

**Chief of Naval Operations
Adm. Jonathan Greenert delivers remarks at
The Center for a New American Security
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Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary.

Before I go any further I have to give some props to Secretary Danzig. While I served on the OpNav Staff over ten years ago as a junior one-star he was the Secretary of the Navy. And we looked up and we said man, is that guy smart. He's got a strategic view and all that goes with it; and I know all of you out there feel the same way as for what he's doing here. But he loves Sailors.

We had problems recruiting back in those days; we just couldn't get enough people in the Navy. Today, my golly, we haven't missed a quota for four years. Back then Secretary Danzig said make sure our recruiters had the right productivity. So when they're out on the road, they'd get out and talk to people, they'd get off guard and say give us a call. Well heck. Let's get moving. So he got them laptops and cell phones. That was good, that got things moving. All of a sudden we started making quotas. Today, because of what you got started, Mr. Secretary, a common E-5 out on the road, a 24 year old girl is out there and she's got a laptop, she's got an iPhone, she's got a cell phone, she's got a scanner, she's got a fax, and she's got a printer. So if she's got a candidate, she's got a contract, and we want to thank you very much for getting that started, getting us in the right direction.

Now about one of the best things you can say to a shipmate is, "I've got your back." About ten years ago I was in the budget shop, as Secretary Danzig mentioned, and it's in the middle of the year so all the budget money is out. Somebody comes down and says the Secretary of the Navy wants to replace all the mattresses on our combatant ships. I said what? He says yeah, all 200,000-some of them on the ships. So we go okay, we're going with inner spring mattresses. We go okay, how do we do that? Well, that's your problem.

So we got to work. We had the serial number, we had the company, and in a matter of 18 months we replaced all of the mattresses on our ships with an inner spring mattress.

So I'll tell you, ladies and gentlemen, three times I have been out there, since being a flag officer, out on the sea doing what we call a comfort and safety inspection. We kind of walk around the spaces. Three times I've had a non-commissioned officer, a petty officer come up and say, "I don't know whose idea it was to put this inner spring mattress on here, but this is the greatest thing we've had for morale in a long time." .

The last time this happened was in October of this year. I was on the Stennis, we're driving through the Strait of Hormuz and a master chief comes up, he's a Boatswain's mate, big arms. He says, you know, ten years ago my back was killing me. And we got these inner spring mattresses, and I don't know who the hell did that but I'd love to give him a big hug. . I said thanks, Master Chief. Little did I know I'd have that opportunity. So later today maybe we'll get back to the kitchen and I'll give you that hug. . I have one question. Can you help us with sleep apnea and reflux? If you have a mattress that would help with that we would appreciate it. .

I'm honored today to talk to you about where kind of I see us going in the Asia/Western Pacific. Please note, we are all products -- Admiral Walt Dorn who knows the Western Pacific very well, said hey, we are all products of our biography. I'm a nuclear submariner. I've served in Japan, in the 7th Fleet as Chief of Staff; I served in Hawaii four times, the last time as the Deputy Commander of Pacific Fleet - an amazing tour; and the West Coast twice. Frankly, other than that I'm here in Washington, D.C. doing things potentially budgetary.

The Navy's been in the Western Pacific for a long time. Certainly as long as I've been in. And my observation is, it's about relationships and partnerships that really matter a lot. I've seen it in the great tsunami of 2004 where it was relationships -- Admiral Fargo, Admiral Doran. Relationships with Admiral Arun Prakash in India, and the Chief of the Sri Lanka Defense, the Chief of the Indonesian Defense, got us access into those spaces and enabled that recovery. In typhoons in the Philippines and in Taiwan and in Guam where relationships between the military got things done and got that recovery going.

I saw it in myself, an opportunity here. When we conducted long range search and track, in 2004, against North Korea, our job was to look and make sure we could detect and track any ballistic missile coming from Korea. We were threatened at that time in North Korea. So the, the Japanese Self Defense Force, had the Aegis there, and we worked through relationships when we managed to put together collective self-defense process and concept of operations there in the Seat of Japan.

It's about information and intelligence sharing. It's about co-locating our headquarters. You see it again for the last eight years where we've been operating in the Philippines, in the southern Philippines, and our joint special operations task force Philippines, with our special operation in the Philippine armed forces.

