



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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Bold Alligator 2012 - Today's Fight With Today's Forces

"Revitalizing our amphibious competencies does not mean conducting operations as we did in 1942, 1950, 1990, or even 2000, but how we would do it now, with our current joint and naval operating concepts."

– Adm. J. C. Harvey Jr., Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces

[Bold Alligator 2012 \(BA12\)](#) is a large-scale U.S. naval amphibious exercise scheduled to take place Jan. 30 through Feb. 12, 2012. It will be the largest amphibious exercise conducted by the [Navy/Marine Corps](#) team in the last 10 years, and will be the first live [East Coast Expeditionary Strike Group/Marine Expeditionary Brigade](#)-level exercise in approximately 10 years, revitalizing and reinforcing the Navy and Marine Corps' traditional role as "fighters from the sea." The exercise will focus on an opposed landing conducted simultaneously with other amphibious operations.

BA12 represents the Navy and Marine Corps' revitalization of the full range of amphibious operations

- An [amphibious force](#) is a critical requirement for naval power projection.
- The capability to conduct amphibious operations across the range of military operations is essential to the application of maritime power in pursuit of national objectives.
- The capabilities that allow the amphibious force to conduct a forcible entry are the same capabilities that make it the force of choice for crisis response and building partnerships.

BA12 focuses on today's fight with today's forces

- The exercise scenario will be conducted in a medium threat, anti-access/area denial environment where the opposing forces will have a moderate ability to counter our entry into and maneuver within the area of operations. The adversary will pose a hybrid challenge of both irregular and conventional capabilities.
- The current amphibious force employs [littoral maneuver and naval combined arms](#) to create and exploit vulnerabilities in the adversary's defenses to accomplish objectives on shore.
- Given the realities of the 21st century security environment, we will incorporate coalition participation to provide additional resources and capabilities.
- Limited objective experimentation will expose participants to new technologies, applications and concepts that will inform future warfighting capabilities.

BA12 showcases the advantages of seabasing

- With the ability to scale its command and control, and its logistics footprint ashore, the force accepts less vulnerability and lowers the sustainment requirement for shore-based personnel and equipment.
- Logistical support of sea-based forces provided by [Military Sealift Command](#) shipping is not dependent on host nation infrastructure or agreements.
- The rapid delivery of follow-on equipment to the assault force is supported by the maritime prepositioning force, and does not necessarily require access to airfields or ports in theatre.

BA12 allows our institutions to learn about naval capabilities

- BA12 is a learning experience for our Sailors and Marines at all levels. It allows us an opportunity to reset our perspectives - to go back to our roots of being an expeditionary naval service - and to educate not only ourselves, but others, on what we are about and what we can do.

Key Messages

- Exercise Bold Alligator 2012 represents the Navy and Marine Corps' revitalization of the full range of amphibious operations;
- Focuses on today's fight with today's forces;
- Showcases the advantages of seabasing;
- Enables institutional learning about naval capabilities.

Facts & Figures

- [Bold Alligator 2012](#) is a collaborative effort including two submarines, 25 ships, 120 aircraft, 20,000 Sailors and Marines, along with forces from 8 other countries.
- A combination of synthetic and live training allows units to meet their training objectives while minimizing cost.
- Join in the conversation on Twitter: #BA12.