Title Slide

Slide 1:

As we reflect on our history, we've always recognized the seas as the lifeblood of our nation. Our maritime strength, combined with the support of allies and partners, has been instrumental in guaranteeing freedom of navigation, maintaining peace, and establishing a rules-based order grounded in fairness.​

However, the landscape is shifting. The threats we face are real and growing. Operating from a maritime sanctuary is no longer a luxury, and our adversaries have adapted their strategies to overcome our traditional strengths.​

To address these challenges, we must think, act, and operate differently. Our new approach involves integrating conventional capabilities with hybrid, unmanned, and disruptive technologies. We're rapidly evolving to stay ahead, leveraging wargaming and experimentation to create warfighting advantages.​

Tomorrow's battlefield will be incredibly challenging and complex. We're preparing our Sailors to be the best warfighters globally, equipped with cutting-edge systems, weapons, and platforms. Our focus is on putting more capable players on the field, ready with the right skills and mindset.​

Everything we do is viewed through a warfighting lens to maintain our Navy's status as the world's preeminent fighting force. Prioritizing readiness and capabilities at sea, as well as the logistics and support required, is crucial for keeping our Navy fit to fight.

Slide 2:

More than 41 million U.S. jobs – 26 percent – are directly or indirectly tied to global trade. *(Source: Figure of 41 million jobs from U.S. Chamber of Commerce; total employment of 156.795 million from Bureau of Labor Statistics)*​

26 percent of U.S. manufacturing jobs depend on exports. *(Source: U.S. International Trade Administration)*​

More than 20 percent of all U.S. agricultural products are exported. *(Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service)*​

America remains a global leader with global interests. Households and businesses throughout the United States benefit from the steady flow of resources and goods across the oceans. Our modern economy depends on access to the internet, which rides upon undersea fiber-optic cables. As we look to the future, our economic and national security will continue to rely upon unrestricted seaborne trade, unimpeded access to markets, and a free and open rules-based order.​

And here are a few examples of what your Navy is doing right now: Presence and deterrence operations in U.S. Fifth and Sixth Fleet, operations and exercises with allies and partners across U.S. Seventh Fleet and U.S. Fourth Fleet.

Slide 3:

My goal today is to provide you with a look at America’s Navy – YOUR Navy – and our enduring mission to protect and defend America and its interests worldwide.

The United States is a maritime nation.

The security and prosperity of our nations depend on the integration of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard maintaining our advantage at sea.

The U.S. Navy will maintain our advantage by deploying forward alongside our allies and partners to deter aggression and preserve Freedom of the Sea.

*Photo Info: F/A-18E Super Hornet from the Kestrels of Strike Fighter Squadron 137 launches from USS Nimitz*

Slide 4:

OPTIONAL – Does anyone recognize these photos or location of operations?

As we explore the evolving landscape of maritime challenges, it's crucial to recognize the changing dynamics presented by the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Russian Federation (RF). These nations are employing all instruments of their national power to intimidate and coerce, disregarding international law.​

China's revisionist approach directly targets the heart of U.S. maritime power. Their strategic maneuvers are expansive, and their maritime forces are a key component of their efforts to assert influence and challenge international norms.​

Russia's operations are designed to fragment the international order. Their pursuit of an expanded sphere of influence has led to actions that violate international agreements and laws. Their involvement in conflicts such as Ukraine, Georgia, and Syria highlights their willingness to use military force.​

To counteract these challenges, integrated naval power becomes paramount. Recognizing this need, an international response, known as Operation Prosperity Guardian, has been initiated to address threats and actions by the Houthi rebels.​

Operation Prosperity Guardian, initiated in December 2023, has facilitated the safe transit of about 1,500 merchant ships through the Red Sea. This operation is crucial, given that the Houthi rebels have disrupted international commerce, inhibited freedom of navigation, and posed threats to ships affiliated with more than 55 different countries.​

Despite these efforts, attacks on vessels are expected to persist. As of January 07, 2024, the U.S. Navy has successfully downed 63 drones and missiles since October 19, 2023, with surface ships engaging 62 of them.​

