



Maritime Strategy Fact Sheet

“*A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower*” recognizes the economic links of the global system and how any disruption due to regional crises – manmade or natural – can adversely impact the U.S. economy and quality of life. This new strategy charts a course for the Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps to work collectively with each other and international partners to prevent these crises from occurring or reacting quickly should one occur to avoid negative impacts to the U.S.

Why Develop a New Strategy?

- ***World prosperity and security depends on free use of the seas.*** Markets crave security and our vital interests are best served by a stable global system.
- 70% of the world is water, 80% of the world lives within a few hundred miles of the oceans and 90% of our commerce sails across it.
- The world has changed since 1986 when the last maritime strategy was developed.
- The new strategy will meet emerging challenges in an uncertain world.

What’s New in This Strategy?

- ***Signed for the first time by the service chiefs of all three sea services,*** the strategy draws the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard closer together to provide a layered defense of the homeland and work to protect and sustain the American Way of Life.
- The new strategy provides the right balance of forces to conduct traditional combat missions and ***raises the prevention of war to a level equal to the conduct of war.***
- It elevates Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief to core elements of maritime power. ***We’ve always done this, but now we’ll plan to do it.***
- U.S. maritime forces will be employed to build confidence and trust among nations through ***collective maritime security*** efforts that focus on common threats (proliferation, smuggling, piracy, terrorism, etc) and mutual interests.
- The new Maritime Strategy raises the importance of working with international partners as the basis for global maritime security. Although our forces can surge when necessary to respond to crises, ***trust and cooperation cannot be surged.*** Relationships must be built over time based on mutual understanding and respect.
- ***The strategy was shaped through a partnership with the American people.*** The American people want us to remain strong; they want us to protect them and our homeland, and they want us to work with partners around the world to prevent war.

For more information and to read the Maritime Strategy, please visit <http://www.navy.mil/maritime>