



# Naval Operations Concept

2010

*Implementing  
The Maritime Strategy*

*The basic premise of our newly published Maritime Strategy is that the United States is a force for good in the world—that while we are capable of launching a clenched fist when we must—offering the hand of friendship is also an essential and prominent tool in our kit. That premise flows from the belief that preventing wars means we don't have to win wars.*



— General James T. Conway, USMC

*We do more than just respond; we prevent. In our Maritime Strategy we state that we believe that it is just as important to prevent wars as it is to win wars. That is done through our worldwide presence, our well-trained Sailors, and our very capable ships, airplanes, and submarines.*



— Admiral Gary Roughead, USN

*The Coast Guard completely subscribes to this strategy. It reinforces the Coast Guard Strategy for Safety, Security, and Stewardship and it reflects not only the global reach of our maritime services, but the need to integrate, synchronize and act with coalition and international partners to not only win wars—but to prevent wars.*



— Admiral Thad W. Allen, USCG

# Preface

The daily service and sacrifice of Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen are constant reminders that we are a Nation at war. As we continue to stabilize Iraq and counter a resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan, extremist ideologues, terrorists, criminals and rogue states still mar the international landscape, promoting their interests by undermining global stability. Concurrently, several key regional powers continue to significantly enhance their own military capabilities. To deal with the expanding range of these challenges, we must always be prepared and ready to assume new missions—today and tomorrow.

Four years ago the Navy and Marine Corps presented a unified vision for the future—*Naval Operations Concept 2006* (NOC 06). It served as an intellectual stimulus for evolving our Maritime Strategy to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The Navy and Marine Corps, joined by our seagoing partner, the U.S. Coast Guard, explored the ideas articulated in NOC 06 to inform development of our new Maritime Strategy. With the publication of *A Cooperative Strategy for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Seapower* (CS-21) in October 2007, NOC 06 fulfilled its purpose.

*Naval Operations Concept 2010* (NOC 10) describes when, where and how U.S. naval forces will contribute to enhancing security, preventing conflict and prevailing in war. NOC 10 is not designed for a cursory reading; it is a publication intended for serious study by professionals. Readers will quickly discern several themes that collectively embody the essence of naval service to our Nation. Implicit in these themes is that Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen should expect to be engaged in both preventing and winning wars. These themes reflect the content of CS-21 as well as the guidance provided by the Secretary of Defense in the *National Defense Strategy* (NDS) and the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR).

The sea services have a long history of accomplishing diverse missions, from protecting American merchantmen during an undeclared naval war in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, to establishing our naval prowess in the War of 1812, to suppressing the African slave trade and West Indian piracy in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to fighting the major wars and confronting the irregular challenges of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As the 21<sup>st</sup> century unfolds, we must continue to be effective warriors as well as informed and articulate ambassadors, serving our Nation's interests and facilitating free global interaction from the sea.



*James T. Conway*

James T. Conway

General, U.S. Marine Corps

Commandant of the Marine Corps



*Gary Roughead*

Gary Roughead

Admiral, U.S. Navy

Chief of Naval Operations



*Thad W. Allen*

Thad W. Allen

Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

Commandant of the Coast Guard





*The pathway of man's journey through the ages is littered with the wreckage of nations, which, in their hour of glory, forgot their dependence on the seas.*

—Brigadier General James D. Hittle,  
USMC (Retired), 1961  
Military Historian and Theorist