This area is vital to the United States. We know that. It's been an area vital to our Navy and our focus for decades because of the demographics, the trade routes, large economies. Five of our seven defense treaties are there. We've had about 25 ships and about 30,000 sailors and families there for decades and they've been well taken care of.

When I took over the watch here, around August I was giving this some thought and said as I go into this, how do I want to focus my people for this challenge ahead? I drafted the CNO's Guidance, mine are called Sailing Directions. It was clear to me

there were three things that we needed from my board room to every ward room and to every ready room.

Number one, warfighting is first. Our job is first defeat as required, and that's our only job.

Number two, we need to operate forward. That is where your Navy is at its best and has been at its best.

Number three, we've got to be ready. It's about people, it's about organizing, training, equipping and manning our units and making sure those units when they're operating forward are ready to go.

So I looked out there and said where is the fleet distribution today? Where should the fleet distribution be? Where are the maritime crossroads around our world, and where we need to be today and in the future? This is how I see it as we look out there worldwide, where we need to be.

If you start here in the continental United States, you've got places and you've got bases and you've got cross roads. If you're an engineering major that cross road there, that's a valve; if you're an English major, it's a bow tie. Any way you look at it, it's a maritime cross road.

The Panama Canal is going to be widening in the next two years. What becomes of the Caribbean? That's an important place. Guantanamo Bay is a place for us as well. It's got an airfield and it's got a deep water port.

The little circles, those are our bases where we deploy from.

If we go over toward Europe, all the way to your far left, in Rota we're going to have four DDGs. That's going to be a place for us, forward deployed naval force. Four destroyers here over the next four years when we pull that together.

If you look into the Mediterranean it's about Souda Bay, it's about Sigonella and it's about Naples.

If you look in the Suez Canal, a very important area to come down, it's about Djibouti where we have a port, where we can be fueled, we can get spare parts, get logistics, and it has a wonderful airfield there that we have used routinely.

If you go into the Arabian Gulf, it's about Bahrain. Bahrain is central to us in the Arabian Gulf now and in the future. And clearly the Strait of Hormuz is important.

If you're in the Indian Ocean it's about Diego Garcia. That's an important place.

Now you go into the area we're going to talk about today, you move through the Strait of Malacca and you go to Singapore. Singapore is a place to us. A wonderful country. They have offered us the opportunity to operate littoral combat ships and port, if you will, our littoral combat ships there in the future.

It's about Darwin. The Australian government have offered us the opportunity, and I'll talk a little bit about that, as a place.

And it's about Okinawa, it's about Japan where the coasts are accessible, et cetera, and of course Guam has a port as well.

If you look around the world here today, to me those are the maritime cross roads where those bows/bow ties are today. We have to be there or have access to those today and in the future in my view, and that's a central part of what I talk about when I talk about operating forward.

The ship distribution you see up here, that is a reflection, since I've had the watch of how many ships we've had out and about in the world today. If they're on the East or West Coast, they're probably getting ready to deploy, and that number's about 45. If they're out and about around the world, that number is about 100. You can see the vast majority of them are in the Western Pacific, in the Arabian Gulf, on the Gulf of Aden, some in the Mediterranean. And where you see South America, that's East and West Coast where those five ships are -- both East and West Coast operating there.

So of the 285 ships in your Navy today, about 100 are deployed at any given time and the vast majority of those are in the Western Pacific or the Arabian Gulf.

So it's just not about the Asia Pacific, as you can see up here, but clearly that is number one. The fleet distribution you see up here I think is going to be the fleet distribution for the near future.

Our defense strategic guidance that we've recently published tells me that we need to be global, operate forward, with cross roads especially in the Asia Pacific and in the Mideast.

Now our focus in East Asia, our focus in the Western Pacific, is kind of as follows. We put the best equipment we have, the best step forward in our forward deployed naval force. That is the front line, that's what we have in and around Japan.

At any given day you can see up here we have 50 ships underway in the Western Pacific, about half of those are forward deployed naval forces in and around Japan. That's the most advanced air wing we have, the most advanced cruisers and destroyers, ordnance, anti-submarine warfare, and we screen our sailors and our commanders very carefully. We put our best in the Western Pacific.