It's essential to emphasize that the Navy's global mission remains focused on preserving the peace by protecting international law. In the face of emerging threats and ongoing disruptions, our commitment to maintaining a rules-based order remains steadfast.​

As we navigate the complexities of Red Sea operations and counteract evolving threats, the importance of integrated naval power and international collaboration cannot be overstated. The U.S. Navy, in partnership with allies, continues to adapt and respond to safeguard global maritime stability.​

*Photos:*

*Left: The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Laboon (DDG 58) patrols the Red Sea after a replenishment-at-sea with the Henry J. Kaiser-class fleet replenishment oiler USNS Kanawha (T-AO 196) while operating in support of Operation Prosperity Guardian (OPG), Dec. 25 2023 . Led by Combined Task Force 153 of the Combined Maritime Forces, OPG represents a focused, international effort to address maritime security challenges in the southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, with the goal of ensuring freedom of navigation for all countries and bolstering regional security. More than 20 countries have confirmed their participation in the operation.*

*Middle: Sailors assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64) stand watch in the ship’s Combat Information Center during an operation to defeat a combination of Houthi missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles, Oct. 19 2023 . Carney is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations to help ensure maritime security and stability in the Middle East region.*

*Right: The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64) defeats a combination of Houthi missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles in the Red Sea, Oct. 19 2023. Carney is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations to help ensure maritime security and stability in the Middle East region.*

​Slide 5:

*Integrated Deterrence* is a cornerstone of the 2022 National Defense strategy. The naval service’s ability to control the seas and project power—from both land and sea— has underpinned America’s national defense and economic vitality for generations. It is central to integrated deterrence in the future.

Sea control provides freedom of maneuver to the Joint Force and our allies while denying it to our enemies in conflict. Our ability to project power deters aggression by convincing rivals they have no viable means of achieving their objectives through force.

*Photo Info: USS Canberra departing Naval Base San Diego, 2023*

Slide 6:

The power of like-minded nations is a key strategic advantage to our rivals. We must invest in these relationships.

All nations benefit from free and open access to the maritime domain. We will foster a united, global effort to safeguard this access.

We strengthen our alliances and partnerships through development and interoperable capabilities, combined operations, theater security cooperation, and capacity-building efforts. Together we defend sovereignty and authoritarian influence and coercion.

*Photo Info: USS George Washington, trilateral exercises with Japan and the Republic of Korea, 2012*

Slide 7:

We believe that trust and interoperability with our maritime allies can't be established from a distance. It's about being present, actively engaging, and fostering relationships. By doing so, we enhance our ability to collaborate effectively in both peaceful times and when challenges arise.​

To effectively counteract malicious activities, we can't simply observe from afar. We need to be present, on the scene. Our force generation models aim to have credible naval forces ready to deter aggression, prevent unwarranted actions, and succeed in conflicts when necessary. Rapid surge capability ensures we can respond swiftly when needed.​

Denying adversaries the use of the seas is not just a military strategy; it's a practical approach to protect our allies and homeland. By controlling the seas, we limit the effectiveness of potential threats, providing our joint and allied forces the freedom to respond to any aggression and impose costs on adversaries globally.​

The maritime domain is susceptible to various challenges, not just during wartime but also in times of subtle threats below the threshold of war. We recognize that adversaries are utilizing unconventional means, such as weaponizing social media, infiltrating global supply chains, and engaging in space and cyber activities. We must actively compete in these spaces to safeguard our interests.​

*Photo Info: USS Lake Champlain during a bilateral exercise with Australia, 7th Fleet, 2021*

Slide 8:

In environments filled with challenges, agile naval forces become the backbone for dynamic and flexible solutions.​

Our goal is to create a modernized naval force that not only stands the test of time but also adapts to the ever-changing maritime landscape. This isn't just about building ships; it's about developing a force with the right size and capabilities to effectively compete, deter aggression, and, if necessary, decisively win in conflicts.​

To ensure our national security, we recognize the importance of retiring outdated platforms that can't keep up in contested seas. Instead, we're investing in cutting-edge capabilities for the future. It's a strategic move to stay ahead and safeguard our maritime interests.​

