

ODriscoll, James

From: John Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 11:47 AM
Subject: Gadhafi Nears Benghazi as G-8 Drops 'No-Fly' Zone

If this situation proves anything, it is that without direct US leadership, nothing ever gets accomplished. I am not necessarily calling for US intervention here (clearly we don't need yet another military conflict), but now that Gadhafi appears to be gaining the upper hand, think about what his success will mean for the region and the oil markets, particularly in Europe, which receives 85% of Libya's daily output of 1 million barrels in production. This will not help the economic situation throughout the region. It is amazing how pathetic the Europeans are when it comes to decisive action. And US leadership is no where to be found...

- MIDDLE EAST NEWS
- MARCH 15, 2011, 11:38 A.M. ET

Gadhafi Nears Benghazi as G-8 Drops 'No-Fly' Zone

- **Article**
- **Interactive Graphics**
- **Comments (38)**

MORE IN MIDDLE EAST »

-  Email
-  Print
- **Save This | More**
- 
-  + More
-  Text

By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV in Ajdabiya, Libya, JOE LAURIA at the United Nations and NATHALIE BOSCHAT in Paris



Agence France-Presse/Getty

Images

A Libyan rebel tank moves toward the front in Ajdabiya, to the south of the rebel capital of Benghazi.

DM/77

AJDABIYA, Libya -- Troops loyal to Col. Moammar Gadhafi seized the strategically important town of Ajdabiya, opening the way to a direct attack on the rebel capital of Benghazi as Western leaders failed to reach an agreement to set up a no-fly zone over Libya.

Hundreds of civilian cars filled with rebels and residents clogged the highway leaving Ajdabiya after fighter jets bombed the center of town, inflicting dozens of casualties, according to witnesses.

[View Full Image](#)



Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

Libyan men look at a reconnaissance plane circling above the eastern town of Ajdabiya on March 15.



"They are in the center of the city now and the city is in ruins," said Ali Faraj Hammada, a 34-year-old who leads the city's revolutionary committee as he rode out of town in a blood-soaked car.

Witnesses said troops loyal to Mr. Gadhafi dressed in civilian clothing outmaneuvered rebel forces, striking the city from the south and southwest.

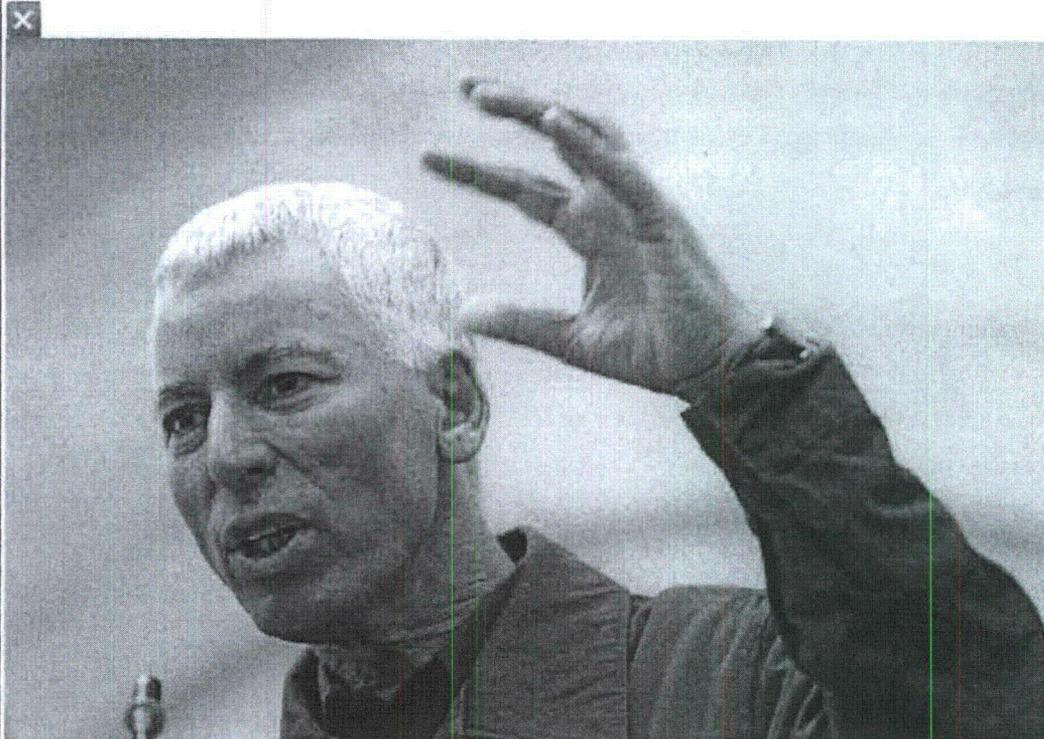
The victory by loyalists deals a major blow to the 4-week old uprising against Mr. Gadhafi's regime. Ajdabiya is the last major population center between government-controlled territory and Benghazi and could lead to the collapse of the rebels' provisional government if Mr. Gadhafi is able to use his air power against rebels defending the city.

[View Full Image](#)



Reuters

Libyan defense spokesman Milad Hussein speaks during a news conference in Tripoli March 13.



Celebratory gunfire could be heard around Tripoli after regime-owned media outlets reported that pro-Gadhafi forces routed rebels from Ajdabiya

Col. Gadhafi stepped up his calls for opposition forces to surrender in an interview published on Tuesday by Italian newspaper Il Giornale.

"They have no hope. The cause for them is lost by now. There are only two possibilities: to surrender or to escape," Mr. Gadhafi was quoted as saying in the interview, which the newspaper said took place inside the fortified compound of Bab al Azizia in Tripoli.

The rapid succession of military victories in Col. Gadhafi's push to recapture rebel-held territories came as Western countries struggled to find a common response.

Hopes of quickly establishing a no-fly zone over Libya were dashed in Paris Wednesday when leaders of the Group of Eight industrialized nations declined to adopt the measure.

Instead, the G8 foreign ministers called on the United Nations Security Council to examine further sanctions against Libya, including economic ones, but made no mention of a possible military action against Col. Gadhafi's regime, including the setting up of a no fly zone.

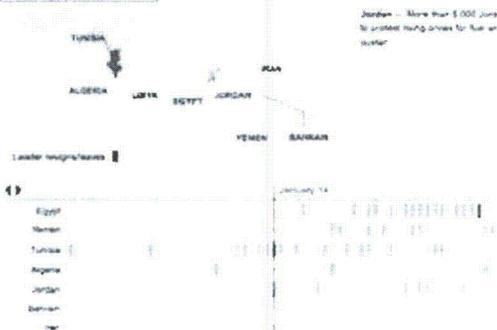
The G-8 agreed "that the U.N. Security Council should increase the pressure, including through economic measures, for Moammar Gadhafi to leave," G-8 foreign ministers said in their final statement.

Lebanon, the only Arab country that is a Security Council member, on Monday began conferring on a draft resolution for the no-fly zone over the weekend, but it remained unclear whether it would get the necessary votes. The draft is based on a proposal approved by the Arab League.

Regional Upheaval

Track events day by day.

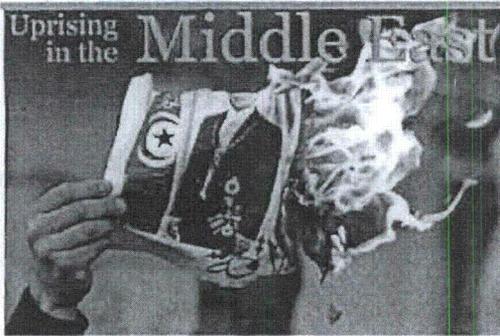
[View Interactive](#)



Uprising in the Middle East

See photos from protests from Algeria to Yemen.

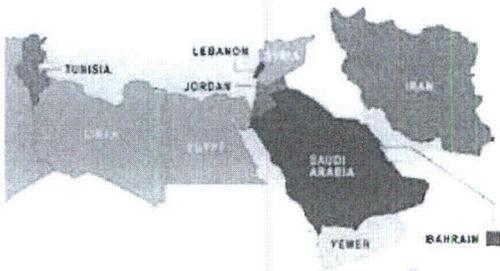
[View Interactive](#)



Mideast Mosaic

A look at the economic and political status of selected countries facing unrest in North Africa and the Middle East.

[View Interactive](#)



- [More photos and interactive graphics](#)

[View Full Image](#)



Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

A Libyan woman wears a dress made of the Kingdom of Libya flag used by the revolution during a rally in Benghazi on Saturday calling for the implementation of the No Fly Zone.





China, facing its own civil unrest, was still cool to a no-fly zone that would support antigovernment rebels in a region in widespread tumult. China, this month's Security Council president, would also not want to jeopardize construction and oil contracts with the Gadhafi government, diplomats at the U.N. said. Russia, too, raised concerns on Monday.

The Obama administration has taken a cautious approach on backing any military intervention. But it did encourage the Libyan opposition by appointing Chris Stevens, formerly deputy chief of mission in Tripoli, as the U.S. liaison to Libya's rebel groups.

While conferring with European and Arab leaders in Paris on Monday, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called for a "full and public discussion" over the options available to constrain the Col. Gadhafi. She met with Mahmoud Jibril, a leading Libyan opposition figure who requested "combat materials" from the U.S.

Ms. Clinton told Mr. Jibril that the U.S. would consider the request and would support the opposition beyond purely humanitarian assistance, but she didn't specify how, a U.S. official said. The official added that the Arab countries "need to take the lead on any military actions."

Read More

- [Gadhafi Urges Rebels to Surrender](#)
- [Libya Oil Exports May Be Frozen for Months](#)
- [Washington Wire: Schumer Says Arab League Ups Chances of Libya No-Fly Zone](#)

The White House reiterated that the U.S. hadn't decided whether a no-fly-zone was the best course of action. White House spokesman Jay Carney said the U.S. and allies have the "capacity" to do a no-fly zone, but added, "the issue is

making sure that the policy decisions we make... are cognizant of what the goals are, whether they're achievable and what the impacts of that decision will be."

The Obama administration's unwillingness to throw its weight behind a no-fly zone is fueling criticism among Libyan dissidents and democracy activists. President Barack Obama, after formally calling for Col. Gadhafi to step down, has taken few steps to back this demand, they said. And the Libyan leader's ability to regain control over his country could have wider impact on the democracy wave spreading across the Middle East.

"I don't understand what they have in their minds at this stage," said Ali Errishi, an opposition leader who has met with U.S. officials in recent days. "Not to act at this stage is an abandoning of their responsibilities."

Ajdabiya stands a little more than an hour's drive from Benghazi. To the east, another desert highway that leads to the Egyptian border could allow Col. Gadhafi to encircle the rebel heartland, cutting off vital supply and communication lines with the outside world.

Rebels in Zwara, one of the first towns seized by antigovernment forces in the uprising, said government troops retook the town with heavy tank and artillery fire, but sporadic street battles are ongoing, the Associated Press reported.

The victory, if confirmed, would solidify Col. Gadhafi's hold on the western stretch of coastline from the capital to the Tunisian border. Foreign journalists based in Tripoli have been unable to verify the attack as the government has prevented them from reaching any place outside the capital without a government escort. A government-organized trip for journalists earlier this month to the Tunisian border was diverted from Zuwara.

Rebels recently said they were still in control of other predominantly Berber towns and villages in an area known as the Western Mountain, stretching from the town of Nalout south of Zuwara to the town Yafran south of Zawiya, which was recaptured by pro-Gadhafi forces last week.

—Jay Solomon in Washington, Ruth Bender, A.H. Mooradian, Thomas Varela and Keith Johnson in Paris contributed to this article.

Write to Charles Levinson at charles.levinson@wsj.com and Stephen Fidler at stephen.fidler@wsj.com

--
*"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."*

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778



ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Tuesday, March 15, 2011 9:19 AM

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) Repeal Tier III Training Announcement on N4AR SharePoint Portal

(b)(6)

DM/78

ODriscoll, James

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 11:05 AM
To: ODriscoll, James (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: March 17 ECAT Exercise

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/79

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Tuesday, March 15, 2011 11:15 AM.

To:

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

Subject:

RE: March 17 ECAT Exercise

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/80

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Tuesday, March 15, 2011 8:36 AM

To:

ODriscoll, James

Subject:

Re: March 17 ECAT Exercise

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/81

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: ODriscoll, James
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011, 8:57 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: DADT TIER III TRAINING

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/82

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

• **ODriscoll, James**

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Tuesday, March 15, 2011 2:17 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

Attachments:

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/83

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: ODriscoll, James
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 2:27 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/84

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Tuesday, March 15, 2011 2:32 PM

To:

ODriscoll, James; (b)(6)

Cc:

(b)(6)

Subject:

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/85

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: ODriscoll, James
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 2:35 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject:

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/86

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Tuesday, March 15, 2011 2:38 PM

To:

ODriscoll, James

Cc:

(b)(6)

Subject:

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/87

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 4:15 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: TASKER - 2011 EUGENE G. FUBINI AWARD
Attachments: 2011_Fubini.pdf; USA000406-11_Signed.pdf; 2011_Fubini_Att1.doc

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Thursday, March 17, 2011 11:25 AM
Flag Status: Flagged

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/88

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Tuesday, March 15, 2011 3:46 PM

(b)(6)

Cc:

(b)(6)

Subject:

(b)(6)

DM/89

ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 11:41 AM
Subject: @BreakingNews, 3/15/11 23:54



Breaking News (@BreakingNews)

3/15/11 23:54

Close-up picture of damaged No. 4 reactor at the Fukushima nuclear plant - Yomiuri bit.ly/fLQott

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

DM/90

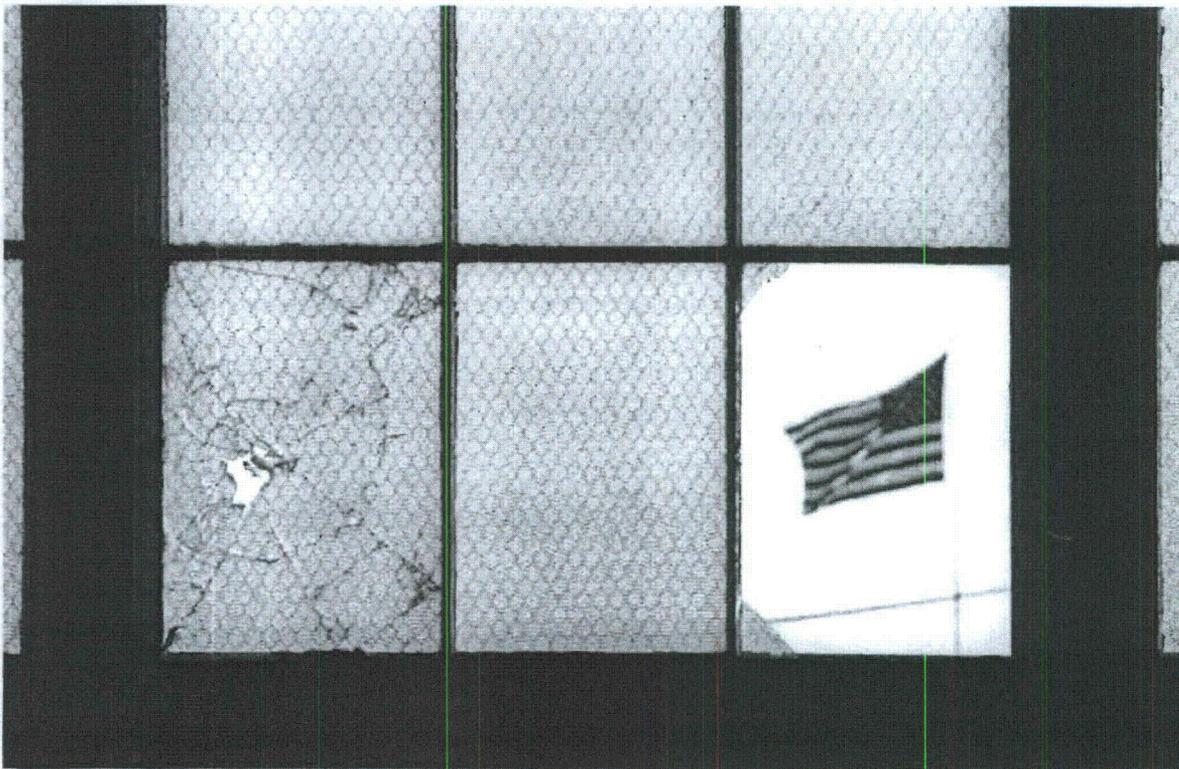
ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 2:13 AM
Subject: Think Again: American Decline

Think Again: American Decline

This time it's for real.

BY GIDEON RACHMAN | JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011



"We've Heard All This About American Decline Before."

This time it's different. It's certainly true that America has been through cycles of declinism in the past. Campaigning for the presidency in 1960, John F. Kennedy **complained**, "American strength relative to that of the Soviet Union has been slipping, and communism has been advancing steadily in every area of the world." Ezra Vogel's *Japan as Number One* was published in 1979, heralding a decade of steadily rising paranoia about Japanese manufacturing techniques and trade policies.

COMMENTS (168) SHARE:

Twitter

Reddit

Buzz

More...

DM/91

- In the end, of course, the Soviet and Japanese threats to American supremacy proved chimerical. So Americans can be forgiven if they greet talk of a new challenge from China as just another case of the boy who cried wolf. But a frequently overlooked fact about that fable is that the boy was eventually proved right. The wolf did arrive -- and China is the wolf.

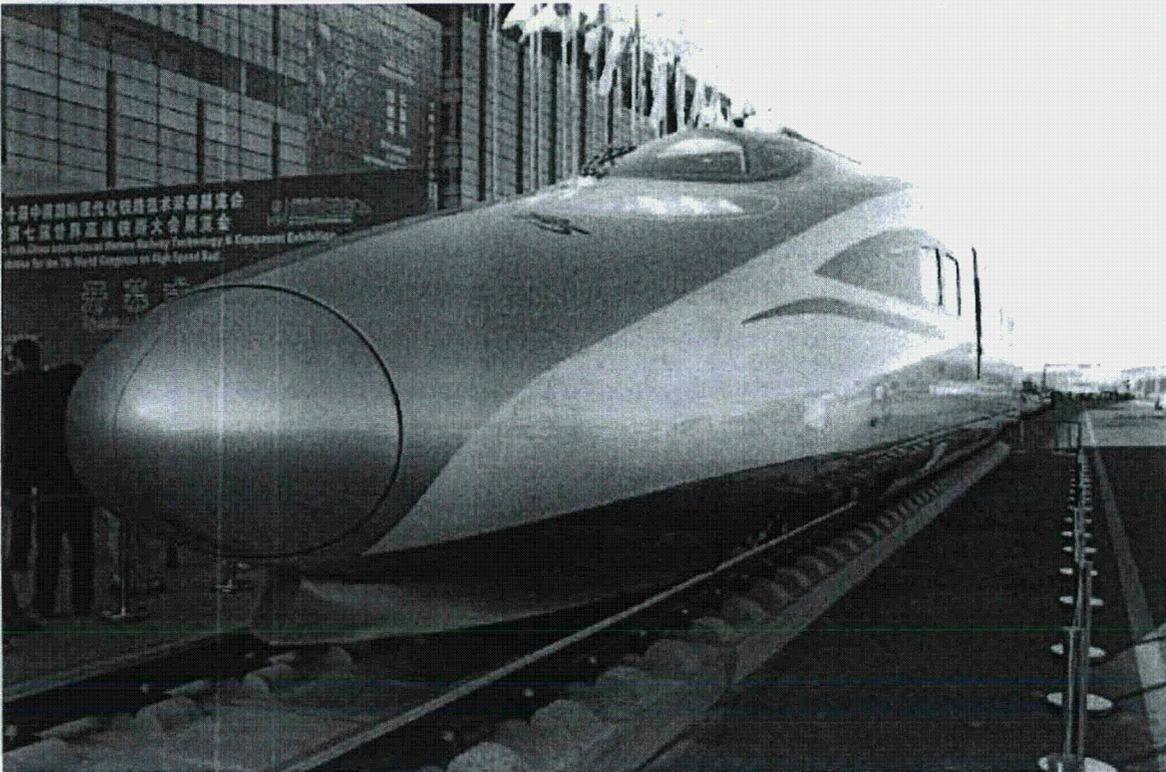
The Chinese challenge to the United States is more serious for both economic and demographic reasons. The Soviet Union collapsed because its economic system was highly inefficient, a fatal flaw that was disguised for a long time because the USSR never attempted to compete on world markets. China, by contrast, has proved its economic prowess on the global stage. Its economy has been growing at 9 to 10 percent a year, on average, for roughly three decades. It is now the world's leading exporter and its biggest manufacturer, and it is sitting on more than \$2.5 trillion of foreign reserves. Chinese goods compete all over the world. This is no Soviet-style economic basket case.

Japan, of course, also experienced many years of rapid economic growth and is still an export powerhouse. But it was never a plausible candidate to be No. 1. The Japanese population is less than half that of the United States, which means that the average Japanese person would have to be more than twice as rich as the average American before Japan's economy surpassed America's. That was never going to happen. By contrast, China's population is more than four times that of the United States. The famous projection by Goldman Sachs that China's economy will be bigger than that of the United States by 2027 was made before the 2008 economic crash. At the current pace, China could be No. 1 well before then.

China's economic prowess is already allowing Beijing to challenge American influence all over the world. The Chinese are the preferred partners of many African governments and the biggest trading partner of other emerging powers, such as Brazil and South Africa. China is also stepping in to buy the bonds of financially strapped members of the eurozone, such as Greece and Portugal.

And China is only the largest part of a bigger story about the rise of new economic and political players. America's traditional allies in Europe -- Britain, France, Italy, even Germany -- are slipping down the economic ranks. New powers are on the rise: India, Brazil, Turkey. They each have their own foreign-policy preferences, which collectively constrain America's ability to shape the world. Think of how India and Brazil sided with China at the global climate-change talks. Or the votes by Turkey and Brazil against America at the United Nations on sanctions against Iran. That is just a taste of things to come.

Reuters/Brennan Linsley/Pool



"China Will Implode Sooner or Later."

Don't count on it. It is certainly true that when Americans are worrying about national decline, they tend to overlook the weaknesses of their scariest-looking rival. The flaws in the Soviet and Japanese systems became obvious only in retrospect. Those who are confident that American hegemony will be extended long into the future point to the potential liabilities of the Chinese system. In a recent interview with the *Times* of London, former U.S. President George W. Bush suggested that China's internal problems mean that its economy will be unlikely to rival America's in the foreseeable future. "Do I still think America will remain the sole superpower?" **he asked.** "I do." But predictions of the imminent demise of the Chinese miracle have been a regular feature of Western analysis ever since it got rolling in the late 1970s. In 1989, the Communist Party seemed to be staggering after the Tiananmen Square massacre. In the 1990s, economy watchers regularly pointed to the parlous state of Chinese banks and state-owned enterprises. Yet the Chinese economy has kept growing, doubling in size roughly every seven years.

Of course, it would be absurd to pretend that China does not face major challenges. In the short term, there is plenty of evidence that a property bubble is building in big cities like Shanghai, and inflation is on the rise. Over the long term, China has alarming political and economic transitions to navigate. The Communist Party is unlikely to be able to maintain its monopoly on political power forever. And the country's traditional dependence on exports and an undervalued currency are coming under increasing criticism from the United States and other international actors demanding a "rebalancing" of China's export-driven economy. The country also faces major demographic and

environmental challenges: The population is aging rapidly as a result of the one-child policy, and China is threatened by water shortages and pollution.

Yet even if you factor in considerable future economic and political turbulence, it would be a big mistake to assume that the Chinese challenge to U.S. power will simply disappear. Once countries get the hang of economic growth, it takes a great deal to throw them off course. The analogy to the rise of Germany from the mid-19th century onward is instructive. Germany went through two catastrophic military defeats, hyperinflation, the Great Depression, the collapse of democracy, and the destruction of its major cities and infrastructure by Allied bombs. And yet by the end of the 1950s, West Germany was once again one of the world's leading economies, albeit shorn of its imperial ambitions.

In a nuclear age, China is unlikely to get sucked into a world war, so it will not face turbulence and disorder on remotely the scale Germany did in the 20th century. And whatever economic and political difficulties it does experience will not be enough to stop the country's rise to great-power status. Sheer size and economic momentum mean that the Chinese juggernaut will keep rolling forward, no matter what obstacles lie in its path.

STR/AFP/Getty Images



"America Still Leads Across the Board."

For now. As things stand, America has the world's largest economy, the world's leading universities, and many of its biggest companies. The U.S. military is also incomparably more powerful than any rival. The United States

spends almost as much on its military as the rest of the world put together. And let's also add in America's intangible assets. The country's combination of entrepreneurial flair and technological prowess has allowed it to lead the technological revolution. Talented immigrants still flock to U.S. shores. And now that Barack Obama is in the White House, the country's soft power has received a big boost. For all his troubles, polls show Obama is still the most charismatic leader in the world; Hu Jintao doesn't even come close. America also boasts the global allure of its creative industries (Hollywood and all that), its values, the increasing universality of the English language, and the attractiveness of the American Dream.

All true -- but all more vulnerable than you might think. American universities remain a formidable asset. But if the U.S. economy is not generating jobs, then those bright Asian graduate students who fill up the engineering and computer-science departments at Stanford University and MIT will return home in larger numbers. *Fortune's* latest **ranking of the world's largest companies** has only two American firms in the top 10 -- Walmart at No. 1 and ExxonMobil at No. 3. There are already three Chinese firms in the top 10: Sinopec, State Grid, and China National Petroleum. America's appeal might also diminish if the country is no longer so closely associated with opportunity, prosperity, and success. And though many foreigners are deeply attracted to the American Dream, there is also a deep well of anti-American sentiment in the world that al Qaeda and others have skillfully exploited, Obama or no Obama.

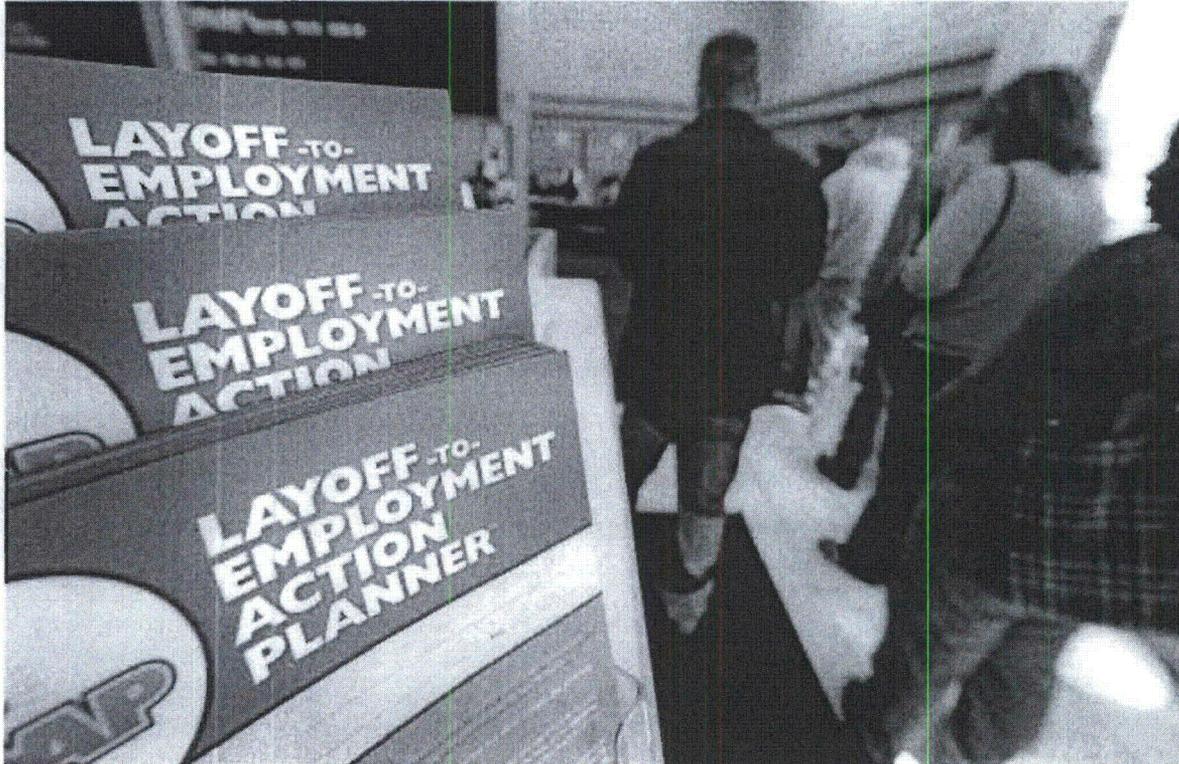
As for the U.S. military, the lesson of the Iraq and Afghan wars is that America's martial prowess is less useful than former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and others imagined. U.S. troops, planes, and missiles can overthrow a government on the other side of the world in weeks, but pacifying and stabilizing a conquered country is another matter. Years after apparent victory, America is still bogged down by an apparently endless insurgency in Afghanistan.

Not only are Americans losing their appetite for foreign adventures, but the U.S. military budget is clearly going to come under pressure in this new age of austerity. The present paralysis in Washington offers little hope that the United States will deal with its budgetary problems swiftly or efficiently. The U.S. government's continuing reliance on foreign lending makes the country vulnerable, as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's humbling 2009 request to the Chinese to keep buying U.S. Treasury bills revealed. America is funding its military supremacy through deficit spending, meaning the war in Afghanistan is effectively being paid for with a Chinese credit card. Little wonder that Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has identified the burgeoning national debt as the single largest threat to U.S. national security.

Meanwhile, China's spending on its military continues to grow rapidly. The country will soon announce the construction of its first aircraft carrier and is aiming to build five or six in total. Perhaps more seriously, China's development of new missile and anti-satellite technology threatens the command of the sea and skies on which the United States bases its Pacific supremacy. In a nuclear age, the U.S. and Chinese militaries are unlikely to clash. A

common Chinese view is that the United States will instead eventually find it can no longer afford its military position in the Pacific. U.S. allies in the region -- Japan, South Korea, and increasingly India -- may partner more with Washington to try to counter rising Chinese power. But if the United States has to scale back its presence in the Pacific for budgetary reasons, its allies will start to accommodate themselves to a rising China. Beijing's influence will expand, and the Asia-Pacific region -- the emerging center of the global economy -- will become China's backyard.

China Photos/Getty Images



"Globalization Is Bending the World the Way of the West."

Not really. One reason why the United States was relaxed about China's rise in the years after the end of the Cold War was the deeply ingrained belief that globalization was spreading Western values. Some even thought that globalization and Americanization were virtually synonymous.

Pundit Fareed Zakaria was prescient when he wrote that the "**rise of the rest**" (i.e., non-American powers) would be one of the major features of a "**post-American world.**" But even Zakaria argued that this trend was **essentially beneficial** to the United States: "The power shift ... is good for America, if approached properly. The world is going America's way. Countries are becoming more open, market-friendly, and democratic." Both George W. Bush and Bill Clinton took a similar view that globalization and free trade would serve as a vehicle for the export of American values. In 1999, two years before China's accession to the World Trade Organization,

- Bush argued, "Economic freedom creates habits of liberty. And habits of liberty create expectations of democracy.... Trade freely with China, and time is on our side."

There were two important misunderstandings buried in this theorizing. The first was that economic growth would inevitably -- and fairly swiftly -- lead to democratization. The second was that new democracies would inevitably be more friendly and helpful toward the United States. Neither assumption is working out.

In 1989, after the Tiananmen Square massacre, few Western analysts would have believed that 20 years later China would still be a one-party state -- and that its economy would also still be growing at phenomenal rates. The common (and comforting) Western assumption was that China would have to choose between political liberalization and economic failure. Surely a tightly controlled one-party state could not succeed in the era of cell phones and the World Wide Web? As Clinton **put it** during a visit to China in 1998, "In this global information age, when economic success is built on ideas, personal freedom is ... essential to the greatness of any modern nation."

In fact, China managed to combine censorship and one-party rule with continuing economic success over the following decade. The confrontation between the Chinese government and Google in 2010 was instructive. Google, that icon of the digital era, threatened to withdraw from China in protest at censorship, but it eventually backed down in return for token concessions. It is now entirely conceivable that when China becomes the world's largest economy -- let us say in 2027 -- it will still be a one-party state run by the Communist Party.

And even if China does democratize, there is absolutely no guarantee that this will make life easier for the United States, let alone prolong America's global hegemony. The idea that democracies are liable to agree on the big global issues is now being undermined on a regular basis. India does not agree with the United States on climate change or the Doha round of trade talks. Brazil does not agree with the United States on how to handle Venezuela or Iran. A more democratic Turkey is today also a more Islamist Turkey, which is now refusing to take the American line on either Israel or Iran. In a similar vein, a more democratic China might also be a more prickly China, if the popularity of nationalist books and Internet sites in the Middle Kingdom is any guide.

ROBYN BECK/AFP/Getty Images



"Globalization Is Not a Zero-Sum Game."

Don't be too sure. Successive U.S. presidents, from the first Bush to Obama, have explicitly welcomed China's rise. Just before his first visit to China, Obama summarized the traditional approach when **he said**, "Power does not need to be a zero-sum game, and nations need not fear the success of another.... We welcome China's efforts to play a greater role on the world stage."