We will continue to nurture relations, as I mentioned before. That's embedded. It's a critical element. We have to be what I would call tangibly present out there and we need to be dependable.

We will remain engaged first and foremost with our allies, particularly what I call the high end allies, those where we have integrated operations in a very mature area. But we continue to nurture partnerships. There are many out there and they are growing for a range of missions that we will have to foster perhaps in an ad hoc wing. The point here is not everybody is interested in getting an alliance or getting tied up in the long term. We have to work through that and build coalitions of the willing where it's necessary, and we've done that. We did that in Operation Tomadachi and recovery and relief efforts in the Tsunami. So it's about humanitarian disaster relief, counter-piracy, counter-smuggling, et cetera.

There are three really enduring allies that I would mention to you that are important to us as we move into the future. The Japanese Military Self Defense Force, they've been a keystone for a long time and that was my first trip that I took, one week into command, the first place I went was to Japan to reassure my counterpart we're in this together. We've been partners for over 60 years. It's the home of the 7th Fleet. Many are stationed in Japan and in several places. Yokosuka, the home of the fleet. Atsugi is the home of the air wing, at least 70 tactical aircraft. Iwakuni is the home of Marine tactical air, and where our air wing will co-locate over the next few years. Misawa in northern Honshu where our maritime patrol craft and some of our tactical Air Force aircraft. Sasebo and Kayuki in the southern island is where our amphibious ships are stationed. And of course White Beach and Okinawa and Kadena where our Navy/Marine Corps team operate our amphibious and expeditionary warfare throughout the Western Pacific.

We get host nation support from Japan on the order of somewhere between \$1 to \$3 billion every year. They provide infrastructure, piers, headquarters, fleet support, quality of life support, they house our dependents. Some of their businessmen provide a public/private venture where they build Western style homes for us to use, and we of course protect them in the harbor and the shore.

We do our most advanced and robust exercises in a combined manner with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force and that paid off dearly whenever we had to recover from the tsunami and the nuclear incident that took place.

We have integrated command and control. We co-locate our people on watch with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force. We have gone from just assuring them we're not conflicted, in other words, it's from deconfliction to integration. Making sure we don't run into each other. We're way beyond that. We are operating together, above the water and under the water.

I would tell you the tsunami and the effects therein and the nuclear incident that took place after that are receded greatly and the alliance is stronger than ever. Put another

way, I was told that our folks over there are referred to no longer as guests, but as neighbors. That's a big jump in the relationship.

The Self Defense Force strategy is emerging. It's gone from a focus on homeland defense to regional and global security. They use the term active deterrence to improve their mobility, their ISR, and quick response. It's about not activity just in and around Japan, which was really the case as late as 2006 when I was there, to the four regions that Japan finds important in their defense force - Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Middle East. And they are forming their own partnerships in East Asia and Southeast Asia which is extraordinary.

The second key element I'd mention is the Republic of Korea Navy. That was my second stop. We've been allies there for greater than 60 years. That area has probably got the greatest consequences if conflict were to break out. Chinhae and Pusan are places. I don't have them up there on the chart, but those are places for us. We have Navy support activity there and the Republic of Korea Navy is building, right in their headquarters, a place for us so that we can co-locate with them in Pusan.

We have very advanced information sharing agreements. We share information and intelligence. The greatest concern for the Republic of Korea Navy is North Korean provocation and operation really in the littorals in and around Korea. The unfortunate Cheonan sinking which took place a while back, when we lost 46 of our brothers on the good ship Cheonan, has caused a focus on defensive ASW with the Republic of Korea Navy and a renewed focus on undersea warfare. But they remain a developing ballistic missile defense partner both afloat and ashore.

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A little bit about Australia. We've been a partner since World War II where our partnership grew greatly. It's a well-known relationship. They have a high end navy, they're very reliable. Our relationship is very advanced.

But as I mentioned before, Darwin is a place. The President mentioned it not long ago. This is a great opportunity for us in the Navy. It's a great opportunity really for the Navy and Marine Corps team. And we'll be collaborating, the Commandant and myself and our staffs, with Pacific Command and Marine Corps Pacific for just the right set of concepts, the right set of operations, probably focused around humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, theater security cooperation, and contingency response as we work to provide a rotational presence in Darwin with our Marines now and into the future.

