



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



February 1, 2010

## 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review

*"The QDR is consistent with where our Navy is today, and where we are heading in the future. It confirms our resource priorities, core tenants, and reaffirms the strategic imperatives of our Maritime Strategy."*

– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

This year's Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), DoD's core strategic planning document, affirms the security environment and strategic imperatives described in the Maritime Strategy emphasizing winning our nation's wars and preventing and containing conflict. Previous analyses determined that 313 ships is the floor for the Navy's force structure. That number will be refined to account for QDR direction and its requirement for ballistic missile defense (BMD), irregular warfare support, distributed operations and intra-theater lift. The defense objectives identified in the QDR are to prevail in today's wars, prevent and deter conflict, prepare to succeed in a wide range of contingencies and preserve and enhance the all-volunteer force.

### Prevail in today's wars

- Approximately 12,000 Sailors are on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan serving in provincial reconstruction teams, explosive ordnance disposal and counter-improvised explosive device squads and support units; with 12,000 more at sea intercepting insurgents and their supplies and providing close air support and reconnaissance to Soldiers and Marines.
- The QDR supports Navy capabilities for littoral operations and electronic warfare that are essential to success in today's wars.

### Prevent and deter conflict

- The Navy provides forward-deployed, credible military power to deter conflict and respond to crises.
- The nation depends on naval forces to operate in and assure U.S. access to the air, space, maritime and cyberspace commons; these commons are essential to the stability of global systems of trade and information.
- The QDR supports Navy capabilities for ballistic missile defense, surveillance and strike from submarines and long-range unmanned aircraft that show adversaries the U.S. can deny their objectives and respond.

### Prepare to succeed in a wide range of contingencies

- The Navy can address a wide range of contingencies without infringing on sovereignty and can overcome political, geographical and military challenges to access by using the freedom to maneuver offered by the sea and capabilities to defeat threats such as submarines and cruise or ballistic missiles.
- The QDR and the Maritime Strategy highlight the expanding role partners will play in addressing regional threats. Partnerships will also continue to be important to overcoming growing challenges to access.
- To mitigate the risk of a terrorist attack, accident or natural disaster, the U.S. Navy will homeport a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Mayport, Fla.

### Preserving and enhancing the all-volunteer force

- The Navy achieved overall officer and enlisted recruiting goals for the second straight year in fiscal year 2009.
- The Navy is enhancing career flexibility and mobility, while investing in leaders at all levels.
- Navy Sailors and civilians have done a tremendous job sustaining global responsibilities and fighting two wars.

### Key Messages

- The QDR emphasizes the forces needed for today's wars, while supporting the capabilities needed to deter conflict and prepare for future contingencies.
- Previous analyses determined that 313 ships is the floor for the Navy's force structure. That number will be refined to account for QDR direction and its requirement for BMD, irregular warfare support, distributed operations and intra-theater lift.

### Facts & Figures

- The 2010 QDR is posted at <http://www.defense.gov/defensereviews/>.
- DoD conducted the 2010 QDR from February 2009 through January 2010.
- QDRs happen every four years; this is the fourth QDR and the second the DoD has had while at war.