But whatever they say in formal speeches, America's leaders are clearly beginning to have their doubts, and rightly so. It is a central tenet of modern economics that trade is mutually beneficial for both partners, a win-win rather than a zero-sum. But that implies the rules of the game aren't rigged. Speaking before the 2010 World Economic Forum, Larry Summers, then Obama's chief economic advisor, remarked pointedly that the normal rules about the mutual benefits of trade do not necessarily apply when one trading partner is practicing mercantilist or protectionist policies. The U.S. government clearly thinks that China's undervaluation of its currency is a form of protectionism that has led to global economic imbalances and job losses in the United States. Leading economists, such as *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman and the Peterson Institute's C. Fred Bergsten, have taken a similar line, arguing that tariffs or other retaliatory measures would be a legitimate response. So much for the win-win world. And when it comes to the broader geopolitical picture, the world of the future looks even more like a zero-sum game, despite the gauzy rhetoric of globalization that comforted the last generation of American politicians. For the United States has been acting as if the mutual interests created by globalization have repealed one of the oldest laws of international politics: the notion that rising players eventually clash with established powers.

In fact, rivalry between a rising China and a weakened America is now apparent across a whole range of issues, from territorial disputes in Asia to human rights. It is mercifully unlikely that the United States and China would ever actually go to war, but that is because both sides have nuclear weapons, not because globalization has magically dissolved their differences.

At the G-20 summit in November, the U.S. drive to deal with "global economic imbalances" was essentially thwarted by China's obdurate refusal to change its currency policy. The 2009 climate-change talks in Copenhagen ended in disarray after another U.S.-China standoff. Growing Chinese economic and military clout clearly poses a long-term threat to American hegemony in the Pacific. The Chinese reluctantly agreed to a new package of U.N. sanctions on Iran, but the cost of securing Chinese agreement was a weak deal that is unlikely to derail the Iranian nuclear program. Both sides have taken part in the talks with North Korea, but a barely submerged rivalry prevents truly effective Sino-American cooperation. China does not like Kim Jong Il's regime, but it is also very wary of a reunified Korea on its borders, particularly if the new Korea still played host to U.S. troops. China is also competing fiercely for access to resources, in particular oil, which is driving up global prices.

American leaders are right to reject zero-sum logic in public. To do anything else would needlessly antagonize the Chinese. But that shouldn't obscure this unavoidable fact: As economic and political power moves from West to East, new international rivalries are inevitably emerging.

The United States still has formidable strengths. Its economy will eventually recover. Its military has a global presence and a technological edge that no other country can yet match. But America will never again experience the global dominance it enjoyed in the 17 years between the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991 and the financial crisis of 2008. Those days are over.

Brendan Smialowski/Getty Images

Save big when you **subscribe** to FP.

Gideon Rachman is chief foreign-affairs commentator for the Financial Times and author of **Zero-Sum Future: American Power in an Age of Anxiety**.

SHARE THIS ARTICLE: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Reddit](#)

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."
CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 9:37 AM
Subject: Japan disaster in numbers

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Japan disaster in numbers

by Staff Writers
Tokyo (AFP) March 16, 2011

The following is a list of facts and figures about the devastating 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that battered Japan's northeast coast on March 11, sparking a nuclear emergency.

DEATH TOLL: The death toll rose to 3,676 on Wednesday, the National Police Agency said. A total of 7,558 people are reported missing and 1,990 are injured, according to the latest update.

NUMBER OF EVACUEES: 556,132 people have been evacuated following the catastrophe, the fire and disaster management agency said. Many others are still stranded and cut off from aid.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITHOUT WATER OR ELECTRICITY: 1.6 million buildings are out of running water and 621,439 households without electricity, the health ministry said.

NUMBER OF BUILDINGS DAMAGED: 80,422 buildings have been damaged, including 4,798 destroyed, the fire and disaster management agency said.

IMPACT ON ECONOMY: Tokyo shares closed up 5.68 percent Wednesday on bargain-hunting following a

- Japanese shares had plunged 10.55 percent on Tuesday on a wave of panic-selling after Prime Minister leaked from the quake-hit plant had reached levels that posed a threat to health.
- It was the biggest one-day fall since the Lehman crisis in 2008 at the beginning of the global financial do 6.18 percent tumble.
- The Bank of Japan has so far pumped 28 trillion yen (\$346 billion) into money markets.
- With rolling power cuts planned, many major companies from carmakers to tech firms have suspended p
- Singapore bank DBS estimated the quake and tsunami would cost Japan's economy \$100 billion, equiva gross domestic product.

FOREIGN AID: 112 countries and regions, along with 23 international organisations, have offered aid, the reveal the amount in money terms.

DM/92

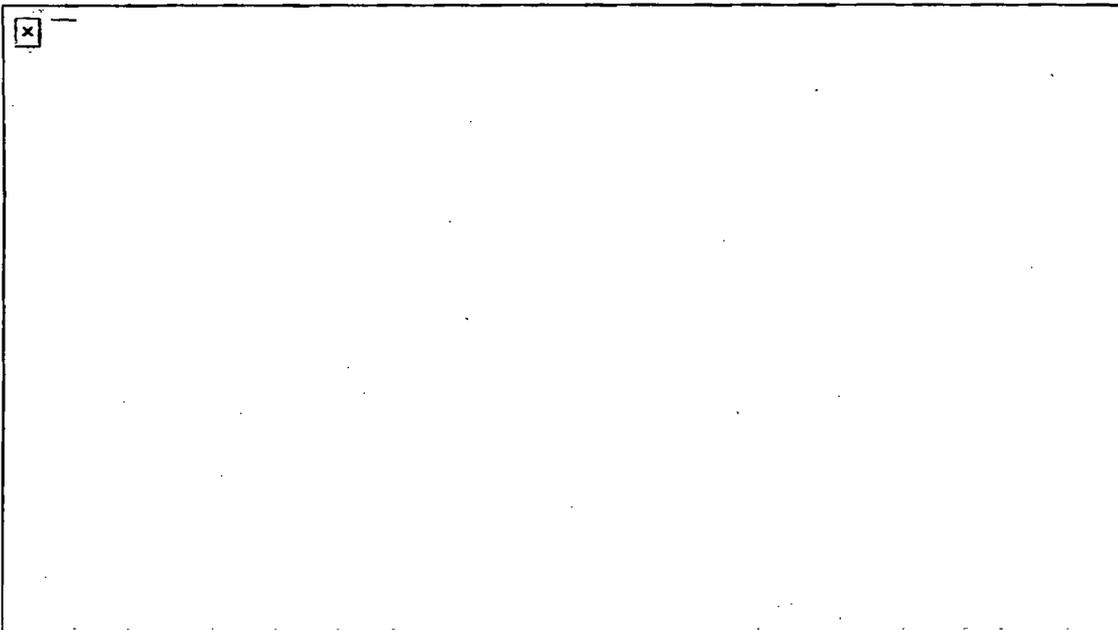
ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 1:59 AM
Subject: After Japan's Quake, Rethinking How We Build Our Navy

After Japan's Quake, Rethinking How We Build Our Navy

By Craig Hooper

Amphibious assault ships have been crucial in aiding Japan, so why is the Navy trying to kill them?



Of the 11 commissioned U.S. warships en route to Japan, almost half are big Cold War-era amphibious assault vessels purpose-built to land Marines on hostile shores. But while these unglamorous transport ships dispatch helicopters and critical aid to a grateful ally, they're being marginalized by a Navy that tends to fixate on the capabilities to wage a high-tech, blue-water war, while underestimating the importance of mundane disaster-response work in maintaining our global power and influence.

The Navy's amphibious forces have carried out the lion's share of America's disaster-response work, responding to 114 crises and contingencies over the past 20 years. Yet this enviable record means little inside the beltway. With the recent cancellation of the pricey \$25-million dollar Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle, a specialized floating tank meant to speed Marines from sea to shore, defense leaders are signaling that troop transporters, helicopter carriers, and other old-school "charge the beach" tools of amphibious warfare are obsolete and not worth full funding. The EFV deserved cancellation for a number of reasons, not the least of which was its price tag, but skeptics of amphibious warfare are using the EFV's demise to claim that the amphibious fleet as a whole has lost its reason for being and should be cut.

But even as Washington cuts, more countries are investing in amphibious warfare platforms than ever before.

- Last December, Russia solidified plans to buy four \$900 million-dollar Mistral-class assault ships from France; Canada is mulling a purchase of two. China, almost done with a second new amphibious warfare vessel, is in the early stages of a rumored 16 assault-ship building program. Australia is planning for a pair of massive helicopter carriers. South Korea, Japan, and even Indonesia are building amphibious craft, all capable of transporting and landing hundreds of fully equipped troops on hostile shores.

This buildup of amphibious warfare platforms is unprecedented, yet the Pentagon seems unconcerned, perhaps psychologically unready to grapple with the dramatic proliferation of amphibious power. And why should it be? The U.S. has enjoyed 60 years of overwhelming superiority in amphibious force. It hasn't felt compelled to update, luxuriating in the assumption that it could hand to like-minded junior partners the disaster response, non-combatant evacuations, and other stability-enhancing projects blue-water warfighters no longer want.

But these new navies will not collaborate forever, and the U.S., its attention focused elsewhere, risks missing that this world-wide build-up of new, versatile assault craft could affect our ability to project force in the global littorals.

Rather than join in the build-up, U.S. amphibious assault capabilities are being targeted by budget-cutters. Last year, the White House Deficit Commission urged on the demise of the Marines' MV-22 Osprey helicopter-plane, the Marine version of the F-35 strike fighter, and the Future Maritime Prepositioning Force, floating warehouses meant to support the Marine Corps in a major contingency. Plans to purchase several cheap and speedy Joint High Speed Vessels, a modernized fast ferry and potential mainstay of the future amphibious assault fleet, is under pressure. Modernization aside, fiscal hawks are expressing an eager desire to shrink the existing fleet of 33 specialized amphibious ships used to transport Marines -- the very ships that are, right now, leading the way in our effort to support a beleaguered Japan.

Some vigorous pruning of bloated naval programs is overdue, but Washington's over-enthusiastic campaign to cut amphibious warfare appears founded on a flawed assumption -- that the era of World-War II-like offshore assaults is over forever, ended by accurate anti-ship weaponry and the proliferation of sea mines, submarines, and other area-denial capabilities.

We had a similar debate 50 years ago, when Navy theorists predicted that nuclear weapons would mean the end of beach assaults. But big amphibious fleets are still here. To take Grenada in 1983, the Pentagon marshaled 22 ships and 11,414 sailors to support an assault by some 8,000 soldiers and Marines. The decoy fleet off Kuwait in 1991 was even larger. Amphibious assault ships will always gather when America needs to "kick in the door" someplace. Perhaps even more importantly, they're a crucial tool for the sorts of humanitarian response missions we're leading in Japan. Providing relief for Japan isn't just the right thing to do, it's necessary for us to maintain a strong naval presence at both ends of the Pacific. If our amphibious fleet continues to decay, and China's continues to evolve, then Japan may look west rather than east the next time it needs a foreign navy to intervene.

Though it may be tempting to consign "charging the beach" tactics as outmoded, amphibious warfare seems set for a perilous global renaissance. Even if island warfare remains a rare phenomenon, amphibious ships are some of the most useful, if unglamorous, military tools in the arsenal. After responding to two tsunamis in the space of six years, amphibious assault platforms have proven their ability to do a lot of good in key places. Supporting a large, utilitarian fleet of floating pick-up trucks may not be very exciting, but Japan's earthquake and tsunami are important reminders of the importance of amphibious capability -- and of the risks of neglecting them. After all, the next mega-tsunami may very well be our own.

▪ *Photo: An MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter delivers pallets of supplies to the multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan off the coast of Haiti. By Tony Sisti/U.S. Navy*

This article available online at:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2011/03/after-japans-quake-rethinking-how-we-build-our-navy/72480/>

Copyright © 2011 by The Atlantic Monthly Group. All Rights Reserved.

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN

16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 1:25 PM

(b)(6)

Subject:

URGENT: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/94

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: ODriscoll, James
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 1:37 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: URGENT: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6).

(b)(6)

DM/95

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 6:12 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

ODriscoll, James

Subject:

RE: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/96

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Subject:

Attachments:

FW: 16 MAR 11 CHINFO CLIPS
16 MAR 11 CHINFO CLIPS.doc

Some excellent coverage of Navy response to the Japan HADR mission. Recommend all unit members sign up for the daily CHINFO news clips.

See (b)(6)

r/CO

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 7:04 AM

To: Durham, David B

Subject: 16 MAR 11 CHINFO CLIPS

TOP STORIES:

1. Military Monitors Radiation As Troops Deliver Humanitarian Aid
(STARS AND STRIPES 16 MAR 11) ... Jon Rabirotff
SEOUL — U.S. military assets continue to converge on Japan, hoping to deliver humanitarian assistance while being careful not to expose servicemembers to radiation leaking from the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant.
2. DoD Offers To Move Families Amid Bahrain Chaos
(NAVY TIMES 15 MAR 11)
MANAMA, Bahrain — As a month-long standoff in Bahrain escalates between protesters and the government, now bolstered by a Saudi-led military force that arrived Monday, Bahrain-based 5th Fleet closed a base school, warned personnel to steer clear of protest areas and initiated the moving of families, on a voluntary-basis, off of the tiny island kingdom.
3. House Votes 3-Week Stopgap Government Spending Bill As Parties Battle Over Budget Cuts
(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11)
WASHINGTON — The House Tuesday passed a measure blending \$6 billion in budget cuts with enough money to keep the government running for an additional three weeks.
4. US Navy Backs Northrop Spin-Off Of Ship Unit
(REUTERS 15 MAR 11) ... Karen Jacobs and Andrea Shalal-Esa,

Dm/97

ATLANTA - The U.S. Navy threw its support behind Northrop Grumman Corp's (NOC.N) plans to spin off its shipbuilding unit after the company agreed to make certain financial adjustments to cover possible risks.

CURRENT OPERATIONS:

5. U.S. Naval Forces Converge On Disaster-Stricken Japan
(STARS AND STRIPES 15M AR 11) ... Tim Wightman

TOKYO — U.S. Naval forces are converging on Japan as part of a recovery effort in the wake of Friday's 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that has left more than 3,000 people dead and thousands others missing, the Navy announced Tuesday in separate releases.

6. U.S. Redirects Warships Over Japan Radiation Risk
(REUTERS 15 MAR 11) ... Phil Stewart

The U.S. military took new steps to shield personnel from radiation spread by Japan's crippled nuclear plant on Tuesday, redirecting arriving warships to safer waters and telling some forces to limit time outdoors.

7. U.S. Military Steps Up Quake Relief Efforts
(WALL STREET JOURNAL 15 MAR 11) ... Nathan Hodge

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. military expanded its earthquake relief efforts Tuesday in Japan, sending equipment to help firefighting efforts at the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant and deploying troops to assist humanitarian relief and search-and-rescue efforts.

8. Marines Arrive In Disaster Zone
(WALL STREET JOURNAL 16 MAR 11) ... Chester Dawson

MATSUSHIMA -- The first U.S. Marine Corps humanitarian assistance team to survey the damage to infrastructure and public health arrived in northeastern Japan on Wednesday with some 20,000 bottles of donated water.

9. Commander: Decision To Evacuate Bases In Japan Would Come From State Department
(STARS AND STRIPES 15 MAR 11) ... Erik Slavin

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan — Any decision to evacuate military personnel and their families from Japan would come first from the State Department, Atsugi's base commander told Stars and Stripes following a town hall meeting with concerned residents Tuesday night.

10. VP-4 Perform SAR Missions In Support Of Operation Tomodachi
(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 16 MAR 11) ... Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Steve White, Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa Public Affairs

At Sea -- Flight crews from Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 are flying humanitarian and support missions as part of Operation Tomodachi in response to the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunamis that hit northern Japan March 11.

11. USS Providence Among U.S. Naval Forces Off Libya
(NEW LONDON DAY 16 MAR 11) ... Jennifer McDermott

The Groton-based USS Providence crossed the Suez Canal Saturday and headed for the Mediterranean Sea, where other Navy ships are waiting to respond to the violence in Libya if needed.

12. Sailors, Marines Install Water Pump At Honduran School
(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jeffery Tilghman Williams, High Speed Vessel Swift Public Affairs

SAN LORENZO, Honduras -- Sailors assigned to Detail Bravo of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28 and 2nd Marine Logistics Group (MLG) replaced a broken hand water pump with an electric powered pump at Escuela Eneas Avarado in San Lorenzo, Honduras, March 14, in support of Southern Partnership Station (SPS) 2011.

13. Comfort Goes On Central, South America Mission
(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11)

BALTIMORE — The Navy says the Baltimore-based hospital ship Comfort is preparing for a new mission to Central and South America and the Caribbean.

14. Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group To Arrive In San Diego
(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Lt. Greg D. Raelson, Abraham Lincoln Strike Group Public Affairs
SAN DIEGO - Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group (CSG) and its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2, will arrive in San Diego from a six-month scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Areas of Responsibility (AOR) March 19.

15. Marines, Sailors Hurt In Bragg Explosion
(NAVY TIMES 15 MAR 11) ... Brian Shane
Eight Marines and two Navy personnel were hospitalized Monday night with shrapnel wounds and lacerations following an explosion during artillery training at Fort Bragg, N.C.

GLOBAL MARITIME ENVIRONMENT:

16. Japan Says 2nd Reactor May Have Ruptured With Radioactive Release
(NEW YORK TIMES 16 MAR 11) ... Hiroko Tabuchi and Keith Bradsher
TOKYO — Japan's nuclear crisis intensified again Wednesday, with Japanese authorities announcing that a containment vessel in a second reactor unit at the stricken Fukushima Daiichi plant in northeastern Japan may have ruptured and appeared to be releasing radioactive steam. That would be the second vessel to be compromised in two days.

17. US Warns 'No Military Solution' In Bahrain
(AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE 15 MAR 11)
WASHINGTON — The White House on Tuesday warned that there was "no military solution" to the political upheaval in Bahrain, after a Saudi-led force intervened in a move which sent Gulf tensions rocketing.

18. Bahrain King Clamps Down; 3 Dead As Unrest Spreads
(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11) ... Barbara Surk and Reem Khalifa
MANAMA, Bahrain -- Bahrain's king declared a three-month state of emergency Tuesday to quell a Shiite uprising, as clashes spread through the capital and surrounding villages in a showdown that drew in the region's major powers and splintered along its main sectarian faultlines. At least two Bahrainis and a Saudi soldier died, and hundreds of protesters were injured by shotgun blasts and clubs.

19. Israeli Navy Intercepts Egypt-Bound Ship With Arms
(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11) ... Aron Heller
JERUSALEM -- Israel said Tuesday it seized a cargo ship loaded with weapons sent by Iran to Palestinian militants in Gaza, including sophisticated land-to-sea missiles that officials said could change the balance of power in the area.

20. More Pirates Facing Prosecution As Attacks Increase In Violence
Pirates Jailed In 17 Nations
(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11) ... Katharine Houreld
NAIROBI, Kenya - Five Somali pirates are jailed for life by a U.S. court. Sixty-one suspected pirates captured at sea face trial in India. Somali prisons are running out of room.

21. Govt Considering Allowing Armed Guards On Merchant Ships
(TIMES OF INDIA 15 MAR 11)
NEW DELHI: Faced with increasing incidents of pirate attacks, the government is considering allowing armed guards to be deployed on Indian merchant ships to enable them to retaliate in case of an attempt by sea brigands to take over the vessels.

22. Russia, France Struggle Over Mistral Contract
(RIA NOVOSTI 16 MAR 11)
PARIS - A Russian-French contract on the construction of Mistral class helicopter carriers for the Russian Navy is unlikely to be signed in the near future, a Russian deputy defense minister said.

PERSONNEL:

23. **Sailors Must Verify Their Death Gratuity Beneficiary**
(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs
MILLINGTON, Tenn. -- Due to a change in the law regarding death gratuity and recent upgrades to the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS), officials are urging Sailors to verify their designated death gratuity beneficiaries beginning March 17.
24. **New Performance Evaluation Requirements Go Into Effect March 15**
(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs
MILLINGTON, Tenn. -- Beginning March 15, Navy performance evaluations and fitness reports must conform to new policies announced in NAVADMIN 286/10.
25. **NAVADMIN Announces NWU Pattern Gore-Tex Foul Weather Trouser**
(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Chief of Naval Personnel
WASHINGTON -- The Navy Working Uniform (NWU) now has a matching foul weather trouser made of Gore-Tex for wear during inclement weather, as announced in NAVADMIN 081/11 March 11.
26. **SPAWAR Project Lead Receives Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award**
(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 16 MAR 11) ... Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Public Affairs
SAN DIEGO -- Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) announced March 15 that a SPAWAR service member received the Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award from the Sea Service Leadership Association and the Military Officers Association of America.

FORCE STRUCTURE/PROGRAMS:

27. **Northrop To Spin Off Shipyards**
(NEW YORK TIMES 16 MAR 11) ... Christopher Drew
Northrop Grumman's board approved the spinoff of its struggling shipyards to stockholders after making changes to ease Navy concerns about the deal, Pentagon and industry officials said on Tuesday.
28. **Some Lockheed F-35 Fighters Cleared For Flight**
(REUTERS 15 MAR 11) ... Andrea Shalal-Esa
WASHINGTON - Seven of 10 F-35 fighter jets built by Lockheed Martin Corp were cleared to resume flight tests this week as government auditors raised questions about the long-term affordability of the program.
29. **Lockheed F-35 Faces 'Significant' Software Delays, GAO Says**
(BLOOMBERG NEWS 15 MAR 11) ... Tony Capaccio
2011 Lockheed Martin Corp. (LMT)'s development of software for its F-35 fighter jet, the Pentagon's largest weapons program, is "significantly behind schedule as it enters its most challenging phase," according to congressional auditors.
30. **Inouye Sees F-35 Second Engine Losing Funding, Eyes Future Lifeline**
(DEFENSE DAILY 16 MAR 11) ... Emelie Rutherford
A senior senator said yesterday Congress likely will not approve monies for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter's alternate engine this year, admitting his only hope for the program is partial funding next year.
31. **Northrop Celebrates First Navy Drone Fuselage**
(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11)
MOSS POINT, Miss. — Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems has completed work in Moss Point on the first drone fuselage for the Navy, part of a multibillion-dollar contract.

BASES / COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

32. **Base Land Transfer Timeline Evolving**
(BRUNSWICK (ME) TIMES RECORD 15 MAR 11) ... Seth Koenig

BRUNSWICK — The Navy is scheduled to clear more than 1,500 acres of Brunswick Naval Air Station property for transfer to civilian redevelopers between June and November of this year, according to a report delivered last week.

33. U.S. Navy SEAL Fitness Challenge

(KEYE CBS AUSTIN (TX) 15 MAR 11)

This Sunday at noon the Navy SEALs will be parachuting onto the field of a YMCA to put some very brave individuals through the seal fitness challenge.

NEWS OF INTEREST:

34. Government Would Save Billions By Capping Pay, CBO Says

(GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE 15 MAR 11) ... Kellie Lunney

Reducing annual pay increases for federal civilian workers and military personnel would save the government billions of dollars during the next decade, according to the latest figures from the Congressional Budget Office in a report on trimming the burgeoning deficit.

35. Veterans: Don't Cut Military Benefits

(THE HILL 15 MAR 11) ... Alicia M. Cohn

Veterans service organizations are flooding Capitol Hill this month to make the case that military benefits should be kept out of proposals to reduce the deficit.

OPINION:

36. After Japan's Quake, Rethinking How We Build Our Navy

Amphibious assault ships have been crucial in aiding Japan, so why is the Navy trying to kill them?

(THE ATLANTIC 15 MAR 11) ... Craig Hooper

Of the 11 commissioned U.S. warships en route to Japan, almost half are big Cold War-era amphibious assault vessels purpose-built to land Marines on hostile shores. But while these unglamorous transport ships dispatch helicopters and critical aid to a grateful ally, they're being marginalized by a Navy that tends to fixate on the capabilities to wage a high-tech, blue-water war, while underestimating the importance of mundane disaster-response work in maintaining our global power and influence.

37. Osprey: A Marine's Best Friend

Versatile aircraft lets leathernecks accomplish the otherwise impossible

(WASHINGTON TIMES 15 MAR 11) ... Gen. Paul X. Kelley

In the early 1980s while serving as assistant commandant and later as commandant of the United States Marine Corps, I was called upon - along with other members of the Pentagon leadership team - to make the type of far-reaching acquisition decisions that would arm our military services with the resources necessary to prevail in the conflicts of the 21st century. Our overarching concern was that the innovative weapons systems of tomorrow ensure that the forces of the future could meet the challenges of new types of missions in the harsh terrain of faraway countries against a diverse array of potential enemies.

TOP STORIES:

1. Military Monitors Radiation As Troops Deliver Humanitarian Aid

(STARS AND STRIPES 16 MAR 11) ... Jon Rabirow

SEOUL — U.S. military assets continue to converge on Japan, hoping to deliver humanitarian assistance while being careful not to expose servicemembers to radiation leaking from the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant.

"We continue to monitor the winds closely, moving our ships and aircraft as necessary to avoid the wind line from the Fukushima Power Plant," U.S. 7th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Jeff Davis said in an e-mail.

"Aircraft and aircrews returning from missions ashore are being monitored carefully for contamination, and are conducting decontamination procedures as necessary when it is detected," he said.

Davis said the USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group flew 29 sorties Tuesday, delivering 17 tons of supplies — including food, water and blankets — to hard-hit areas of northeastern Japan.

To date, 25 tons have been delivered, he said.

In addition, strike group aircraft conducted three coastal search-and-rescue sorties on Tuesday.

The strike group, which is continuing operations Wednesday off the east coast of Honshu, includes the cruiser USS Chancellorsville; destroyer USS Preble; combat support ship USNS Bridge; along with guided-missile destroyers USS Fitzgerald, USS John S. McCain, USS McCampbell and USS Curtis Wilbur.

An additional destroyer, USS Mustin, is at sea south of the disaster site.

On Tuesday morning, Davis said, "sensitive instrumentation on USS George Washington pier-side in Yokosuka detected low levels of radioactivity from the Fukushima plant. While there was no danger to the public, Commander, Naval Forces Japan recommended limited precautionary measures for personnel and their families on Fleet Activities Yokosuka and Naval Air Facility Atsugi, including limiting outdoor activities and securing external ventilation systems as much as practical.

"These measures are strictly precautionary in nature," he continued. "We do not expect that any United States federal radiation exposure limits will be exceeded even if no precautionary measures are taken."

The USS Tortuga, with two heavy-lift MH-53 helicopters embarked, picked up about 300 Japan Ground Self-Defense Force personnel and 90 vehicles Tuesday in Tomokomai, Hokkaido, and was scheduled to deliver them to Ominato, on the island of Honshu.

Davis said the USS Essex, USS Harpers Ferry and USS Germantown, with the embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, continue en route to the area and are expected Thursday.

"Given the radiological and navigation hazards on the eastern coast of Honshu, the ships will take position in the Sea of Japan on the west coast of Honshu, where they will be in the best position to launch disaster relief missions over land," Davis said.

Return to Index

2. DoD Offers To Move Families Amid Bahrain Chaos (NAVY TIMES 15 MAR 11)

MANAMA, Bahrain — As a month-long standoff in Bahrain escalates between protesters and the government, now bolstered by a Saudi-led military force that arrived Monday, Bahrain-based 5th Fleet closed a base school, warned personnel to steer clear of protest areas and initiated the moving of families, on a voluntary-basis, off of the tiny island kingdom.

The Defense Department authorized a voluntary relocation program on Tuesday, in which families of military and DoD civilians assigned to Bahrain could be flown, at government expense, back to destinations of their choice in the U.S. and would receive per diem allowances. Military and "emergency essential" civilians, however, will stay until their projected rotation dates, according to the FAQ sheet posted on the 5th Fleet website.

"On par with the U.S. Embassy Manama Travel Warning, family members are authorized to voluntarily depart Bahrain," 5th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Amy Derrick Frost said in a statement Tuesday. "Our operations remain normal and we are not evacuating any U.S. personnel or family members."

This is the latest shift in a series of changes for the families of those stationed in Bahrain. More than 1,100 family members and civilians were evacuated from Bahrain in 2004 after terrorism threats. By late 2008, the threat was seen to have lessened enough that spouses and dependents 18 or older were allowed back to Bahrain, followed nine months later by children, once a wall had been built around the DoD school.

5th Fleet urged its 6,100 personnel to avoid the protest areas, but stopped short of closing the base.

"Personnel are directed to limit their movements to essential purposes only, particularly in the evening and early morning hours." 5th Fleet said in a post Tuesday on its official Facebook page.

In this posting, 5th Fleet announced that the Defense Department school will be closed all week due to the protests. "Personnel who need to stay home to care for children affected by the closure are authorized to do so."

Protests are expected to continue through Friday, the U.S. Embassy said in a demonstration notice issued Sunday. "There is no indication that Westerners are being threatened or targeted," the notice said.

No protests were expected at the base.

Bahrain's capital was in lockdown mode Tuesday with stores shuttered and main highways blocked by police after a Saudi-led military force entered the Gulf kingdom in a sharp escalation of efforts to quell a pro-democracy uprising against the ruling monarch.

The dispatch of more than 1,000 troops from Gulf allies on Monday highlighted the regional worries about possible spillover from Bahrain, where members of a majority Shiite population have led a month of relentless protests against the Western-backed Sunni dynasty to try to break their monopoly on power.

Gulf leaders fear that concessions by Bahrain's rulers could embolden more protests against their own regimes, which have already confronted pro-reform cries in Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. There are also fears that gains by Bahrain's Shiite Muslims could offer a window for Shiite power Iran to expand its influence on the Arab side of the Gulf.

In Tehran, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Ramin Mehmanparast, denounced the presence of foreign troops in Bahrain as "unacceptable" and predicted it would complicate the kingdom's political crisis. Iran holds no deep political ties to Bahrain's Shiite groups, but some Iranian hard-liners in the past have hailed their efforts for greater rights.

Bahraini opposition groups also have strongly condemned the military move, calling it an occupation that pushes Bahrain dangerously close to a state of "undeclared war."

The United States — which relies on Bahrain as a pillar of its military framework in the Gulf — has urged Americans to avoid travel to the island nation due to "the potential for ongoing political and civil unrest." The State Department statement also advised Americans currently to consider leaving Bahrain, which hosts the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet.

Many parts of Bahrain's capital, Manama, were nearly deserted. Most stores and malls were shut and schools were closed. Police barricades halted traffic on key roadways in apparent attempts to limit the movement of demonstrators.

Thousands of protesters held their ground in Manama's Pearl Square, the symbolic center of their revolt. But opposition leaders have not yet announced their next move.

Mansoor al-Jamri, editor of the main opposition newspaper, Al-Wasat, said pro-government mobs stormed the paper's printing facilities early Tuesday and smashed equipment with metal pipes, clubs and axes. The paper is now using presses from other papers to publish.

Shiites account for 70 percent of the population, but are widely excluded from high-level political or security posts. The protesters also demand the repeal of a government policy to offset the Shiite demographic advantage by giving citizenship and jobs to Sunnis from other Arab nations and South Asia.

The protests began last month with calls for the monarchy to give up most of its powers to the elected parliament. But as violence has deepened, many protesters now say they want to topple the entire royal family.

A statement Monday on the state-run Bahrain News Agency said troops from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council's Peninsula Shield Force have been deployed "in line with the principle of common destiny bonding."

The bloc is made up of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE have announced roles in the Bahrain force, but the contributions from the other countries were not immediately clear.

The reason for the mission was "the common responsibility of the GCC countries in maintaining security and stability," the statement said.

The Peninsula Shield Force was created in the 1980s. Military units under a GCC command have been sent to Kuwait, including during the 1991 U.S.-led campaign to oust Saddam Hussein's force and in 2003 before the invasion of Iraq. The current action marks a significant shift to help a government quell internal unrest.

Jane Kinninmont, a senior research fellow and Bahrain expert at the London-based think tank Chatham House, said Monday's operation "changes the role of the GCC," which has always had collective defense pacts.

"The idea of gathering together to protect a government against its own people seems to be quite another thing," Kinninmont said.

In Washington on Monday, White House spokesman Jay Carney pointedly did not call on the Saudi-led force to withdraw.

"We are calling on the countries in the region to show restraint and pointing to the fact that the dialogue that can bring about political reform is essential for the stability of the countries in the region and their continued economic prosperity," Carney said.

[Return to Index](#)

3. [House Votes 3-Week Stopgap Government Spending Bill As Parties Battle Over Budget Cuts](#)

WASHINGTON — The House Tuesday passed a measure blending \$6 billion in budget cuts with enough money to keep the government running for an additional three weeks.

The measure would buy additional time for talks between Capitol Hill Republicans and the Obama administration on a bill to fund the day-to-day operations of the government through the end of September. Those negotiations haven't gotten very far yet and House GOP leaders haven't shown much flexibility. The measure passed by a 271-158 vote despite opposition from some tea party-backed conservatives who said it "kicks the can down the road" instead of imposing steep and immediate spending cuts. The \$6 billion cut by the measure includes many items that the Obama administration and Democrats agree can be axed. Fifty-four Republicans opposed the bill, which meant that Democratic support was required to pass it — a prospect that GOP leaders must avoid to keep control of the debate in future rounds.

"It's a small down payment on our commitment to the American people that we'd have real fiscal responsibility," said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

The measure moves to the Senate, which is likely to clear it for Obama's desk later this week. White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said in a statement after the vote that Obama supports the bill but signaled the White House is impatient with the lack of progress on a final measure.

"With the wide range of issues facing our nation, we cannot keep funding the government in two- or three-week increments," Carney said. "It is time for us to ... resolve this issue in a sensible way."

Prospects for agreement on a longer-term measure remain uncertain, however, as Republicans dominating the House are insistent on a measure mixing steep spending cuts with numerous policy provisions, including a ban on federal funding for Planned Parenthood and a measure to strike money to bankroll implementation of President Barack Obama's signature health care law. The longer-term measure contains those provisions, as well as language to block the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating emissions believed to contribute to global warming.

