

**Chief of Naval Operations
Adm. Jonathan Greenert delivers remarks at the
Jacksonville Area Ship Repair Association
3 April 2012**

Admiral Greenert: Thank you so much. I agree with everything, so that's point one. Thank you very much.

Thank you all, and the community and what you do for our sailors and our families. Mayport is an incredibly popular place. I've been trying to get Gillary out here for years. They said don't send him down there. We'll never see him again. I said no, no, no. He'll be down there, he'll be fine. What do I know?

Sorry, a little sea story. Every time I do the Pledge of Allegiance, it takes me back. Those of you that wear the uniform, you've got to pay attention to that. I take you back to Brooklyn, New York, three years ago. I was asked to speak at an Asian Pacific American Awards Ceremony. So we said okay, we're going to have the singing of the National Anthem, but first we'll bring the Color Guard up. They were doing all the planning. The guy that was going to sing is across the hallway in the bar drinking. Okay, it's happy hour. He's an enlisted sergeant. The Vietnam [inaudible]. So I'm standing over here with a midshipman from the Naval Academy. Nice little girl. It's okay, here comes the Color Guard, we go to attention. They come up and they present colors and they said, ladies and gentlemen, our National Anthem will be sung by Bob Smith. Then there's this silence. He's in the bar.

She comes over and says, Admiral, maybe you can help us out. I'm going like sing the National Anthem? She goes, right. I turned to the middy and I said okay, [inaudible]. She's shaking her head. What are you going to do, right? So I walked over to the microphone and I started doing the Pledge of Allegiance. I thought Pledge of Allegiance, Boy Scout thing, I don't know. It all came out, it worked well, and I said man, that guy can think on his feet. So remember, the Pledge of Allegiance is a very good thing to have in the back of your head.

The other thing I would say, I'll tell you the two lies right up front. I'm from Washington and I'm here to help. And you're glad to have me here.

I want to talk about a few things and then take Q's and A's and talk about what you've got on your mind.

A little bit about the Navy as I see it today. When I took the watch about a year ago, I was the Vice CNO and I had a different plan, I didn't know I was going to be in charge or I'd have paid a heck of a lot more attention [inaudible]. But we were on this unbelievable challenge, \$110 billion. What? Are you kidding me? We can't find \$110 billion. Mr. Secretary, are you out of your mind? Secretary Gates said get out there and do that. So we kind of got that done. We said hey, I think we can do this. Then it was no, actually, how about half a trillion dollars? How's that? You go, what? Are you out of your mind? So we've been working on it. And over half of that in the five year, Future Year Defense Plan. So \$267 billion. That was all kind of going on,

sequestration was sort of looming out there. And they said hey, by the way, you've got the watch.

So I said okay, what are my priorities? I said well, like all good Chiefs of Naval Operations, we've got to be able to do today's job, today. We have got to organized, train and equip our sailors to go out and do the right job, and families have to be enabled to support it.

We've got to build the force of the future. No matter what the money is we're given, we have to build the right force for the future. It has to be relevant to the future.

Three, we've got to take care of sailors and their families today and build on it. A motivated, diverse force, a relevant force for the future.

So with that in mind, looking out there, I said I don't want everybody caught up in the day-to-day kind of chatter that can go on out there. A lot of the congressmen alluded to, we've got a lot to do there in Washington. So from the ward room to the board room, I said I want you focused on warfighting first. We have to figure out how to operate forward. That's our job. Your Navy is at its best when it's out there forward and we've got to be ready. It's more than parts and fuel and maintenance. Clearly that's important, but we have got to be ready to go out when called upon and make sure we integrate and fit in right and we're ready to [inaudible] what we're asked to do today.

A chart I'd commend to you, it just gives you kind of a little summary of today.

There are 50,000 people deployed. I showed this to Congressman [inaudible], I make all the Congress people look at it, put it in front of their place when we go up to testify.

