



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



*Citizens in Support of the Sea
Services*



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.



*Citizens in Support of
Services*



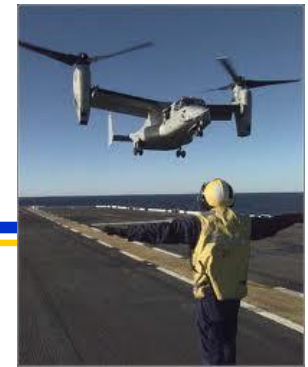


Marine Aviation

- 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.

Citizens in Support of the Sea Services





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.



*Citizens in Support of the Sea
Services*





Navy League of the United States

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!

