

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus
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Thank you, Richard, so much for that introduction. I'm very glad to be here and I want to talk about security and being smart and strategic, in the context of the maritime realm and the services that it my honor to lead – the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

In thinking about what I would say today, I was reminded what one of our international heads of Navy of one of our partners told me. He said there's one big difference between soldiers and sailors. Soldiers of every country, he said, by necessity are always focused on the ground; they see boundaries. They are constrained by things like borders, both natural and man-made boundaries, things like maps. But sailors of every nation look out over the ocean and see no boundaries, no barriers. They look out and see nothing but the horizon.

Over that horizon travels the world's commerce. We live in the most globalized economy in the history of man. Today, more than 90% of all world trade moves by sea. More than half of the world's oil shipments transit the ocean. Over 90% of international data transfer occurs not by satellite, but undersea cables. 80% of the world's population lives within 60 kilometers of the sea. Here in Europe about 90% of external trade, and 40% of internal trade, moves by water.

Clearly, freedom of the seas, freedom of navigation and security at sea is a strategic and vital security interest. And there is no questioning the direct link between global economic growth

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since the end of World War II and the maritime security that has been maintained by the United States and by our European and other international partners.

Unfortunately, increased globalization also has meant increased risks of maritime terrorism, the illegal movement of drugs, weapons, and people, and the dangers of modern piracy. These challenges of maritime crime and the threats from both state-based and non-state actors are complex, are dynamic and they are intertwined.

What our naval forces provide and they are unique in this, what they provide in military terms, is presence. Presence means being at the right place not just at the right time, but all the time. Presence means being there to deal with whatever threats and challenges we may face. Presence helps deter potential conflicts, and it avoids escalating the situation when tensions rise. Naval presence is persistent. It does not infringe on national sovereignty. As a result, it offers leaders options, options from supporting diplomacy to providing stronger measures.

America's maritime tradition, like our political and economic ones, is largely rooted in Europe, whose sailors began exploring the oceans more than two millennia ago. Really the golden age of Athens, the birthplace of democracy, was marked by the rise and success of its navy. At least one historian has argued that was not coincidence.

The Athenian fleets were based on ships that depended on the skill and smarts of the steersman and oarsmen, and not just on brute force. Those skills, this historian wrote, were a product of the commitment and cooperation of free men who in times of crisis were expected to board the

triremes as rowers. Having helped defend Athens, those same free people, came home and expected to and did begin to play an increasing role in Athenian politics, for the first time making self-determination not solely the domain of those of higher economic or higher social status.

This maritime tradition has continued over centuries throughout the history of Europe – countries, including our hosts here today, and harbors from the Arctic Circle through the Straits of Gibraltar, around the Mediterranean and into the Black Sea launched one great fleet after another to that horizon. Steeped in that history, from the earliest days of our Republic, those who founded the United States recognized the importance of the navy. In fact, in our Constitution, there is a provision that Congress “shall establish and maintain a Navy.”

The bonds between America and Europe, our common heritage and our shared values, remain as strong today as ever. The world is more secure, the world is more safe, and the world is more successful when Europe and the United States stand together and stand with all those who seek to advance the cause of freedom and mutual respect.

That is most concretely demonstrated in one of the world’s strongest and most enduring defense partnerships: the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is true that America’s defense planning calls for a new focus on the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans. But that same strategy also calls for renewing our commitment to NATO and to Europe in ways I’ll deal with in a minute.

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All of those efforts are, as President Obama noted last week, a continuation of NATO's 65-year mission to keep all nations free, and not to claim territory or tribute. And let me repeat the President's commitment:

“What we will do – always – is uphold our solemn obligation, our Article 5 duty to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our allies. And in that promise we will never waver; NATO nations never stand alone.”

As you heard in the introduction, as the United States' Secretary of the Navy I am responsible for both the Navy and the Marine Corps. And this combination of two services in one team is unique, in that we deploy not just in times of conflict, but equally in times of peace. There are no permanent homecomings for Sailors or Marines and they usually do their jobs very far from home. That is how we – and our international partners – maintain that presence necessary to keep global stability and secure the sea lanes.

Creating and maintaining that presence requires four components that I think every naval force has to focus on as we develop our maritime approach to the 21st century. Those four – and I work in a building obsessed with acronyms, words that start with the same letter -- People, Platforms, Power and Partnerships. I want to talk for a minute about each one, but truthfully they are all relate to one another.