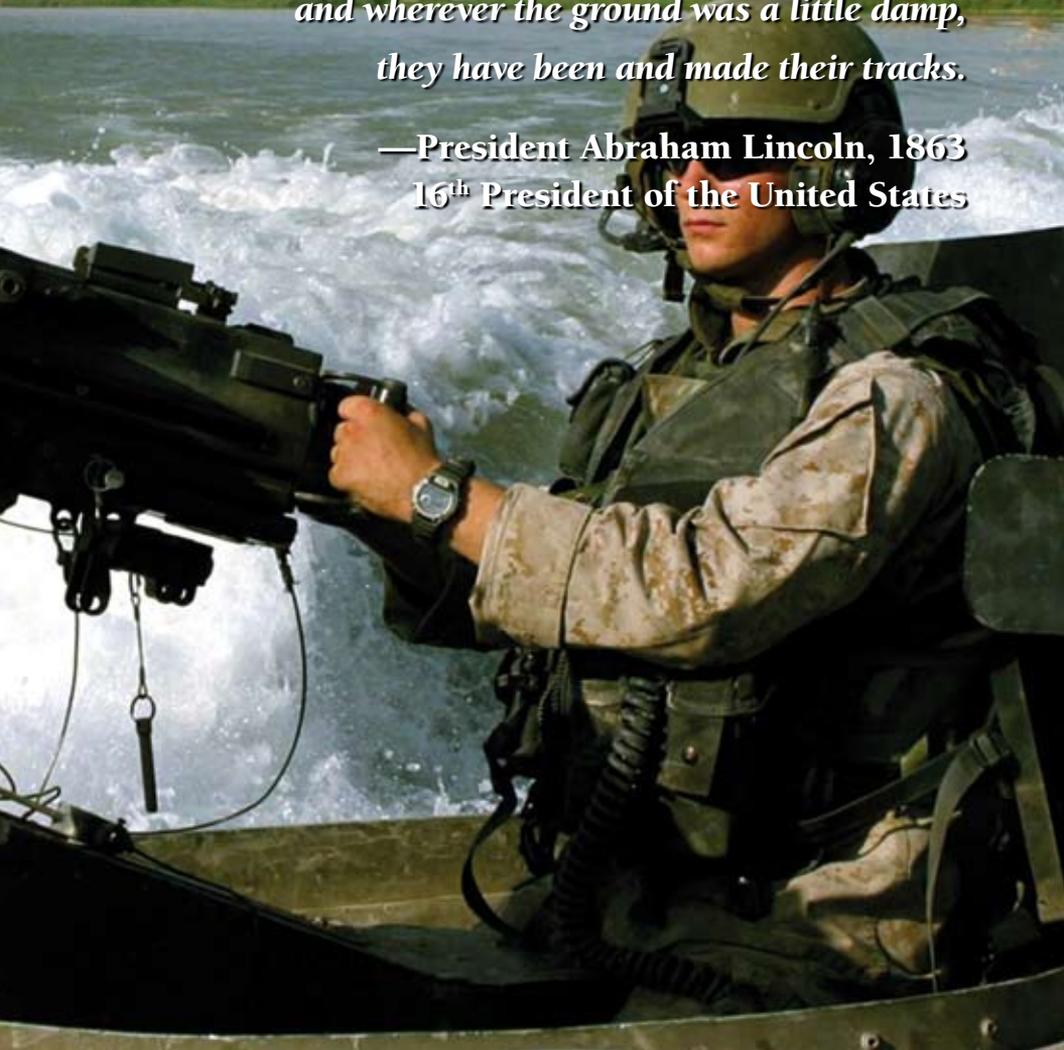
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*Nor must Uncle Sam's web-feet be forgotten.  
At all the watery margins they have been present.  
Not only in the deep sea, the broad bay, and  
the rapid river, but also up the narrow muddy bayou,  
and wherever the ground was a little damp,  
they have been and made their tracks.*

**—President Abraham Lincoln, 1863  
16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States**



# Chapter 1

## Introduction

*As we think about this range of threats, it is common to define and divide the so-called “high end” from the “low end,” the conventional from the irregular; armored divisions on one side, guerrillas toting AK-47s on the other. In reality...the categories of warfare are blurring and do not fit into neat, tidy boxes. We can expect to see more tools and tactics of destruction—from the sophisticated to the simple—being employed simultaneously in hybrid and more complex forms of warfare.*

—Robert M. Gates, 22nd Secretary of Defense,  
29 September 2008

### Purpose

*Naval Operations Concept 2010* (NOC 10) describes when, where and how U.S. naval forces will contribute to enhancing security, preventing conflict and prevailing in war in order to guide Maritime Strategy implementation in a manner consistent with national strategy. NOC 10 describes the ways with which the sea services will achieve the ends articulated in *A Cooperative Strategy for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Seapower* (CS-21).