Those policy riders are strongly opposed by Democrats and Obama and are likely to be at the center of any impasse that leads to a partial government shutdown.

"They are using the budget to try and shoot the moon on a wish list of far-right policy measures. If this debate were about spending cuts we could probably come to an agreement before too long," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. "We do not want any of these controversial riders to be in the bill. That's the bottom line."

At issue are the daily operating budgets of dozens of federal agencies that have been kept open under a series of stopgap bills since the 2011 budget year began last October. Last month, House Republicans passed a \$1.2 trillion measure that makes sweeping cuts to the domestic programs — averaging about 13 percent — that Congress funds every year. The cuts would feel almost twice as big since they would be stuffed into the second half of the budget year ending Sept. 30 and would likely lead to furloughs of thousands of federal workers.

Both the long- and short-term spending measure are required because Democrats controlling Congress last year failed to enact a single one of the 12 annual appropriations bills.

Democrats left the country with the current budget problems, said Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, who added: "They should not complain about how we try to clean this up."

The larger GOP measure made cuts of more than \$60 billion to those operating budgets. The measure would cut college aid for the poor, aid to local school districts and eliminate federal funding of public broadcasting and family planning programs.

The House measure ran into a brick wall in the Democratic-led Senate, where Republicans in turn blocked a Democratic bill that would cut about \$50 billion less.

House GOP leaders say that they can't negotiate in earnest until the Senate moves in their direction, and they note that the Senate Democratic alternative received fewer votes than the House measure in back-to-back tallies last week. But Boehner stops short of demanding that the Senate actually pass a bill — which would require Republican support — as a prerequisite for further negotiations.

"I'd like to know what the Senate position really is," Boehner told reporters Tuesday.

The stopgap measure passed over the objections of tea party-backed conservatives unimpressed by measure's cuts, which blend \$3.5 billion in cuts endorsed by Democrats with \$2.6 billion saved by cutting numerous accounts that have in the past been slush funds for lawmakers' back-home parochial projects.

House Republicans have imposed a ban on such "earmarks," so it's easier to cut the accounts.

"By giving liberals in the Senate another three weeks of negotiations, we will only delay a confrontation that must come," said Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind. "I say, 'Let it come now. It's time to take a stand.'"

The frustration on the GOP right is matched by anger among Democrats who feel that Republicans haven't sufficiently engaged with the Senate and the White House. The combined sentiment suggests that Tuesday's stopgap spending measure — keeping agencies running through April 8 — could be the last one before a battle that could lead to a partial shutdown of the government.

Stoking the fire are tea party activists pressing both for steeper immediate spending cuts and resolution of the impasse so that lawmakers can move on to other priorities, such as tackling government benefits programs like Medicaid and Medicare, which are the real drivers of the nation's long-term deficit woes.

"This is weak incrementalism in a time when we need bold and visionary leadership from Congress and the president," said Mark Meckler, national coordinator for Tea Party Patriots. "Kicking the can down the road will not do."

But on Thursday, the House will take up a measure to cut off federal funding for National Public Radio, which is unpopular with conservatives.

Two NPR executives recently resigned over hidden camera footage released by a conservative activist in which one of them derided the tea party movement as "seriously racist." Conservatives called the video proof that the network is biased and undeserving of federal funds. Conservatives also were upset with NPR last fall when the network fired Juan Williams for comments he made about Muslims on Fox News Network.

[Return to Index](#)

4. US Navy Backs Northrop Spin-Off Of Ship Unit (REUTERS 15 MAR 11) ... Karen Jacobs and Andrea Shalal-Esa,

ATLANTA - The U.S. Navy threw its support behind Northrop Grumman Corp's (NOC.N) plans to spin off its shipbuilding unit after the company agreed to make certain financial adjustments to cover possible risks. The Navy announcement came late on Tuesday after Northrop's board approved the creation of Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc, in a spin-off to shareholders.

The Navy's support paves the way for the new company to wrap up contracts for two new U.S. warships, and moves Northrop one step closer to finalizing the spin-off, which must still be approved by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The defense contractor said the spin-off has been structured to qualify as a tax-free distribution for U.S. federal tax purposes.

Northrop shareholders will receive one share of Huntington Ingalls for every six Northrop common shares they hold, under the plan.

"Based on our analysis, Northrop shareholders appear to be getting the ship business for pretty much free at current levels," RBC Capital Markets analyst Robert Stallard said in a note to clients.

Northrop announced last year that it was exploring a sale or spin-off of the shipbuilding operations, citing little synergy with the company's other businesses that include unmanned spy planes and ballistic missile defense work. The ship business includes U.S. Gulf Coast operations and the Newport News, Virginia, business that builds nuclear submarines.

Huntington Ingalls is expected to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange on March 22 on a "when issued" basis, with regular trading under the symbol HII HII.N to start March 31, the company said in a statement.

Navy acquisition chief Sean Stackley said the Navy agreed to support Northrop's plans only after the company agreed to adjust the new company's financial structure to soothe concerns about its debt level and risks to the Navy's future shipbuilding capacity.

"Ultimately, with appropriate adjustments made by NGC, captured within an agreement with the Navy, we have been able to resolve our concerns about the risk involved to this important segment of our shipbuilding industrial base," Stackley said in a statement.

Stackley said the Navy was "confident that HII is well postured to build affordable ships into the future" He said the Navy regarded HII as "a responsible contractor" and was proceeding to finalize the negotiations and award the contracts for construction of two new warship: an amphibious assault ship, LPD 26, and a destroyer, DDG 113.

Navy spokeswoman Captain Cate Mueller gave few details, but said Northrop had agreed not to diminish the new entity's starting cash balance of \$300 million.

Northrop also agreed not to seek to recoup or otherwise offset from HII any performance incentives or economic price adjustments that the Navy might owe, she said.

CURRENT OPERATIONS:

5. U.S. Naval Forces Converge On Disaster-Stricken Japan
(STARS AND STRIPES 15M AR 11) ... Tim Wightman

TOKYO — U.S. Naval forces are converging on Japan as part of a recovery effort in the wake of Friday's 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that has left more than 3,000 people dead and thousands others missing, the Navy announced Tuesday in separate releases.

Commander, Task Force 76 has organized a maritime response cell at the U.S. Forces Japan headquarters on Yokota Air Base to coordinate all Navy relief efforts. Much of that effort will be coming from the Essex Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG), comprising four ships, and the embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, or MEU — who together can provide fresh water, medical support, search and rescue, heavy lifting and amphibious crafts.

The San Diego-based USS Preble has already gotten involved, providing hundreds of pounds of supplies Tuesday to survivors.

Commander Task Force 76, the amphibious force for 7th Fleet, is the Navy's lead agency for earthquake and tsunami response in Japan. Their maritime response cell set up at Yokota is the command responsible for advising USFJ and carrying out relief efforts from the air, ground and sea. The team includes representatives from other 7th Fleet task forces CTFs 70, 72, 73 and 74. The cell allows for effective coordination with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force during the disaster response.

"Seventh Fleet's amphibious forces have a lot of experience with humanitarian and disaster relief," said Rear Adm. Richard Landolt, commander, CTF 76. "So it makes sense to use that experience to shape our response and help our ally and regional partner recover from this catastrophic event."

Essex ARG/31st MEU

"We train for [Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief] missions, and with everything from excess water-producing capacity to expanded hospital beds, the ARG-MEU team is well-positioned to handle all the immediate needs of most humanitarian crises," said Capt. Bradley Lee, commander of Amphibious Squadron 11.

The Essex Amphibious Ready group, which includes the Sasebo, Japan-based USS Essex, USS Harpers Ferry and USS Tortuga, all from Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 11, and the Sasebo-based USS Germantown, were at sea Monday preparing to do their part in providing humanitarian assistance/disaster relief support to Japan. They were expected to arrive in mainland Japan on Wednesday.

Joining the Essex ARG embarked aboard three ships is the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit from Okinawa, which includes more than 2,200 Marines and sailors. They, along with PHIBRON 11, were planning for a disaster relief exercise in Indonesia before being redirected to Japan when news of the actual disaster broke. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to our close friends and allies in Japan during this difficult time," said Col. Andrew MacMannis, 31st MEU commanding officer.

Members of the 31 MEU were spread out at the time, with the majority of the Marines aboard the USS Essex. The amphibious assault ship had recently arrived in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, for a port visit when the tsunami struck. The crew and Marines were recalled, and the Essex set course for Japan on March 12.

The 31st MEU can use the Super Stallions and CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters, assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, to move up to 260,000 pounds and transport as many as 860 passengers per day. "Our biggest advantage is the heavy-lift capabilities our CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters provide," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Clifford Hanna. "With them, we can transport more personnel and supplies ashore." In the last two years, the 31st MEU and PHIBRON 11 team has responded to four disaster-relief situations.

USS Preble

The San Diego-based destroyer USS Preble, with sailors embarked from Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light Four Three, on Tuesday were one of the first groups to join the relief effort. They were called as first responders to survey the coastline and provide an aerial perspective to other ships in the area.

"We could see isolated areas where survivors had drawn in the dirt 'SOS' or a large encircled 'H' as a cry for help," said Lt. Joe Landi, describing the patrol. "We landed nearby to assess the situation and determine what we could do to help."

After interacting with stranded survivors and hearing accounts from HSL-43 crew members, Preble sailors volunteered to provide supplies to the Japanese from their own deployment provisions. Their contributions included warm weather clothing, wool blankets, nonperishable food and water. The ship supply department also contributed heavily, and in less than two hours the mess decks were full of supplies for the helicopter to deliver to survivors.

[Return to Index](#)

6. U.S. Redirects Warships Over Japan Radiation Risk (REUTERS 15 MAR 11) ... Phil Stewart

The U.S. military took new steps to shield personnel from radiation spread by Japan's crippled nuclear plant on Tuesday, redirecting arriving warships to safer waters and telling some forces to limit time outdoors. Here are the latest details from the Pentagon on the mobilization of American forces to aid Japan after its devastating tsunami and earthquake.

All times are local to Japan.

Where is radiation being detected?

*Two U.S. naval bases detected above normal levels of radiation: the Yokosuka Naval Base, located about 200 miles south of the plant, and the Naval Air Facility Atsugi, which is about 150 miles from the plant.

*Rear Admiral Richard Wren, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Japan, said the additional radiation exposure for the past 12 hours at the two bases was about 20 millirem, less than one month's exposure to naturally occurring background radiation. He is recommending personnel and their families limit outdoor activity and shut down external ventilation systems.

*A day after saying 17 Americans on helicopter missions had been exposed to a month's worth of normal radiation, the Navy acknowledged several more crew members had been similarly exposed to low levels of radiation. But it said there was no risk to their health and that operations would continue.

Ships being redirected

*The Navy said some arriving warships will be stationed off the west coast of Honshu, Japan's largest island, instead of heading to the east coast as planned because of "radiological and navigation hazards."

*The ships are the USS Essex, a large amphibious assault ship; USS Harpers Ferry, a dock-landing ship; and USS Germantown, an amphibious dock-landing ship. They are expected to arrive on March 17.

Carrier strike group at safe distance

*The USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group, which includes the cruiser USS Chancellorsville, the destroyer USS Preble and the combat support ship USNS Bridge, is conducting operations off the east coast of Honshu at a safe distance northeast of the Fukushima nuclear complex.

*The strike group flew 29 sorties on Tuesday to bring humanitarian aid ashore, delivering 17 tons of supplies including food, water and blankets. A total of 25 tons has been delivered so far, providing assistance to 2,000 people.

*The guided-missile destroyers USS Fitzgerald, USS John S. McCain, USS McCampbell and USS Curtis Wilbur are in the same area as the carrier strike group.

*The guided missile destroyer USS Mustin is at sea south of the disaster site.

*U.S. Navy P-3 "Orion" aircraft flew two missions to survey and assess the debris field at sea.

Who else is still en route?

*USS Tortuga, an amphibious dock landing ship, loaded two heavy-lift MH-53 helicopters on Saturday in South Korea. It was due to arrive on the Japanese island of Hokkaido on Tuesday to pick up 300 Japan Ground Self Defense Force personnel and 90 vehicles bring them to Aomori, Japan.

[Return to Index](#)

7. U.S. Military Steps Up Quake Relief Efforts (WALL STREET JOURNAL 15 MAR 11) ... Nathan Hodge

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. military expanded its earthquake relief efforts Tuesday in Japan, sending equipment to help firefighting efforts at the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant and deploying troops to assist humanitarian relief and search-and-rescue efforts.

Pentagon spokesman Col. David Lapan said U.S. Forces Japan "provided two fire trucks to Fukushima, to be operated by Japanese crews," but added that there was no direct U.S. military involvement in the response. A contingent of U.S. Marines have moved to the Japanese mainland to coordinate military relief efforts, dubbed Operation Tomadachi ("friends") by Japan. At present, 440 Okinawa-based Marines and sailors have deployed in support of the operation, according to the Third Marine Expeditionary Force.

Another 2,200 Marines and sailors of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit are also en route to Japan aboard ships of Amphibious Squadron 11. According to a U.S. military press release, most of the unit is on board the amphibious assault ship USS Essex. Those troops were recalled from a port visit to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, after the disaster struck. They are expected off the coast of mainland Japan on or around Wednesday.

A U.S. Navy update said those ships would take position in the Sea of Japan, on the west coast of Honshu, to avoid "radiological and navigation hazards on the eastern coast of Honshu."

The U.S. military has established a refueling base at Yamagata Airfield that is supposed to allow U.S. and Japanese helicopters to refuel quickly and remain on hand over disaster-stricken areas. The Westpac Express, a high-speed military ferry, arrived Tuesday at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni from Okinawa to deliver equipment for the refueling base.

Two U.S. Marine KC-130 transport aircraft based at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma also delivered forklifts, equipment and personnel to Yamagata Airfield.

According to a Marine Corps press release, an additional flight is scheduled to deliver more helicopter refueling equipment Tuesday evening, and additional refueling sites are being scouted in Sendai and Hanamaki. U.S. Navy surveillance aircraft based out of Okinawa have flown missions to survey the debris field at sea.

A U.S. Navy carrier strike group, led by the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, is currently operating off the east coast of Honshu. Lt. Anthony Falvo, a Navy spokesman, said the group flew a total of 29 aircraft sorties Tuesday, delivering 17 tons of supplies, including food, water and blankets.

Additional vessels in the strike group include the cruiser USS Chancellorsville, the destroyer USS Preble, and the support ship USNS Bridge, along with several guided-missile destroyers. Lt. Falvo said an additional destroyer, the USS Mustin, was at sea south of the region that took the brunt of the earthquake and tsunami damage.

Previously, the carrier group was forced to make an unexpected detour after detecting low levels of radiation downwind of a damaged Japanese nuclear power plant.

"We continue to monitor the winds closely, moving our ships and aircraft as necessary to avoid the wind line from the Fukushima Power Plant," said an update issued Tuesday by the Navy's Seventh Fleet. "Aircraft and air crews returning from missions ashore are being monitored carefully for contamination, and are conducting decontamination procedures as necessary when it is detected."

A Navy official said some crew members were being given potassium iodide as a "precautionary measure," but was not able to provide additional details.

According to a Navy statement, the carrier USS George Washington, currently docked at Yokosuka naval base, detected low levels of radioactivity from the Fukushima plant this morning.

According to the statement, there was "no danger to the public," but the commander of U.S. naval forces in Japan recommended that personnel stationed at Yokosuka limit outdoor activities and secure external ventilation systems. "These measures are strictly precautionary in nature," the statement read. "We do not expect that any U.S. federal radiation exposure limits will be exceeded even if no precautionary measures are taken."

In addition to the ships under the USS Ronald Reagan carrier group, the USS Tortuga, with two heavy-lift MH-53 helicopters aboard, is in Tomakomai, Hokkaido, preparing to embark with about 300 Japan Ground Self Defense Force personnel and 90 vehicles.

According to a Navy statement, the ship will ferry the troops and vehicles to Ominato, on the island of Honshu, Tuesday night.

U.S. Air Force aircraft are also flying missions in support of the relief effort. Roger Drinnon, a spokesman for Air Mobility Command, said transport aircraft had thus far delivered 107.5 tons of cargo, including 64 tons of search-and-rescue equipment from the U.S. and 43.5 tons of generators and other equipment from a U.S. base in South Korea. Air Mobility Command refueling planes have loaded 29,900 gallons of fuel on U.S. military aircraft flying relief missions over the Pacific.

The U.S. Agency for International Development has been designated as the lead U.S. government agency for coordinating humanitarian relief efforts, similar to Haiti earthquake relief operations in early 2010.

Gina Jackson, a USAID spokeswoman, said the agency had deployed a 157-strong Disaster Assistance Response Team that includes 144 civilian search and rescue personnel from Fairfax County, Va., and Los

Angeles County, Calif. In addition, experts from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are attached to the USAID team.

[Return to Index](#)

8. Marines Arrive In Disaster Zone (WALL STREET JOURNAL 16 MAR 11) ... Chester Dawson

MATSUSHIMA -- The first U.S. Marine Corps humanitarian assistance team to survey the damage to infrastructure and public health arrived in northeastern Japan on Wednesday with some 20,000 bottles of donated water.

Traveling aboard a U.S. Air Force cargo plane, an 11-member Humanitarian Assistance Support (HAS) team brought 10 pallets of water, each carrying dozens of cases of half-liter plastic bottles of Canadian spring water. The plane landed amid a snowstorm at a heavily damaged airfield in Matsushima located 17 miles (28 kilometers) north of the city of Sendai. More than 20 jet fighters of Japan's Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) were damaged at the base, and the hangars and headquarters building reeked of mud.

The base sits on elevated ground, which spared it the worst of the 10-foot high tsunami that washed away cars and submerged homes nearby. Still, inside buildings on the base, the first floor walls were scarred with waterlines that were nearly six-foot high. Windows were smashed and waterlogged furniture had been dragged outside and stacked for disposal.

"The tsunami left behind about two feet of silt in our base headquarters building," said 1st Lt. Sakurawo Ishikawa, a member of the JASDF 4th air wing at Matsushima Air Base. "We had to shovel it out by hand." The Marines were joined by Japanese troops who helped unload the water and other supplies from the cargo plane and onto waiting trucks, which set off in convoy along the Tohoku Expressway en route to a refugee center near the devastated city of Kesennuma.

The 24-bottle cases of Aberfoyle brand water, stacked six-foot high and shrink-wrapped on the 10 pallets, were donated by an unspecified Japanese retailer.

The HAS team is the first of four expected to enter the disaster area as part of Operation Tomodachi (which means "friend" in Japanese). The team is a joint task force of the U.S. armed forces—including the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

"All of our teams are ready to go," said Maj. Anthony Loignon, 42, the HAS team leader and a member of the 3rd Marine Logistic Group under the III Marine Expeditionary Force. "We're the eyes and ears of the command structure" for Operation Tomodachi.

Forward deployment U.S. units will deliver critical supplies, survey the damage to critical infrastructure such as bridges and power substations, and also monitor for the spread of infectious disease such as typhoid. "Our job is to assess the degree of human need," said Maj. Loignon. "We work off a checklist from our headquarters, which probably came from the government of Japan."

U.S. military aircraft have so far made several dozen flights in support of humanitarian efforts following last Friday's earthquake and tsunami, delivering at least 25 tons of supplies, including food, water and blankets.

[Return to Index](#)

9. Commander: Decision To Evacuate Bases In Japan Would Come From State Department (STARS AND STRIPES 15 MAR 11) ... Erik Slavin

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan — Any decision to evacuate military personnel and their families from Japan would come first from the State Department, Atsugi's base commander told Stars and Stripes following a town hall meeting with concerned residents Tuesday night.

Spurred by concerns after the announcement of very low-level radiation detected at Atsugi on Tuesday morning, audience members asked Capt. Eric Gardner if there was an emergency evacuation plan, and he initially told them that there was not.

He then mentioned that if there were an evacuation, the sick would go first, followed by noncombatants. Afterward, Gardner elaborated on his remarks with Stars and Stripes, stating that evacuations have always been thought of in terms of a war contingency.

"The decision [to evacuate] would come from the Embassy, and then the war plans would go into effect," said Gardner, who added that any details on those plans were made at higher levels than his command. For many years, Pacific military planners have thought of Japan as they place they would bring noncombatants who had to evacuate from other places. Civilians at U.S. bases in South Korea practice evacuating in the event of an attack from North Korea, with Japan as the hypothetical landing spot. Gardner reiterated Rear Adm. Richard Wren's statement at Monday night's Yokosuka Naval Base town hall meeting that evacuation wasn't foreseeable under the current circumstances. Both Atsugi and Yokosuka are about 200 miles from the damaged Fukushima Dai-ichi reactor core. "Again, I don't really see that happening at all and we would get the word out well before that happened," Gardner told the audience.

Gardner and a medical officer also the audience members at the packed theater that the radiation detected Tuesday at the Atsugi flight line was .05 millirems, a miniscule amount that posed no health risk.

U.S. standards do not require an evacuation until 5,000 millirems are detected, Gardner said.

Nevertheless, he added that the recommendations to avoid unnecessary outdoor activity made earlier Tuesday by Commander Naval Forces Japan would stay in effect as a precaution. Remaining indoors cuts exposure by 60 to 70 percent, Navy officials said.

Also announced at the meeting:

- Atsugi received 3,700 gallons of gas Tuesday, a fraction of its normal capacity. It is currently limiting purchases to five gallons per day. The base expects continuing daily shipments.
- Atsugi aircraft have flown 25 tons of relief supplies to the affected areas since Friday's earthquake, said Rear Adm. Sean Buck, commander of 7th Fleet's patrol and reconnaissance force.

[Return to Index](#)

10. VP-4 Perform SAR Missions In Support Of Operation Tomodachi (NAVY NEWS SERVICE 16 MAR 11) ... Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Steve White, Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa Public Affairs

At Sea -- Flight crews from Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 are flying humanitarian and support missions as part of Operation Tomodachi in response to the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunamis that hit northern Japan March 11.

The squadron, nicknamed the "Skinny Dragons," fly the P-3C Orion aircraft out of Okinawa and have been performing aerial search missions over the debris field off the coast of northern Japan. Japanese homes and semi-truck trailers are among the odd assortment of wreckage floating as far as 10 miles out in the Pacific. "VP 4 has only just begun to aid in the humanitarian effort," said Lt. Matthew Welch, a pilot with VP 4. "so far we have built a pretty effective map of the debris field as well as cleared areas in the water, which enables other rescuers the ability to focus on new areas."

The squadron performed their fourth mission in the area March 14, since the quake.

"Each mission gives us the opportunity to find someone stranded at sea," said Welch. "Every single flight we are providing eyes on an area that potentially has people who desperately need our help. I think that means a lot to our crew and hopefully the Japanese people."

During the mission the flight crew searched for survivors via sight and surface-search radar. Additionally the crew sends relevant information to their headquarters regarding the location of potentially hazardous areas that could affect surface ships assisting in the relief effort.

"While we are a SAR (search and rescue) capable platform...We are also a small part of a much bigger scheme to help the victims of this disaster," said Welch.

[Return to Index](#)

11. USS Providence Among U.S. Naval Forces Off Libya (NEW LONDON DAY 16 MAR 11) ... Jennifer McDermott

The Groton-based USS Providence crossed the Suez Canal Saturday and headed for the Mediterranean Sea, where other Navy ships are waiting to respond to the violence in Libya if needed.

Submarines are uniquely suited for gathering intelligence on Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's attacks on the opposition, according to Loren B. Thompson, chief operating officer at the nonprofit think tank, Lexington Institute.

"Submarines are so stealthy, they can collect intelligence that other means cannot," Thompson said Tuesday. "And having a ship like the Providence nearby makes a big difference in terms of understanding what's actually happening in the area."

A Navy spokesman confirmed Tuesday the route of the Providence (SSN 719) into the Mediterranean Sea, but said he could not discuss the details or assets being directed toward Libya, particularly submarines.

The USS Kearsarge, the USS Ponce and the USS Barry are in the Mediterranean. A destroyer, the USS Mason, also crossed the canal with the Providence, the spokesman said. The Los Angeles-class submarine traveled with the USS Enterprise carrier strike group.

"It's not the number or type of ships that matter just yet as much as the missions they are assigned," said Peter W. Singer, director of the 21st Century Defense Initiative and a senior fellow in foreign policy at the Brookings Institution. "And as of yet, that exact mission doesn't seem to have been decided by the U.S. and international leadership on the political side."

The Navy ships could be used for anything from mere presence patrols to enforcement of a no-fly zone or blockade, Singer added.

Tuesday, the foreign ministers for the eight most powerful industrialized nations met but could not agree on a no-fly zone or any other military operation. Thompson cautioned that the buildup of Navy assets is unlikely to significantly influence the conflict without the establishment of a no-fly zone, since without one "it's obvious we're not going to do anything more ambitious."

It would take a "major military provocation" by Gadhafi to elicit a U.S. response, in which case submarines could be used to fire missiles, intercept electronic messages between Gadhafi and his military personnel or send special operations forces ashore, Thompson said.

In 2003, the Providence fired missiles into Iraq from the Red Sea. Eighteen months earlier, the sub had fired some of the opening shots against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

The submarine was built at Electric Boat and delivered to the Navy in 1985.

[Return to Index](#)

12. Sailors, Marines Install Water Pump At Honduran School

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jeffery Tilghman Williams, High Speed Vessel Swift Public Affairs

SAN LORENZO, Honduras -- Sailors assigned to Detail Bravo of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28 and 2nd Marine Logistics Group (MLG) replaced a broken hand water pump with an electric powered pump at Escuela Eneas Avarado in San Lorenzo, Honduras, March 14, in support of Southern Partnership Station (SPS) 2011.

The service members installed the electric pump, new draw piping and faucets at the well, which provides water to the school and the surrounding community.

The original water pump broke months ago, which left students and the local community depending on the city to provide water on a sporadic basis.

"This is one of the more critical quality of life enhancements our team has participated in during this mission," said Lt. Rama Mutyala, officer-in-charge of NMCB 28 Detachment Bravo. "Hundreds of people will benefit from this new pump."

"For some time now, our water usage has been restricted and limited due to our well not functioning. Words can't express what this pump means to these children and the people of this community," said Maria de Jesus Giron, a third grade teacher at the school.

This installation follows a week-long construction subject matter expert exchange with NMCB 28, 2nd MLG and the Honduran military cross training during the construction of a Southeast Asia (SEA) hut.

During the engagement, the Seabees and Marines worked side-by-side with Honduran army engineers performing electrical rewiring, plumbing pipe replacement and constructing the SEA hut.

"This is just an addition to some of the work we completed last week at the school. We saw an opportunity to help, and took action," said Mutyala. "At the end of the day, it's about people helping people, and as Seabees, we commit ourselves to doing just that."

"This is a good day for the people of San Lorenzo. We appreciate the U.S. Sailors coming here and doing these things to help us and make us smile," said Bacilia Castillo, parent of a second grader at Escuela Eneas Avarado.

SPS 11 is an annual deployment of U.S. ships to the U.S. Southern Command Area of Responsibility (AOR) in the Caribbean and Latin America. The mission's primary goal is information sharing with navies, coast guards and civilian services throughout the region.

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (COMUSNAVSO) is the naval component command for U.S. Southern Command and is responsible for all naval personnel and assets in the AOR.

COMUSNAVSO conducts a variety of missions in support of the U.S. Maritime Strategy, including theater security cooperation, relationship building, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, community relations and counter-illicit trafficking operations.

[Return to Index](#)

13. Comfort Goes On Central, South America Mission (ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11)

BALTIMORE — The Navy says the Baltimore-based hospital ship Comfort is preparing for a new mission to Central and South America and the Caribbean.

The Navy's Military Sealift Command said Tuesday that the Comfort will depart Canton Pier on Thursday morning for a five-month humanitarian mission to nine countries.

The Comfort most recently deployed to Haiti in support of international relief efforts following the devastating earthquake there in January 2010.

On the new mission, 480 Navy personnel will work with local medical professionals, military service members and non-governmental organizations to treat patients ashore and on board.

[Return to Index](#)

14. Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group To Arrive In San Diego (NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Lt. Greg D. Raelson, Abraham Lincoln Strike Group Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO - Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group (CSG) and its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2, will arrive in San Diego from a six-month scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Areas of Responsibility (AOR) March 19.

"I could not be more proud of the Sailors and officers in my squadron and the rest of the strike group," said Cmdr. Kenneth Strong, Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 77 commanding officer. "I am humbled to be a member of such a dedicated team. Obviously we are all happy to be coming home to our families and friends, and are pleased at having done our duty so well."

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) left its homeport of Everett, Wash., Sept. 7 and departed San Diego Sept. 11. Personnel and aircraft from CVW 2, including San Diego-based Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 30, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 12 and HSM 77 arrive with Abraham Lincoln, after which Abraham Lincoln will continue to her homeport of Everett, Wash.

The Abraham Lincoln CSG and embarked air wing successfully flew more than 8,300 sorties and completed more than 23,500 flying hours, of which more than 3,600 sorties and almost 11,000 hours were flown in support of U.S. and coalition ground forces supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

In addition to supporting its primary missions throughout the deployment, Abraham Lincoln CSG completed the following:

- Conducted exercises with coalition countries and other nations, including France, Bahrain, Malaysia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia and Oman.
- USS Cape St. George (CG 71), USS Sterett (DDG 104), USS Halsey (DDG 97), USS Shoup (DDG 86) and USS Momsen (DDG 92) assisted mariners in distress and provided humanitarian assistance to more than 10 vessels.

- Visited ports in Malaysia, Bahrain, UAE, Singapore, Saipan, Philippines, Seychelles, Japan, Israel, Thailand, Australia, Oman, Maldives, Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia.
- Conducted community relations and community service projects in Malaysia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Saipan, Philippines, Seychelles, Japan, Israel, Thailand, Australia and Maldives.
- Hosted the U.S. secretary of defense, chief of naval operations and more than 30 international dignitaries and military officials.

Abraham Lincoln was recognized during deployment as the best Pacific-based carrier for 2010, earning the prestigious Battle "E" award, as well as 13 individual departmental Battle "E" awards. Additionally, HSM 77 was recognized as a top West Coast helicopter squadron, earning their own Battle "E" award.

Abraham Lincoln CSG, led by Commander, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 9, is comprised of CVW 2, Destroyer Squadron 9, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln, the guided-missile cruiser USS Cape St. George, guided-missile destroyers USS Momsen, USS Sterett, USS Halsey and USS Shoup. The air wing squadrons of CVW 2 include the "Bounty Hunters" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 2, the "Vigilantes" of VFA 151, the "Kestrels" of VFA 137, the "Blue Blasters" of VFA 34, the "Sun Kings" of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 116, the "Lancers" of Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VAQ) 131, the "Providers" of VRC 30, the "Golden Falcons" of HSC 12 and the "Saberhawks" of HSM 77.

Abraham Lincoln CSG helps provide deterrence, promote peace and security, preserve freedom of the sea and humanitarian/disaster response within 3rd Fleet's 50-million square mile AOR in the Eastern Pacific, as well as supporting the Navy's Maritime Strategy when forward deployed.

[Return to Index](#)

15. Marines, Sailors Hurt In Bragg Explosion (NAVY TIMES 15 MAR 11) ... Brian Shane

Eight Marines and two Navy personnel were hospitalized Monday night with shrapnel wounds and lacerations following an explosion during artillery training at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The accident happened about 8 p.m., the result of an apparent explosion of an M777A2 round while inside a howitzer, according to public affairs officer Staff Sgt. Jayson Price at Camp Lejeune, N.C. — where the training Marines are based.

The cause of the incident is under investigation, Price said, and the regiment remains in a "check firing" status, meaning they are not firing until safe training can resume.

The injured service members, all men, are members of Golf Battery, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marines. Their names have not been released.

Price said two of the injured were transported via helicopter to UNC-Chapel Hill and the other eight were transported to Womack Army Medical Center. Of the eight, five were transported via helicopter and three were transported via ambulance by emergency services personnel.

Medical Center spokeswoman Shannon Lynch said as of Tuesday morning, eight patients remained under hospital care, though she was unable to say whether those men were in the Corps or the Navy.

The Marines were conducting annual spring artillery training on Fort Bragg, located about 120 miles west of the Camp Lejeune. Fort Bragg is the closest military training area that can accept the 155mm weapons systems, according to base spokesman Tom McCollum.

[Return to Index](#)

GLOBAL MARITIME ENVIRONMENT:

16. Japan Says 2nd Reactor May Have Ruptured With Radioactive Release (NEW YORK TIMES 16 MAR 11) ... Hiroko Tabuchi and Keith Bradsher

TOKYO — Japan's nuclear crisis intensified again Wednesday, with Japanese authorities announcing that a containment vessel in a second reactor unit at the stricken Fukushima Daiichi plant in northeastern Japan may have ruptured and appeared to be releasing radioactive steam. That would be the second vessel to be compromised in two days.

The vessel had appeared to be the last fully intact line of defense against large-scale releases of radioactive materials, but it was not clear how serious the possible breach might be.

The announcement came after Japanese broadcasters showed live footage of thick plumes of steam rising above the plant.

Yukio Edano, the chief cabinet secretary, said the government believed the steam was coming from the No. 3 reactor, where an explosion on Monday blew out part of the building surrounding the containment vessel. The reactor has three layers of protection: that building; the containment vessel, and the metal cladding around fuel rods, which are inside the reactor. The government has said that those rods at the No. 3 reactor were likely already damaged.

Earlier in the morning, the company that runs the plant reported that a fire was burning at a different reactor, just hours after officials said flames that erupted Tuesday had been doused.