The Athenian experience that I talked about explains and amplifies why it is people who are most important to the success of a Navy or the success of anything that we undertake. No matter

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how technologically advanced our platforms, no matter how technologically advanced our systems, nor how insightful our strategies, in Navy terms, they are really just gray metal or words on paper if they lack the people with the ability to bring them to life.

When our ships and Marines exercise with our European and international partners, it is the connection between the people that is most important to our future ability to operate together.

It is one of the reasons we send so many of our officers to war colleges here in Europe, and conduct exchange programs. So many European officers study in the United States. I met this morning the head of the Dutch military who told me that he had studied at Leavenworth, Kansas with the United States Army. To work together, in any capacity, in any operation, particularly in the military, we have to learn together and work together. In today's complex, highly technical world, People matter more than ever.

The second – Platforms. The United States and our European allies have the most advanced platforms in the world. Yet the reality is, as we've begun to realize, that quantity begins to have a quality all its own. That is why building up our Fleet has been a focus of mine for the past five years. Our ability to deliver things like humanitarian aid to places as far away as Haiti and the Philippines, to combat piracy off the Horn of Africa, to meet a crisis no matter where it pops up in the world depends on having the platforms with the capability on hand to execute those missions, and being in the right place, all the time.

Like most countries, America is taking a much closer and a lot more stringent look at our budget. But a tighter defense budget, just like a tighter security budget, doesn't – and shouldn't – mean a

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weaker defense. In fact, even with fewer dollars, our Navy is building a lot more ships because we have changed the way we do business. We've made some tough choices, we've been tough negotiators and we've increased things like competition, we are building more ships for less money. And we are keeping our commitments to Europe and around the globe.

But to be effective together, all nations and people that seek freedom and security have to carry their own share of the responsibility. Collective self-defense is just that, collective. That includes having the right platforms, the assets that are required to make a credible NATO alliance and to have that effective deterrent. Maintaining that presence is why Platforms matter.

It should come as no surprise that as the Secretary of the Navy I'm concerned about Power, or energy. Being present takes energy to get there, and to stay there. And navies have always led when we've changed sources of energy. We went from sail to coal, coal to oil, and then the U.S. Navy pioneered the use of nuclear to power our warships.

Now every single time we did that, there were all sorts of people that said you're trading one very secure source of energy for one that's not so secure. In fact, in the case of going from sail to coal, they said we were trading something that's free – the wind – for something that costs and is not as secure. Every single time, those naysayers have been wrong. Every single time that change gave us an edge. And we're changing again. Because finding and using new sources of energy and new fuels, or increasing efficiency in the systems we already have, is an operational and strategic issue.

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Price spikes have cost our Defense Department and the Department of the Navy billions of dollars over the past few years, more than what we budgeted for fuel. And even in the Pentagon, finding a billion dollars is not easy. We don't have many places to go to find the money from price spikes from fuel – so we go to operations and training, or if the bill gets too big, it means fewer ships and fewer aircraft. Even if the United States were to develop all its energy needs internally, or if anybody can do that, the price would still be set on the global markets, and it makes energy a security issue. When a crisis anywhere in the world occurs – just look at Syria, Libya, anywhere – the price of oil spikes. Oil traders call this a security risk premium.

The people of Europe know all too well that energy not only fuels weapons, but it can be used as a weapon itself. As Secretary of State Kerry said this week:

“It is in the interest of all of us to be able to have adequate energy supplies critical to our economies, critical to our security, critical to the prosperity of our people. And we can't allow it to be used as a political weapon.”

I have set a goal for the United States Navy and Marine Corps, and we will meet it. We are well on our way to meeting it. That goal is that by no later than 2020, half of all our energy both afloat and ashore will come from non-fossil fuel sources. We are making a lot of progress toward that greater energy security.

Just yesterday I was in Italy, where we signed an agreement to cooperate with the Italian Navy on biofuel development. It is a very similar agreement to one we signed with Australia in 2012

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when we demonstrated an entire carrier strike group, every type of aircraft and all the ships that surrounded that nuclear carrier, steaming and flying on biofuels. Energy and fuel is a security risk that we have to address through greater cooperation and sharing ways to diversify our energy sources. And so Power matters.

The final priority and a critical one because it increases the reach and effectiveness of the rest, is our Partnerships. The idea of these partnerships is that none of us stands alone, and it is precisely these partnerships that will follow through on the mandate established in UN and by The Hague's own Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Executive Council. These partnerships are ensuring the safe removal and destruction of Syria's chemical weapons arsenal.