### Relationship to Other Documents

NOC 10 supersedes NOC 06 and represents the evolution in naval operational concepts and capabilities needed to adapt to the relentless efforts of current and potential adversaries to find advantage in the maritime domain. Continuous innovation, by the United States, its allies and partners, and its adversaries, compels NOC 10 to be a contemporary document that guides current operations, as well as a forward looking effort to anticipate and describe the ways new capabilities can be integrated into joint force efforts to address emerging threats. In this regard, NOC 10 articulates how naval capabilities can be applied in support of the combatant commanders’ operations, contingency plans, and theater security cooperation (TSC) plans.

## Scope

The integration of naval capabilities to achieve specific joint mission objectives is the responsibility of commanders, who formulate their concepts of operations to achieve advantage and decision. In contrast, Service operational concepts are designed to describe the capabilities that operational commanders can expect the Services to provide, and indicate selected ways these capabilities can be integrated to achieve mission success. Consequently, NOC 10 is designed to inform development of joint concepts, plans and experimentation. The term “naval” and “the Naval Service” are used throughout this publication to encompass Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel and organizations.<sup>1</sup>

NOC 10 articulates the ways naval forces are employed to achieve the strategy conveyed in CS-21. Published in 2007, CS-21 described a set of core capabilities that added maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HA/DR) to the traditional forward presence, deterrence, sea control, and power projection. Not to be viewed as discrete missions or functions, these core capabilities are intrinsically linked and mutually supporting enablers for achieving the Naval Service’s strategic imperatives:

*Regionally concentrated, credible combat power to:*

- Limit regional conflict with deployed, decisive maritime power
- Deter major power war
- Win our Nation’s wars

*Globally distributed, mission-tailored maritime forces to:*

- Contribute to homeland defense in depth
- Foster and sustain cooperative relationships with more international partners
- Prevent or contain local disruptions before they impact the global system

NOC 10 does not prescribe Naval Service *tactics*, nor is it *doctrine*. Rather, it serves as a *precursor to the development of both*. It describes how the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard operate together, and will be complemented by Service-specific concepts. Collectively, the ideas put forth are to be applied, tested, analyzed and refined through war games, exercises, experiments, and operational lessons learned. This innovation

will ultimately inform future revisions of the NOC, as it is updated to remain relevant in the evolving security environment.

In an increasingly complex world, naval forces provide the Nation with the global presence and the freedom of maneuver needed to influence world events. Persistently postured forward, naval forces are continuously engaged with global partners in cooperative security activities aimed at reducing instability and providing another arm of national diplomacy. Their expeditionary capabilities enable and support the joint force effort to combat both conventional and irregular challenges. NOC 10 describes how naval forces will blend “soft” and “hard” power<sup>2</sup> in support of the approach, objectives and enduring national interests articulated in the National Defense Strategy (NDS). These enduring interests include “protecting the nation and our allies from attack or coercion, promoting international security to reduce conflict and foster economic growth, and securing the global commons and with them access to world markets and resources.”<sup>3</sup> NOC 10 also expounds upon CS-21’s core capabilities: forward presence, maritime security, HA/DR, sea control, power projection and deterrence.

The organization of NOC 10 is not meant to imply, and does not reflect the relative importance of the Naval Service’s core capabilities. NOC 10 is presented in a sequence designed to describe how globally dispersed naval forces conducting an array of steady state activities designed to prevent war will, when required, come together to prevail in crisis response or combat operations. NOC 10 describes *The Naval Service* in Chapter 2, followed by *The Overarching Concept: The Sea as Maneuver Space* in Chapter 3. Each of the six subsequent chapters is dedicated to one of the core capabilities. Chapter 4 describes how *Forward Presence* enables the Naval Service to build partner capacity while facilitating its ability to perform all other missions. Chapter 5, *Maritime Security*, describes how naval forces will partner with others to promote safety, economic security, and homeland defense in depth. Similarly, Chapter 6 describes how naval forces will contribute to *HA/DR*. Chapters 7 and 8, *Sea Control* and *Power Projection*, describe how naval forces fulfill their warfighting responsibilities as part of a joint or combined force. Chapter 9 describes how the activities articulated in the preceding five chapters contribute to expanded *Deterrence*. Finally, Chapter 10 will discuss the *Future Force Structure* that supports the implementation of this concept on a global basis.

Annex A describes the relationship between NOC 10 and joint concept development and experimentation. Annex B provides a glossary and endnotes. Unless otherwise noted, all definitions included in this publication are drawn from Joint Publication 1-02, the *Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms*.