Looking at Southeast Asia, that's where I would see more recent changes and perhaps the greatest potential in the future. Today looking at exercises and operations we do over 100 events in building partnership capacity and security force assistance in Southeast Asia with the 7th Fleet. We are strengthening our bilateral and our multilateral institutions with exercises. This last fall I hosted the International Seapower Symposium where I bring in every two years, we bring in every two years the

heads of Navy and we have a discussion. We had 95 heads of Navy this time, which is extraordinary. There are only 120 in the entire world. We had a lot of them there.

I was amazed at how Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines emerged as spokes people on some of the common issues that we have to deal with out there in the world. This is indeed a burgeoning area of leadership. The focus is on maritime domain awareness, counter-piracy and humanitarian assistance, disaster relief. And Southeast Asia is a key area.

Some examples, I'll bring right up front is Singapore. It's a place to us, as I mentioned before, and they are emerging, the Singapore Navy, as a great innovator. We've been down at Command Logistics Westpac there in Singapore for decades, and that area, that command was the key to the recovery of the great tsunami in 2004.

Changi International Airport, located right outside Singapore there, has right beside it a military airfield. And right beside that is the port. And the Singaporeans have built that pier to take a nuclear aircraft carrier. They have built an operational center right there which is compatible which we have been offered to use and have used for contingency planning and operations with the Pacific Command.

The Singapore Navy has gone to the Gulf of Aden and the 5th Fleet area to conduct counter-piracy operations and they have in fact commanded the Coalition Task Force there. They have offered, as I mentioned before, to forward station littoral combat ships in the future and their supporting mission modules. A really burgeoning partner.

In the Philippines I mentioned that we have been conducting counter-terrorist operations with their navy for some time and today we do maritime domain awareness flights out of Clarke Air Base, and perhaps there will be more opportunities emerging with the Philippine armed forces in the future.

In Indonesia there's been a deliberate and mutual interest down in Southeast Asia with the Indonesian Navy. They are looking at counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and they are evaluating that deployment perhaps in the near future. They are very interested and have come together with Malaysia and with Singapore to do counter-piracy operations in and around the Strait of Malacca.

I mention India here, and I don't mention it late because they're not important, I mention them in this regard because of their impact on the Eastern Indian Ocean, the western stretches of the Strait of Malacca. We operate with the Indian Navy and have for years. It's been a steady progress of operations we had, and our main exercise is Malabar. Back in 2002 in Malabar we would pass ships, provide a flashing light, say hi, wave, do some flags, maybe take some sailors from one ship over to the other. In the last few years we've been doing dual carrier operations. We have been doing combined undersea operations. When two navies are willing to put their submarines under the water and do water space management, you're talking high end, you're talking integrated operations.

We've done exercises on the Eastern Indian Ocean, in and around the Andaman Islands and Andaman Sea. India is emerging.

A few words about China. We are interested in engaging with China. Over the long term, China will have the greatest potential, I view, to affect economic and security dynamics throughout the region and perhaps the world. Their economic strength has grown. They have great regional military capability and capacity, and it's growing. Under certain circumstances that capability could limit access in the region.

They're our allies and our partners, we'll cooperate, and we've agreed will invest to maintain freedom of navigation and access in those international waters. We will promote standards and rules-based international order, we will establish partners, allies, and we will establish protocols in the South China Sea that are consistent among ourselves.

The consistent policy: transparency and reciprocity are really therefore the foundation; and we believe that sustained, reliable, and meaningful mil-to-mil relationships are beneficial.

The U.S. Navy and the PLA(N) have common interests on a number of issues -- a lot of them from the Gulf of Aden -- in piracy, smuggling, personnel trafficking, narcotics, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief. We seek cooperation and mutual interests in communications, and we promote beneficial outcomes and increased work in the future. The Chief of the PLA(N) was fully intending to come to our International Seapower Symposium. He's been there before. Regrettably some events took place that precluded his attendance.

So there is a future. I think there are opportunities there. We've got to continue to drive towards those opportunities.

So I close with this. Our Navy's been focused on the Asia Pacific region for decades. We will continue to hone the capabilities out there, and the proficiency. We'll continue to hone the relationships and pursue opportunities. I think presence is the key and I think operating forward is the need.

Thank you very much; I look forward to your questions.