

➤ Enhanced Networked Sea Basing

In the future, advances in technology, operating concepts, business reform, and organizational structure will create a decisive U.S. advantage against would-be aggressors. Within the naval concepts of Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare, Sea Strike, Sea Shield, and Sea Basing, the Marine Corps will attain a greater level of integration with the Navy and offer an expanded array of capabilities to the joint force.



Sea basing generates overwhelming operational tempo by reducing the size of the force build-up ashore and capitalizing on the maneuver space that the sea provides. Command and control, naval fires, and force sustainment remain largely at sea, fully networked, and under the force protection afforded by the integrated capabilities of naval subsurface, surface, and air forces. Freed from the requirement of establishing and defending fixed infrastructure ashore, forces operating in the littoral region and beyond will possess an unprecedented degree of tactical and operational-level maneuverability. This maneuverability – combined with the increased range and lethality provided by naval aviation, ground, surface, and subsurface fires – will provide an exponential increase in the Naval Services' ability to project power ashore across the depth and breadth of battlespace.

Sea basing provides many enhanced capabilities to the naval force, such as **rapid force closure**. Reflecting the forward deployment of sustainable, immediately employable, combat-ready forces, an initial

naval response to a crisis will consist of the Expeditionary Strike Group and Carrier Strike Group. When ESG and CSGs combine with a Maritime Prepositioning Ship squadron, the Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Surface Action Groups, and the Combat Logistics Force, the sea base creates synergy among these elements in the Joint Operations Area (JOA) through the integration of communications, fire support, and logistics.

As the Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) moves to the objective area, the transformational capability resident within MPF (Future) platforms enables **phased at-sea assembly and arrival**. The ability to move directly to the sea base assures the rapid deployment of a Marine Expeditionary Brigade-sized force, without the need for host nation facilities within the JOA. These forces will arrive at locations enroute to the objective area via strategic lift and self deployment, then move directly to the sea base using intra-theater assets such as high-speed vessels and tiltrotor aircraft. Supported on their way by networked command-and-control systems featuring advanced



collaborative planning and rehearsal technologies, these forces will arrive in the objective area ready for immediate employment.

Unlike current MPF ships, the future sea base will be able to conduct a **selective offload** of specific equipment and supplies to tailor general-purpose forces for specific missions. Regardless of whether the mission is a logistics-intensive humanitarian operation or a large-scale ship-to-objective-manuever in a major contingency, selective offload will facilitate the employment of an optimal force package.

Integrated naval power projection will be conducted by fully networked, forward-deployed naval forces and platforms. These forces will use the sea as a means of maneuver, and enable a broad range of joint campaign operations. Sea-based operations incorporate, integrate, protect, and sustain all aspects of multi-dimensional naval power projection, from space to the ocean floor, from blue water to the littorals and beyond — without dependence on land bases within the JOA.

The traditional naval qualities of **persistence and sustainment** — enhanced by advanced force-wide networks — underpin the staying power and flexibility of the sea base. Naval platforms can stay on-station, where they are needed, for extended periods of time. The at-sea maneuverability of the sea base, coupled with advanced underway replenishment technologies and techniques, will ensure force readiness over time.

Finally, **reconstitution at sea** enables the rapid reemployment of a fully capable naval force for subsequent operations. Once recovered at the sea base, onboard logistics capability will allow MAGTFs to replace, re-equip, re-supply and refurbish personnel and equipment in their constituent units. While being replenished, these forces can simultaneously be task-organized for new missions, and operationally repositioned and redirected toward new objectives in the area of operations. At-sea reconstitution optimizes Navy and Marine Corps force for further operational employment by the joint force commander.