A government official at Japan's nuclear regulatory agency said that flames and smoke were no longer visible, but he cautioned that it was unclear if the fire, at the Reactor No. 4 building, had died out. He also was not clear if it was a new fire or if the fire Tuesday had never gone out.

There are a total of six reactors at the plant.

The developments are troubling reminders of the difficulties the company is having in bringing the plant, which has suffered multiple explosions since Saturday, under control. And the confusion is emblematic of days of often contradictory reports about what is happening at the plant.

The company, Tokyo Electric Power, says it cannot know for sure what is happening in many cases because it is too dangerous for workers to get close to some reactors.

The situation became especially dire on Tuesday, when releases of radiation led the company to pull most of its workers from the plant.

One of the authorities' main concerns are over pools for spent fuel rods at several reactors at the plant, including Reactor No. 4, where the pool has lost some of the water needed to keep the fuel rods stable. The rods are still radioactive and potentially as hot and dangerous as the fuel rods inside the reactors.

Minoru Ogoda, the official with Japan's nuclear regulatory agency, said a proposed plan to use helicopters to put more cold water into the pool was looking unlikely.

He said Tokyo Electric would probably try to spray water into the reactor building through a gaping hole in the wall blasted open by an earlier explosion.

The hole or holes in the roof caused by that blast did not appear big enough to allow sufficient amounts of water in, he said.

That explosion on Tuesday was caused by hydrogen gas bubbling up from chemical reactions set off by the fuel rods in the pool, Japanese officials said. Inspectors from the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission said they had been told by Japanese authorities that what was burning was lubricating oil from machinery near the pool.

Concern remained high about the storage pools at two other reactors, Nos. 5 and 6. None of those three reactors at the plant, 140 miles northeast of Tokyo, were operating on Friday afternoon when an offshore earthquake with a magnitude now estimated at 9.0 shook the site. A tsunami rolled into the northeast Japanese coastline minutes later, swamping the plant.

At least 750 workers were evacuated on Tuesday morning after a separate explosion ruptured the inner containment building at Reactor No. 2 at the Daiichi plant, which was crippled by Friday's earthquake and tsunami. The closely spaced but apparently coincidental explosions at Reactors Nos. 2 and 4 together released a surge of radiation 800 times as intense as the recommended hourly exposure limit in Japan. But 50 workers stayed behind, a crew no larger than would be stationed at the plant on a quiet spring day. Taking shelter when possible in the reactor's control room, which is heavily shielded from radiation, they struggled through the morning and afternoon to keep hundreds of gallons of seawater a minute flowing through temporary fire pumps into the three stricken reactors, Nos. 1, 2 and 3, where overheated fuel rods continued to boil away the water at a brisk pace.

By early afternoon radiation levels had plunged, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency. Workers have released surges of radiation each time they bleed radioactive steam from the troubled reactors in an attempt to manage the pressure inside them, but the reactors are not yet releasing high levels of radiation on a sustained basis, Japanese officials said.

The United States military revised its plans as radiation from the plant worsened. Some American warships that had been expected to arrive at the tsunami-shattered northeast coast of Honshu Island were diverted to the west coast instead because of concerns about radiation, the Navy said.

The Navy also promised to continue relief missions even though several more helicopter crews were testing positive for low-level exposure to radiation, and even as American military personnel and their families at the Yokosuka and Atsugi bases were encouraged to take precautions against radiation exposure.

Late Tuesday morning, Prime Minister Naoto Kan warned in a nationally televised address of rising radiation. Mr. Edano, the chief cabinet secretary, urged people who live within about 18 miles of the plant to take precautions. "Please do not go outside, please stay indoors, please close windows and make your homes airtight," he said. Yukiya Amano, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said at the organization's Vienna headquarters that there was a "possibility of core damage" at reactor No. 2, but that the damage "is estimated to be less than 5 percent of the fuel."

The sudden turn of events, after an explosion on Monday at one reactor and then an early-morning explosion on Tuesday at yet another — the third in four days at the plant — had already made the crisis at the plant the worst nuclear accident since the Chernobyl reactor disaster a quarter-century ago. It had become impossible for workers to remain at many areas within the plant for extended periods, the agency said. In Tokyo, the metropolitan government said Tuesday that it had detected radiation levels 20 times above normal over the city, though it stressed that such levels posed no immediate health threat and that readings had dropped since then. The explosion in Reactor No. 2, a little after 6 a.m. on Tuesday, particularly alarmed Japanese officials and nuclear power experts around the world because it was the first detonation at the plant that appeared to occur inside one of the primary containment vessels.

Those buildings are fortresslike structures of steel and reinforced concrete, designed to absorb the impact of a plane crash and minimize radiation leaks. After a series of conflicting reports about how much damage the reactor had sustained after that blast, Mr. Edano said, "There is a very high probability that a portion of the containment vessel was damaged."

Japanese officials subsequently said that the explosion had damaged a doughnut-shaped steel container of water, known as a torus, that surrounds the base of the reactor vessel inside the primary containment building. Ruptures in the torus are serious, said Michael Friedlander, a senior nuclear power plant operator for 13 years at three plants in the United States, including three years at a General Electric boiling water reactor very similar to the ones in trouble in Japan. But the torus is not as important as the reactor vessel itself, which has 6.7-inch-thick steel walls and 8.4-inch-thick steel for its roof and floor. The vessel is designed to hold very high-pressure steam as well as the uranium fuel rods.

The reactor vessel has 20 safety valves that during a shutdown of the reactor inject steam into a million-gallon "suppression pool" of water in a steel torus immediately underneath it.

"Imagine if you had a big pressure cooker and you had a tube off the pressure cooker into a big tub of water — the suppression pool is the tub of water," said Mr. Friedlander, a defender of nuclear power who is now a money manager in Hong Kong.

Steam vented into the suppression pool from the reactor vessel is not supposed to be radioactive. But it becomes radioactive, and potentially very radioactive, if the fuel rods in the reactor vessel above have begun to melt.

The atmosphere in the primary containment building, around the reactor vessel and above the suppression pool, is supposed to consist of inert nitrogen, with no oxygen at all. An inert atmosphere is used in the primary containment building to avoid the risk of oxygen explosions with hydrogen if the reactor starts producing much larger quantities of hydrogen gas than usual. Hydrogen gas is highly combustible with oxygen.

Return to Index

17. US Warns 'No Military Solution' In Bahrain (AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE 15 MAR 11)

WASHINGTON — The White House on Tuesday warned that there was "no military solution" to the political upheaval in Bahrain, after a Saudi-led force intervened in a move which sent Gulf tensions rocketing. The Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council force marched into the key strategic state of Bahrain, which hosts the headquarters of the US Fifth Fleet, to bolster the long-ruling Sunni monarchy against rising Shiite protests. "We call for calm and restraint on all sides. We are particularly concerned by the increasing reports of provocative acts and sectarian violence by all groups," said National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor.

"The use of force and violence from any source will only worsen the situation," Vietor said in a statement that did not mention key US ally Saudi Arabia but which seemed clearly aimed at Riyadh.

"One thing is clear: there is no military solution to the problems in Bahrain.

"A political solution is necessary and all sides must now work to produce a dialogue that addresses the needs of all of Bahrain's citizens."

Vietor urged all parties in Bahrain to act responsibly and said that Jeffrey Feltman, a senior State Department official, was working "aggressively" in Bahrain to try to bring about a political solution.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton telephoned Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal from Cairo where she was on the first leg of a North African tour to express her deep concern about the violence and potential for escalation, a State Department official said.

She "urged restraint and stressed that the only durable solution is a credible political process, not a military one," the official said.

"She stated that all parties must avoid violence and provocation and find a peaceful path forward."

Bahrain's king earlier declared a three-month state of emergency as two people died in fresh violence and Iran condemned the intervention by the Gulf Cooperation Council force.

Saudi Arabia's staunchly Sunni government said it had responded to a call for help from its neighbor under a mutual defense pact of the six-country GCC.

But Iran said the military intervention in a Shiite-majority country it has historic claims to was unacceptable.

Return to Index

18. Bahrain King Clamps Down; 3 Dead As Unrest Spreads (ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11) ... Barbara Surk and Reem Khalifa

MANAMA, Bahrain -- Bahrain's king declared a three-month state of emergency Tuesday to quell a Shiite uprising, as clashes spread through the capital and surrounding villages in a showdown that drew in the region's major powers and splintered along its main sectarian faultlines. At least two Bahrainis and a Saudi soldier died, and hundreds of protesters were injured by shotgun blasts and clubs.

A force of more than 1,000 Saudi-led troops expanded to defend the Sunni monarchy; Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah denounced the presence of foreign soldiers; and Washington feared for its main naval base in the Gulf. Any compromise appeared distant at best, with the latest order from Bahrain's king and protesters' demands for the royal family to be toppled altogether.

Doctors were overwhelmed by onslaught of patients at Manama's Salmaniya hospital, rushing the wounded into a packed emergency room, forcing many to wait in the halls. Nurses held back tears when attending to injured young men, and doctors could barely contain their anger.

"They were all shot from close range," said Nabeel Hameed, a neurosurgeon at the capital's biggest hospital. He looked at an X-ray of the latest patient, shot in the chest, and added: "Yes, they do shoot to kill."

The state of emergency in the U.S.-backed regime gives Bahrain's military chief wide authority to battle protesters demanding political reforms and equal rights for the majority Shiites.

At Manama's Pearl Square, the symbolic center of their revolt, thousands of protesters were still in shock over the arrival of the neighboring armies when the state of emergency was declared. Bahrain said more Gulf troops arrived Tuesday. Opposition leaders have not yet announced their next move.

"We are ready for anything, but this protest started peacefully and it will end peacefully," said Ali Hassan, a demonstrator in the square. "We have no guns, but we will resist by remaining here as long as we possibly can."

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says she prodded Saudi Arabia to support a peaceful political solution and stressed that "they along with everyone else need to be promoting the dialogue" between protesters and the monarchy.

The intervention of more than 1,000 Saudi-led troops from several Gulf nations was the first major cross-border military action to challenge one of the revolts sweeping across the Arab world. The Al Khalifa family has ruled Bahrain for 200 years. The family enjoys strong backing from other Gulf states and the United States, fearing Iran's expanding influence.

Several of the injured claimed Saudi forces opened fire between A'ali and Buri, two villages south of Manama. "I heard the sound of the bullet flying and after that my arm felt like it was falling off," said Mohammed Abdullah Hassan, 18, who was shot in the left elbow. "I saw blood and I realized the bullet hit me."

Mohammed Abdulla Maki al-Nasem, who was shot in his right knee, said he was driving with friends between the two villages when they were attacked. He said he saw several military vehicles - some flying a Saudi flag - moving along an overpass and shooting at cars below.

"They saw us and just shot at us," al-Nasem said.

Shiite power Iran denounced the foreign intervention as "unacceptable" and predicted it would complicate the kingdom's political crisis.

A senior Bahraini foreign affairs official, Hamad al-Amer, called the remarks "blatant intervention in internal Bahraini affairs" and said Iran's ambassador to Bahrain was summoned to the Foreign Ministry.

Iran holds no deep political ties to Bahrain's Shiite groups, but some Iranian hard-liners have supported their efforts over the years for greater rights.

The United States bases its Navy's 5th Fleet in the country in part to try to counter Iran's military reach.

Other Gulf leaders have urged Bahrain's king not to give ground, fearing that gains by Bahrain's Shiite Muslims could offer a window for Iran to expand its influence on the Arab side of the Gulf. There are also worries that political concessions could embolden more protests against their own regimes, which have already confronted pro-reform cries in Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Tuesday's worst confrontations took place on the Bahraini island of Sitra.

A 24-year-old protester, Ahmed Farhan, was shot in the head and killed, said Dr. Ibrahim Youssef, a member of the medical team at the Sitra Health Center. Youssef said hundreds of others were injured by shotgun blasts and clubs. Hameed, the neurosurgeon, said another Bahraini died, also after being shot in the head.

A security official in Saudi Arabia said a Saudi sergeant was shot and killed by a protester in Bahrain's capital, Manama. No other details were immediately given on the death of the soldier, identified as Sgt. Ahmed al-Raddadi. The Saudi official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Mansoor al-Jamri, editor of the main opposition newspaper, Al-Wasat, said pro-government mobs stormed the paper's printing facilities early Tuesday and smashed equipment with metal pipes, clubs and axes. The paper is now publishing using presses from other papers.

Senior opposition leader Abdul Jalil Khalil condemned the monarchy's invitation of the Gulf troops and its order to impose marshal law.

"They want to talk with a gun on our head, and saying, you either take this or you die," said Khalil, a leader of Bahrain's main Shiite group, Al-Wefaq.

Shiites account for 70 percent of the population, but are widely excluded from high-level political or security posts. The protesters also demand the repeal of a government policy to offset the Shiite demographic advantage by giving citizenship and jobs to Sunnis from other Arab nations and South Asia.

The foreign troops are from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council's Peninsula Shield Force. The bloc is made up of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates - all largely Sunni countries who have nervously watched the Arab world's protests. The Saudi government on Tuesday withdrew accreditation to the chief Reuters correspondent there, complaining about a recent report on a protest in the kingdom. Reuters stood by its coverage.

[Return to Index](#)

19. Israeli Navy Intercepts Egypt-Bound Ship With Arms (ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11) ... Aron Heller

JERUSALEM -- Israel said Tuesday it seized a cargo ship loaded with weapons sent by Iran to Palestinian militants in Gaza, including sophisticated land-to-sea missiles that officials said could change the balance of power in the area.

The takeover in the Mediterranean Sea was the latest in a series of Israeli naval raids meant to counter the growing influence of Iran, which Israel accuses of supplying rockets and other arms to Israel's bitterest enemies.

The navy's deputy commander, Brig. Gen. Rani Ben-Yehudah, said investigators had found between two and four Chinese-made C-704 missiles, which land-based forces can use to attack ships.

Ben-Yehudah said Iran is known to possess these weapons, the shipment included instruction manuals in Farsi and there were other clues that "explicitly" showed Iranian involvement.

The military released a photo of a booklet with the words "technical missile identification document" written in Farsi on the cover. It identified the system as a C-704 "Nasr" missile, provided a serial number and date of issue in the Persian calendar.

Such weaponry could impede Israel's ability to enforce its naval blockade of Gaza, which it imposed after Hamas took power in 2007. The captured ship, the "Victoria," was being towed into Israel, and further details on its contents were expected to be released after it reached port late Tuesday.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak said the arms included "the beginnings of an advanced system" the Gaza militants currently do not possess and could affect Israel's ability to act along Gaza's coast.

"We will take out the gear and show it to the world, a world that is quick to blame Israel when it fights to protect its citizens. It is important that the world see what we are up against," said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israel has long contended that Iran and Syria provide arms and other support to Hamas militants in Gaza and Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

Hamas has been racing to rearm since suffering heavy losses in an Israeli military offensive two years ago. Israeli military officials say Hamas has recovered, in part because of direct assistance from Iran and its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah. Israel says Hamas now possesses rockets that can strike much of Israel, as well as advanced anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons.

Israel imposed the naval blockade after Hamas, a group that has killed hundreds of Israelis in suicide bombings and other attacks, violently seized power of Gaza four years ago. It says the measure is needed to prevent the militant group from importing arms.

To get around the blockade, Israel says Hamas routinely has arms shipments delivered to Egypt, and then smuggled across the largely lawless Sinai peninsula into neighboring Gaza through a vast network of tunnels under the 9-mile (15-kilometer) border.

Netanyahu said he ordered the naval takeover overnight after receiving intelligence about the shipment. "The only certain thing is the source of the weaponry was Iran, and there was a Syrian relay station as well," he said.

The military said the "Victoria" initially departed from the Syrian port of Latakia before proceeding to Mercin in Turkey. It was headed for the port of Alexandria in Egypt when it was intercepted, some 200 miles (320 kilometers) off Israel's Mediterranean coast.

Images the military released showed mortars and other arms among stacks of munition boxes. It also released video footage showing an Israeli commander informing the Victoria's captain that the ship was suspected of carrying arms. The captain immediately gave the go-ahead for troops to board for inspection. Additional video showed the commandos ascending a ladder to the deck.

Israel said there were no signs that Turkey or Egypt were involved in the arms shipment.

Turkey confirmed it was not involved and said many ships stop in its ports for refueling, loading or unloading materials. There was no immediate reaction from Hamas, Syria or Iran.

The Victoria is German-owned, operated by a French shipping company and was sailing under a Liberian flag, the Israeli military said. German, French and Liberian authorities were notified of the seizure.

Although the ship was intercepted outside of Israel's territorial waters, maritime law entitles Israel to search any merchant vessel it has reason to believe is carrying contraband to support Hamas, said Benjamin David, a former high-ranking officer in the military's legal department.

The operation was reminiscent of the November 2009 Israeli takeover of the Iranian Francop vessel off the coast of Cyprus. Israel captured hundreds of tons of rockets, missiles, mortars, grenades and anti-tank weapons on board which it said were headed to Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

In 2001 and 2002, Israel seized ships carrying tons of weapons it said were intended for Palestinian militants. Israel's announcement that Turkey was not involved in the arms shipment appeared to be an effort to defuse any potential tensions with its former Mideast ally.

Last May, Israeli commandoes raided a Turkish ship trying to break a naval blockade of Gaza and killed nine pro-Palestinian activists on board. Each side claims it acted in self-defense.

[Return to Index](#)

20. More Pirates Facing Prosecution As Attacks Increase In Violence
Pirates Jailed In 17 Nations
(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11) ... Katharine Houreld

NAIROBI; Kenya - Five Somali pirates are jailed for life by a U.S. court. Sixty-one suspected pirates captured at sea face trial in India. Somali prisons are running out of room.

Pirates captured at sea by international navies used to be routinely set free because no country wanted the hassle and expense of a court case. But as piracy has flourished and turned increasingly violent, an unprecedented 17 countries are prosecuting pirates in courts around the world.

The increase in arrests and prosecutions shows a growing recognition of the global problem piracy has become, said Alan Cole, the head of the U.N.'s anti-piracy program.

In recent months, six hostages have been killed - including four Americans on a hijacked yacht - and pirates have begun using explosives and blow torches to cut crews out of the secure rooms they sometimes retreat to during attacks.

"Piracy is becoming quite a high-risk enterprise," said Cole. "We see pirates in prison in Kenya, the Seychelles and Maldives. They are amazed to come in and see their cousins, brothers and friends in there. They thought they had all made it and gone to open shops in Europe. The recruiters are lying to them."

Seventeen nations have put more than 850 pirates on trial in the past year and a half, Cole said, including five Somali pirates given life sentences in a U.S. court on Monday. Before the five were convicted late last year, the last U.S. conviction for piracy was in 1819.

A U.S. federal judge was set to decide Tuesday whether 14 more suspected pirates should remain in jail while awaiting trial on charges of piracy, kidnapping and firearms charges in the February yacht hijacking that left the four Americans dead.

In Somalia's semiautonomous region of Puntland, Cole said, authorities were releasing some low-level criminals to make room for pirates in the overcrowded jail in the port city of Bosasso. The U.N.'s Office on Drugs and Crime was funding a prison extension of 200 beds to help hold the extra prisoners, he said.

But attacks are increasing, not decreasing.

That's partly due to pirates' changing tactics. They are using captured vessels as "motherships" - a mobile base from which to launch small attack skiffs. The hostages become human shields, preventing warships from intervening, said Cmdr. Paddy O'Kennedy of the European Union Naval Force.

On Sunday night, the Indian navy attacked the fishing boat Vega 5, which had been used as a mothership, in self-defense. Sixty-one pirates were captured and were being taken to Mumbai, India's financial capital, to be prosecuted.

O'Kennedy said that because pirates are now using motherships they can now launch attacks during the northeastern monsoon, which was prohibitive when pirates only used smaller skiffs.

During the monsoon in January 2010, there were 7 piracy incidents. In January 2011 that number shot up to 37, he said.

O'Kennedy said only 93 suspected pirates had been sent to court out of 770 pirates detained by the EU Naval Force since it began keeping records in December 2008. Many countries will not try suspects for conspiracy to commit piracy, because suspects captured with weapons and ladders often cannot be tied to a specific attack. Even if countries are willing to try pirates, many are not willing to jail them. Thomas Winkler, an official from the Danish Foreign Ministry who helps coordinate the international response to piracy, said that although Somali courts might not be able to handle all piracy cases, Somalia was the natural place for pirates to serve their jail terms.

"The main challenge is not about courtrooms, it is about where they can serve their jail terms," he said. During a meeting in Copenhagen last month, U.N. officials suggested that the Somali region of Puntland and the breakaway republic of Somaliland build more jails to accommodate pirates convicted outside the country. Last month, the island nation of the Seychelles, whose fishing and tourism industries have been hard hit by piracy, reached a deal to begin repatriating captured Somali pirates to their home country. It also changed its law last year to allow the prosecution of pirates who attack non-Seychelles-flagged ships, provided the flag country consents.

The state counsel in Seychelles, Michael Mulkerrins, said his country is prosecuting pirates because the scourge has had a "huge impact" on the economy.

Winkler also said Somali pirates should serve jail terms in Somalia, where they may be able to be rehabilitated. But he said trials must be held overseas.

"It is necessary to prosecute them outside Somalia because our sailors and ships are attacked," said Winkler.

"While we are waiting the stability to return to Somalia, we have to prosecute them outside Somalia."

[Return to Index](#)

21. Govt Considering Allowing Armed Guards On Merchant Ships
(TIMES OF INDIA 15 MAR 11)

NEW DELHI: Faced with increasing incidents of pirate attacks, the government is considering allowing armed guards to be deployed on Indian merchant ships to enable them to retaliate in case of an attempt by sea brigands to take over the vessels.

Sources in the Indian Navy on Tuesday said the government is considering a shipping ministry proposal which talks about allowing armed guards to man merchant ships in order to protect them from pirates.

They said a decision on this issue would be taken after discussions among ministries of law, defence and shipping.

The armed guards on the ships would be somewhat similar to the Sky Marshals deployed on commercial aircraft to prevent hijacking attempts, the sources said.

Under the current Indian and international laws, civilian mariners are not allowed to carry fire arms but in recent times, various countries such as Malta and Yemen have reportedly allowed merchant ships to deploy armed guards on board ships.

The proposal, they said, is being supported by the Navy as it would help in increasing the safety of ships while operating in high seas against pirate attacks.

"The rules of engagement (RoE) and laws in this regard would be framed in consultation with the Navy only," they added.

They said in the recent past, there have been various instances in piracy-prone areas where merchant ships on their own have thwarted attempts by sea brigands to take over their ships.

"Having armed guards on board would further help in enhancing their security," they added.

On the problems while dealing with arrested pirates, officials said there were no laws to deal with them in the country and they have to be arrested under charges of attempt to murder and trying to damage government property.

The government is working on a tough law to deal with the piracy problem.

At present, piracy is dealt with under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code and century-old Admiralty law but the government would like to have a separate statute with provisions to effectively tackle the problem that takes place far away from Indian shores.

Ruling out India being part of any US-led task force to counter piracy, they said: "We would be willing to part of any joint effort under a UN mandate only."

India is one of the countries carrying out independent anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea where several multi-nation groups are also operating to safeguard the merchant vessels passing from there.

[Return to Index](#)

22. Russia, France Struggle Over Mistral Contract
(RIA NOVOSTI 16 MAR 11)

PARIS - A Russian-French contract on the construction of Mistral class helicopter carriers for the Russian Navy is unlikely to be signed in the near future, a Russian deputy defense minister said.

Russia and France in January signed an intergovernmental agreement to jointly build two Mistral-class helicopter carriers at the STX shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, France. Another two are planned to be constructed later at the Admiralty Shipyards in St. Petersburg.

However, the sides have since experienced difficulties in agreeing the terms of the actual contract between Russian state-arms exporter Rosoboronexport and French DCSN company.

"The negotiations have not been easy so far, I would even describe them as tough," Anatoly Antonov told reporters in Paris on Tuesday during the visit of Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov to France.

"It is too early to talk about specific dates, and too many technical details have yet to be settled. The contract must be adapted to our conditions. Experts will have to do a difficult and skillful job to adjust all parameters of the future contract," Antonov said.

The official added that Russia prioritized the purchase of Mistrals with full technology transfer. The overall price of the contract was also a "big issue," he said.

According to Russian media, the initial talks in February reached an impasse after France increased the total price tag from 980 mln euros to at least 1.15 bln euros for the first two ships to be built in France.

In addition, France insists on signing a separate contract for licensed construction of two Mistral ships in Russia. Antonov said that Russia would not push for a quick conclusion of negotiations because their results must meet the interests and requirements of both sides.

A Mistral class ship is capable of carrying 16 helicopters, four landing vessels, 70 armored vehicles, and 450 personnel.

Russia plans to deploy the first two Mistral ships in the Pacific to protect the four disputed Kuril Islands.

[Return to Index](#)

PERSONNEL:

23. **Sailors Must Verify Their Death Gratuity Beneficiary**
(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. -- Due to a change in the law regarding death gratuity and recent upgrades to the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS), officials are urging Sailors to verify their designated death gratuity beneficiaries beginning March 17.

"The change in the law allows Sailors to designate their gratuity in 10 percent increments to more than one beneficiary," said John Courtney, Pay, Personnel and Benefits section head, Bureau of Naval Personnel. The death gratuity is a benefit paid to eligible beneficiaries of a Sailor who dies while on active duty or while traveling to or from such duty. The total gratuity paid is \$100,000, and Sailors may designate one or more persons to receive it. The amount paid to each beneficiary is specified on their Record of Emergency Data (Page 2) in 10 percent increments. If a Sailor is married, but designates someone other than the spouse to receive the gratuity, the Sailor's command is required to notify the spouse of the designation in a letter.

"The death gratuity is a different benefit from the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI)," said Courtney. "SGLI is a life insurance benefit and those beneficiaries are annotated when a Sailor fills out form 'SGLV 8286' upon initial entry and whenever they want to update beneficiary and settlement option designations, and when declining or reducing coverage."

The ability for Sailors to designate someone other than their next-of-kin on their Record of Emergency Data (Page 2) was announced in NAVADMIN 189/07. A change in the law further modified the death gratuity designation and was outlined in NAVADMIN 134/08.

"All Sailors should access their NSIPS Electronic Service Record and verify their 'Page 2' data," said Courtney. Sailors who need to change their beneficiary data should contact their Command PASS Coordinator (CPC) or servicing personnel office.

For more information, Sailors should contact their CPC, personnel office or visit Navy Personnel Command's website at www.npc.navy.mil to read the applicable messages.

[Return to Index](#)

24. **New Performance Evaluation Requirements Go Into Effect March 15**
(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. -- Beginning March 15, Navy performance evaluations and fitness reports must conform to new policies announced in NAVADMIN 286/10.

The evaluation form "NAVPERS 1616/27 (Revision Aug. 2010) Evaluation and Counseling Record for E7 through E9," also known as the "CHIEFEVAL," is not affected by the new requirements and its use will continue as usual.

To more clearly define top-performing Sailors, NAVADMIN 286/10 changed the promotion recommendation rules for E-5 Sailors and aligns them with E-6 Sailors under the same recommendation requirements. For reports dated March 15 and beyond, "Early Promote" and "Must Promote" recommendations combined cannot

exceed 60 percent of the ranking group. In addition, "Must Promote" recommendations may increase by one for each "Early Promote" quota not used.

An update to NAVFIT98A — known as "Version 29" — was rolled out to the fleet incorporating the new rules. Work stations on the unclassified Navy/Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) automatically received this new version. For non-NMCI users, the "Version 29" upgrade is available for download from the Navy Personnel Command (NPC) website.

Service members should verify they are using "Version 29" by checking "About NAVFIT98A" under the help tab in NAVFIT98A, which will display "Version 2.2.0.29."

"Validating reports with the new NAVFIT98A version will help ensure commands comply with the new promotion recommendation rule and help eliminate common errors in preparing reports," said Jim Price, director of NPC's Performance Evaluation Division.

Those with questions or concerns about performance evaluations or fitness reports can contact NPC customer service.

[Return to Index](#)

25. NAVADMIN Announces NWU Pattern Gore-Tex Foul Weather Trouser (NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Chief of Naval Personnel

WASHINGTON – The Navy Working Uniform (NWU) now has a matching foul weather trouser made of Gore-Tex for wear during inclement weather, as announced in NAVADMIN 081/11 March 11.

This uniform change is a result of fleet input requesting a waterproof foul weather trouser to match the look and performance of the NWU Type I parka.

The proposal was endorsed by U.S. Fleet Forces Command, recommended by the Navy Uniform Board and approved by the chief of naval operations.

The NWU foul weather trouser is classified as organizational clothing and is intended to be worn with the NWU parka during inclement weather or during the performance of duties requiring protective clothing, as directed by the commanding officer.

Organizational clothing is defined as any clothing loaned to an individual by a naval activity, for which there is a requirement above and beyond authorized navy uniforms. The trousers will remain the property of the Navy and Sailors must return the trouser upon transferring. As with all organizational clothing, the trousers will be worn with working uniforms only while performing duties.

The NWU Gore-Tex foul weather trouser is manufactured by Tennessee Apparel Corp and is available to commands through GSA Advantage.

[Return to Index](#)

26. SPAWAR Project Lead Receives Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award (NAVY NEWS SERVICE 16 MAR 11) ... Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO -- Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) announced March 15 that a SPAWAR service member received the Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award from the Sea Service Leadership Association and the Military Officers Association of America.

The award was presented to Lt. Sarah Rice at the Joint Women's Leadership Symposium luncheon March 15 at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina in San Diego.

"I am deeply honored and would like to thank SPAWAR and the entire Navy engineering duty officer (EDO) community for all the opportunities they have given me. Without those opportunities I would not be receiving this award," said Rice. "They've allowed me to find and pursue some of my passions. The gateway toward success is finding a place where you fit in, that is also supportive of what you would like to do."

Rice, a Navy EDO and former surface warfare officer, is assigned to the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SSC) Pacific where she is the project lead for the Cryogenic Exploration of Radio Frequency (CERF) project.

The CERF project is using sub zero temperatures to make cryogenically cooled, low-noise amplifiers and tunable filters to enhance radio performance and signal reception.

"Lt. Rice just returned from the first installation of CERF capabilities aboard USS Cape St. George (CG 71) where she was able to work directly with Sailors and document the operational parameters of these newly designed technologies," said Anna Leese de Escobar, principal investigator for the CERF project. "This is just another example of the close working relationship SPAWAR maintains with the fleet and the added benefits of having fleet officers like Lt. Rice working alongside civilian engineers at SSC Pacific."

"Information is a main battery for the Navy. The CERF project is one of many SPAWAR research and development efforts helping to ensure the fleet's ability to seize and control the information domain 'high ground' whenever, wherever and however required for decisive competitive advantage across the full range of Navy missions," said Capt. Joe Beel, commanding officer of SSC Pacific. "SPAWAR plays a leading role in the Navy's ability to maintain a robust set of information capabilities that result in information dominance — the ability to collect, process and disseminate an uninterrupted flow of information while exploiting or denying an adversary's ability to do the same."

Rice also serves as a member of the Retention Pillar Team of the EDO community Diversity Working Group (DWG) which is responsible for identifying issues and implementing solutions to encourage female junior EDOs to stay in the Navy.

"Navywide, women make up 14 percent of Sailors. In the EDO community, it's about seven percent, so we're few and far between," said Rice. "I think it's a fantastic way to connect EDOs who have things in common that may not otherwise interact on a regular basis, and to give and receive mentoring advice."

Along with her fellow DWG members, Rice co-founded the Network of EDO Women and is actively involved in conferences on both the East and West Coasts.

"We hope to inspire other diversity groups to get together as we have done. I think that one of the first steps to embracing a culture of diversity is to acknowledge our differences, so that they can be appreciated and used to the best advantage," said Rice.

In addition, Rice currently serves as SSC Pacific's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) representative. Through the coordination of training on sexual assault awareness for victim advocates, command leadership, general military and all incoming Sailors, Rice has turned the SAPR into a successful, active and robust program. Her involvement continues through her support of the Navy Region Southwest Victims Advocate Watchbill, remaining on call around-the-clock to respond to victims calling in to the response line.

Rice has also volunteered more than 60 hours of her own time in support of the SSC Pacific's Technical Outreach Program, targeting middle-school women, to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"I've been raised with the idea that service to others is important. I've also learned that it's sometimes difficult for people to take a first step to ask for help, guidance or even just companionship," said Rice.

Rice's extensive community involvement also includes holding a position as Marketing Chair of Women-in-Defense San Diego Chapter, volunteering at Habitat for Humanity's Women Build event and serving as a mentor for a "Girls on the Run" 5 kilometer race.

[Return to Index](#)

FORCE STRUCTURE/PROGRAMS:

27. Northrop To Spin Off Shipyards
(NEW YORK TIMES 16 MAR 11) ... Christopher Drew

Northrop Grumman's board approved the spinoff of its struggling shipyards to stockholders after making changes to ease Navy concerns about the deal, Pentagon and industry officials said on Tuesday. But the deal still carries substantial risk for taxpayers. The new company, Huntington Ingalls Industries, will start with so much debt — \$1.8 billion — that the three largest rating agencies classified much of it as noninvestment grade, or junk.

And without Northrop's deep pockets to turn to, the new company could run into more trouble if it cannot cut costs in building nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, submarines and other ships, analysts cautioned. The spinoff comes as the Pentagon spending is tightening and its shipbuilding budget is becoming less certain. Northrop is the world's largest military shipbuilder, and General Dynamics is its only American rival in building

large warships. There is also a glut of capacity, and some of Northrop's yards are the least efficient and have had serious quality problems.