Here's the [inaudible] universe right here, as we know it today. You are here, right here. We deploy from bases, the dots, including Guam. 50,000 people deployed. It's been that way since I took the watch back in September. There are 282 ships literally, but we're [inaudible] around 285 for the entire year if we bring some on. On any given day there's 145 roughly of those ships underway. Some on the East and West Coast, and they're getting ready to deploy predominantly, so that gives you 100 ships deployed, and basically, this is where they are today. Literally, today, there are more ships, and there's 53 ships here and that's really all about North Korea, and they're getting ready to launch, so we have launched more ships over there to track them. Why not? That makes sense.

There are 32 ships in and around here, and a few more ships over here with the Syrian crisis in the Mediterranean. But this is about right. We have five ships [inaudible] the East and West Coast.

We talk about the strategic maritime crossroads. In my view, our job, we have got to be out there operating from places around the world, the squares, and have access to these strategic maritime crossroads. This is where the economic engine, the fuel of the world takes place. It's not just oil, it's also products.

So what's important to us, if I start over here, is Rota, Spain. We are going to move four destroyers to Rota, Spain. What's good about that? That's not so hot if one of them's coming from here. What that will give us is four DDGs in the Mediterranean for ballistic missile defense, and also to put one ship on deployment permanently at any given time it takes between four and five destroyers, so you can see the leverage. But Rota, Spain; Sigonella; Naples; Souda Bay; Suez Canal; Djibouti, very important for us, a big big part of our future, and I'll talk a little bit about setting that theater. Diego Garcia where we allocate not only destroyers, but our SSGNs [inaudible]. The guided missile, former Tridents, now guided missile carrying, cruise missile carrying. The Singapore government has offered us to move four of our Littoral Combat Ships, and they won't come from Mayport. These will probably be [inaudible] here. And we're going to move the Freedom [inaudible] in about a year, she'll leave in about a year. She'll go out there and operate for eight months, and that will be through one cycle crew turnover. So four months, turn over the crew, four more months. We'll figure out how to lay down the mission packages that go with that there in Singapore.

If you're familiar with Singapore and that port area, you know there's probably not a better place overseas to kind of shake someone down. So we'll do that one year from now. Then of course there's Okinawa and Japan, many ports there.

The Darwin situation is interesting. The Australians, Congressman [inaudible] and I talked on the way over about how our relationship has evolved with many of the countries of Asia, but the Australians back in 2006 and actually when I worked for Admiral [inaudible] in the late '90s with the 7th Fleet, they were starting to really get a lot of trade going in Southeast Asia and with the Chinese. They were not as compelled to get as close to have us operate and inter-theater, with that kind of with that economic relationship. They're very open now, and [inaudible] have us deploy Marines at Darwin. It will be kind of a crawl, walk, run situation. Maybe 250, maybe then 1,000, then eventually getting up to about 2,500, the size of a Marine Expeditionary Unit to deploy and operate out of Darwin.

So these are the places around the world. This is what I talk to.

You can see the ratio that exists there. What has been important to us as we operate throughout the world and today.

So as we look at our defense strategy of the future and we talk about it, we say Asia Pacific is number one; MidEast is number two. We're set to do that and we will continue to evolve in this manner.

But I must tell you, I was in the MidEast last week, I was in Qatar where I met with many of my counterparts in the MidEast -- UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the Australian Navy. We sat down and chatted each of us, one on one. Then I went to Saudi Arabia to talk about selling naval equipment to the Saudis. They're very interested. A big package. \$20 million. They want to buy some destroyers, a lot of small boats, a lot of helicopters. So for your helicopter manufacturer, your small boat maker, this is all a good deal. They're interested. It's been a long time since they've upgraded their Navy, and heaven knows they've got some money.

Then I went to Bahrain. The Bahrain is where we have our 5th Fleet, but it's also where we have minesweeps and we have patrol craft. So I went on board, talked to the crew. They're very motivated. They're ready to go. And that's the warm area. The Asia Pacific is the big area for us in the future, but the today concern for me really is the MidEast, the Arabian Gulf, and be arrayed to set that theater so that if need be we can respond.

