



## **Answer to USNI's Question**

Reflections about some aspects already considered in such a strategy but that are worth analyzing in depth due to their importance.

### **Scenario**

The current scenario is determined by the absence of the classical confrontation at sea.

Globalized economy multiplies the number of commercial exchanges and the demand of energy resources, increasing merchant shipping in a significant amount.

The two bloc confrontation strategy of the past has turned into a cooperation strategy in a globalized world in which we are vulnerable to new asymmetric threats.

We need to have maritime situation awareness and enough action capability if we want this scenario to be a space of freedom and security. It is at sea and from the sea where security can be achieved.

### **The role of naval forces**

Potential conflicts take place ashore whereas warships operate at sea. It is therefore of capital importance that naval forces show their capability to influence the land from the sea.

The possibilities offered by the concept "sea based" are a solution to both the command and control of joint operations from a naval platform, and the rapid response in crisis scenarios and far away conflicts.

### **Operations in Crisis or Conflict Situations**

Any foreseeable strategy must take into account the ways of operation which present a higher probability.

### **Crisis Management**

Naval forces have the advantage of operating in open spaces where there are no border constraints, nor the need for diplomatic clearances to sail in them. Naval forces can adjust the level of effort, appearing and disappearing at will without the disadvantages of a retreat.

### **Humanitarian Aid**



Naval Forces are easily reconfigurable and can arrive to the scenario where they have to operate with logistic self-sufficiency and a great load capability.

### **Stabilization Operations**

The U.S. Navy has the capability to operate in stabilization operations at a pure national level, within the Atlantic Alliance or as part of a coalition. In these last two assumptions, interoperability is a key factor.

Interoperability cannot be improvised, it is a necessity both for the U.S. Navy and for its Allies. This fact would demand the U.S. Navy strategy to assume:

- Its interest to operate alongside its Allies and in accordance with International Law.
- Its need to simultaneously maintain the technological development and the interoperability with its Allies, underlying the benefits of maintaining the necessary doctrinal and financial effort without forgetting that technology itself works as an element of deterrence.

### **Operation in peacetime or in the absence of crisis**

During the periods of absence of crisis, measures must be taken to have both the information and enough operational capability to face the next crisis. No Navy in the world is self-sufficient neither US Navy and that makes the difference. Therefore the maritime strategy of the US Navy should:

- Acquire, along its Allies, the knowledge about what is happening at sea (**Maritime Situation Awareness**) to guarantee that it becomes a space of security.

In this respect we have to highlight the need to coordinate with civilian agencies, and to articulate new procedures for information exchange.

- Develop a shared concept of Security Operations (**Maritime Security Operations**). The attractive concept of the “1,000-ships Navy” demands from the American side:
  - Convincing a good number of countries to cooperate in order to cover the “deficit” between their current capability and the one that is needed to face the new situation.
  - Stimulate a determined involvement from other countries. The selection of countries that would act as “regional leaders” in some areas might be considered.



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- Develop **International Maritime Law** (IML) so as to be able to intervene in international waters in the new situation. IML should guarantee freedom of navigation, while providing naval authorities and State ships with the legal tools needed to prevent anyone from taking advantage from this freedom to carry out illicit activities.