Our commitment extends beyond the present. We're building future platforms with modernization in mind. These are not just ships; they're adaptable, with hardware upgrades and software updates seamlessly integrated at the speed of innovation. It's about ensuring that our maritime forces remain at the forefront of technological advancements.​

To our esteemed shipbuilding partners and industry collaborators, your role in this endeavor is invaluable. Together, we're not just constructing vessels; we're crafting the future of maritime strength. Your expertise and innovation are vital as we embark on this journey to build a force that can navigate any challenge on the horizon.​

*Photo Info: Crane moves the lower stern into place on the in-progress aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy at Huntington Ingalls Shipbuilding in Newport News VA, 2017*

Slide 9:

The Navy’s enduring asymmetric advantage is our workforce. We owe it to our people to create an ecosystem that recruits and retains diverse and technically skilled personnel, educates them to out-think our adversaries, trains them to work with new technologies, and provides them with the resources to prevail in competition, crisis, and conflict.

We will invest in trained, resilient, and educated Sailors that can out-think, out-decide, and out-fight any potential adversary.

Our Navy Team is as diverse as our mission set. We operate in every environment - undersea to space, the information domain and beyond. We come from around the world, rural, urban and suburban environments with different cultures, histories, perspectives and ways of thinking. We bring diversity to the fight. Leveraging our diversity is the key to reaching our peak potential and increasing our advantage against our adversaries.

We will strengthen the Navy Team by fostering a culture of inclusion that champions toughness, trust and connectedness to achieve warfighting excellence. Every person and every unit in the Navy will maximize their potential. To win, our leaders must enable our teams to think more clearly, learn more rapidly, and make better decisions more quickly and more accurately than our adversaries.

Slide 10:

America's Navy is ready to defend America, our allies and partners, and our strategic interests at all times. We're uniquely positioned to do so because the world’s oceans provide us with the access to protect America’s interests anywhere, around the clock…using naval power from the sea.​

​

The material foundation of our Navy, of course, is our ships. From those original six frigates, the Navy now possesses a wide variety of surface vessels, from 97,000-ton aircraft carriers to fast, agile littoral combat ships and coastal patrol vessels. The presence of these vessels anywhere in the world helps deter potential conflicts and avoid escalating tensions. But when combat power is required, ships like the workhorse of our fleet, the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, possess a staggering range of offensive capabilities – giving our military leadership the warfighting ability to fight and defeat other navies and destroy targets located hundreds of miles inland.​

*Photo info: Left to right, USS Zumwalt transits to its new homeport of San Diego, 2016, Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Porter (DDG 78) conducts a Mk 45 5-inch gun live-fire exercise, March 14, 2022*

Slide 11:

America's Navy is ready to defend America, our allies and partners, and our strategic interests at all times. We're uniquely positioned to do so because the world’s oceans provide us with the access to protect America’s interests anywhere, around the clock…using naval power from the sea.​

The material foundation of our Navy, of course, is our ships. From those original six frigates, the Navy now possesses a wide variety of surface vessels, from 97,000-ton aircraft carriers to fast, agile littoral combat ships and coastal patrol vessels. The presence of these vessels anywhere in the world helps deter potential conflicts and avoid escalating tensions. But when combat power is required, ships like the workhorse of our fleet, the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, possess a staggering range of offensive capabilities – giving our military leadership the warfighting ability to fight and defeat other navies and destroy targets located hundreds of miles inland.​

*Photo info: Left to right, USS Zumwalt transits to its new homeport of San Diego, 2016 ​*

*USS Ford in the Ionian Sea, 2023* ​

Slide 12:

Undersea warfare has long been a specialty of America’s Navy, and that tradition continues today. Our submarine force has evolved from the diesel-electric boats of old to today’s nuclear-powered vessels, armed with everything from torpedoes to Tomahawks to ballistic missiles. Yet the most valuable assets of submarines like the VIRGINIA-class USS Vermont pictured here is stealth – the ability to strike from the deep without warning.

The ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) Columbia Class program is the Navy’s top acquisition priority to replace the Navy’s current force of 14 aging Ohio Class SSBNs.

