



Navy League of the United States

The United States Marine Corps: The Most Ready when the Nation is Least Ready



For Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (CA-11), July 24, 2016





Agenda

- History of the Navy League of the United States
- Background on the Navy League in (District/State)
- The Role of the U.S. Marine Corps in National Security
- USMC Needs Support
- Closing



*Citizens in Support of the Sea
Services*





The Navy League of the United States

- Founded in 1902 with the support of President Teddy Roosevelt
- Promotes the need for strong sea services
- Civilian organization
 - 240 Local Councils
 - 40,000 members worldwide
- Our Goal: to educate the public and elected officials on the importance of a strong maritime component for our National Security
- Supports and advocates for members of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and U.S. Flag Merchant Marine



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The Marine Corps is Always Ready

The Marine Corps currently has **182,000 Active Duty Marines** and **38,900 Marine Reservists** as part of their total force deployed around the world performing:

- Humanitarian aid
- Disaster relief
- Counter-piracy
- Theater security cooperation
- Special operations
- Counter-insurgency
- Counter-terrorism



The USMC is under a continued high operational tempo. **The Marine Corps must be fully resourced and equipped to support all ongoing and future contingencies.** **30,000** Marines are deployed overseas—only 6,000 less than when it was a force of 196,000.



The US Marine Corps is Vital to National Security

- The amphibious force protects freedom of movement for sea trade, provides operational reach, and increased agility for the entire military.
- The USMC prevents small incidents from becoming global crises.
- Forward deployment gives national leaders time to create diplomatic solutions.
- The Marine Corps has expeditionary strength: deployed units are self-sufficient and always ready.
- Forward posture reduces response time; the USMC has set the gold standard for responding quickly to emergencies around the world.



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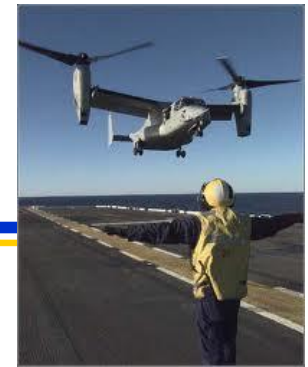


Marine Aviation

- Marine Aviation brings unique capabilities to the nation: the combined arms operations and expeditionary capabilities have served to make the Marine Corps a lethal force that can strike from virtually anywhere in the world at any time .
- The top two procurement priorities are the V-22, which successfully blends the vertical flight capabilities of helicopters with the speed, range, altitude, and endurance of fixed-wings, and the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter , the next generation fighter plane that will replace aging aircraft and bring much-needed technology upgrades.
- Demands on aviation are placing stress on the USMC: they have seen “ a decrease in flight hours per month per aircrew and an uptick in mishap rates.”
- Deployments remain frequent though the size of the force has shrunk and budgetary pressure prevents maintenance and equipment updates.

The Navy League recommends: Full funding and procurement for the F-35B variant of the joint strike fighter and MV-22 Osprey and the re-capitalization of aging aviation platforms. We must also seriously invest in training and readiness to prevent training accidents.

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The Need for Amphibious Ship Capabilities

- 17 amphibious ships are needed to deploy a Marine expeditionary brigade. USMC has a current inventory of 30 ships, which means the Marine Corps cannot launch two brigades at once in the event it was called upon to carry out simultaneous forceful-entry missions. This is eight ships below the stated requirement.
- The COCOMs require more than the planned number of amphibious ships to meet their demand for forward presence and crisis response.
- As the National Security Strategy rebalances towards the Pacific, the needs and demands on an amphibious force will increase.



The Navy League Recommends: 38 amphibious ships for the USMC





USMC Needs Congress!

- At only 7.8% of the DOD budget, the USMC cannot easily or readily absorb any additional budgetary reductions without significantly decrementing readiness, training, and preparedness.
- Major defense cuts will disproportionately hurt the USMC because of their size and reset needs.
- Equipment usage rates in Iraq and Afghanistan were twelve times higher than in peacetime, increasing maintenance and replacement costs at a higher rate than planned.
- Congress must urge DOD to find ways to make DOD more efficient by improving their acquisitions process.

The Navy League Recommends: Increasing the OCO Funding for the USMC to maintain readiness, fund repairs, and increase training.





FY2017 Priorities

- The President's Request is \$23.4B, plus \$9.5B for overseas contingency operations: a relatively flat increase of \$169M. We must increase Overseas Contingency Operations funding to pay for readiness and maintenance
- Upgrade amphibious assault vehicles to bridge the gap to Amphibious Combat Vehicle
- Restore the program of record funding for the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle program
- Ensure a force size and operational tempo that supports at least a 1:2 deployment-to-dwell ratio





Conclusion

- The United States Marine Corps ensures security for the United States worldwide.
- The USMC shoulders the heavy responsibility of responding first to a variety of crises around the globe.
- The USMC is involved in our current fight, crisis response, and forward presence. The USMC has taken on new challenges and an expanded mission on a small budget, and the United States should fund their needs.
- The Navy League strongly believes that America's sea services are the greatest force for our country's safety and peace in the world.
- Their readiness and maintenance must be funded appropriately.



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Bill Kinsey

Vice President Legislative Affairs

Contra Costa Council

william_kinsey@comcast.net

925 683-0278

www.cccnl.org



Join the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus to help ensure USMC has the amphibious ships it needs!