The spinoff, which is subject to approval by securities regulators, is expected to take place on March 31. Northrop, based in Los Angeles, said its stockholders would receive one share of the new company, in a tax-free distribution, for every six shares of Northrop they hold.

Northrop's chief executive, Wesley G. Bush, has been refocusing the company on more profitable businesses like electronics, robotic systems and cybersecurity. The shipyards accounted for only about one-fifth of Northrop's \$35 billion in sales last year, and the profit margins from the operations were as low as 4 to 5 percent.

Analysts at Standard & Poor's wrote recently that Northrop would receive \$1.5 billion from Huntington Ingalls when the spinoff took effect. The new company sold \$1.2 billion in notes to institutional investors earlier this month, and was expected to take on at least \$600 million in additional debt to pay Northrop and provide \$300 million in working capital.

But while the spinoff makes sense for Northrop, the Pentagon could have less leverage over the operations if the new company performs poorly. Analysts said the Navy would have to think twice about withdrawing contracts from Huntington Ingalls if that would result in a weakening of the company's finances.

Navy officials said they spent several months in negotiations with Northrop before deciding to support the spinoff.

Sean J. Stackley, the assistant secretary for acquisitions, said the Navy reviewed the financial assumptions, including proprietary business projections, and reached an agreement with Northrop that included "appropriate adjustments."

The changes enabled Navy officials "to resolve our concerns about the risk involved to this important segment of our shipbuilding industrial base," he said, adding that the Navy was confident that the new company was "well postured to build affordable ships into the future."

Capt. Cate T. Mueller, a Navy spokeswoman, said Northrop had agreed not to seek any types of payments from the \$300 million in working capital at the new company. She said Northrop had also agreed that Huntington Ingalls would receive any performance bonuses or other Navy payments relating to ship contracts it transferred to the new company.

Mr. Stackley said the Navy would now finish negotiating contracts for the new company to build an amphibious transport ship and a destroyer.

Northrop, one of the nation's largest military contractors, announced last summer that it was studying whether to sell or spin off the shipbuilding business, which includes sprawling yards in Virginia, Mississippi and Louisiana, with more than 30,000 workers. But the talks with the Navy heated up after Northrop settled on the spinoff late last year.

The debate over the proposal also coincided with concerns by Pentagon officials about how to promote more competition for military contracts.

Ashton B. Carter, the Pentagon's top acquisition official, warned in February that the largest military contractors would not be allowed to merge. In the same speech, he also appeared to caution Northrop about the spinoff, saying that transparency from contractors was essential "as we review proposals that may result in the creation of weaker stand-alone firms less likely to thrive without the necessary capital structure that their larger parent company is able to provide."

Northrop has said that its top shipbuilding executives will run the new company, which will be based in Newport News, Va. The corporation's Newport News shipbuilding unit is the only company that builds the Navy's aircraft carriers, and it splits the work on nuclear submarines with General Dynamics.

David Petu, an analyst at Fitch Ratings, said Tuesday that it could be an advantage for the new company to have its executives focusing only on shipbuilding. Other analysts said it would be easier for them to reinvest the company's cash in shipbuilding since they would not have more profitable alternatives, as Northrop does. Northrop's Ingalls shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss., was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina, and Mr. Petu said the new company could get in trouble if a similar disaster struck.

Fitch assigned an overall BB default rating to the company, just below the lowest investment grade ratings. Moody's Investors Service gave it a similar Ba2 rating, and S. & P. classified it as BB-minus.

The ratings mean that Huntington Ingalls will pay higher interest rates than Northrop would have. The new company recently sold \$1.2 billion in senior unsecured notes at interest rates of 6.875 percent and 7.125 percent.

Northrop had said it planned to eventually close its shipyard in Avondale, La., and transfer the work to Ingalls. The Navy has sharply criticized the mistakes made on a series of amphibious ships built at the Gulf Coast yards.

The company's most critical work takes place in Newport News, and it also has had problems there. Just last week, federal prosecutors filed criminal charges against a former Northrop Grumman shipyard inspector, accusing him of falsifying weld certifications on a submarine.

Analysts said that to succeed, the new company will have to cut costs — and probably more jobs — at the Gulf Coast shipyards. And an even bigger test will be how it manages construction of a new class of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. The first one, being built now, is projected to cost \$11.5 billion.

[Return to Index](#)

28. Some Lockheed F-35 Fighters Cleared For Flight (REUTERS 15 MAR 11) ... Andrea Shalal-Esa

WASHINGTON - Seven of 10 F-35 fighter jets built by Lockheed Martin Corp were cleared to resume flight tests this week as government auditors raised questions about the long-term affordability of the program. The Pentagon's F-35 program director said one Air Force variant of the new radar-evading warplane flew at Edwards Air Force Base in California on Tuesday, but three other planes remained grounded after a dual generator failure and oil leak on one warplane last week.

Vice Admiral David Venlet said there was no doubt that the Joint Strike Fighter program, the Pentagon's biggest acquisition program, had failed to deliver acceptable results in the past. However, he said he was convinced that a major restructuring announced in January would lead to improvement.

"By any measure of progress or performance the F-35 program has not delivered acceptable results," Venlet told the subcommittee on tactical air and land forces of the House Armed Services Committee, saying the new plan was based on a far more realistic assessment of cost, schedule and performance.

"Such a grasp on fundamentals and realism is the distinguishing characteristic that makes this plan different from all before it," Venlet said of the program, which is slated to cost \$382 billion over the next decades.

Venlet's office said three newer airplanes would remain grounded until it was clear what caused the generators to fail on board the Air Force variant known as AF-4 on March 9.

An inspection over the weekend found that the generator issue stemmed from a "design artifact" that was unique to a new configuration of the generator, used on the newest planes.

F-35 spokesman Joe DellaVedova said an investigation was continuing into what caused the failure, and said resolving the issue was the program's "highest priority."

He said the impact on the development phase of the program and production operations was being assessed. Michael Sullivan, director of acquisition research for the Government Accountability Office, told lawmakers that the program was "getting close" to the point where it could reasonably enter production, but it still faced challenges.

He said government auditors viewed the latest restructuring as very comprehensive, but said the program needed continued oversight, citing concerns about software development and a short takeoff variant being built for the Marine Corps.

Sullivan said the Pentagon did not yet know the full impact of the restructuring on procurement costs beyond the five-year budget planner submitted with the fiscal 2012 budget.

"Future funding requirements could be higher than projected and the quantities which are considered affordable by the U.S. and allies, could be reduced, further driving up unit costs," Sullivan said in a report for the subcommittee.

Lockheed is developing the three variants of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter with eight international partners to replace over 13 different planes now operated by the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps and foreign militaries.

Sullivan said the program would require "unprecedented" levels of funding -- almost \$11 billion a year through 2035 -- at a time when defense budgets were going to be under increasing pressure, and it would have to compete with many other priorities for funding.

Venlet and Air Force acquisition chief David Van Buren defended the Pentagon's effort to end a second engine being developed for the plane by General Electric Co and Britain's Rolls Royce, while lawmakers argued that the alternate engine would result in longer-term savings.

They also argued that having a second engine would help guard against a catastrophic fleetwide grounding if problems arise with the primary engine, built by Pratt & Whitney, a unit of United Technologies Corp.

Return to Index

29. Lockheed F-35 Faces 'Significant' Software Delays, GAO Says (BLOOMBERG NEWS 15 MAR 11) ... Tony Capaccio

2011 Lockheed Martin Corp. (LMT)'s development of software for its F-35 fighter jet, the Pentagon's largest weapons program, is "significantly behind schedule as it enters its most challenging phase," according to congressional auditors.

Program officials were two years late in releasing the second of five progressively more complex software versions, the U.S. Government Accountability Office reported at a House Armed Services Committee subcommittee today.

"Each of the remaining three blocks" needed for full war-fighting capability "are now projected to slip more than three years" compared with the current schedule, set in 2006, Michael Sullivan, the GAO director of acquisition management, told the panel. The final block, originally scheduled for this year, isn't anticipated until 2015, he said.

"Delays have cascading effects hampering flight tests, training" and accrediting 32 laboratories and models needed to verify software, according to the GAO's findings. "While progress is being made, a substantial amount of work remains."

Lockheed Martin spokesman John Kent didn't immediately comment in response to an e-mail about the GAO findings.

The testimony distills the watchdog agency's annual F-35 report, due later this month. Most attention on the \$382 billion program has focused on flight-testing delays and technical problems with the Marine Corps version -- the most complex model of the aircraft that's also being developed in variants for the Air Force and the Navy. Defense Secretary Robert Gates in January put that version on two-year probation.

'On The Mark'

"Concerns about the F-35, expressed annually for several years by GAO, have gone unheeded by the Pentagon and have largely been right on the mark," the subcommittee chairman, Maryland Republican Representative Roscoe Bartlett, said in an opening statement.

Vice Admiral David Venlet, the Pentagon's program manager, said while there have been "challenges" in the program's cost and schedule, changes this year to extend development work and slow production have placed the project "on sound footing."

Venlet also said Lockheed Martin for the first time in years has been meeting its delivery schedule, being on-time for five straight months under a new plan set last September. The Pentagon also is seeing "progress in controlling aircraft costs," he said.

Chronic Delays

The GAO testimony outlines chronic delays in "one of the largest and most complex" software development efforts in Pentagon history. That's as the program is anticipated to require "unprecedented demands for funding," Sullivan wrote.

Through 2035, the program to buy 2,457 jets, including 14 test planes, is estimated to require \$11 billion annually, according to unreleased Pentagon budget projections, GAO said.

"After more than nine years in development," including four years of overlapping low-rate production, "the program has not fully demonstrated the aircraft design is stable, manufacturing processes are mature and the system is reliable," said GAO.

Only 4 percent of the aircraft's capabilities have been completely verified by flight tests, laboratory results, or both, GAO said. "The pace of flight testing accelerated significantly in 2010 but overall progress is still much below plans forecast several years ago."

Lockheed Martin and its subcontractors are "improving operations and implementing" recommendations from a Pentagon-commissioned panel but haven't yet demonstrated "a capacity to efficiently produce at higher production rates," said GAO.

Improvements Needed

"Substantial improvements in factory throughput and the supply chain are needed," GAO said. The program hasn't yet "stabilized aircraft design" as "engineering changes continue at higher-than-expected rates." Total labor hours required to produce test aircraft have increased instead of diminished -- an indication of "lingering management inefficiencies," said GAO. Hours to complete assembly of test aircraft last year "exceeded budgeted hours by more than 1.5 million," for example. The report discloses the financial stakes for Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin through 2016 -- the Pentagon's five-year F-35 budget plan calls for requesting \$50.7 billion during that period, including \$7.9 billion in 2013 and \$14.3 billion for the last year. That's up from the \$6.9 billion requested for fiscal 2012.

Continued Development

Gates this year delayed purchases of 242 F-35s over the five-year period to slow the program and shift \$4.6 billion into continued development.

Still, "even after decreasing annual quantities, procurement still escalates significantly," said Sullivan.

The aircraft depends on software with millions of additional lines of code compared with the Lockheed Martin F-22A Raptor or Boeing Co. (BA)'s F/A-18E/F Super Hornet for fusing data from numerous sensors, and operating fire control, propulsion and maintenance diagnostics systems.

"Good progress has been reported on writing code," but total lines of software needed continue to grow, said GAO.

"Officials underestimated the time and effort needed to develop and integrate the software, substantially contributing to the program's overall cost and schedule problems, testing delays and requiring the retention of engineers for longer periods," it said.

The total system-development cost since 2001, when Lockheed Martin won the program from Chicago-based Boeing, has risen to \$56.4 billion from \$34.4 billion and has extended to 2018, a five-year slip from the current schedule that was revised in 2007.

Lockheed Martin's cost-plus type development contract since 2001 has increased to at least \$33.9 billion from \$19 billion, GAO said.

The total program, including development, production and military construction has increased to \$382 billion, up 64 percent from the October 2001 estimate of \$233 billion.

Return to Index

30. Inouye Sees F-35 Second Engine Losing Funding, Eyes Future Lifeline (DEFENSE DAILY 16 MAR 11) ... Emelie Rutherford

A senior senator said yesterday Congress likely will not approve monies for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter's alternate engine this year, admitting his only hope for the program is partial funding next year.

Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC) Chairman Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), a longtime supporter of the F-35 backup engine developed by General Electric [GE] and Rolls-Royce, said he does not see any way his congressional colleagues will support the controversial program in fiscal year 2011, which started last October, as lawmakers fight over how and whether to pass a long-delayed defense appropriations bill.

"There are no more votes; everyone's against it," Inouye told Defense Daily at the Capitol.

The SAC did not fund the second engine on March 4 in a now-moot FY '11 Pentagon appropriations measure, which was part of a continuing resolution (CR) funding the entire government for the rest of the year largely at FY '10 levels that the Senate rejected last week. The committee's dismissal of the engine program followed the House's vote on Feb. 16 to strip \$450 million for it from a competing FY '11 defense bill, also within a government-wide full-year CR, that the Senate rejected last week.

Asked yesterday whether the General Electric-Rolls-Royce engine will be funded in FY '11, Inouye said: "I don't think so."

Inouye's backing of the second engine has been seen as key to its survival, considering his sway over appropriations bills in the Senate and diminished support for the engine in the House. He is under pressure to not fund the alternate engine in the Pentagon's FY '12 budget, which lawmakers began deliberating last month. In a letter to Inouye and SAC Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) last week, a bipartisan group of 19 senators applauded the SAC's move to leave funding for the alternate engine out of it CR and urged the panel to reject the engine in FY '12 as well. Signers include Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) Ranking Member John McCain (R-Ariz.) and members Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I/D-Conn.) and Jack Reed (D-R.I.).

Inouye, though, said the alternate engine may not be completely dead in the Senate in FY '12, which begins Oct. 1.

"There may be a way to keep it alive," he said. "But to fully fund it, there are no votes. Why go through all that misery?"

Inouye added "if there's a rationale way" to keep the alternate engine alive in FY '12, he'd "like to see it."

He noted his support for the concept of the alternate engine has not waned.

Congress has consistently funded the alternate engine in recent years despite Pentagon and White House opposition to continuing to develop it. Defense Secretary Robert Gates argues the Pentagon cannot afford to spend billions of dollars on the engine, a backup to the F-35's primary one developed by Pratt & Whitney [UTX]. The alternate engine is supported by lawmakers whose districts benefit by its development, including House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), as well many members of the House Armed Services Committee, who argue there are multiple benefits to maintaining competition between two F-35 engine makers and note a Pentagon analysis showed the long-term costs of building one or two engines would be nearly the same. Gates said on Feb. 14 that he would look at "all available legal actions to close down" the alternate engine programs after Congress stopped funding the FY '11 budget with CRs.

Also yesterday, the House passed another short-term CR that will last for three weeks and start when the current resolution expires Friday. The Senate is expected to approve it this week.

McCain said Monday he wants to attach a full-blown FY '11 defense appropriations bill to the CR, via an amendment; such an attempt, though, is not expected to pass.

Lawmakers' patience with funding the government through a series of CRs is waning.

Boehner told reporters yesterday: "We've been in conversations with the Senate and the White House and we're hopeful that we'll have a long-term continuing resolution through September 30th, and we're hopeful that we'll have it soon."

House Republicans and Senate Democrats have been at odds over how much funding to cut in FY '11. The House-passed CR the Senate rejected last week called for trimming \$61 billion from current spending, while the SASC version included a \$6 billion cut. The SASC bill would cut President Barack Obama's Pentagon proposal by \$17.3 billion, while the House's version would provide \$2.13 billion more.

[Return to Index](#)

31. Northrop Celebrates First Navy Drone Fuselage (ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11)

MOSS POINT, Miss. — Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems has completed work in Moss Point on the first drone fuselage for the Navy, part of a multibillion-dollar contract.

The Broad Area Maritime Surveillance program (BAMS) is the Navy's version of the Air Force's RQ-4 Global Hawk drone.

The Navy's version of the drone is equipped with a multifunction active sensor, a 360-degree radar.

Navy officials have said the unmanned drones will use one-tenth of the fuel and 25 percent less manpower than manned surveillance options. They can go up to 60,000 feet high for a better view, compared to only about 25,000 feet in a manned P-3 aircraft.

The drones also can be used to watch hurricanes, assess damage after tsunamis and other disasters and alert merchant ships of potential piracy.

The fuselage finished Thursday is the first of three in a \$1.8 billion Navy design, development and construction contract. The Navy plan is to have 20 flying by 2019 and eventually order 68, a \$10 billion prospect for Northrop.

Paul Diggs, deputy manager for the BAMS program's integrated product team, said from Mississippi, the fuselage will go to Temecula, Calif., for calibration; Palmdale, Calif., for final assembly; back to Temecula for structural testing; then back to Palmdale "to finish buttoning it up."

The first flight is scheduled for next May, he said.

Northrop's high-tech assembly plant, just north of Trent Lott International Airport, employs 70.

[Return to Index](#)

BASES / COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

**32. Base Land Transfer Timeline Evolving
(BRUNSWICK (ME) TIMES RECORD 15 MAR 11) ... Seth Koenig**

BRUNSWICK — The Navy is scheduled to clear more than 1,500 acres of Brunswick Naval Air Station property for transfer to civilian redevelopers between June and November of this year, according to a report delivered last week.

That property is likely to include airport hangars, base housing, a golf course and land for an expansion of Bowdoin College.

The 3,200-acre base is slated to close as an active military installation in a ceremony on May 31, after which properties deemed to have met environmental cleanup standards will be incrementally ceded to civilian entities for redevelopment.

During last Wednesday's meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board at the Parkwood Inn in Brunswick, board members received a report about the timetable for base property transfers.

That nearly two-thirds of the base property could be cleared for civilian reuse the same year that the installation closes is considered rapid progress in the world of military base closures. Past rounds of base realignments across the country have been marked by instances of parcels that the federal government held for several years after the surrounding bases shut.

"The Navy wants to try and convey as much of this base as they can this fiscal year," said Steve Levesque, executive director of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority. "The Navy's been very responsive and they really want to get through this."

The Navy has already pledged an early transfer of 714 acres associated with the base airfield to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRRA), the group charged with overseeing the civilian reuse of the base. Before the Navy can turn over parcels for redevelopment, the service must issue a Finding Of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) or Finding Of Suitability to Lease (FOSL), meaning the Navy completed immediate environmental remediation necessary at the respective parcels.

Levesque said officials from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and federal Environmental Protection Agency must review the findings before the Navy can finalize them.

"(The FOST) processes have to be done well," Levesque said. "They have to be signed off on by the regulators. They're basically certifying that these properties are clean enough to transfer, and are clean enough for reuse. There will be properties that will need more work. It's not a rubber stamp at all. It's a very thorough process the Navy, MRRRA and regulators have to go through to issue a FOST."

According to a Navy report delivered to the Restoration Advisory Board last week, 1,512 acres of base property, in addition to the 714 airfield acres already tapped for transfer, are scheduled to receive FOSTs or FOSLs between June and November.

The property to be cleared for transfer in the late summer and fall includes significant lots and buildings, including nearly all of the base housing, the remainder of the airport and the base golf course.

In June, the Navy is scheduled to issue FOSTs for 473 acres, including several parcels for a proposed Bowdoin College expansion, buildings and land tied to a Brunswick campus for Southern Maine Community College, as well as land on the west side of the base due to be transferred to the town of Brunswick.

In August, the base's electrical, water and sewer systems are in line to receive FOSTs, along with 323 additional acres — including the housing on the base and on McKean Street in Brunswick, and the satellite Topsham Navy Annex property.

In September, a FOST is planned for 213 acres largely associated with the base airfield. The September FOST will likely include three hangars not included in the original 714-acre airport conveyance, the old taxiway and new fuel farm area, and the old control tower. Also lined up for September findings are Buildings 225 and 252, two buildings that make up the base's vehicle maintenance facilities.

The base's nine-hole golf course and three more lots slated to be transferred to the town of Brunswick make up another 503 acres due to receive FOSTs in November.

Levesque said any properties not approved for no-cost Public Benefit Conveyances to entities such as the town, Bowdoin College or Southern Maine Community College will likely be surrendered to MRRRA through the federal Economic Development Conveyance process.

Federal law now allows the Navy to transfer closing base properties for little or no cost. Just a few years ago, such redevelopment-friendly property transactions were discouraged at the federal level.

Levesque said MRRRA and the Navy continue to negotiate terms of the Economic Development Conveyances.

Return to Index

33. U.S. Navy SEAL Fitness Challenge
(KEYE CBS AUSTIN (TX) 15 MAR 11)

This Sunday at noon the Navy SEALs will be parachuting onto the field of a YMCA to put some very brave individuals through the seal fitness challenge.

[View Clip](#)

Return to Index

NEWS OF INTEREST:

34. Government Would Save Billions By Capping Pay, CBO Says
(GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE 15 MAR 11) ... Kellie Lunney

Reducing annual pay increases for federal civilian workers and military personnel would save the government billions of dollars during the next decade, according to the latest figures from the Congressional Budget Office in a report on trimming the burgeoning deficit.

CBO estimates the deficit will rise to \$7 trillion during the next 10 years if mandatory and discretionary spending is not reined in across government. Capping military pay increases and reducing the annual across-the-board adjustment for civilian raises are two available areas, among several others, for cuts, the March 2011 report said.

The nonpartisan CBO said if the government capped the basic pay increase for service members from 2012 to 2015 and set raises at a rate 0.5 percentage points below the increase in the employment cost index, it would save about \$6 billion between 2012 and 2016, and \$17 billion between 2012 and 2021. Since 2001, lawmakers have approved military pay raises for the average service member that exceeded the ECI by 0.5 percentage point.

President Obama's fiscal 2012 budget request proposes a 1.6 percent pay raise for military personnel and allocates an overall \$8.3 billion for education, housing and other quality of life programs for service members. "Between 2001 and 2009, per capita spending on three major components of cash compensation for active military personnel rose by 37 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars," the report said, citing basic pay, and allowances for housing and subsistence, as the primary compensation categories. Overall, the Defense Department accounts for more than half of all annual discretionary funding, and any significant deficit reduction needs to take into account Defense appropriations, CBO said. Nearly 40 percent of all spending is discretionary, totaling more than \$1.3 trillion in 2010.

As for civilian compensation, CBO says the government could save about \$10 billion during five years and \$50 billion during 10 years by reducing by 0.5 percent the annual across-the-board pay raise expected under the 1990 Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act from 2013 to 2021. Obama has called for a federal civilian pay freeze in 2011 and 2012. Compensation costs for civilian personnel make up about 15 percent of federal discretionary spending, according to CBO.

But the report said the bigger savings would come from capping military pay. According to CBO's analysis, "median cash compensation for military personnel -- including the tax-free cash allowances for food and housing -- exceeds the salaries of most civilians who have comparable education and work experience."

CBO acknowledged that reducing pay for service members and civilians could hinder recruitment and retention. "That effect might be more pronounced for federal agencies that require workers with advanced degrees and professional skills." To offset some of the pain associated with lowered base pay for service members in particular, CBO suggested expanding reenlistment bonuses.

The report highlighted other areas for spending savings that would affect the health care benefits of Defense personnel, among them:

- An increase in cost-sharing in TRICARE for military retirees who are not yet eligible for Medicare;
- A limit on the TRICARE benefit for military retirees and their dependents (many enrollees who already have employer-sponsored insurance through a civilian job opt for enrollment in TRICARE Prime, which has the lowest out-of-pocket costs within the TRICARE system);
- An increase in cost-sharing for prescription drugs under TRICARE.

35. Veterans: Don't Cut Military Benefits
(THE HILL 15 MAR 11) ... Alicia M. Cohn

Veterans service organizations are flooding Capitol Hill this month to make the case that military benefits should be kept out of proposals to reduce the deficit.

Nearly 20 groups that represent the 23 million veterans in the United States are scheduled to testify at joint hearings of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees on March 16 and 30.

Unlike many other groups fighting spending cuts, the veterans service organizations (VSOs) are expecting a warm reception from both sides of the aisle.

"It's pretty hard for the committees, when we have 50 or 60 guys sitting there in wheelchairs due to their military service, to be very critical of them," said Doug Vollmer, associate executive director for government relations at Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Veterans Affairs is one of the few government departments not facing steep cuts. The president's 2012 budget proposes \$61.9 billion for the VA, an increase of \$1.8 billion, and few Republicans have taken on veterans' services in proposed cuts, despite claims that there are no sacred cows in the budget.

But the bipartisan support doesn't necessarily mean that military benefits will be excluded from Washington's austerity drive.

"We don't want to be pawns in budget debates," said René A. Campos, deputy director of government relations for the Military Officers Association of America.

"The compassion of Congress is there," said Vivianne Wersel, chairwoman of government relations at Gold Star Wives of America. "When we testify, they're very kind. They echo our sentiments, and they back us up by being co-sponsors, but when it's said and done at the end of the day, it's not our turn [for funding]. But we've been told that for many years."

The VSOs have a number of issues they plan to raise with lawmakers during their visits. Many are concerned about discrepancies in benefits for veterans and their caregivers and want to ensure that the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act — signed into law by President Obama last year — is fully implemented.

Others are concerned about the president's proposed reduction in spending for construction and non-recurring maintenance in VA funding research. Several are concerned that cuts to the information technology budget will undermine the effort to streamline the exchange of electronic medical records between the Department of Defense and VA systems.

The Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), meanwhile, will focus on getting veterans jobs this year. "We have a high national unemployment rate, but we have a much higher veterans unemployment rate. It's typically about two points higher," said Tom Tarantino, senior legislative associate for IAVA.

The organization wants Congress to request a report from the private sector, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, unions and others who "understand the market" to find solutions to the problem.

There is also support among VSOs for increased oversight of the VA, so long as the focus is on waste and not reducing benefits.

"We want to keep what we've got," said Hershel Gober, legislative director for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. "We are in strong support of going after all the waste, fraud and abuse that we can find. I really believe if we do that across the government, we'll find enough waste, fraud and abuse that we won't have to take benefits away from veterans."

Rep. Jeff Miller (R-Fla.), chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, has called for increased oversight of the VA department. "I think we need to focus not only on delivery of services but the cost at which those services are being delivered to the veteran," Miller said.

Many VSOs welcomed the call for transparency. "If it's done with an eye to improving benefits and services for veterans, it's hard not to be supportive of that," said Vollmer. "If it's just an artifice to dig into this particular administration or particular programs, that's not really good oversight; that's just plain politics."

VSOs scheduled to testify at Wednesday's hearing include AMVETS, the Jewish War Veterans, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association and the Fleet Reserve Association. The Vietnam Veterans of America, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Retired Enlisted Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Wounded Warrior Project and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs will testify March 30.

Two other large veterans organizations testified before the committees earlier this month: the Veterans of Foreign Wars on March 8 and the Disabled American Veterans on March 1.

"We all know we're much stronger when we work together," Tarantino said of the groups descending on Congress in the next two weeks.

[Return to Index](#)

OPINION:

36. After Japan's Quake, Rethinking How We Build Our Navy

Amphibious assault ships have been crucial in aiding Japan, so why is the Navy trying to kill them?

(THE ATLANTIC 15 MAR 11) ... Craig Hooper

Of the 11 commissioned U.S. warships en route to Japan, almost half are big Cold War-era amphibious assault vessels purpose-built to land Marines on hostile shores. But while these unglamorous transport ships dispatch helicopters and critical aid to a grateful ally, they're being marginalized by a Navy that tends to fixate on the capabilities to wage a high-tech, blue-water war, while underestimating the importance of mundane disaster-response work in maintaining our global power and influence.

The Navy's amphibious forces have carried out the lion's share of America's disaster-response work, responding to 114 crises and contingencies over the past 20 years. Yet this enviable record means little inside the beltway. With the recent cancellation of the pricey \$25-million dollar Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle, a specialized floating tank meant to speed Marines from sea to shore, defense leaders are signaling that troop transporters, helicopter carriers, and other old-school "charge the beach" tools of amphibious warfare are obsolete and not worth full funding. The EFV deserved cancellation for a number of reasons, not the least of which was its price tag, but skeptics of amphibious warfare are using the EFV's demise to claim that the amphibious fleet as a whole has lost its reason for being and should be cut.

But even as Washington cuts, more countries are investing in amphibious warfare platforms than ever before. Last December, Russia solidified plans to buy four \$900 million-dollar Mistral-class assault ships from France; Canada is mulling a purchase of two. China, almost done with a second new amphibious warfare vessel, is in the early stages of a rumored 16 assault-ship building program. Australia is planning for a pair of massive helicopter carriers. South Korea, Japan, and even Indonesia are building amphibious craft, all capable of transporting and landing hundreds of fully equipped troops on hostile shores.

This buildup of amphibious warfare platforms is unprecedented, yet the Pentagon seems unconcerned, perhaps psychologically unready to grapple with the dramatic proliferation of amphibious power. And why should it be? The U.S. has enjoyed 60 years of overwhelming superiority in amphibious force. It hasn't felt compelled to update, luxuriating in the assumption that it could hand to like-minded junior partners the disaster response, non-combatant evacuations, and other stability-enhancing projects blue-water warfighters no longer want.

But these new navies will not collaborate forever, and the U.S., its attention focused elsewhere, risks missing that this world-wide build-up of new, versatile assault craft could affect our ability to project force in the global littorals.

Rather than join in the build-up, U.S. amphibious assault capabilities are being targeted by budget-cutters. Last year, the White House Deficit Commission urged on the demise of the Marines' MV-22 Osprey helicopter-plane, the Marine version of the F-35 strike fighter, and the Future Maritime Prepositioning Force, floating warehouses meant to support the Marine Corps in a major contingency. Plans to purchase several cheap and speedy Joint High Speed Vessels, a modernized fast ferry and potential mainstay of the future amphibious assault fleet, is under pressure. Modernization aside, fiscal hawks are expressing an eager desire to shrink the existing fleet of 33 specialized amphibious ships used to transport Marines -- the very ships that are, right now, leading the way in our effort to support a beleaguered Japan.

Some vigorous pruning of bloated naval programs is overdue, but Washington's over-enthusiastic campaign to cut amphibious warfare appears founded on a flawed assumption -- that the era of World-War II-like offshore assaults is over forever, ended by accurate anti-ship weaponry and the proliferation of sea mines, submarines, and other area-denial capabilities.

We had a similar debate 50 years ago, when Navy theorists predicted that nuclear weapons would mean the end of beach assaults. But big amphibious fleets are still here. To take Grenada in 1983, the Pentagon marshaled 22 ships and 11,414 sailors to support an assault by some 8,000 soldiers and Marines. The decoy fleet off Kuwait in 1991 was even larger. Amphibious assault ships will always gather when America needs to "kick in the door" someplace. Perhaps even more importantly, they're a crucial tool for the sorts of humanitarian response missions we're leading in Japan. Providing relief for Japan isn't just the right thing to do, it's necessary for us to maintain a strong naval presence at both ends of the Pacific. If our amphibious fleet continues to decay, and China's continues to evolve, then Japan may look west rather than east the next time it needs a foreign navy to intervene.

Though it may be tempting to consign "charging the beach" tactics as outmoded, amphibious warfare seems set for a perilous global renaissance. Even if island warfare remains a rare phenomenon, amphibious ships are some of the most useful, if unglamorous, military tools in the arsenal. After responding to two tsunamis in the space of six years, amphibious assault platforms have proven their ability to do a lot of good in key places. Supporting a large, utilitarian fleet of floating pick-up trucks may not be very exciting, but Japan's earthquake and tsunami are important reminders of the importance of amphibious capability -- and of the risks of neglecting them. After all, the next mega-tsunami may very well be our own.

[Return to Index](#)

37. Osprey: A Marine's Best Friend

Versatile aircraft lets leathernecks accomplish the otherwise impossible
(WASHINGTON TIMES 15 MAR 11) ... Gen. Paul X. Kelley

In the early 1980s while serving as assistant commandant and later as commandant of the United States Marine Corps, I was called upon - along with other members of the Pentagon leadership team - to make the type of far-reaching acquisition decisions that would arm our military services with the resources necessary to prevail in the conflicts of the 21st century. Our overarching concern was that the innovative weapons systems of tomorrow ensure that the forces of the future could meet the challenges of new types of missions in the harsh terrain of faraway countries against a diverse array of potential enemies.

The V-22 Osprey, an innovative aircraft that combines the best of both helicopter and airplane, was one of the programs under consideration. In combat conditions, the Osprey could move our Marines in and out of battle safer and faster than any of the helicopter options available then or even on the drawing board. It was clear that for the force of the future, an aircraft with game-changing capabilities was the smart choice. The decision to proceed with this forward-looking program was, and remains, one of the best acquisition decisions we made. Fast-forward to 2011, with 132 V-22 aircraft currently in service: The Osprey has served with distinction in 14 highly successful deployments. From Iraq to Afghanistan, to humanitarian service in areas of Africa and Haiti that could not be reached by conventional helicopters, the Osprey has distinguished itself - and it has earned unprecedented high marks for safety, survivability and speed. For the past 10 years, the V-22 has earned the lowest mishap rate of any currently fielded Marine rotorcraft. In fact, studies by both industry and the government conclude that the V-22 is more operationally efficient than any helicopter alternative.

Not surprisingly, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates has decided to maintain funding for the V-22 Osprey. This is the right choice. The V-22 has grown into a mature, successful aircraft that each day takes on many of our hardest combat missions. This remarkable aircraft is hard at work deploying and extracting personnel whose service to our nation takes them into harm's way, combining the vertical landing and takeoff of helicopters with the speed, range and altitude of a turbo-prop airplane and the survivability of a state-of-the-art composite exterior.

