

STATEMENT OF
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BEFORE THE
SENATE ARMED SERVICES SEAPOWER SUBCOMMITTEE
ON
LITTORAL FORCE PROTECTION AND POWER PROJECTION IN
THE 21ST CENTURY
24 MARCH 1999

Distinguished Committee Members,

As this is my first appearance before this, or for that matter any committee, let me start by saying how honored I am to have been asked to appear before you today. Honored that I have been asked to testify on such a vitally important subject, and honored to find myself at the table with these outstanding representatives of our *Naval* service. The purpose of our Naval forces is to directly and decisively, influence events ashore from the sea, anytime, anywhere. Since 80 percent of the world's population and 80 percent of capitals are within 500 miles of an ocean, our Navy-Marine Corps team is uniquely situated to project power "*From the Sea*". We recently demonstrated the value of ready, forward-deployed naval forces during Operation Desert Fox and continue that effort today in the skies over Iraq, on the ground in Kuwait, and in *and under* the sea in the Arabian Gulf. This power projection from the littorals presents some unique challenges however, challenges that I believe, with the help of this Committee, your Navy is well poised to meet in the 21st century.

How will we meet the challenges of the 21st century? The Department of the Navy is pursuing many initiatives which will enable us to operate throughout the full spectrum of conflict and, if necessary, to decisively project power ashore. First, we are making a significant, and much needed, investment to improve and recapitalize Naval Aviation. As Admiral Nathman can attest, and our Desert Fox Operations confirm, our power projection capability is much improved since Desert Storm. As we increase the number of all weather, GPS guided munitions

such as JDAM and the now combat proven JSOW, and begin to field the F-18E/F with its greater weapons capacity, we will see another order of magnitude improvement in our ability to accurately strike targets ashore. Commencing with DDG-81 (USS SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, to be commissioned next year), our very capable Arleigh Burke class destroyers will provide accurate, high-volume fires from 5-inch/62-caliber guns firing Extended-range guided munitions (ERGMs). The DD-21 land attack destroyer, equipped with the advanced gun system, will further improve our capability to deliver high volume, long range, Naval Surface Fire Support to Marines and other forces ashore.

To successfully operate in the littorals, we must protect our forces from mines, diesel submarines, cruise missiles, shore based aircraft and tactical ballistic missiles. The Department of the Navy (DoN) is making significant procurement investments in all these areas. To counter the mine threat, the DoN is investing to equip the fleet with an organic Mine Counter Measure (MCM) capability. Instead of waiting for dedicated MCM assets to arrive, the commander will now have organic assets available within the Battle Group. The use of rapidly deployable distributed arrays, like that being developed in the Advanced Deployable System program, will provide wide-area, deployable, shallow water undersea surveillance while the VIRGINIA Class NSSN will have unprecedented ASW capability within the complex littoral environment.

To enhance our situational awareness in this often-crowded area, we need to achieve synergy between many different sensors. Our Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) will link these dispersed sensors of differing capabilities with potential firing platforms. It will

provide a real-time tactical picture to every participating unit. In addition to improving our ability to defend against cruise missiles and tactical air threats, CEC will also reduce the potential for "blue on blue" or "blue on white" engagements.

We are also making a significant investment in our ability to counter the growing Tactical Ballistic Missile threat. When fielded, our Navy Area and Navy Theater Wide systems will become an integral part of Joint Vision 2010's full dimensional protection--providing an umbrella of protection over our forces at sea and ashore.

The Department of the Navy is also investing to ensure that "America's 911 force", the United States Marine Corps, is poised to meet the challenges of the littorals in the 21st century. The efforts previously mentioned are essential elements in our ability to achieve unrestricted maneuver at sea, and to insert, and support, our Marines ashore. Operational Maneuver from the Sea (OMFTS) is the roadmap we will follow for future forcible entry operations. It calls for eliminating the operational pause at the beach, reducing the vulnerable footprint ashore, using the sea as maneuver space, and rapidly moving towards inland objectives. The MV-22 Osprey and the Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle are key OMFTS enablers.

Before I close, I would like to make an observation about forward-deployed naval forces, aircraft carriers in particular. Of those who value our Carrier Battle Groups, most do not work on the CNO's staff, most are not even in the Navy--they are in fact, the warfighting Commander in Chiefs (CINCs). They are the ones who appreciate, more than others, the intrinsic value of a sovereign, four and a half acre sea-borne airfield that can help shape events

ashore, free from host-nation political constraints. As a former Commanding Officer of the nuclear powered carrier USS NIMITZ, and former Battle Group Commander of the conventionally powered USS JOHN F. KENNEDY, let me assure you that the operational flexibility and increased capabilities of nuclear power stand out. Those capabilities include greater speed and endurance, increased aviation fuel and weapons capacity, and increased survivability. Nuclear power gives us the operational depth to handle the unforeseen without unacceptable risk. We have this capability almost universally in our carriers today, and we will continue to insist upon it with the development of the CVN(X) in the future.

At the dawn of the 21st century, the Navy-Marine Corps team, forward deployed and ever ready, will be prepared to meet the challenges of an uncertain future. With your support, we always have been, and always will be, there for America.

Thank you again for your kind invitation and your steadfast support. I look forward to answering your questions.