while also conducting over 900 cooperative engagement events in support of our national security interests.

Though the thought of amphibious operations may conjure images of Iwo Jima or Inchon, it actually represents a wide variety of missions covering the spectrum in the range of military operations. From peaceful humanitarian assistance to full blown major combat operations, employment from the sea has afforded US flexibility, freedom of maneuver, power projection and security in ways that fixed land forces cannot deliver.



... FROM THE PAST, THROUGH THE PRESENT AND INTO THE FUTURE



**“...At the Geo-Strategic level, it’s all about the littorals.”**

## ***Future Security Environment ... Numbers are Telling***

*95% of international communications travels via underwater cables*

*95% of the world’s commerce moves by sea*

*53% of the U.S. population lives within 12 miles of the sea*

*17 of the world’s largest cities have direct access to the sea*

*75% of the population lives within 200 miles of a coast*

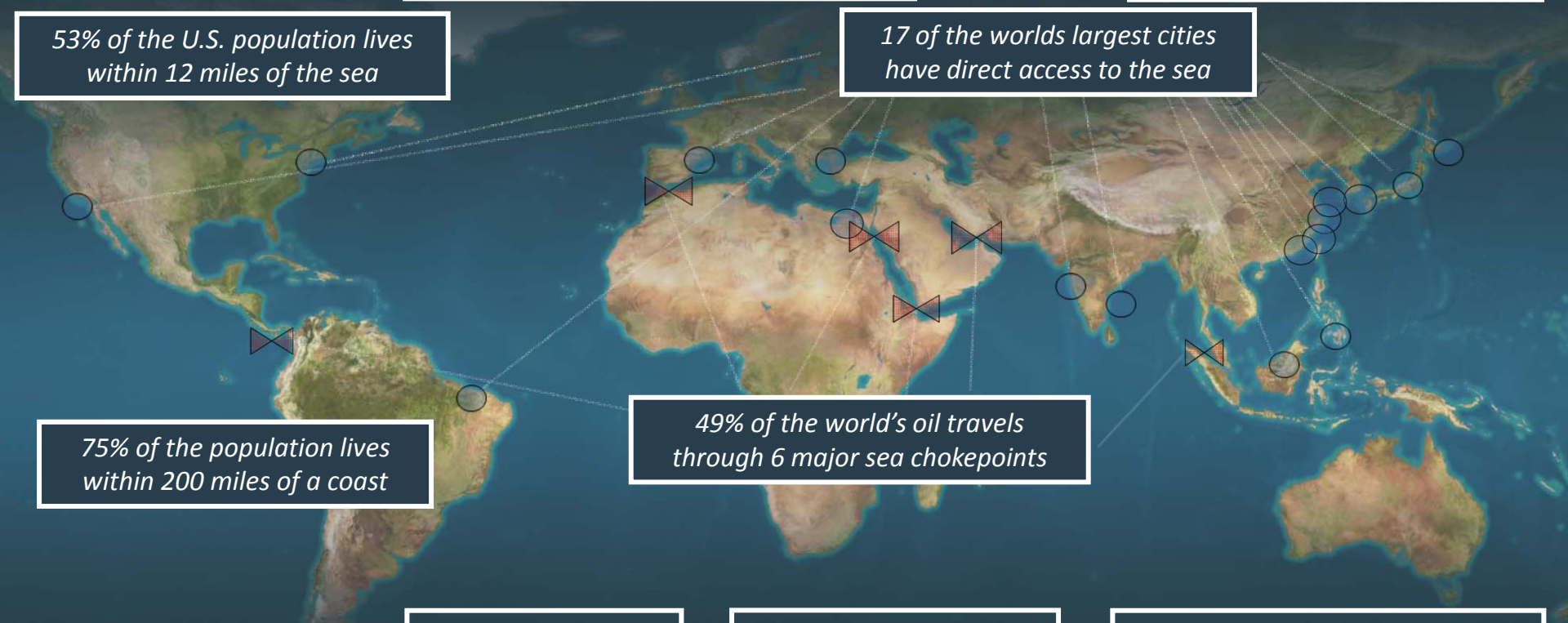
*49% of the world’s oil travels through 6 major sea chokepoints*

*70% of world is water*

*23,000 ships are underway daily*

*25% of the world’s oil & gas is drilled at sea*

*95% of all commercial cargo travels through the littorals*





# ***Assured Access benefits more than just our Nation's security***

## **Global Access Benefits:**

- Enables support to friends, allies, partners
- Facilitates economic opportunity
- Supports environmental protection initiatives

## **Versatile, always ready naval forces are:**

- Flexible, sea-based, "floating military bases," no SOFAs required!
- Energy efficient, self-contained, "whole of government" oriented
- As capable for disaster response as they are for force projection
- Cost effective

*Amphibious, Expeditionary Forces Are The Key!*



**CAN WE AFFORD NOT TO PRESERVE OUR ABILITY TO PROJECT POWER?**





# Combatant Commander Demand Signal For Amphibious Forces



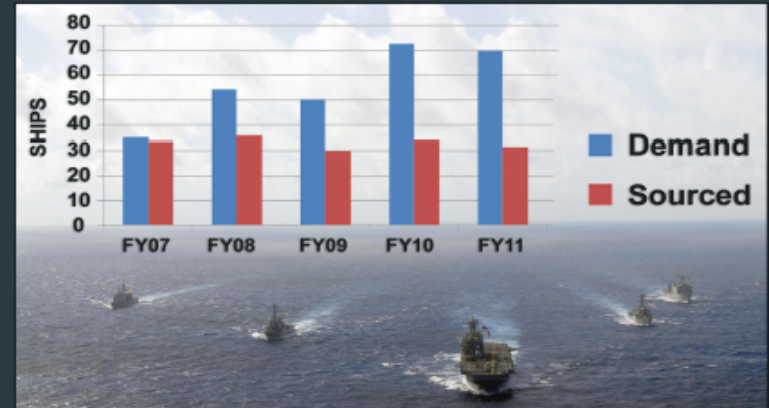
Our National Security Strategy places a premium on diplomatic, economic, and military engagement with international partners to prevent, protect against, and respond to threats and natural disasters.