As members of Congress debate the Pentagon's funding priorities for 2012 and beyond, they would be wise to remember the strong record of service achieved by the V-22 Osprey. They should recognize that this unprecedented aircraft, now well into its maturity, is serving our nation both in combat and on critical humanitarian missions and has achieved a remarkable record for safety and effectiveness. The V-22 Osprey provides the flexibility that the men and women of our military need and deserve in order to serve in and survive combat and to successfully execute the ever-evolving mission requirements of today and tomorrow. Gen. Paul X. Kelley served as commandant of the United States Marine Corps from 1983 through 1987.

[Return to Index](#)

If you would rather not receive future communications from Chief of Navy Information, please go to
[http://CHINFO.pr-
optout.com/OptOut.aspx?517728x24985x52676x3x1469299x24000x6&Email=David.Durham%40gdit.com](http://CHINFO.pr-optout.com/OptOut.aspx?517728x24985x52676x3x1469299x24000x6&Email=David.Durham%40gdit.com).
Chief of Navy Information, Department of the Navy 1200 Navy Pentagon--Room 4B463, Washington, DC
20350-1200 United States



CHINFO NEWS CLIPS

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Further reproduction or distribution is subject to original copyright restrictions.
To subscribe, go to <http://www.chinfo.navy.mil/pages/clips.html>.

TOP STORIES:

1. Military Monitors Radiation As Troops Deliver Humanitarian Aid

(STARS AND STRIPES 16 MAR 11) ... Jon Rabirotff

SEOUL — U.S. military assets continue to converge on Japan, hoping to deliver humanitarian assistance while being careful not to expose servicemembers to radiation leaking from the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant.

2. DoD Offers To Move Families Amid Bahrain Chaos

(NAVY TIMES 15 MAR 11)

MANAMA, Bahrain — As a month-long standoff in Bahrain escalates between protesters and the government, now bolstered by a Saudi-led military force that arrived Monday, Bahrain-based 5th Fleet closed a base school, warned personnel to steer clear of protest areas and initiated the moving of families, on a voluntary-basis, off of the tiny island kingdom.

3. House Votes 3-Week Stopgap Government Spending Bill As Parties Battle Over Budget Cuts

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11)

WASHINGTON — The House Tuesday passed a measure blending \$6 billion in budget cuts with enough money to keep the government running for an additional three weeks.

4. US Navy Backs Northrop Spin-Off Of Ship Unit

(REUTERS 15 MAR 11) ... Karen Jacobs and Andrea Shalal-Esa,

ATLANTA - The U.S. Navy threw its support behind Northrop Grumman Corp's (NOC.N) plans to spin off its shipbuilding unit after the company agreed to make certain financial adjustments to cover possible risks.

CURRENT OPERATIONS:

5. U.S. Naval Forces Converge On Disaster-Stricken Japan

(STARS AND STRIPES 15 MAR 11) ... Tim Wightman

TOKYO — U.S. Naval forces are converging on Japan as part of a recovery effort in the wake of Friday's 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that has left more than 3,000 people dead and thousands others missing, the Navy announced Tuesday in separate releases.

6. U.S. Redirects Warships Over Japan Radiation Risk

(REUTERS 15 MAR 11) ... Phil Stewart

The U.S. military took new steps to shield personnel from radiation spread by Japan's crippled nuclear plant on Tuesday, redirecting arriving warships to safer waters and telling some forces to limit time outdoors.

7. U.S. Military Steps Up Quake Relief Efforts

(WALL STREET JOURNAL 15 MAR 11) ... Nathan Hodge

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. military expanded its earthquake relief efforts Tuesday in Japan, sending equipment to help firefighting efforts at the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant and deploying troops to assist humanitarian relief and search-and-rescue efforts.

8. Marines Arrive In Disaster Zone

(WALL STREET JOURNAL 16 MAR 11) ... Chester Dawson

MATSUSHIMA -- The first U.S. Marine Corps humanitarian assistance team to survey the damage to infrastructure and public health arrived in northeastern Japan on Wednesday with some 20,000 bottles of donated water.

9. Commander: Decision To Evacuate Bases In Japan Would Come From State Department

(STARS AND STRIPES 15 MAR 11) ... Erik Slavin

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan — Any decision to evacuate military personnel and their families from Japan would come first from the State Department, Atsugi's base commander told Stars and Stripes following a town hall meeting with concerned residents Tuesday night.

10. VP-4 Perform SAR Missions In Support Of Operation Tomodachi

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 16 MAR 11) ... Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Steve White, Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa Public Affairs

At Sea -- Flight crews from Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 are flying humanitarian and support missions as part of Operation Tomodachi in response to the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunamis that hit northern Japan March 11.

11. USS Providence Among U.S. Naval Forces Off Libya

(NEW LONDON DAY 16 MAR 11) ... Jennifer McDermott

The Groton-based USS Providence crossed the Suez Canal Saturday and headed for the Mediterranean Sea, where other Navy ships are waiting to respond to the violence in Libya if needed.

12. Sailors, Marines Install Water Pump At Honduran School

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jeffery Tilghman Williams, High Speed Vessel Swift Public Affairs

SAN LORENZO, Honduras -- Sailors assigned to Detail Bravo of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28 and 2nd Marine Logistics Group (MLG) replaced a broken hand water pump with an electric powered pump at Escuela Eneas Avarado in San Lorenzo, Honduras, March 14, in support of Southern Partnership Station (SPS) 2011.

13. Comfort Goes On Central, South America Mission

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11)

BALTIMORE — The Navy says the Baltimore-based hospital ship Comfort is preparing for a new mission to Central and South America and the Caribbean.

14. Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group To Arrive In San Diego

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Lt. Greg D. Raelson, Abraham Lincoln Strike Group Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO - Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group (CSG) and its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2, will arrive in San Diego from a six-month scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Areas of Responsibility (AOR) March 19.

15. Marines, Sailors Hurt In Bragg Explosion

(NAVY TIMES 15 MAR 11) ... Brian Shane

Eight Marines and two Navy personnel were hospitalized Monday night with shrapnel wounds and lacerations following an explosion during artillery training at Fort Bragg, N.C.

GLOBAL MARITIME ENVIRONMENT:

16. Japan Says 2nd Reactor May Have Ruptured With Radioactive Release

(NEW YORK TIMES 16 MAR 11) ... Hiroko Tabuchi and Keith Bradsher

TOKYO — Japan's nuclear crisis intensified again Wednesday, with Japanese authorities announcing that a containment vessel in a second reactor unit at the stricken Fukushima Daiichi plant in northeastern Japan may have ruptured and appeared to be releasing radioactive steam. That would be the second vessel to be compromised in two days.

17. US Warns 'No Military Solution' In Bahrain

(AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE 15 MAR 11)

WASHINGTON — The White House on Tuesday warned that there was "no military solution" to the political upheaval in Bahrain, after a Saudi-led force intervened in a move which sent Gulf tensions rocketing.

18. Bahrain King Clamps Down; 3 Dead As Unrest Spreads

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11) ... Barbara Surk and Reem Khalifa

MANAMA, Bahrain -- Bahrain's king declared a three-month state of emergency Tuesday to quell a Shiite uprising, as clashes spread through the capital and surrounding villages in a showdown that drew in the region's major powers and splintered along its main sectarian faultlines. At least two Bahrainis and a Saudi soldier died, and hundreds of protesters were injured by shotgun blasts and clubs.

19. Israeli Navy Intercepts Egypt-Bound Ship With Arms

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11) ... Aron Heller

JERUSALEM -- Israel said Tuesday it seized a cargo ship loaded with weapons sent by Iran to Palestinian militants in Gaza, including sophisticated land-to-sea missiles that officials said could change the balance of power in the area.

20. More Pirates Facing Prosecution As Attacks Increase In Violence

Pirates Jailed In 17 Nations

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11) ... Katharine Houreld

NAIROBI, Kenya - Five Somali pirates are jailed for life by a U.S. court. Sixty-one suspected pirates captured at sea face trial in India. Somali prisons are running out of room.

21. Govt Considering Allowing Armed Guards On Merchant Ships

(TIMES OF INDIA 15 MAR 11)

NEW DELHI: Faced with increasing incidents of pirate attacks, the government is considering allowing armed guards to be deployed on Indian merchant ships to enable them to retaliate in case of an attempt by sea brigands to take over the vessels.

22. Russia, France Struggle Over Mistral Contract

(RIA NOVOSTI 16 MAR 11)

PARIS - A Russian-French contract on the construction of Mistral class helicopter carriers for the Russian Navy is unlikely to be signed in the near future, a Russian deputy defense minister said.

PERSONNEL:

23. Sailors Must Verify Their Death Gratuity Beneficiary

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. -- Due to a change in the law regarding death gratuity and recent upgrades to the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS), officials are urging Sailors to verify their designated death gratuity beneficiaries beginning March 17.

24. New Performance Evaluation Requirements Go Into Effect March 15

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. -- Beginning March 15, Navy performance evaluations and fitness reports must conform to new policies announced in NAVADMIN 286/10.

25. NAVADMIN Announces NWU Pattern Gore-Tex Foul Weather Trouser

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Chief of Naval Personnel

• WASHINGTON -- The Navy Working Uniform (NWU) now has a matching foul weather trouser made of Gore-Tex for wear during inclement weather, as announced in NAVADMIN 081/11 March 11.

26. SPAWAR Project Lead Receives Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 16 MAR 11) ... Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO -- Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) announced March 15 that a SPAWAR service member received the Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award from the Sea Service Leadership Association and the Military Officers Association of America.

FORCE STRUCTURE/PROGRAMS:

27. Northrop To Spin Off Shipyards

(NEW YORK TIMES 16 MAR 11) ... Christopher Drew

Northrop Grumman's board approved the spinoff of its struggling shipyards to stockholders after making changes to ease Navy concerns about the deal, Pentagon and industry officials said on Tuesday.

28. Some Lockheed F-35 Fighters Cleared For Flight

(REUTERS 15 MAR 11) ... Andrea Shalal-Esa

WASHINGTON - Seven of 10 F-35 fighter jets built by Lockheed Martin Corp were cleared to resume flight tests this week as government auditors raised questions about the long-term affordability of the program.

29. Lockheed F-35 Faces 'Significant' Software Delays, GAO Says

(BLOOMBERG NEWS 15 MAR 11) ... Tony Capaccio

2011 Lockheed Martin Corp. (LMT)'s development of software for its F-35 fighter jet, the Pentagon's largest weapons program, is "significantly behind schedule as it enters its most challenging phase," according to congressional auditors.

30. Inouye Sees F-35 Second Engine Losing Funding, Eyes Future Lifeline

(DEFENSE DAILY 16 MAR 11) ... Emelie Rutherford

A senior senator said yesterday Congress likely will not approve monies for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter's alternate engine this year, admitting his only hope for the program is partial funding next year.

31. Northrop Celebrates First Navy Drone Fuselage

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11)

MOSS POINT, Miss. — Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems has completed work in Moss Point on the first drone fuselage for the Navy, part of a multibillion-dollar contract.

BASES / COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

32. Base Land Transfer Timeline Evolving

(BRUNSWICK (ME) TIMES RECORD 15 MAR 11) ... Seth Koenig

BRUNSWICK — The Navy is scheduled to clear more than 1,500 acres of Brunswick Naval Air Station property for transfer to civilian redevelopers between June and November of this year, according to a report delivered last week.

33. U.S. Navy SEAL Fitness Challenge

(KEYE CBS AUSTIN (TX) 15 MAR 11)

This Sunday at noon the Navy SEALs will be parachuting onto the field of a YMCA to put some very brave individuals through the seal fitness challenge.

NEWS OF INTEREST:

34. Government Would Save Billions By Capping Pay, CBO Says

(GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE 15 MAR 11) ... Kellie Lunney

Reducing annual pay increases for federal civilian workers and military personnel would save the government billions of dollars during the next decade, according to the latest figures from the Congressional Budget Office in a report on trimming the burgeoning deficit.

35. Veterans: Don't Cut Military Benefits

(THE HILL 15 MAR 11) ... Alicia M. Cohn

Veterans service organizations are flooding Capitol Hill this month to make the case that military benefits should be kept out of proposals to reduce the deficit.

OPINION:

36. After Japan's Quake, Rethinking How We Build Our Navy

Amphibious assault ships have been crucial in aiding Japan, so why is the Navy trying to kill them?

(THE ATLANTIC 15 MAR 11) ... Craig Hooper

Of the 11 commissioned U.S. warships en route to Japan, almost half are big Cold War-era amphibious assault vessels purpose-built to land Marines on hostile shores. But while these unglamorous transport ships dispatch helicopters and critical aid to a grateful ally, they're being marginalized by a Navy that tends to fixate on the capabilities to wage a high-tech, blue-water war, while underestimating the importance of mundane disaster-response work in maintaining our global power and influence.

37. Osprey: A Marine's Best Friend

Versatile aircraft lets leathernecks accomplish the otherwise impossible

(WASHINGTON TIMES 15 MAR 11) ... Gen. Paul X. Kelley

In the early 1980s while serving as assistant commandant and later as commandant of the United States Marine Corps, I was called upon - along with other members of the Pentagon leadership team - to make the type of far-reaching acquisition decisions that would arm our military services with the resources necessary to prevail in the conflicts of the 21st century. Our overarching concern was that the innovative weapons systems of tomorrow ensure that the forces of the future could meet the challenges of new types of missions in the harsh terrain of faraway countries against a diverse array of potential enemies.

TOP STORIES:

1. Military Monitors Radiation As Troops Deliver Humanitarian Aid

(STARS AND STRIPES 16 MAR 11) ... Jon Rabioff

SEOUL — U.S. military assets continue to converge on Japan, hoping to deliver humanitarian assistance while being careful not to expose servicemembers to radiation leaking from the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant.

“We continue to monitor the winds closely, moving our ships and aircraft as necessary to avoid the wind line from the Fukushima Power Plant,” U.S. 7th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Jeff Davis said in an e-mail.

“Aircraft and aircrews returning from missions ashore are being monitored carefully for contamination, and are conducting decontamination procedures as necessary when it is detected,” he said.

Davis said the USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group flew 29 sorties Tuesday, delivering 17 tons of supplies — including food, water and blankets — to hard-hit areas of northeastern Japan.

To date, 25 tons have been delivered, he said.

In addition, strike group aircraft conducted three coastal search-and-rescue sorties on Tuesday.

The strike group, which is continuing operations Wednesday off the east coast of Honshu, includes the cruiser USS Chancellorsville; destroyer USS Preble; combat support ship USNS Bridge; along with guided-missile destroyers USS Fitzgerald, USS John S. McCain, USS McCampbell and USS Curtis Wilbur.

An additional destroyer, USS Mustin, is at sea south of the disaster site.

[Return to Index](#)

2. DoD Offers To Move Families Amid Bahrain Chaos

(NAVY TIMES 15 MAR 11)

MANAMA, Bahrain — As a month-long standoff in Bahrain escalates between protesters and the government, now bolstered by a Saudi-led military force that arrived Monday, Bahrain-based 5th Fleet closed a base school, warned personnel to steer clear of protest areas and initiated the moving of families, on a voluntary-basis, off of the tiny island kingdom.

The Defense Department authorized a voluntary relocation program on Tuesday, in which families of military and DoD civilians assigned to Bahrain could be flown, at government expense, back to destinations of their choice in the U.S. and would receive per diem allowances. Military and “emergency essential” civilians, however, will stay until their projected rotation dates, according to the FAQ sheet posted on the 5th Fleet website.

“On par with the U.S. Embassy Manama Travel Warning, family members are authorized to voluntarily depart Bahrain,” 5th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Amy Derrick Frost said in a statement Tuesday. “Our operations remain normal and we are not evacuating any U.S. personnel or family members.”

This is the latest shift in a series of changes for the families of those stationed in Bahrain. More than 1,100 family members and civilians were evacuated from Bahrain in 2004 after terrorism threats. By late 2008, the threat was seen to have lessened enough that spouses and dependents 18 or older

On Tuesday morning, Davis said, “sensitive instrumentation on USS George Washington pier-side in Yokosuka detected low levels of radioactivity from the Fukushima plant. While there was no danger to the public, Commander, Naval Forces Japan recommended limited precautionary measures for personnel and their families on Fleet Activities Yokosuka and Naval Air Facility Atsugi, including limiting outdoor activities and securing external ventilation systems as much as practical.

“These measures are strictly precautionary in nature,” he continued. “We do not expect that any United States federal radiation exposure limits will be exceeded even if no precautionary measures are taken.”

The USS Tortuga, with two heavy-lift MH-53 helicopters embarked, picked up about 300 Japan Ground Self-Defense Force personnel and 90 vehicles Tuesday in Tomokomai, Hokkaido, and was scheduled to deliver them to Ominato, on the island of Honshu.

Davis said the USS Essex, USS Harpers Ferry and USS Germantown, with the embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, continue en route to the area and are expected Thursday.

“Given the radiological and navigation hazards on the eastern coast of Honshu, the ships will take position in the Sea of Japan on the west coast of Honshu, where they will be in the best position to launch disaster relief missions over land,” Davis said.

were allowed back to Bahrain, followed nine months later by children, once a wall had been built around the DoD school.

5th Fleet urged its 6,100 personnel to avoid the protest areas, but stopped short of closing the base.

“Personnel are directed to limit their movements to essential purposes only, particularly in the evening and early morning hours.” 5th Fleet said in a post Tuesday on its official Facebook page.

In this posting, 5th Fleet announced that the Defense Department school will be closed all week due to the protests. “Personnel who need to stay home to care for children affected by the closure are authorized to do so.”

Protests are expected to continue through Friday, the U.S. Embassy said in a demonstration notice issued Sunday. “There is no indication that Westerners are being threatened or targeted,” the notice said.

No protests were expected at the base.

Bahrain’s capital was in lockdown mode Tuesday with stores shuttered and main highways blocked by police after a Saudi-led military force entered the Gulf kingdom in a sharp escalation of efforts to quell a pro-democracy uprising against the ruling monarch.

The dispatch of more than 1,000 troops from Gulf allies on Monday highlighted the regional worries about possible spillover from Bahrain, where members of a majority Shiite population have led a month of relentless protests against the

Western-backed Sunni dynasty to try to break their monopoly on power.

Gulf leaders fear that concessions by Bahrain's rulers could embolden more protests against their own regimes, which have already confronted pro-reform cries in Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. There are also fears that gains by Bahrain's Shiite Muslims could offer a window for Shiite power Iran to expand its influence on the Arab side of the Gulf.

In Tehran, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Ramin Mehmanparast, denounced the presence of foreign troops in Bahrain as "unacceptable" and predicted it would complicate the kingdom's political crisis. Iran holds no deep political ties to Bahrain's Shiite groups, but some Iranian hard-liners in the past have hailed their efforts for greater rights.

Bahraini opposition groups also have strongly condemned the military move, calling it an occupation that pushes Bahrain dangerously close to a state of "undeclared war."

The United States — which relies on Bahrain as a pillar of its military framework in the Gulf — has urged Americans to avoid travel to the island nation due to "the potential for ongoing political and civil unrest." The State Department statement also advised Americans currently to consider leaving Bahrain, which hosts the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet.

Many parts of Bahrain's capital, Manama, were nearly deserted. Most stores and malls were shut and schools were closed. Police barricades halted traffic on key roadways in apparent attempts to limit the movement of demonstrators.

Thousands of protesters held their ground in Manama's Pearl Square, the symbolic center of their revolt. But opposition leaders have not yet announced their next move.

Mansoor al-Jamri, editor of the main opposition newspaper, Al-Wasat, said pro-government mobs stormed the paper's printing facilities early Tuesday and smashed equipment with metal pipes, clubs and axes. The paper is now using presses from other papers to publish.

Shiites account for 70 percent of the population, but are widely excluded from high-level political or security posts. The protesters also demand the repeal of a government policy to offset the Shiite demographic advantage by giving

[Return to Index](#)

3. House Votes 3-Week Stopgap Government Spending Bill As Parties Battle Over Budget Cuts

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11)

WASHINGTON — The House Tuesday passed a measure blending \$6 billion in budget cuts with enough money to keep the government running for an additional three weeks.

The measure would buy additional time for talks between Capitol Hill Republicans and the Obama administration on a bill to fund the day-to-day operations of the government through the end of September. Those negotiations haven't gotten very far yet and House GOP leaders haven't shown much flexibility.

The measure passed by a 271-158 vote despite opposition from some tea party-backed conservatives who said it "kicks the can down the road" instead of imposing steep and immediate spending cuts. The \$6 billion cut by the measure includes many items that the Obama administration and Democrats agree can be axed. Fifty-four Republicans opposed the bill, which meant that Democratic support was required to

citizenship and jobs to Sunnis from other Arab nations and South Asia.

The protests began last month with calls for the monarchy to give up most of its powers to the elected parliament. But as violence has deepened, many protesters now say they want to topple the entire royal family.

A statement Monday on the state-run Bahrain News Agency said troops from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council's Peninsula Shield Force have been deployed "in line with the principle of common destiny bonding." The bloc is made up of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE have announced roles in the Bahrain force, but the contributions from the other countries were not immediately clear.

The reason for the mission was "the common responsibility of the GCC countries in maintaining security and stability," the statement said.

The Peninsula Shield Force was created in the 1980s. Military units under a GCC command have been sent to Kuwait, including during the 1991 U.S.-led campaign to oust Saddam Hussein's force and in 2003 before the invasion of Iraq. The current action marks a significant shift to help a government quell internal unrest.

Jane Kinninmont, a senior research fellow and Bahrain expert at the London-based think tank Chatham House, said Monday's operation "changes the role of the GCC," which has always had collective defense pacts.

"The idea of gathering together to protect a government against its own people seems to be quite another thing," Kinninmont said.

In Washington on Monday, White House spokesman Jay Carney pointedly did not call on the Saudi-led force to withdraw.

"We are calling on the countries in the region to show restraint and pointing to the fact that the dialogue that can bring about political reform is essential for the stability of the countries in the region and their continued economic prosperity," Carney said.

pass it — a prospect that GOP leaders must avoid to keep control of the debate in future rounds.

"It's a small down payment on our commitment to the American people that we'd have real fiscal responsibility," said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

The measure moves to the Senate, which is likely to clear it for Obama's desk later this week. White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said in a statement after the vote that Obama supports the bill but signaled the White House is impatient with the lack of progress on a final measure.

"With the wide range of issues facing our nation, we cannot keep funding the government in two- or three-week increments," Carney said. "It is time for us to ... resolve this issue in a sensible way."

Prospects for agreement on a longer-term measure remain uncertain, however, as Republicans dominating the House are insistent on a measure mixing steep spending cuts with

numerous policy provisions, including a ban on federal funding for Planned Parenthood and a measure to strike money to bankroll implementation of President Barack Obama's signature health care law. The longer-term measure contains those provisions, as well as language to block the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating emissions believed to contribute to global warming.

Those policy riders are strongly opposed by Democrats and Obama and are likely to be at the center of any impasse that leads to a partial government shutdown.

"They are using the budget to try and shoot the moon on a wish list of far-right policy measures. If this debate were about spending cuts we could probably come to an agreement before too long," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. "We do not want any of these controversial riders to be in the bill. That's the bottom line."

At issue are the daily operating budgets of dozens of federal agencies that have been kept open under a series of stopgap bills since the 2011 budget year began last October. Last month, House Republicans passed a \$1.2 trillion measure that makes sweeping cuts to the domestic programs — averaging about 13 percent — that Congress funds every year. The cuts would feel almost twice as big since they would be stuffed into the second half of the budget year ending Sept. 30 and would likely lead to furloughs of thousands of federal workers.

Both the long- and short-term spending measure are required because Democrats controlling Congress last year failed to enact a single one of the 12 annual appropriations bills.

Democrats left the country with the current budget problems, said Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, who added: "They should not complain about how we try to clean this up."

The larger GOP measure made cuts of more than \$60 billion to those operating budgets. The measure would cut college aid for the poor, aid to local school districts and eliminate federal funding of public broadcasting and family planning programs.

The House measure ran into a brick wall in the Democratic-led Senate, where Republicans in turn blocked a Democratic bill that would cut about \$50 billion less.

House GOP leaders say that they can't negotiate in earnest until the Senate moves in their direction, and they note that the Senate Democratic alternative received fewer votes than the House measure in back-to-back tallies last week. But

[Return to Index](#)

4. US Navy Backs Northrop Spin-Off Of Ship Unit

(REUTERS 15 MAR 11) ... Karen Jacobs and Andrea Shalal-Esa,

ATLANTA - The U.S. Navy threw its support behind Northrop Grumman Corp's (NOC.N) plans to spin off its shipbuilding unit after the company agreed to make certain financial adjustments to cover possible risks.

The Navy announcement came late on Tuesday after Northrop's board approved the creation of Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc, in a spin-off to shareholders.

The Navy's support paves the way for the new company to wrap up contracts for two new U.S. warships, and moves Northrop one step closer to finalizing the spin-off, which must still be approved by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Boehner stops short of demanding that the Senate actually pass a bill — which would require Republican support — as a prerequisite for further negotiations.

"I'd like to know what the Senate position really is," Boehner told reporters Tuesday.

The stopgap measure passed over the objections of tea party-backed conservatives unimpressed by measure's cuts, which blend \$3.5 billion in cuts endorsed by Democrats with \$2.6 billion saved by cutting numerous accounts that have in the past been slush funds for lawmakers' back-home parochial projects. House Republicans have imposed a ban on such "earmarks," so it's easier to cut the accounts.

"By giving liberals in the Senate another three weeks of negotiations, we will only delay a confrontation that must come," said Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind. "I say, 'Let it come now. It's time to take a stand.'"

The frustration on the GOP right is matched by anger among Democrats who feel that Republicans haven't sufficiently engaged with the Senate and the White House. The combined sentiment suggests that Tuesday's stopgap spending measure — keeping agencies running through April 8 — could be the last one before a battle that could lead to a partial shutdown of the government.

Stoking the fire are tea party activists pressing both for steeper immediate spending cuts and resolution of the impasse so that lawmakers can move on to other priorities, such as tackling government benefits programs like Medicaid and Medicare, which are the real drivers of the nation's long-term deficit woes.

"This is weak incrementalism in a time when we need bold and visionary leadership from Congress and the president," said Mark Meckler, national coordinator for Tea Party Patriots. "Kicking the can down the road will not do."

But on Thursday, the House will take up a measure to cut off federal funding for National Public Radio, which is unpopular with conservatives.

Two NPR executives recently resigned over hidden camera footage released by a conservative activist in which one of them derided the tea party movement as "seriously racist." Conservatives called the video proof that the network is biased and undeserving of federal funds. Conservatives also were upset with NPR last fall when the network fired Juan Williams for comments he made about Muslims on Fox News Network.

The defense contractor said the spin-off has been structured to qualify as a tax-free distribution for U.S. federal tax purposes.

Northrop shareholders will receive one share of Huntington Ingalls for every six Northrop common shares they hold, under the plan.

"Based on our analysis, Northrop shareholders appear to be getting the ship business for pretty much free at current levels," RBC Capital Markets analyst Robert Stallard said in a note to clients.

Northrop announced last year that it was exploring a sale or spin-off of the shipbuilding operations, citing little synergy

with the company's other businesses that include unmanned spy planes and ballistic missile defense work. The ship business includes U.S. Gulf Coast operations and the Newport News, Virginia, business that builds nuclear submarines.

Huntington Ingalls is expected to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange on March 22 on a "when issued" basis, with regular trading under the symbol HII HII.N to start March 31, the company said in a statement.

Navy acquisition chief Sean Stackley said the Navy agreed to support Northrop's plans only after the company agreed to adjust the new company's financial structure to soothe concerns about its debt level and risks to the Navy's future shipbuilding capacity.

"Ultimately, with appropriate adjustments made by NGC, captured within an agreement with the Navy, we have been able to resolve our concerns about the risk involved to this

[Return to Index](#)

important segment of our shipbuilding industrial base," Stackley said in a statement.

Stackley said the Navy was "confident that HII is well postured to build affordable ships into the future"

He said the Navy regarded HII as "a responsible contractor" and was proceeding to finalize the negotiations and award the contracts for construction of two new warships: an amphibious assault ship, LPD 26, and a destroyer, DDG 113.

Navy spokeswoman Captain Cate Mueller gave few details, but said Northrop had agreed not to diminish the new entity's starting cash balance of \$300 million.

Northrop also agreed not to seek to recoup or otherwise offset from HII any performance incentives or economic price adjustments that the Navy might owe, she said.

CURRENT OPERATIONS:

5. U.S. Naval Forces Converge On Disaster-Stricken Japan

(STARS AND STRIPES 15 MAR 11) ... Tim Wightman

TOKYO — U.S. Naval forces are converging on Japan as part of a recovery effort in the wake of Friday's 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that has left more than 3,000 people dead and thousands others missing, the Navy announced Tuesday in separate releases.

Commander, Task Force 76 has organized a maritime response cell at the U.S. Forces Japan headquarters on Yokota Air Base to coordinate all Navy relief efforts. Much of that effort will be coming from the Essex Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG), comprising four ships, and the embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, or MEU — who together can provide fresh water, medical support, search and rescue, heavy lifting and amphibious crafts.

The San Diego-based USS Preble has already gotten involved, providing hundreds of pounds of supplies Tuesday to survivors.

Commander Task Force 76, the amphibious force for 7th Fleet, is the Navy's lead agency for earthquake and tsunami response in Japan. Their maritime response cell set up at Yokota is the command responsible for advising USFJ and carrying out relief efforts from the air, ground and sea. The team includes representatives from other 7th Fleet task forces CTFs 70, 72, 73 and 74. The cell allows for effective coordination with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force during the disaster response.

"Seventh Fleet's amphibious forces have a lot of experience with humanitarian and disaster relief," said Rear Adm. Richard Landolt, commander, CTF 76. "So it makes sense to use that experience to shape our response and help our ally and regional partner recover from this catastrophic event."

Essex ARG/31st MEU

"We train for [Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief] missions, and with everything from excess water-producing capacity to expanded hospital beds, the ARG-MEU team is well-positioned to handle all the immediate needs of most humanitarian crises," said Capt. Bradley Lee, commander of Amphibious Squadron 11.

The Essex Amphibious Ready group, which includes the Sasebo, Japan-based USS Essex, USS Harpers Ferry and USS Tortuga, all from Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 11, and the Sasebo-based USS Germantown, were at sea Monday preparing to do their part in providing humanitarian assistance/disaster relief support to Japan. They were expected to arrive in mainland Japan on Wednesday.

Joining the Essex ARG embarked aboard three ships is the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit from Okinawa, which includes more than 2,200 Marines and sailors. They, along with PHIBRON 11, were planning for a disaster relief exercise in Indonesia before being redirected to Japan when news of the actual disaster broke.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to our close friends and allies in Japan during this difficult time," said Col. Andrew MacMannis, 31st MEU commanding officer.

Members of the 31 MEU were spread out at the time, with the majority of the Marines aboard the USS Essex. The amphibious assault ship had recently arrived in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, for a port visit when the tsunami struck. The crew and Marines were recalled, and the Essex set course for Japan on March 12.

The 31st MEU can use the Super Stallions and CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters, assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, to move up to 260,000 pounds and transport as many as 860 passengers per day.

"Our biggest advantage is the heavy-lift capabilities our CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters provide," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Clifford Hanna. "With them, we can transport more personnel and supplies ashore."

In the last two years, the 31st MEU and PHIBRON 11 team has responded to four disaster-relief situations.

USS Preble

The San Diego-based destroyer USS Preble, with sailors embarked from Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light Four Three, on Tuesday were one of the first groups to join the relief effort. They were called as first responders to survey the coastline and provide an aerial perspective to other ships in the area.

"We could see isolated areas where survivors had drawn in the dirt 'SOS' or a large encircled 'H' as a cry for help," said Lt. Joe Landi, describing the patrol. "We landed nearby to assess the situation and determine what we could do to help."

After interacting with stranded survivors and hearing accounts from HSL-43 crew members, Preble sailors volunteered to provide supplies to the Japanese from their own

[Return to Index](#)

6. U.S. Redirects Warships Over Japan Radiation Risk

(REUTERS 15 MAR 11) ... Phil Stewart

The U.S. military took new steps to shield personnel from radiation spread by Japan's crippled nuclear plant on Tuesday, redirecting arriving warships to safer waters and telling some forces to limit time outdoors.

Here are the latest details from the Pentagon on the mobilization of American forces to aid Japan after its devastating tsunami and earthquake.

All times are local to Japan.

Where is radiation being detected?

*Two U.S. naval bases detected above normal levels of radiation: the Yokosuka Naval Base, located about 200 miles south of the plant, and the Naval Air Facility Atsugi, which is about 150 miles from the plant.

*Rear Admiral Richard Wren, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Japan, said the additional radiation exposure for the past 12 hours at the two bases was about 20 millirem, less than one month's exposure to naturally occurring background radiation. He is recommending personnel and their families limit outdoor activity and shut down external ventilation systems.

*A day after saying 17 Americans on helicopter missions had been exposed to a month's worth of normal radiation, the Navy acknowledged several more crew members had been similarly exposed to low levels of radiation. But it said there was no risk to their health and that operations would continue.

Ships being redirected

*The Navy said some arriving warships will be stationed off the west coast of Honshu, Japan's largest island, instead of

[Return to Index](#)

7. U.S. Military Steps Up Quake Relief Efforts

(WALL STREET JOURNAL 15 MAR 11) ... Nathan Hodge

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. military expanded its earthquake relief efforts Tuesday in Japan, sending equipment to help firefighting efforts at the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant and deploying troops to assist humanitarian relief and search-and-rescue efforts.

Pentagon spokesman Col. David Lapan said U.S. Forces Japan "provided two fire trucks to Fukushima, to be operated by Japanese crews," but added that there was no direct U.S. military involvement in the response.