You may or may not know that we are going to move four [Micon ready] ships to Bahrain. We have four there now, so that will become eight. They'll leave from the West Coast soon. We just put four CH-53 helicopters [inaudible] helicopters there to [inaudible], so that's eight. The Brits have four minesweeps there. There are ready to work with us if called upon. My plan is to move five patrol craft that are currently in Little Creek, get them upgraded and get them overhauled and then move those out to take us to ten.

So this is kind of over the next year, year and a half, in addition to a lot of some budgetary movements with the help of Congress, we've been able to do some reprogramming to get the theater right, where we need to be in the Arabian Gulf if things heat up over there to the point where we need to do that.

The fact of the matter is in the long term the Asia Pacific is the most important region.

This area here, with the P-3 and the P-8 which is going to be, it's an amazing aircraft. We've done the roll-out, and we're very very excited to put that into the fleet. And Jacksonville is the first and the primary source for our P-8. So a big, big deal for that.

Mayport will continue to be the source of ships to Europe, to Africa, to Latin America. The DDG's out of here will continue to provide missile defense both in Europe, but also in Africa as necessary, and the Middle East as they'll deploy over there. Frigates, for the remainder of their life they are a key part of the Southern Command and all we do there and in AFRICOM.

I've got one more slide I'll show you and it's really just the evolution of your fleet as we go through today and into the future.

If you look to the left, that's the today. So really in 2013, 285 ships. We have the same number [inaudible] in this budget, then we'll migrate to 295 in 2020. So you go left to right, you can see the numbers we anticipate in each location. In 2013, 2017 and of course 2020. So you can see the growth that we anticipate in the Western Pacific. We talked about shifting the focus. The growth in the Middle East, in AFRICOM, and of course the situation there.

That's really all about what I'm calling operating forward. It's forward stationing. It's taking the forward deployed naval force. It's operating on Littoral Combat Ships in the rotation that we plan to operate them in, and the same with the Joint High Speed Vessel.

The Mayport laydown will evolve during this period of time. The number of people and the ship numbers will about the same in 2020, actually maybe a little bit more. In fact it will be a little bit more personnel here as our plan continues to evolve.

Our missions out of this port, I see patrol craft operating in the Southern Command in the future, Littoral Combat Ships doing [inaudible] theater security cooperation in the Southern Hemisphere, independent operations that I mentioned in our destroyers operating out of here for ballistic missile defense, counter-piracy and of course counter-terrorism.

Less need for cruisers and destroyers really out of the East Coast due to moving those destroyers, as I mentioned before, to Rota. That's great leverage for us.

Platform wise, I think you all know we're planning to send an Amphibious Ready Group down here. I'd like to do it at the end of '13. The second year we'd like to do that and we're studying hard now to see if that's feasible and is the situation in the Hampton Roads area and the situation here, can it support the ship schedule, all the infrastructure is here, the repair. Really, the infrastructure, the military infrastructure, to be able to take the ship, enable it, continue to move toward deploying and be able to support that.

We have the frigate DCOMs, they will continue probably apace. LCSes will arrive. Cruisers will DCOM [when] DDGs come in and they'll actually increase from four to six here.

Patrol craft will emerge from the MidEast, as I mentioned. [Inaudible] put them in Bahrain. They'll have a life there of a number of years. When the Littoral Combat ships go to Bahrain the PCs will migrate back to the United States and I'd like to operate them out of Mayport for the counter-drug and [inaudible] community.

Of course you're all probably familiar, the P-8s are going to get their start here. That's where the major growth will be as we bring in the P-8.

That's kind of my laydown, that's where we are. I'm very excited. This is a critical port. I put the star up there for a reason, it's very important. It's good for morale, it's good for our folks, it's a long term Navy port, it's a hub for us.

Thank you very much for listening. I'd love to take your Q's and A's.