*Photo Info: Virginia-class USS Vermont transits to new homeport Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, 2023*

Slide 13:

It has long been held that the first question an American President asks during times of crisis is: “Where is the nearest carrier?” Such a question confirms the importance of naval aviation to America’s Navy. And the most prominent component of naval aviation today is the F/A-18 Super Hornet – a multi-mission jet capable of carrying out ground-attack missions and air-to-air combat, as well as midair refueling and even electronic warfare.

The Super Hornet is just one example of the planes, helicopters and yes, even unmanned aircraft that form the backbone of projected American power – all of which allow us to do a great number of things at sea without the need of another country’s permission to operate within its borders.

*Photo Info: F/A-18F Super Hornet attached to the Gladiators of Strike Fighter Squadron 106 on USS Ford, 2022*

Slide 14:

Special Warfare provides qualified officers the opportunity to be a member of one of the world's elite fighting forces. As a branch of the U.S. Special Operations Forces, Navy SEALs are known and respected around the world. Established in 1962, Naval Special Warfare is the Navy’s special operations force and maritime component of United States Special Operations Command. The NSW community is organized around eight SEAL teams, one SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV) team, three special boat teams and supporting commands which deploy forces worldwide.

*Photo Info: SEALs conduct drills at John Stennis Space Center, 2010*

Slide 15:

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Warfare is the Department of Defense’s Maritime EOD Component and the World’s Premier EOD Force. It is the only EOD component trained to operate across the full range of military operations to include surface supplied and closed circuit diving, static line and military freefall parachute operations, and specialized insertion and extraction techniques.

EOD Warfare Officers are trained in: Underwater Mine Countermeasures (UMCM), Diving and Salvage Operations, Countering Improvised Explosive Devices (CIED), Counter Proliferation (CP)/Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD), Support to Special Forces (SOF) – Navy and Army, Conventional EOD Operations, Weapons Technical Intelligence (WTI), and Foreign Internal Defense (FID)/Theater Security Cooperation partnerships and training.

*Photo Info: Left to right, Sailors work along side French Sailors during an EOD training event part of BALTOPS 23, 2023*

*Pier inspections during International Mine Countermeasures Exercise IMCMEX 16, 2016*

*EOD team at a STEAM expo family night in Rota Spain, 2016*

Slide 15:

As well as the physical environment, we can and MUST operate in Space, the Electromagnetic Spectrum and Cyberspace with both offensive and defensive capabilities. We call this Information Warfare.

Information Warfare is about harnessing the power of Communications, Networks, Intelligence, Oceanography, Meteorology, Cryptology, Electronic Warfare, Cyberspace Operations, and Space to degrade, deny, deceive, or destroy an enemy’s information environment or to enhance the effectiveness of our own operations.

*Photo Info: USS Sterett, Combat Information Center during an air warfare exercise as part of surface warfare advanced tactical training (SWATT)*

Slide 16:

Navy Medicine develops certified medical forces, ensuring our military community is prepared for the challenges they may face.​

* In February 2023, Navy Medicine joined forces with Japan, Australia, and France in COPE NORTH, showcasing global collaboration and readiness.​
* September 2023 saw Navy Medicine teaming up with the Egyptian Naval Forces for Exercise Bright Star, improving patient care in diverse naval settings.​

Whether in multinational events or allied collaborations, Navy Medicine's impact is felt globally, contributing to a healthier and more resilient naval force.​

*Photo Info: Left to right, Pacific Partnership 2023 taking blood pressure at community health fair (Malaysia)​*

*Surgery aboard USNS Mercer for Pacific Partnership 2023​*

*USS Theodore Roosevelt, Mentor Train Evaluate program visit 2023*

Slide 17:

Hopefully, this presentation has given you an idea of what America’s Navy does on a daily basis – and what it has been doing for more than two centuries.

Through generations of Sailors and ever-changing technology, the U.S. Navy is all about defending our country’s interests and protecting America. It always has been, and it always will be.

That’s the mission of America’s Navy…and our mission continues.

*Photo Info: USS Princeton pulling into port for Los Angeles Fleet Week 2023*