A contingent of U.S. Marines have moved to the Japanese mainland to coordinate military relief efforts, dubbed Operation Tomadachi ("friends") by Japan. At present, 440 Okinawa-based Marines and sailors have deployed in support of the operation, according to the Third Marine Expeditionary Force.

Another 2,200 Marines and sailors of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit are also en route to Japan aboard ships of

deployment provisions. Their contributions included warm weather clothing, wool blankets, nonperishable food and water. The ship supply department also contributed heavily, and in less than two hours the mess decks were full of supplies for the helicopter to deliver to survivors.

heading to the east coast as planned because of "radiological and navigation hazards."

*The ships are the USS Essex, a large amphibious assault ship; USS Harpers Ferry, a dock-landing ship; and USS Germantown, an amphibious dock-landing ship. They are expected to arrive on March 17.

Carrier strike group at safe distance

*The USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group, which includes the cruiser USS Chancellorsville, the destroyer USS Preble and the combat support ship USNS Bridge, is conducting operations off the east coast of Honshu at a safe distance northeast of the Fukushima nuclear complex.

*The strike group flew 29 sorties on Tuesday to bring humanitarian aid ashore, delivering 17 tons of supplies including food, water and blankets. A total of 25 tons has been delivered so far, providing assistance to 2,000 people.

*The guided-missile destroyers USS Fitzgerald, USS John S. McCain, USS McCampbell and USS Curtis Wilbur are in the same area as the carrier strike group.

*The guided missile destroyer USS Mustin is at sea south of the disaster site.

*U.S. Navy P-3 "Orion" aircraft flew two missions to survey and assess the debris field at sea.

Who else is still en route?

*USS Tortuga, an amphibious dock landing ship, loaded two heavy-lift MH-53 helicopters on Saturday in South Korea. It was due to arrive on the Japanese island of Hokkaido on Tuesday to pick up 300 Japan Ground Self Defense Force personnel and 90 vehicles bring them to Aomori, Japan.

Amphibious Squadron 11. According to a U.S. military press release, most of the unit is on board the amphibious assault ship USS Essex. Those troops were recalled from a port visit to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, after the disaster struck. They are expected off the coast of mainland Japan on or around Wednesday.

A U.S. Navy update said those ships would take position in the Sea of Japan, on the west coast of Honshu, to avoid "radiological and navigation hazards on the eastern coast of Honshu."

The U.S. military has established a refueling base at Yamagata Airfield that is supposed to allow U.S. and Japanese helicopters to refuel quickly and remain on hand over disaster-stricken areas. The Westpac Express, a high-speed military ferry, arrived Tuesday at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni from Okinawa to deliver equipment for the refueling base.

Two U.S. Marine KC-130 transport aircraft based at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma also delivered forklifts, equipment and personnel to Yamagata Airfield.

According to a Marine Corps press release, an additional flight is scheduled to deliver more helicopter refueling equipment Tuesday evening, and additional refueling sites are being scouted in Sendai and Hanamaki. U.S. Navy surveillance aircraft based out of Okinawa have flown missions to survey the debris field at sea.

A U.S. Navy carrier strike group, led by the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, is currently operating off the east coast of Honshu. Lt. Anthony Falvo, a Navy spokesman, said the group flew a total of 29 aircraft sorties Tuesday, delivering 17 tons of supplies, including food, water and blankets.

Additional vessels in the strike group include the cruiser USS Chancellorsville, the destroyer USS Preble, and the support ship USNS Bridge, along with several guided-missile destroyers. Lt. Falvo said an additional destroyer, the USS Mustin, was at sea south of the region that took the brunt of the earthquake and tsunami damage.

Previously, the carrier group was forced to make an unexpected detour after detecting low levels of radiation downwind of a damaged Japanese nuclear power plant.

"We continue to monitor the winds closely, moving our ships and aircraft as necessary to avoid the wind line from the Fukushima Power Plant," said an update issued Tuesday by the Navy's Seventh Fleet. "Aircraft and air crews returning from missions ashore are being monitored carefully for contamination, and are conducting decontamination procedures as necessary when it is detected."

A Navy official said some crew members were being given potassium iodide as a "precautionary measure," but was not able to provide additional details.

According to a Navy statement, the carrier USS George Washington, currently docked at Yokosuka naval base, detected low levels of radioactivity from the Fukushima plant this morning.

[Return to Index](#)

8. Marines Arrive In Disaster Zone

(WALL STREET JOURNAL 16 MAR 11) ... Chester Dawson

MATSUSHIMA -- The first U.S. Marine Corps humanitarian assistance team to survey the damage to infrastructure and public health arrived in northeastern Japan on Wednesday with some 20,000 bottles of donated water.

Traveling aboard a U.S. Air Force cargo plane, an 11-member Humanitarian Assistance Support (HAS) team brought 10 pallets of water, each carrying dozens of cases of half-liter plastic bottles of Canadian spring water.

The plane landed amid a snowstorm at a heavily damaged airfield in Matsushima located 17 miles (28 kilometers) north of the city of Sendai. More than 20 jet fighters of Japan's Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) were damaged at the base, and the hangars and headquarters building reeked of mud.

The base sits on elevated ground, which spared it the worst of the 10-foot high tsunami that washed away cars and submerged homes nearby. Still, inside buildings on the base, the first floor walls were scarred with waterlines that were nearly six-foot high. Windows were smashed and waterlogged furniture had been dragged outside and stacked for disposal.

According to the statement, there was "no danger to the public," but the commander of U.S. naval forces in Japan recommended that personnel stationed at Yokosuka limit outdoor activities and secure external ventilation systems. "These measures are strictly precautionary in nature," the statement read. "We do not expect that any U.S. federal radiation exposure limits will be exceeded even if no precautionary measures are taken."

In addition to the ships under the USS Ronald Reagan carrier group, the USS Tortuga, with two heavy-lift MH-53 helicopters aboard, is in Tomakomai, Hokkaido, preparing to embark with about 300 Japan Ground Self Defense Force personnel and 90 vehicles.

According to a Navy statement, the ship will ferry the troops and vehicles to Ominato, on the island of Honshu, Tuesday night.

U.S. Air Force aircraft are also flying missions in support of the relief effort. Roger Drinnon, a spokesman for Air Mobility Command, said transport aircraft had thus far delivered 107.5 tons of cargo, including 64 tons of search-and-rescue equipment from the U.S. and 43.5 tons of generators and other equipment from a U.S. base in South Korea. Air Mobility Command refueling planes have loaded 29,900 gallons of fuel on U.S. military aircraft flying relief missions over the Pacific.

The U.S. Agency for International Development has been designated as the lead U.S. government agency for coordinating humanitarian relief efforts, similar to Haiti earthquake relief operations in early 2010.

Gina Jackson, a USAID spokeswoman, said the agency had deployed a 157-strong Disaster Assistance Response Team that includes 144 civilian search and rescue personnel from Fairfax County, Va., and Los Angeles County, Calif. In addition, experts from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are attached to the USAID team.

"The tsunami left behind about two feet of silt in our base headquarters building," said 1st Lt. Sakurawo Ishikawa, a member of the JASDF 4th air wing at Matsushima Air Base. "We had to shovel it out by hand."

The Marines were joined by Japanese troops who helped unload the water and other supplies from the cargo plane and onto waiting trucks, which set off in convoy along the Tohoku Expressway en route to a refugee center near the devastated city of Kesenuma.

The 24-bottle cases of Aberfoyle brand water, stacked six-foot high and shrink-wrapped on the 10 pallets, were donated by an unspecified Japanese retailer.

The HAS team is the first of four expected to enter the disaster area as part of Operation Tomodachi (which means "friend" in Japanese). The team is a joint task force of the U.S. armed forces—including the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

"All of our teams are ready to go," said Maj. Anthony Loignon, 42, the HAS team leader and a member of the 3rd Marine Logistic Group under the III Marine Expeditionary

Force. "We're the eyes and ears of the command structure" for Operation Tomodachi.

Forward deployment U.S. units will deliver critical supplies, survey the damage to critical infrastructure such as bridges and power substations, and also monitor for the spread of infectious disease such as typhoid. "Our job is to assess the degree of human need," said Maj. Loignon. "We work off a

[Return to Index](#)

9. Commander: Decision To Evacuate Bases In Japan Would Come From State Department

(STARS AND STRIPES 15 MAR 11) ... Erik Slaviv

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan — Any decision to evacuate military personnel and their families from Japan would come first from the State Department, Atsugi's base commander told Stars and Stripes following a town hall meeting with concerned residents Tuesday night.

Spurred by concerns after the announcement of very low-level radiation detected at Atsugi on Tuesday morning, audience members asked Capt. Eric Gardner if there was an emergency evacuation plan, and he initially told them that there was not.

He then mentioned that if there were an evacuation, the sick would go first, followed by noncombatants.

Afterward, Gardner elaborated on his remarks with Stars and Stripes, stating that evacuations have always been thought of in terms of a war contingency.

"The decision [to evacuate] would come from the Embassy, and then the war plans would go into effect," said Gardner, who added that any details on those plans were made at higher levels than his command.

For many years, Pacific military planners have thought of Japan as they place they would bring noncombatants who had to evacuate from other places. Civilians at U.S. bases in South Korea practice evacuating in the event of an attack from North Korea, with Japan as the hypothetical landing spot.

Gardner reiterated Rear Adm. Richard Wren's statement at Monday night's Yokosuka Naval Base town hall meeting that evacuation wasn't foreseeable under the current

[Return to Index](#)

10. VP-4 Perform SAR Missions In Support Of Operation Tomodachi

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 16 MAR 11) ... Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Steve White, Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa Public Affairs

At Sea -- Flight crews from Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 are flying humanitarian and support missions as part of Operation Tomodachi in response to the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunamis that hit northern Japan March 11.

The squadron, nicknamed the "Skinny Dragons," fly the P-3C Orion aircraft out of Okinawa and have been performing aerial search missions over the debris field off the coast of northern Japan. Japanese homes and semi-truck trailers are among the odd assortment of wreckage floating as far as 10 miles out in the Pacific.

"VP 4 has only just begun to aid in the humanitarian effort," said Lt. Matthew Welch, a pilot with VP 4. "so far we have built a pretty effective map of the debris field as well as cleared areas in the water, which enables other rescuers the ability to focus on new areas."

[Return to Index](#)

checklist from our headquarters, which probably came from the government of Japan."

U.S. military aircraft have so far made several dozen flights in support of humanitarian efforts following last Friday's earthquake and tsunami, delivering at least 25 tons of supplies, including food, water and blankets.

circumstances. Both Atsugi and Yokosuka are about 200 miles from the damaged Fukushima Dai-ichi reactor core.

"Again, I don't really see that happening at all and we would get the word out well before that happened," Gardner told the audience.

Gardner and a medical officer also the audience members at the packed theater that the radiation detected Tuesday at the Atsugi flight line was .05 millirems, a miniscule amount that posed no health risk.

U.S. standards do not require an evacuation until 5,000 millirems are detected, Gardner said.

Nevertheless, he added that the recommendations to avoid unnecessary outdoor activity made earlier Tuesday by Commander Naval Forces Japan would stay in effect as a precaution. Remaining indoors cuts exposure by 60 to 70 percent, Navy officials said.

Also announced at the meeting:

- Atsugi received 3,700 gallons of gas Tuesday, a fraction of its normal capacity. It is currently limiting purchases to five gallons per day. The base expects continuing daily shipments.
- Atsugi aircraft have flown 25 tons of relief supplies to the affected areas since Friday's earthquake, said Rear Adm. Sean Buck, commander of 7th Fleet's patrol and reconnaissance force.

The squadron performed their fourth mission in the area March 14, since the quake.

"Each mission gives us the opportunity to find someone stranded at sea," said Welch. "Every single flight we are providing eyes on an area that potentially has people who desperately need our help. I think that means a lot to our crew and hopefully the Japanese people."

During the mission the flight crew searched for survivors via sight and surface-search radar. Additionally the crew sends relevant information to their headquarters regarding the location of potentially hazardous areas that could affect surface ships assisting in the relief effort.

"While we are a SAR (search and rescue) capable platform... We are also a small part of a much bigger scheme to help the victims of this disaster," said Welch.

11. USS Providence Among U.S. Naval Forces Off Libya

(NEW LONDON DAY 16 MAR 11) ... Jennifer McDermott

The Groton-based USS Providence crossed the Suez Canal Saturday and headed for the Mediterranean Sea, where other Navy ships are waiting to respond to the violence in Libya if needed.

Submarines are uniquely suited for gathering intelligence on Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's attacks on the opposition, according to Loren B. Thompson, chief operating officer at the nonprofit think tank, Lexington Institute.

"Submarines are so stealthy, they can collect intelligence that other means cannot," Thompson said Tuesday. "And having a ship like the Providence nearby makes a big difference in terms of understanding what's actually happening in the area."

A Navy spokesman confirmed Tuesday the route of the Providence (SSN 719) into the Mediterranean Sea, but said he could not discuss the details or assets being directed toward Libya, particularly submarines.

The USS Kearsarge, the USS Ponce and the USS Barry are in the Mediterranean. A destroyer, the USS Mason, also crossed the canal with the Providence, the spokesman said. The Los Angeles-class submarine traveled with the USS Enterprise carrier strike group.

"It's not the number or type of ships that matter just yet as much as the missions they are assigned," said Peter W. Singer,

[Return to Index](#)

director of the 21st Century Defense Initiative and a senior fellow in foreign policy at the Brookings Institution. "And as of yet, that exact mission doesn't seem to have been decided by the U.S. and international leadership on the political side."

The Navy ships could be used for anything from mere presence patrols to enforcement of a no-fly zone or blockade, Singer added.

Tuesday, the foreign ministers for the eight most powerful industrialized nations met but could not agree on a no-fly zone or any other military operation. Thompson cautioned that the buildup of Navy assets is unlikely to significantly influence the conflict without the establishment of a no-fly zone, since without one "it's obvious we're not going to do anything more ambitious."

It would take a "major military provocation" by Gadhafi to elicit a U.S. response, in which case submarines could be used to fire missiles, intercept electronic messages between Gadhafi and his military personnel or send special operations forces ashore, Thompson said.

In 2003, the Providence fired missiles into Iraq from the Red Sea. Eighteen months earlier, the sub had fired some of the opening shots against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

The submarine was built at Electric Boat and delivered to the Navy in 1985.

12. Sailors, Marines Install Water Pump At Honduran School

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jeffery Tilghman Williams, High Speed Vessel Swift Public Affairs

SAN LORENZO, Honduras -- Sailors assigned to Detail Bravo of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28 and 2nd Marine Logistics Group (MLG) replaced a broken hand water pump with an electric powered pump at Escuela Eneas Avarado in San Lorenzo, Honduras, March 14, in support of Southern Partnership Station (SPS) 2011.

The service members installed the electric pump, new draw piping and faucets at the well, which provides water to the school and the surrounding community.

The original water pump broke months ago, which left students and the local community depending on the city to provide water on a sporadic basis.

"This is one of the more critical quality of life enhancements our team has participated in during this mission," said Lt. Rama Mutyala, officer-in-charge of NMCB 28 Detachment Bravo. "Hundreds of people will benefit from this new pump."

"For some time now, our water usage has been restricted and limited due to our well not functioning. Words can't express what this pump means to these children and the people of this community," said Maria de Jesus Giron, a third grade teacher at the school.

This installation follows a week-long construction subject matter expert exchange with NMCB 28, 2nd MLG and the Honduran military cross training during the construction of a Southeast Asia (SEA) hut.

During the engagement, the Seabees and Marines worked side-by-side with Honduran army engineers performing

[Return to Index](#)

electrical rewiring, plumbing pipe replacement and constructing the SEA hut.

"This is just an addition to some of the work we completed last week at the school. We saw an opportunity to help, and took action," said Mutyala. "At the end of the day, it's about people helping people, and as Seabees, we commit ourselves to doing just that."

"This is a good day for the people of San Lorenzo. We appreciate the U.S. Sailors coming here and doing these things to help us and make us smile," said Bacilia Castillo, parent of a second grader at Escuela Eneas Avarado.

SPS 11 is an annual deployment of U.S. ships to the U.S. Southern Command Area of Responsibility (AOR) in the Caribbean and Latin America. The mission's primary goal is information sharing with navies, coast guards and civilian services throughout the region.

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (COMUSNAVSO) is the naval component command for U.S. Southern Command and is responsible for all naval personnel and assets in the AOR.

COMUSNAVSO conducts a variety of missions in support of the U.S. Maritime Strategy, including theater security cooperation, relationship building, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, community relations and counter-illicit trafficking operations.

13. Comfort Goes On Central, South America Mission

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11)

BALTIMORE — The Navy says the Baltimore-based hospital ship Comfort is preparing for a new mission to Central and South America and the Caribbean.

The Navy's Military Sealift Command said Tuesday that the Comfort will depart Canton Pier on Thursday morning for a five-month humanitarian mission to nine countries.

[Return to Index](#)

14. Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group To Arrive In San Diego

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Lt. Greg D. Raelson, Abraham Lincoln Strike Group Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO - Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group (CSG) and its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2, will arrive in San Diego from a six-month scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Areas of Responsibility (AOR) March 19.

"I could not be more proud of the Sailors and officers in my squadron and the rest of the strike group," said Cmdr. Kenneth Strong, Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 77 commanding officer. "I am humbled to be a member of such a dedicated team. Obviously we are all happy to be coming home to our families and friends, and are pleased at having done our duty so well."

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) left its homeport of Everett, Wash., Sept. 7 and departed San Diego Sept. 11.

Personnel and aircraft from CVW 2, including San Diego-based Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 30, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 12 and HSM 77 arrive with Abraham Lincoln, after which Abraham Lincoln will continue to her homeport of Everett, Wash.

The Abraham Lincoln CSG and embarked air wing successfully flew more than 8,300 sorties and completed more than 23,500 flying hours, of which more than 3,600 sorties and almost 11,000 hours were flown in support of U.S. and coalition ground forces supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

In addition to supporting its primary missions throughout the deployment, Abraham Lincoln CSG completed the following:

- Conducted exercises with coalition countries and other nations, including France, Bahrain, Malaysia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia and Oman.
- USS Cape St. George (CG 71), USS Sterett (DDG 104), USS Halsey (DDG 97), USS Shoup (DDG 86) and USS Momsen (DDG 92) assisted mariners in distress and provided humanitarian assistance to more than 10 vessels.

[Return to Index](#)

15. Marines, Sailors Hurt In Bragg Explosion

(NAVY TIMES 15 MAR 11) ... Brian Shane

Eight Marines and two Navy personnel were hospitalized Monday night with shrapnel wounds and lacerations following an explosion during artillery training at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The accident happened about 8 p.m., the result of an apparent explosion of an M777A2 round while inside a howitzer, according to public affairs officer Staff Sgt. Jayson

The Comfort most recently deployed to Haiti in support of international relief efforts following the devastating earthquake there in January 2010.

On the new mission, 480 Navy personnel will work with local medical professionals, military service members and non-governmental organizations to treat patients ashore and on board.

- Visited ports in Malaysia, Bahrain, UAE, Singapore, Saipan, Philippines, Seychelles, Japan, Israel, Thailand, Australia, Oman, Maldives, Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia.
- Conducted community relations and community service projects in Malaysia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Saipan, Philippines, Seychelles, Japan, Israel, Thailand, Australia and Maldives.
- Hosted the U.S. secretary of defense, chief of naval operations and more than 30 international dignitaries and military officials.

Abraham Lincoln was recognized during deployment as the best Pacific-based carrier for 2010, earning the prestigious Battle "E" award, as well as 13 individual departmental Battle "E" awards. Additionally, HSM 77 was recognized as a top West Coast helicopter squadron, earning their own Battle "E" award.

Abraham Lincoln CSG, led by Commander, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 9, is comprised of CVW 2, Destroyer Squadron 9, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln, the guided-missile cruiser USS Cape St. George, guided-missile destroyers USS Momsen, USS Sterett, USS Halsey and USS Shoup. The air wing squadrons of CVW 2 include the "Bounty Hunters" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 2, the "Vigilantes" of VFA 151, the "Kestrels" of VFA 137, the "Blue Blasters" of VFA 34, the "Sun Kings" of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 116, the "Lancers" of Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VAQ) 131, the "Providers" of VRC 30, the "Golden Falcons" of HSC 12 and the "Saberhawks" of HSM 77.

Abraham Lincoln CSG helps provide deterrence, promote peace and security, preserve freedom of the sea and humanitarian/disaster response within 3rd Fleet's 50-million square mile AOR in the Eastern Pacific, as well as supporting the Navy's Maritime Strategy when forward deployed.

Price at Camp Lejeune, N.C. — where the training Marines are based.

The cause of the incident is under investigation, Price said, and the regiment remains in a "check firing" status, meaning they are not firing until safe training can resume.

The injured service members, all men, are members of Golf Battery, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marines. Their names have not been released.

Price said two of the injured were transported via helicopter to UNC-Chapel Hill and the other eight were transported to Womack Army Medical Center. Of the eight, five were transported via helicopter and three were transported via ambulance by emergency services personnel.

[Return to Index](#)

GLOBAL MARITIME ENVIRONMENT:

16. Japan Says 2nd Reactor May Have Ruptured With Radioactive Release

(NEW YORK TIMES 16 MAR 11) ... Hiroko Tabuchi and Keith Bradsher

TOKYO — Japan's nuclear crisis intensified again Wednesday, with Japanese authorities announcing that a containment vessel in a second reactor unit at the stricken Fukushima Daiichi plant in northeastern Japan may have ruptured and appeared to be releasing radioactive steam. That would be the second vessel to be compromised in two days.

The vessel had appeared to be the last fully intact line of defense against large-scale releases of radioactive materials, but it was not clear how serious the possible breach might be.

The announcement came after Japanese broadcasters showed live footage of thick plumes of steam rising above the plant.

Yukio Edano, the chief cabinet secretary, said the government believed the steam was coming from the No. 3 reactor, where an explosion on Monday blew out part of the building surrounding the containment vessel.

The reactor has three layers of protection: that building; the containment vessel, and the metal cladding around fuel rods, which are inside the reactor. The government has said that those rods at the No. 3 reactor were likely already damaged.

Earlier in the morning, the company that runs the plant reported that a fire was burning at a different reactor, just hours after officials said flames that erupted Tuesday had been doused.

A government official at Japan's nuclear regulatory agency said that flames and smoke were no longer visible, but he cautioned that it was unclear if the fire, at the Reactor No. 4 building, had died out. He also was not clear if it was a new fire or if the fire Tuesday had never gone out.

There are a total of six reactors at the plant.

The developments are troubling reminders of the difficulties the company is having in bringing the plant, which has suffered multiple explosions since Saturday, under control. And the confusion is emblematic of days of often contradictory reports about what is happening at the plant.

The company, Tokyo Electric Power, says it cannot know for sure what is happening in many cases because it is too dangerous for workers to get close to some reactors.

The situation became especially dire on Tuesday, when releases of radiation led the company to pull most of its workers from the plant.

One of the authorities' main concerns are over pools for spent fuel rods at several reactors at the plant, including Reactor No. 4, where the pool has lost some of the water needed to keep the fuel rods stable. The rods are still

Medical Center spokeswoman Shannon Lynch said as of Tuesday morning, eight patients remained under hospital care, though she was unable to say whether those men were in the Corps or the Navy.

The Marines were conducting annual spring artillery training on Fort Bragg, located about 120 miles west of the Camp Lejeune. Fort Bragg is the closest military training area that can accept the 155mm weapons systems, according to base spokesman Tom McCollum.

radioactive and potentially as hot and dangerous as the fuel rods inside the reactors.

Minoru Ogoda, the official with Japan's nuclear regulatory agency, said a proposed plan to use helicopters to put more cold water into the pool was looking unlikely.

He said Tokyo Electric would probably try to spray water into the reactor building through a gaping hole in the wall blasted open by an earlier explosion.

The hole or holes in the roof caused by that blast did not appear big enough to allow sufficient amounts of water in, he said.

That explosion on Tuesday was caused by hydrogen gas bubbling up from chemical reactions set off by the fuel rods in the pool, Japanese officials said. Inspectors from the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission said they had been told by Japanese authorities that what was burning was lubricating oil from machinery near the pool.

Concern remained high about the storage pools at two other reactors, Nos. 5 and 6. None of those three reactors at the plant, 140 miles northeast of Tokyo, were operating on Friday afternoon when an offshore earthquake with a magnitude now estimated at 9.0 shook the site. A tsunami rolled into the northeast Japanese coastline minutes later, swamping the plant.

At least 750 workers were evacuated on Tuesday morning after a separate explosion ruptured the inner containment building at Reactor No. 2 at the Daiichi plant, which was crippled by Friday's earthquake and tsunami. The closely spaced but apparently coincidental explosions at Reactors Nos. 2 and 4 together released a surge of radiation 800 times as intense as the recommended hourly exposure limit in Japan.

But 50 workers stayed behind, a crew no larger than would be stationed at the plant on a quiet spring day. Taking shelter when possible in the reactor's control room, which is heavily shielded from radiation, they struggled through the morning and afternoon to keep hundreds of gallons of seawater a minute flowing through temporary fire pumps into the three stricken reactors, Nos. 1, 2 and 3, where overheated fuel rods continued to boil away the water at a brisk pace.

By early afternoon radiation levels had plunged, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency. Workers have released surges of radiation each time they bleed radioactive steam from the troubled reactors in an attempt to manage the pressure inside them, but the reactors are not yet releasing high levels of radiation on a sustained basis, Japanese officials said.

The United States military revised its plans as radiation from the plant worsened. Some American warships that had been expected to arrive at the tsunami-shattered northeast coast of Honshu Island were diverted to the west coast instead because of concerns about radiation, the Navy said.

The Navy also promised to continue relief missions even though several more helicopter crews were testing positive for low-level exposure to radiation, and even as American military personnel and their families at the Yokosuka and Atsugi bases were encouraged to take precautions against radiation exposure.

Late Tuesday morning, Prime Minister Naoto Kan warned in a nationally televised address of rising radiation.

Mr. Edano, the chief cabinet secretary, urged people who live within about 18 miles of the plant to take precautions. "Please do not go outside, please stay indoors, please close windows and make your homes airtight," he said. Yukiya Amano, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said at the organization's Vienna headquarters that there was a "possibility of core damage" at reactor No. 2, but that the damage "is estimated to be less than 5 percent of the fuel."

The sudden turn of events, after an explosion on Monday at one reactor and then an early-morning explosion on Tuesday at yet another — the third in four days at the plant — had already made the crisis at the plant the worst nuclear accident since the Chernobyl reactor disaster a quarter-century ago. It had become impossible for workers to remain at many areas within the plant for extended periods, the agency said. In Tokyo, the metropolitan government said Tuesday that it had detected radiation levels 20 times above normal over the city, though it stressed that such levels posed no immediate health threat and that readings had dropped since then. The explosion in Reactor No. 2, a little after 6 a.m. on Tuesday, particularly alarmed Japanese officials and nuclear power experts around the world because it was the first detonation at the plant that appeared to occur inside one of the primary containment vessels.

Those buildings are fortresslike structures of steel and reinforced concrete, designed to absorb the impact of a plane
[Return to Index](#)

17. US Warns 'No Military Solution' In Bahrain *(AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE 15 MAR 11)*

WASHINGTON — The White House on Tuesday warned that there was "no military solution" to the political upheaval in Bahrain, after a Saudi-led force intervened in a move which sent Gulf tensions rocketing.

The Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council force marched into the key strategic state of Bahrain, which hosts the headquarters of the US Fifth Fleet, to bolster the long-ruling Sunni monarchy against rising Shiite protests.

"We call for calm and restraint on all sides. We are particularly concerned by the increasing reports of provocative acts and sectarian violence by all groups," said National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor.

"The use of force and violence from any source will only worsen the situation," Vietor said in a statement that did not mention key US ally Saudi Arabia but which seemed clearly aimed at Riyadh.

crash and minimize radiation leaks. After a series of conflicting reports about how much damage the reactor had sustained after that blast, Mr. Edano said, "There is a very high probability that a portion of the containment vessel was damaged."

Japanese officials subsequently said that the explosion had damaged a doughnut-shaped steel container of water, known as a torus, that surrounds the base of the reactor vessel inside the primary containment building.

Ruptures in the torus are serious, said Michael Friedlander, a senior nuclear power plant operator for 13 years at three plants in the United States, including three years at a General Electric boiling water reactor very similar to the ones in trouble in Japan. But the torus is not as important as the reactor vessel itself, which has 6.7-inch-thick steel walls and 8.4-inch-thick steel for its roof and floor. The vessel is designed to hold very high-pressure steam as well as the uranium fuel rods.

The reactor vessel has 20 safety valves that during a shutdown of the reactor inject steam into a million-gallon "suppression pool" of water in a steel torus immediately underneath it.

"Imagine if you had a big pressure cooker and you had a tube off the pressure cooker into a big tub of water — the suppression pool is the tub of water," said Mr. Friedlander, a defender of nuclear power who is now a money manager in Hong Kong.

Steam vented into the suppression pool from the reactor vessel is not supposed to be radioactive. But it becomes radioactive, and potentially very radioactive, if the fuel rods in the reactor vessel above have begun to melt.

The atmosphere in the primary containment building, around the reactor vessel and above the suppression pool, is supposed to consist of inert nitrogen, with no oxygen at all. An inert atmosphere is used in the primary containment building to avoid the risk of oxygen explosions with hydrogen if the reactor starts producing much larger quantities of hydrogen gas than usual. Hydrogen gas is highly combustible with oxygen.

"One thing is clear: there is no military solution to the problems in Bahrain.

"A political solution is necessary and all sides must now work to produce a dialogue that addresses the needs of all of Bahrain's citizens."

Vietor urged all parties in Bahrain to act responsibly and said that Jeffrey Feltman, a senior State Department official, was working "aggressively" in Bahrain to try to bring about a political solution.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton telephoned Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal from Cairo where she was on the first leg of a North African tour to express her deep concern about the violence and potential for escalation, a State Department official said.

She "urged restraint and stressed that the only durable solution is a credible political process, not a military one," the official said.

"She stated that all parties must avoid violence and provocation and find a peaceful path forward."

Bahrain's king earlier declared a three-month state of emergency as two people died in fresh violence and Iran condemned the intervention by the Gulf Cooperation Council force.

[Return to Index](#)

18. Bahrain King Clamps Down; 3 Dead As Unrest Spreads

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11) ... Barbara Surk and Reem Khalifa

MANAMA, Bahrain -- Bahrain's king declared a three-month state of emergency Tuesday to quell a Shiite uprising, as clashes spread through the capital and surrounding villages in a showdown that drew in the region's major powers and splintered along its main sectarian faultlines. At least two Bahrainis and a Saudi soldier died, and hundreds of protesters were injured by shotgun blasts and clubs.

A force of more than 1,000 Saudi-led troops expanded to defend the Sunni monarchy; Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah denounced the presence of foreign soldiers; and Washington feared for its main naval base in the Gulf. Any compromise appeared distant at best, with the latest order from Bahrain's king and protesters' demands for the royal family to be toppled altogether.

Doctors were overwhelmed by onslaught of patients at Manama's Salmaniya hospital, rushing the wounded into a packed emergency room, forcing many to wait in the halls. Nurses held back tears when attending to injured young men, and doctors could barely contain their anger.

"They were all shot from close range," said Nabeel Hameed, a neurosurgeon at the capital's biggest hospital. He looked at an X-ray of the latest patient, shot in the chest, and added: "Yes, they do shoot to kill."

The state of emergency in the U.S.-backed regime gives Bahrain's military chief wide authority to battle protesters demanding political reforms and equal rights for the majority Shiites.

At Manama's Pearl Square, the symbolic center of their revolt, thousands of protesters were still in shock over the arrival of the neighboring armies when the state of emergency was declared. Bahrain said more Gulf troops arrived Tuesday. Opposition leaders have not yet announced their next move.

"We are ready for anything, but this protest started peacefully and it will end peacefully," said Ali Hassan, a demonstrator in the square. "We have no guns, but we will resist by remaining here as long as we possibly can."

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says she prodded Saudi Arabia to support a peaceful political solution and stressed that "they along with everyone else need to be promoting the dialogue" between protesters and the monarchy.

The intervention of more than 1,000 Saudi-led troops from several Gulf nations was the first major cross-border military action to challenge one of the revolts sweeping across the Arab world. The Al Khalifa family has ruled Bahrain for 200 years. The family enjoys strong backing from other Gulf states and the United States, fearing Iran's expanding influence.

Several of the injured claimed Saudi forces opened fire between A'ali and Buri, two villages south of Manama.

"I heard the sound of the bullet flying and after that my arm felt like it was falling off," said Mohammed Abdullah

Saudi Arabia's staunchly Sunni government said it had responded to a call for help from its neighbor under a mutual defense pact of the six-country GCC.

But Iran said the military intervention in a Shiite-majority country it has historic claims to was unacceptable.

Hassan, 18, who was shot in the left elbow. "I saw blood and I realized the bullet hit me."

Mohammed Abdulla Maki al-Nasem, who was shot in his right knee, said he was driving with friends between the two villages when they were attacked. He said he saw several military vehicles - some flying a Saudi flag - moving along an overpass and shooting at cars below.

"They saw us and just shot at us," al-Nasem said.

Shiite power Iran denounced the foreign intervention as "unacceptable" and predicted it would complicate the kingdom's political crisis.

A senior Bahraini foreign affairs official, Hamad al-Amer, called the remarks "blatant intervention in internal Bahraini affairs" and said Iran's ambassador to Bahrain was summoned to the Foreign Ministry.

Iran holds no deep political ties to Bahrain's Shiite groups, but some Iranian hard-liners have supported their efforts over the years for greater rights.