In an era of increased sensitivity to U.S. forces overseas, a sea-based approach provides a discrete, flexible and effective means of selectively engaging to build partnerships and respond to crisis and project our national interests.

This document highlights the past twenty years of U.S. amphibious capability being applied across the range of military operations.

The utility of amphibious capability in today's environment is shown in the adjacent graphic, highlighting the increase in amphibious demand while the nations capacity to source that demand is decreasing.

Combatant Commander Amphibious Ship Demand and Amount Sourced

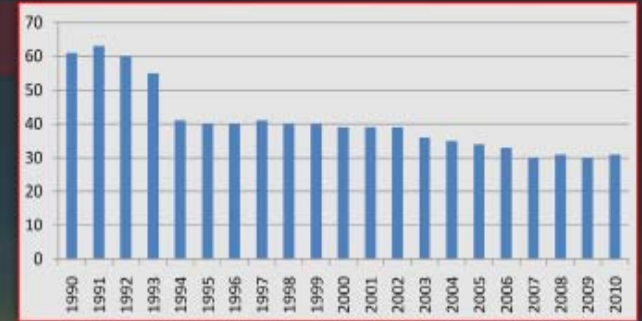


"Demand", as indicated in the graph above, is determined by official regional combatant command force requests that are registered in the Global Force Management Process.

# Providing Flexibility and Presence Around the World



## "OVER 900" EXERCISES AND ENGAGEMENTS



EXERCISE  
OCEAN VENTURE



EXERCISE  
STRONG RESOLVE



EXERCISE  
ALEXANDER THE GREAT



OPERATION  
IRON MAGIC



EXERCISE BALIKATAN



UNITAS



EXERCISE  
EDGED MALLET



LF CARAT

*Over 900 instances of individual amphib ships supporting named exercises and engagements over the past 20 years*



# Covering the Full Range of Military Operations



**"OVER 100" AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS IN THE PAST 20 YEARS ...**

33	HA/DR
24	Peace Operations/Nation Assist
23	Other (No Fly/Show of Force, Ect)
18	NEO/Embassy Spt
18	Amphib: Asslt, Raid, Strike & Demo
9	CT/COIN
122 Missions	



*HA/DR Operations*



*Peace Operations*



*Forward Presence*



*NEO's*



*Asslt, Raid, Demo*



*CT/COIN Ops*



# Globally Protecting U.S. Citizens

## Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO)

Operation	Location	Year	Evacuees	
			US	Total
Lebanon NEO 2006	Lebanon	2006	14,000	Few
Safe Departure	Asmara, Eritrea NEO	1998	105	172
Noble Obelisk	Sierra Leone	1997	451	2,510
Guardian Retrieval	Congo (formerly Zaire)	1997		532
Silver Wake	Albania	1997		900
Quick Response	Central African Republic	1996	208	448
Assured Response	Liberia	1996	480	2,780
Distant Runner	Rwanda NEO	1994	148	230
Eastern Exit	Somalia	1991	281	
Sharp Edge	Liberia	1990	330	3,020



*In total ... 25,000 American and Partner Nation Forces have been evacuated by U.S. Marines from amphibious ships over the past twenty years.*



# Multi-National NEO: Beirut 2006

In July 2006, Hezbollah fired rockets into Israel. In response, Israel launched a major assault into southern Lebanon, bombed the airport and roads, and imposed a blockade. Thousands of American citizens in Lebanon flooded the US embassy seeking to leave.

Due to the magnitude of the crisis, the State Department requested DoD military assistance with evacuations. The Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) with the embarked 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) in the Red Sea rapidly moved to Lebanese waters.



2 MEU and ESG helicopters and landing craft transport almost 8,000 evacuees directly to RAF base in Cyprus or to naval shipping that shuttle evacuees to Cyprus .

1 From 15 July to 20 August 2006, MEU and ESG conduct NEO that results in the safe evacuation of nearly 15,000 U.S. personnel – “one of the largest overseas evacuation of American citizens in recent history” (Government Accountability Office).

3 MEU establishes close coordination with State Department officials at multiple evacuation sites and provides security. Assist with evacuation of over 6,700 Americans aboard commercial cruise liners leased by TRANSCOM.

## Flexibility of Amphibious Forces

In addition to this NEO crisis response, the 24th MEU and the Iwo Jima ESG also conducted the following major operations during their 6 month deployment:

- Engagement: 3 major bi-lateral exercises with Greece, Jordan, and Pakistan
- Support to Major Combat Operations: Close air support in Afghanistan and augmentation of forces and training in Iraq



# 2010 Pakistan Floods: “Over 700 Miles Inland”

*Amphibious Assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5), left, and Amphibious Transport Dock ship USS Dubuque (LPD 8) steam off the coast of Pakistan Aug. 13, 2010, in the early stages of supporting the Pakistani government and military with heavy lift capabilities to bring relief to flooded regions of NW Pakistan.*



> 700 miles

Indus River Valley

USS PELELIU ARG / 15TH MEU



# ***IDGA – Amphibious Operations Summit***

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***QUESTIONS?***