This is a mission that no country can do on its own, but the mission will be successful through cooperation and contributions from countries large and small. Partner countries worldwide have agreed to provide ships for transportation of chemical weapons, secure escorts for those ships, welcome these ships into port, places to destroy the chemical material itself, and dispose of the residue that the destruction process creates. The partnerships and collective purpose among Europe, the United States, and other partners worldwide, will allow us to achieve success in this, and other missions.

Working together, we become more inter-operable, we can provide key training and develop the operational capabilities of like-minded countries and navies. This in itself increases stability for the global system, distributes the burdens and costs of maritime security, and makes us all safer.

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In this interconnected world, where you know better than anyone, the threats know no boundary, no international lines, the burden of security has to be shared, meaning, our Partnerships matter.

Here in Europe, our 6th Fleet has been a foundational part of European security. Six weeks ago, I was in Rota, Spain, welcoming the first destroyer of four that we will station there to provide Ballistic Missile Defense for Europe. We do exercises from the Baltic like BALTOPS and, off the African coast, Phoenix Express, we are committed to European Security.

Looking east, in the Black Sea USS TRUXTON just completed a series of exercises and port calls with our Romanian and Bulgarian allies. Third Battalion, Eighth Marines are now in Romania now as our Marine Corps' Black Sea Rotational Force and are operating and training with our allies, including preparing for the upcoming SUMMER SHIELD exercise. Today, more NATO planes are patrolling the skies over the Baltics and we have increased our presence in Poland.

For sixteen years we have been partnering with our European Allies for the summer exercise SEA BREEZE in the Black Sea. This exercise is hosted by the military of Ukraine and included sixteen nations last year, and we will be having that exercise again this year.

Since the 1990's Ukraine has been playing a central role in the maritime security of the Black Sea, and it is an important partner for all of us. We want to support those nations who share in our principles and our ideals, who believe in freedom of navigation, territorial integrity, and the rule of law. Because of this, the United States will continue to support Ukraine through its

elections and its economic development. We continue to stand in firm support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Moreover, the United States continues to discuss, through NATO, additional measures in response to recent regional developments. One way we are doing that is by looking to deploy another ship to the Black Sea very shortly, to participate in exercises and operations. These are functions, like sending a ship, that maritime forces are uniquely suited for – providing immediate options when needed.

Looking south from here, a lot of African countries are experiencing economic growth, population increases, and resource development. There are also increasing threats, including the escalation of extremist organizations, some with links to Al Qaeda, and increasing trafficking in persons and narcotics and instability on the shores of the Mediterranean and the Gulf of Guinea. These are challenges on Europe's southern maritime frontiers that are shared challenges, not just among militaries, but among every nation in Europe. We have to work together to address them.

We have worked closely with Spain to position our Marine Air Ground Task Force Crisis Response in Moron. Also, we have Marines in the regularly scheduled Black Sea Rotational Force working with our partners in Romania and Bulgaria. They will soon be joined by additional Marines going to Romania. These forces allow us to respond to emergencies over a wide geographic area, to whatever emergency, to whatever crisis comes up as they did in South Sudan in January of this year.

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In my time as Secretary of the Navy I've traveled more than 815,000 miles. This is my 112 country that I've visited, and I do that to meet our Sailors and Marines where they are deployed and I also do it to reinforce those partnerships. All 112 countries that I've been to, and that counts places like Afghanistan where I've been 12 times, but count that as one, every one of those countries we have a partnership, every one of those countries we're doing work with. This is my 17th trip to Europe as Secretary. On all of my travels what impresses me is the incredible relationships our Sailors and Marines construct with our partners worldwide and friendships formed, and the value of shared responsibilities and shared burdens, value of working together to confront any crisis that comes over that far horizon, that needs dealing with and needs to give our national leadership of whatever country options.

Since the Athenian fleet went out and faced and defeated the Navy of Xerxes at Salamis 2500 years ago, naval forces have proven themselves the most immediate, the most capable and the most adaptable option when a crisis develops. Whether exercising together in the Baltic, operating against pirates in the Gulf of Aden, or cooperating in the Pacific to provide disaster relief as we did in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Haiyan, the strong partnership between the United States and Europe makes a difference all over the globe. Presence matters.

Together, by maintaining our presence through our people, platforms, power and most importantly partnerships, we will defeat any threat, we will meet every challenge that comes across the maritime horizon of the 21st Century.

We will remain, as the United States Navy motto goes, Semper Fortis, Forever Courageous.

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From the U.S. Marine Corps, Semper Fidelis, Forever Faithful.

Thank you very much.