The United States bases its Navy's 5th Fleet in the country in part to try to counter Iran's military reach.

Other Gulf leaders have urged Bahrain's king not to give ground, fearing that gains by Bahrain's Shiite Muslims could offer a window for Iran to expand its influence on the Arab side of the Gulf. There are also worries that political concessions could embolden more protests against their own regimes, which have already confronted pro-reform cries in Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Tuesday's worst confrontations took place on the Bahraini island of Sitra.

A 24-year-old protester, Ahmed Farhan, was shot in the head and killed, said Dr. Ibrahim Youssef, a member of the medical team at the Sitra Health Center. Youssef said hundreds of others were injured by shotgun blasts and clubs. Hameed, the neurosurgeon, said another Bahraini died, also after being shot in the head.

A security official in Saudi Arabia said a Saudi sergeant was shot and killed by a protester in Bahrain's capital, Manama. No other details were immediately given on the death of the soldier, identified as Sgt. Ahmed al-Raddadi. The Saudi official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Mansoor al-Jamri, editor of the main opposition newspaper, Al-Wasat, said pro-government mobs stormed the paper's printing facilities early Tuesday and smashed equipment with metal pipes, clubs and axes. The paper is now publishing using presses from other papers.

Senior opposition leader Abdul Jalil Khalil condemned the monarchy's invitation of the Gulf troops and its order to impose marshal law.

"They want to talk with a gun on our head, and saying, you either take this or you die," said Khalil, a leader of Bahrain's main Shiite group, Al-Wefaq.

Shiites account for 70 percent of the population, but are widely excluded from high-level political or security posts. The protesters also demand the repeal of a government policy to offset the Shiite demographic advantage by giving citizenship and jobs to Sunnis from other Arab nations and South Asia.

[Return to Index](#)

19. Israeli Navy Intercepts Egypt-Bound Ship With Arms

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11) ... Aron Heller

JERUSALEM -- Israel said Tuesday it seized a cargo ship loaded with weapons sent by Iran to Palestinian militants in Gaza, including sophisticated land-to-sea missiles that officials said could change the balance of power in the area.

The takeover in the Mediterranean Sea was the latest in a series of Israeli naval raids meant to counter the growing influence of Iran, which Israel accuses of supplying rockets and other arms to Israel's bitterest enemies.

The navy's deputy commander, Brig. Gen. Rani Ben-Yehudah, said investigators had found between two and four Chinese-made C-704 missiles, which land-based forces can use to attack ships.

Ben-Yehudah said Iran is known to possess these weapons, the shipment included instruction manuals in Farsi and there were other clues that "explicitly" showed Iranian involvement.

The military released a photo of a booklet with the words "technical missile identification document" written in Farsi on the cover. It identified the system as a C-704 "Nasr" missile, provided a serial number and date of issue in the Persian calendar.

Such weaponry could impede Israel's ability to enforce its naval blockade of Gaza, which it imposed after Hamas took power in 2007. The captured ship, the "Victoria," was being towed into Israel, and further details on its contents were expected to be released after it reached port late Tuesday.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak said the arms included "the beginnings of an advanced system" the Gaza militants currently do not possess and could affect Israel's ability to act along Gaza's coast.

"We will take out the gear and show it to the world, a world that is quick to blame Israel when it fights to protect its citizens. It is important that the world see what we are up against," said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israel has long contended that Iran and Syria provide arms and other support to Hamas militants in Gaza and Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

Hamas has been racing to rearm since suffering heavy losses in an Israeli military offensive two years ago. Israeli military officials say Hamas has recovered, in part because of direct assistance from Iran and its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah. Israel says Hamas now possesses rockets that can strike much of Israel, as well as advanced anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons.

Israel imposed the naval blockade after Hamas, a group that has killed hundreds of Israelis in suicide bombings and other attacks, violently seized power of Gaza four years ago. It

The foreign troops are from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council's Peninsula Shield Force. The bloc is made up of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates - all largely Sunni countries who have nervously watched the Arab world's protests. The Saudi government on Tuesday withdrew accreditation to the chief Reuters correspondent there, complaining about a recent report on a protest in the kingdom. Reuters stood by its coverage.

says the measure is needed to prevent the militant group from importing arms.

To get around the blockade, Israel says Hamas routinely has arms shipments delivered to Egypt, and then smuggled across the largely lawless Sinai peninsula into neighboring Gaza through a vast network of tunnels under the 9-mile (15-kilometer) border.

Netanyahu said he ordered the naval takeover overnight after receiving intelligence about the shipment. "The only certain thing is the source of the weaponry was Iran, and there was a Syrian relay station as well," he said.

The military said the "Victoria" initially departed from the Syrian port of Latakia before proceeding to Mersin in Turkey. It was headed for the port of Alexandria in Egypt when it was intercepted, some 200 miles (320 kilometers) off Israel's Mediterranean coast.

Images the military released showed mortars and other arms among stacks of munition boxes. It also released video footage showing an Israeli commander informing the Victoria's captain that the ship was suspected of carrying arms. The captain immediately gave the go-ahead for troops to board for inspection. Additional video showed the commandos ascending a ladder to the deck.

Israel said there were no signs that Turkey or Egypt were involved in the arms shipment.

Turkey confirmed it was not involved and said many ships stop in its ports for refueling, loading or unloading materials. There was no immediate reaction from Hamas, Syria or Iran.

The Victoria is German-owned, operated by a French shipping company and was sailing under a Liberian flag, the Israeli military said. German, French and Liberian authorities were notified of the seizure.

Although the ship was intercepted outside of Israel's territorial waters, maritime law entitles Israel to search any merchant vessel it has reason to believe is carrying contraband to support Hamas, said Benjamin David, a former high-ranking officer in the military's legal department.

The operation was reminiscent of the November 2009 Israeli takeover of the Iranian Francop vessel off the coast of Cyprus. Israel captured hundreds of tons of rockets, missiles, mortars, grenades and anti-tank weapons on board which it said were headed to Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

In 2001 and 2002, Israel seized ships carrying tons of weapons it said were intended for Palestinian militants.

Israel's announcement that Turkey was not involved in the arms shipment appeared to be an effort to defuse any potential tensions with its former Mideast ally.

Last May, Israeli commandoes raided a Turkish ship trying to break a naval blockade of Gaza and killed nine pro-

[Return to Index](#)

Palestinian activists on board. Each side claims it acted in self-defense.

20. More Pirates Facing Prosecution As Attacks Increase In Violence

Pirates Jailed In 17 Nations

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11) ... Katharine Houreld

NAIROBI, Kenya - Five Somali pirates are jailed for life by a U.S. court. Sixty-one suspected pirates captured at sea face trial in India. Somali prisons are running out of room.

Pirates captured at sea by international navies used to be routinely set free because no country wanted the hassle and expense of a court case. But as piracy has flourished and turned increasingly violent, an unprecedented 17 countries are prosecuting pirates in courts around the world.

The increase in arrests and prosecutions shows a growing recognition of the global problem piracy has become, said Alan Cole, the head of the U.N.'s anti-piracy program.

In recent months, six hostages have been killed - including four Americans on a hijacked yacht - and pirates have begun using explosives and blow torches to cut crews out of the secure rooms they sometimes retreat to during attacks.

"Piracy is becoming quite a high-risk enterprise," said Cole. "We see pirates in prison in Kenya, the Seychelles and Maldives. They are amazed to come in and see their cousins, brothers and friends in there. They thought they had all made it and gone to open shops in Europe. The recruiters are lying to them."

Seventeen nations have put more than 850 pirates on trial in the past year and a half, Cole said, including five Somali pirates given life sentences in a U.S. court on Monday. Before the five were convicted late last year, the last U.S. conviction for piracy was in 1819.

A U.S. federal judge was set to decide Tuesday whether 14 more suspected pirates should remain in jail while awaiting trial on charges of piracy, kidnapping and firearms charges in the February yacht hijacking that left the four Americans dead.

In Somalia's semiautonomous region of Puntland, Cole said, authorities were releasing some low-level criminals to make room for pirates in the overcrowded jail in the port city of Bosasso. The U.N.'s Office on Drugs and Crime was funding a prison extension of 200 beds to help hold the extra prisoners, he said.

But attacks are increasing, not decreasing.

That's partly due to pirates' changing tactics. They are using captured vessels as "motherships" - a mobile base from which to launch small attack skiffs. The hostages become human shields, preventing warships from intervening, said Cmdr. Paddy O'Kennedy of the European Union Naval Force.

On Sunday night, the Indian navy attacked the fishing boat Vega 5, which had been used as a mothership, in self-

[Return to Index](#)

21. Govt Considering Allowing Armed Guards On Merchant Ships

(TIMES OF INDIA 15 MAR 11)

NEW DELHI: Faced with increasing incidents of pirate attacks, the government is considering allowing armed guards to be deployed on Indian merchant ships to enable them to retaliate in case of an attempt by sea brigands to take over the vessels.

Sixty-one pirates were captured and were being taken to Mumbai, India's financial capital, to be prosecuted.

O'Kennedy said that because pirates are now using motherships they can now launch attacks during the northeastern monsoon, which was prohibitive when pirates only used smaller skiffs.

During the monsoon in January 2010, there were 7 piracy incidents. In January 2011 that number shot up to 37, he said.

O'Kennedy said only 93 suspected pirates had been sent to court out of 770 pirates detained by the EU Naval Force since it began keeping records in December 2008. Many countries will not try suspects for conspiracy to commit piracy, because suspects captured with weapons and ladders often cannot be tied to a specific attack.

Even if countries are willing to try pirates, many are not willing to jail them. Thomas Winkler, an official from the Danish Foreign Ministry who helps coordinate the international response to piracy, said that although Somali courts might not be able to handle all piracy cases, Somalia was the natural place for pirates to serve their jail terms.

"The main challenge is not about courtrooms, it is about where they can serve their jail terms," he said. During a meeting in Copenhagen last month, U.N. officials suggested that the Somali region of Puntland and the breakaway republic of Somaliland build more jails to accommodate pirates convicted outside the country.

Last month, the island nation of the Seychelles, whose fishing and tourism industries have been hard hit by piracy, reached a deal to begin repatriating captured Somali pirates to their home country. It also changed its law last year to allow the prosecution of pirates who attack non-Seychelles-flagged ships, provided the flag country consents.

The state counsel in Seychelles, Michael Mulkerrins, said his country is prosecuting pirates because the scourge has had a "huge impact" on the economy.

Winkler also said Somali pirates should serve jail terms in Somalia, where they may be able to be rehabilitated. But he said trials must be held overseas.

"It is necessary to prosecute them outside Somalia because our sailors and ships are attacked," said Winkler. "While we are waiting the stability to return to Somalia, we have to prosecute them outside Somalia."

Sources in the Indian Navy on Tuesday said the government is considering a shipping ministry proposal which talks about allowing armed guards to man merchant ships in order to protect them from pirates.

They said a decision on this issue would be taken after discussions among ministries of law, defence and shipping.

The armed guards on the ships would be somewhat similar to the Sky Marshals deployed on commercial aircraft to prevent hijacking attempts, the sources said.

Under the current Indian and international laws, civilian mariners are not allowed to carry fire arms but in recent times, various countries such as Malta and Yemen have reportedly allowed merchant ships to deploy armed guards on board ships.

The proposal, they said, is being supported by the Navy as it would help in increasing the safety of ships while operating in high seas against pirate attacks.

"The rules of engagement (RoE) and laws in this regard would be framed in consultation with the Navy only," they added.

They said in the recent past, there have been various instances in piracy-prone areas where merchant ships on their own have thwarted attempts by sea brigands to take over their ships.

"Having armed guards on board would further help in enhancing their security," they added.

[Return to Index](#)

22. Russia, France Struggle Over Mistral Contract

(RIA NOVOSTI 16 MAR 11)

PARIS - A Russian-French contract on the construction of Mistral class helicopter carriers for the Russian Navy is unlikely to be signed in the near future, a Russian deputy defense minister said.

Russia and France in January signed an intergovernmental agreement to jointly build two Mistral-class helicopter carriers at the STX shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, France. Another two are planned to be constructed later at the Admiralty Shipyards in St. Petersburg.

However, the sides have since experienced difficulties in agreeing the terms of the actual contract between Russian state-arms exporter Rosoboronexport and French DCSN company.

"The negotiations have not been easy so far, I would even describe them as tough," Anatoly Antonov told reporters in Paris on Tuesday during the visit of Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov to France.

"It is too early to talk about specific dates, and too many technical details have yet to be settled. The contract must be adapted to our conditions. Experts will have to do a difficult

[Return to Index](#)

PERSONNEL:

23. Sailors Must Verify Their Death Gratuity Beneficiary

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. -- Due to a change in the law regarding death gratuity and recent upgrades to the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS), officials are urging Sailors to verify their designated death gratuity beneficiaries beginning March 17.

"The change in the law allows Sailors to designate their gratuity in 10 percent increments to more than one beneficiary," said John Courtney, Pay, Personnel and Benefits section head, Bureau of Naval Personnel.

The death gratuity is a benefit paid to eligible beneficiaries of a Sailor who dies while on active duty or

On the problems while dealing with arrested pirates, officials said there were no laws to deal with them in the country and they have to be arrested under charges of attempt to murder and trying to damage government property.

The government is working on a tough law to deal with the piracy problem.

At present, piracy is dealt with under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code and century-old Admiralty law but the government would like to have a separate statute with provisions to effectively tackle the problem that takes place far away from Indian shores.

Ruling out India being part of any US-led task force to counter piracy, they said: "We would be willing to part of any joint effort under a UN mandate only."

India is one of the countries carrying out independent anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea where several multi-nation groups are also operating to safeguard the merchant vessels passing from there.

and skillful job to adjust all parameters of the future contract," Antonov said.

The official added that Russia prioritized the purchase of Mistral class ships with full technology transfer. The overall price of the contract was also a "big issue," he said.

According to Russian media, the initial talks in February reached an impasse after France increased the total price tag from 980 mln euros to at least 1.15 bln euros for the first two ships to be built in France.

In addition, France insists on signing a separate contract for licensed construction of two Mistral class ships in Russia.

Antonov said that Russia would not push for a quick conclusion of negotiations because their results must meet the interests and requirements of both sides.

A Mistral class ship is capable of carrying 16 helicopters, four landing vessels, 70 armored vehicles, and 450 personnel.

Russia plans to deploy the first two Mistral ships in the Pacific to protect the four disputed Kuril Islands.

while traveling to or from such duty. The total gratuity paid is \$100,000, and Sailors may designate one or more persons to receive it. The amount paid to each beneficiary is specified on their Record of Emergency Data (Page 2) in 10 percent increments. If a Sailor is married, but designates someone other than the spouse to receive the gratuity, the Sailor's command is required to notify the spouse of the designation in a letter.

"The death gratuity is a different benefit from the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI)," said Courtney. "SGLI is a life insurance benefit and those beneficiaries are

annotated when a Sailor fills out form 'SGLV 8286' upon initial entry and whenever they want to update beneficiary and settlement option designations, and when declining or reducing coverage."

The ability for Sailors to designate someone other than their next-of-kin on their Record of Emergency Data (Page 2) was announced in NAVADMIN 189/07. A change in the law further modified the death gratuity designation and was outlined in NAVADMIN 134/08.

[Return to Index](#)

24. New Performance Evaluation Requirements Go Into Effect March 15

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. -- Beginning March 15, Navy performance evaluations and fitness reports must conform to new policies announced in NAVADMIN 286/10.

The evaluation form "NAVPERS 1616/27 (Revision Aug. 2010) Evaluation and Counseling Record for E7 through E9," also known as the "CHIEFEVAL," is not affected by the new requirements and its use will continue as usual.

To more clearly define top-performing Sailors, NAVADMIN 286/10 changed the promotion recommendation rules for E-5 Sailors and aligns them with E-6 Sailors under the same recommendation requirements. For reports dated March 15 and beyond, "Early Promote" and "Must Promote" recommendations combined cannot exceed 60 percent of the ranking group. In addition, "Must Promote" recommendations may increase by one for each "Early Promote" quota not used.

An update to NAVFIT98A — known as "Version 29" — was rolled out to the fleet incorporating the new rules. Work

[Return to Index](#)

25. NAVADMIN Announces NWU Pattern Gore-Tex Foul Weather Trouser

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 15 MAR 11) ... Chief of Naval Personnel

WASHINGTON -- The Navy Working Uniform (NWU) now has a matching foul weather trouser made of Gore-Tex for wear during inclement weather, as announced in NAVADMIN 081/11 March 11.

This uniform change is a result of fleet input requesting a waterproof foul weather trouser to match the look and performance of the NWU Type I parka.

The proposal was endorsed by U.S. Fleet Forces Command, recommended by the Navy Uniform Board and approved by the chief of naval operations.

The NWU foul weather trouser is classified as organizational clothing and is intended to be worn with the NWU parka during inclement weather or during the

[Return to Index](#)

26. SPAWAR Project Lead Receives Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award

(NAVY NEWS SERVICE 16 MAR 11) ... Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO -- Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) announced March 15 that a SPAWAR service member received the Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award from the Sea Service Leadership Association and the Military Officers Association of America.

The award was presented to Lt. Sarah Rice at the Joint Women's Leadership Symposium luncheon March 15 at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina in San Diego.

"I am deeply honored and would like to thank SPAWAR and the entire Navy engineering duty officer (EDO)

"All Sailors should access their NSIPS Electronic Service Record and verify their 'Page 2' data," said Courtney.

Sailors who need to change their beneficiary data should contact their Command PASS Coordinator (CPC) or servicing personnel office.

For more information, Sailors should contact their CPC, personnel office or visit Navy Personnel Command's website at www.npc.navy.mil to read the applicable messages.

stations on the unclassified Navy/Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) automatically received this new version. For non-NMCI users, the "Version 29" upgrade is available for download from the Navy Personnel Command (NPC) website.

Service members should verify they are using "Version 29" by checking "About NAVFIT98A" under the help tab in NAVFIT98A, which will display "Version 2.2.0.29."

"Validating reports with the new NAVFIT98A version will help ensure commands comply with the new promotion recommendation rule and help eliminate common errors in preparing reports," said Jim Price, director of NPC's Performance Evaluation Division.

Those with questions or concerns about performance evaluations or fitness reports can contact NPC customer service.

performance of duties requiring protective clothing, as directed by the commanding officer.

Organizational clothing is defined as any clothing loaned to an individual by a naval activity, for which there is a requirement above and beyond authorized navy uniforms. The trousers will remain the property of the Navy and Sailors must return the trouser upon transferring. As with all organizational clothing, the trousers will be worn with working uniforms only while performing duties.

The NWU Gore-Tex foul weather trouser is manufactured by Tennessee Apparel Corp and is available to commands through GSA Advantage.

community for all the opportunities they have given me. Without those opportunities I would not be receiving this award," said Rice. "They've allowed me to find and pursue some of my passions. The gateway toward success is finding a place where you fit in, that is also supportive of what you would like to do."

Rice, a Navy EDO and former surface warfare officer, is assigned to the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SSC) Pacific where she is the project lead for the Cryogenic Exploration of Radio Frequency (CERF) project.

The CERF project is using sub zero temperatures to make cryogenically cooled, low-noise amplifiers and tunable filters to enhance radio performance and signal reception.

"Lt. Rice just returned from the first installation of CERF capabilities aboard USS Cape St. George (CG 71) where she was able to work directly with Sailors and document the operational parameters of these newly designed technologies," said Anna Leese de Escobar, principal investigator for the CERF project. "This is just another example of the close working relationship SPAWAR maintains with the fleet and the added benefits of having fleet officers like Lt. Rice working alongside civilian engineers at SSC Pacific."

"Information is a main battery for the Navy. The CERF project is one of many SPAWAR research and development efforts helping to ensure the fleet's ability to seize and control the information domain 'high ground' whenever, wherever and however required for decisive competitive advantage across the full range of Navy missions," said Capt. Joe Beel, commanding officer of SSC Pacific. "SPAWAR plays a leading role in the Navy's ability to maintain a robust set of information capabilities that result in information dominance — the ability to collect, process and disseminate an uninterrupted flow of information while exploiting or denying an adversary's ability to do the same."

Rice also serves as a member of the Retention Pillar Team of the EDO community Diversity Working Group (DWG) which is responsible for identifying issues and implementing solutions to encourage female junior EDOs to stay in the Navy.

"Navywide, women make up 14 percent of Sailors. In the EDO community, it's about seven percent, so we're few and far between," said Rice. "I think it's a fantastic way to connect EDOs who have things in common that may not otherwise

[Return to Index](#)

interact on a regular basis, and to give and receive mentoring advice."

Along with her fellow DWG members, Rice co-founded the Network of EDO Women and is actively involved in conferences on both the East and West Coasts.

"We hope to inspire other diversity groups to get together as we have done. I think that one of the first steps to embracing a culture of diversity is to acknowledge our differences, so that they can be appreciated and used to the best advantage," said Rice.

In addition, Rice currently serves as SSC Pacific's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) representative. Through the coordination of training on sexual assault awareness for victim advocates, command leadership, general military and all incoming Sailors, Rice has turned the SAPR into a successful, active and robust program. Her involvement continues through her support of the Navy Region Southwest Victims Advocate Watchbill, remaining on call around-the-clock to respond to victims calling in to the response line.

Rice has also volunteered more than 60 hours of her own time in support of the SSC Pacific's Technical Outreach Program, targeting middle-school women, to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"I've been raised with the idea that service to others is important. I've also learned that it's sometimes difficult for people to take a first step to ask for help, guidance or even just companionship," said Rice.

Rice's extensive community involvement also includes holding a position as Marketing Chair of Women-in-Defense San Diego Chapter, volunteering at Habitat for Humanity's Women Build event and serving as a mentor for a "Girls on the Run" 5 kilometer race.

FORCE STRUCTURE/PROGRAMS:

27. Northrop To Spin Off Shipyards

(NEW YORK TIMES 16 MAR 11) ... Christopher Drew

Northrop Grumman's board approved the spinoff of its struggling shipyards to stockholders after making changes to ease Navy concerns about the deal, Pentagon and industry officials said on Tuesday.

But the deal still carries substantial risk for taxpayers. The new company, Huntington Ingalls Industries, will start with so much debt — \$1.8 billion — that the three largest rating agencies classified much of it as noninvestment grade, or junk.

And without Northrop's deep pockets to turn to, the new company could run into more trouble if it cannot cut costs in building nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, submarines and other ships, analysts cautioned.

The spinoff comes as the Pentagon spending is tightening and its shipbuilding budget is becoming less certain. Northrop is the world's largest military shipbuilder, and General Dynamics is its only American rival in building large warships. There is also a glut of capacity, and some of Northrop's yards are the least efficient and have had serious quality problems.

The spinoff, which is subject to approval by securities regulators, is expected to take place on March 31. Northrop, based in Los Angeles, said its stockholders would receive one

share of the new company, in a tax-free distribution, for every six shares of Northrop they hold.

Northrop's chief executive, Wesley G. Bush, has been refocusing the company on more profitable businesses like electronics, robotic systems and cybersecurity. The shipyards accounted for only about one-fifth of Northrop's \$35 billion in sales last year, and the profit margins from the operations were as low as 4 to 5 percent.

Analysts at Standard & Poor's wrote recently that Northrop would receive \$1.5 billion from Huntington Ingalls when the spinoff took effect. The new company sold \$1.2 billion in notes to institutional investors earlier this month, and was expected to take on at least \$600 million in additional debt to pay Northrop and provide \$300 million in working capital.

But while the spinoff makes sense for Northrop, the Pentagon could have less leverage over the operations if the new company performs poorly. Analysts said the Navy would have to think twice about withdrawing contracts from Huntington Ingalls if that would result in a weakening of the company's finances.

Navy officials said they spent several months in negotiations with Northrop before deciding to support the spinoff.

Sean J. Stackley, the assistant secretary for acquisitions, said the Navy reviewed the financial assumptions, including proprietary business projections, and reached an agreement with Northrop that included "appropriate adjustments."

The changes enabled Navy officials "to resolve our concerns about the risk involved to this important segment of our shipbuilding industrial base," he said, adding that the Navy was confident that the new company was "well postured to build affordable ships into the future."

Capt. Cate T. Mueller, a Navy spokeswoman, said Northrop had agreed not to seek any types of payments from the \$300 million in working capital at the new company. She said Northrop had also agreed that Huntington Ingalls would receive any performance bonuses or other Navy payments relating to ship contracts it transferred to the new company.

Mr. Stackley said the Navy would now finish negotiating contracts for the new company to build an amphibious transport ship and a destroyer.

Northrop, one of the nation's largest military contractors, announced last summer that it was studying whether to sell or spin off the shipbuilding business, which includes sprawling yards in Virginia, Mississippi and Louisiana, with more than 30,000 workers. But the talks with the Navy heated up after Northrop settled on the spinoff late last year.

The debate over the proposal also coincided with concerns by Pentagon officials about how to promote more competition for military contracts.

Ashton B. Carter, the Pentagon's top acquisition official, warned in February that the largest military contractors would not be allowed to merge. In the same speech, he also appeared to caution Northrop about the spinoff, saying that transparency from contractors was essential "as we review proposals that may result in the creation of weaker stand-alone firms less likely to thrive without the necessary capital structure that their larger parent company is able to provide."

[Return to Index](#)

28. Some Lockheed F-35 Fighters Cleared For Flight

(REUTERS 15 MAR 11) ... Andrea Shalal-Esa

WASHINGTON - Seven of 10 F-35 fighter jets built by Lockheed Martin Corp were cleared to resume flight tests this week as government auditors raised questions about the long-term affordability of the program.

The Pentagon's F-35 program director said one Air Force variant of the new radar-evading warplane flew at Edwards Air Force Base in California on Tuesday, but three other planes remained grounded after a dual generator failure and oil leak on one warplane last week.

Vice Admiral David Venlet said there was no doubt that the Joint Strike Fighter program, the Pentagon's biggest acquisition program, had failed to deliver acceptable results in the past. However, he said he was convinced that a major restructuring announced in January would lead to improvement.

"By any measure of progress or performance the F-35 program has not delivered acceptable results," Venlet told the subcommittee on tactical air and land forces of the House Armed Services Committee, saying the new plan was based on

Northrop has said that its top shipbuilding executives will run the new company, which will be based in Newport News, Va. The corporation's Newport News shipbuilding unit is the only company that builds the Navy's aircraft carriers, and it splits the work on nuclear submarines with General Dynamics.

David Petu, an analyst at Fitch Ratings, said Tuesday that it could be an advantage for the new company to have its executives focusing only on shipbuilding. Other analysts said it would be easier for them to reinvest the company's cash in shipbuilding since they would not have more profitable alternatives, as Northrop does.

Northrop's Ingalls shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss., was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina, and Mr. Petu said the new company could get in trouble if a similar disaster struck.

Fitch assigned an overall BB default rating to the company, just below the lowest investment grade ratings. Moody's Investors Service gave it a similar Ba2 rating, and S.& P classified it as BB-minus.

The ratings mean that Huntington Ingalls will pay higher interest rates than Northrop would have. The new company recently sold \$1.2 billion in senior unsecured notes at interest rates of 6.875 percent and 7.125 percent.

Northrop had said it planned to eventually close its shipyard in Avondale, La., and transfer the work to Ingalls. The Navy has sharply criticized the mistakes made on a series of amphibious ships built at the Gulf Coast yards.

The company's most critical work takes place in Newport News, and it also has had problems there. Just last week, federal prosecutors filed criminal charges against a former Northrop Grumman shipyard inspector, accusing him of falsifying weld certifications on a submarine.

Analysts said that to succeed, the new company will have to cut costs — and probably more jobs — at the Gulf Coast shipyards. And an even bigger test will be how it manages construction of a new class of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. The first one, being built now, is projected to cost \$11.5 billion.

a far more realistic assessment of cost, schedule and performance.

"Such a grasp on fundamentals and realism is the distinguishing characteristic that makes this plan different from all before it," Venlet said of the program, which is slated to cost \$382 billion over the next decades.

Venlet's office said three newer airplanes would remain grounded until it was clear what caused the generators to fail on board the Air Force variant known as AF-4 on March 9.

An inspection over the weekend found that the generator issue stemmed from a "design artifact" that was unique to a new configuration of the generator, used on the newest planes.

F-35 spokesman Joe DellaVedova said an investigation was continuing into what caused the failure, and said resolving the issue was the program's "highest priority."

He said the impact on the development phase of the program and production operations was being assessed.

Michael Sullivan, director of acquisition research for the Government Accountability Office, told lawmakers that the

program was "getting close" to the point where it could reasonably enter production, but it still faced challenges.

He said government auditors viewed the latest restructuring as very comprehensive, but said the program needed continued oversight, citing concerns about software development and a short takeoff variant being built for the Marine Corps.

Sullivan said the Pentagon did not yet know the full impact of the restructuring on procurement costs beyond the five-year budget planner submitted with the fiscal 2012 budget.

"Future funding requirements could be higher than projected and the quantities which are considered affordable by the U.S. and allies, could be reduced, further driving up unit costs," Sullivan said in a report for the subcommittee.

Lockheed is developing the three variants of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter with eight international partners to replace

[Return to Index](#)

29. Lockheed F-35 Faces 'Significant' Software Delays, GAO Says

(BLOOMBERG NEWS 15 MAR 11) ... Tony Capaccio

2011 Lockheed Martin Corp. (LMT)'s development of software for its F-35 fighter jet, the Pentagon's largest weapons program, is "significantly behind schedule as it enters its most challenging phase," according to congressional auditors.

Program officials were two years late in releasing the second of five progressively more complex software versions, the U.S. Government Accountability Office reported at a House Armed Services Committee subcommittee today.

"Each of the remaining three blocks" needed for full war-fighting capability "are now projected to slip more than three years" compared with the current schedule, set in 2006, Michael Sullivan, the GAO director of acquisition management, told the panel. The final block, originally scheduled for this year, isn't anticipated until 2015, he said.

"Delays have cascading effects hampering flight tests, training" and accrediting 32 laboratories and models needed to verify software, according to the GAO's findings. "While progress is being made, a substantial amount of work remains."

Lockheed Martin spokesman John Kent didn't immediately comment in response to an e-mail about the GAO findings.

The testimony distills the watchdog agency's annual F-35 report, due later this month. Most attention on the \$382 billion program has focused on flight-testing delays and technical problems with the Marine Corps version -- the most complex model of the aircraft that's also being developed in variants for the Air Force and the Navy. Defense Secretary Robert Gates in January put that version on two-year probation.

'On The Mark'

"Concerns about the F-35, expressed annually for several years by GAO, have gone unheeded by the Pentagon and have largely been right on the mark," the subcommittee chairman, Maryland Republican Representative Roscoe Bartlett, said in an opening statement.

Vice Admiral David Venlet, the Pentagon's program manager, said while there have been "challenges" in the program's cost and schedule, changes this year to extend

over 13 different planes now operated by the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps and foreign militaries.

Sullivan said the program would require "unprecedented" levels of funding -- almost \$11 billion a year through 2035 -- at a time when defense budgets were going to be under increasing pressure, and it would have to compete with many other priorities for funding.

Venlet and Air Force acquisition chief David Van Buren defended the Pentagon's effort to end a second engine being developed for the plane by General Electric Co and Britain's Rolls Royce, while lawmakers argued that the alternate engine would result in longer-term savings.

They also argued that having a second engine would help guard against a catastrophic fleetwide grounding if problems arise with the primary engine, built by Pratt & Whitney, a unit of United Technologies Corp.

development work and slow production have placed the project "on sound footing."

Venlet also said Lockheed Martin for the first time in years has been meeting its delivery schedule, being on-time for five straight months under a new plan set last September. The Pentagon also is seeing "progress in controlling aircraft costs," he said.

Chronic Delays

The GAO testimony outlines chronic delays in "one of the largest and most complex" software development efforts in Pentagon history. That's as the program is anticipated to require "unprecedented demands for funding," Sullivan wrote.

Through 2035, the program to buy 2,457 jets, including 14 test planes, is estimated to require \$11 billion annually, according to unreleased Pentagon budget projections, GAO said.

"After more than nine years in development," including four years of overlapping low-rate production, "the program has not fully demonstrated the aircraft design is stable, manufacturing processes are mature and the system is reliable," said GAO.

Only 4 percent of the aircraft's capabilities have been completely verified by flight tests, laboratory results, or both, GAO said. "The pace of flight testing accelerated significantly in 2010 but overall progress is still much below plans forecast several years ago."

Lockheed Martin and its subcontractors are "improving operations and implementing" recommendations from a Pentagon-commissioned panel but haven't yet demonstrated "a capacity to efficiently produce at higher production rates," said GAO.

Improvements Needed

"Substantial improvements in factory throughput and the supply chain are needed," GAO said. The program hasn't yet "stabilized aircraft design" as "engineering changes continue at higher-than-expected rates."

Total labor hours required to produce test aircraft have increased instead of diminished -- an indication of "lingering management inefficiencies," said GAO. Hours to complete

assembly of test aircraft last year "exceeded budgeted hours by more than 1.5 million," for example.

The report discloses the financial stakes for Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin through 2016 -- the Pentagon's five-year F-35 budget plan calls for requesting \$50.7 billion during that period, including \$7.9 billion in 2013 and \$14.3 billion for the last year. That's up from the \$6.9 billion requested for fiscal 2012.

Continued Development

Gates this year delayed purchases of 242 F-35s over the five-year period to slow the program and shift \$4.6 billion into continued development.

Still, "even after decreasing annual quantities, procurement still escalates significantly," said Sullivan.

The aircraft depends on software with millions of additional lines of code compared with the Lockheed Martin F-22A Raptor or Boeing Co. (BA)'s F/A-18E/F Super Hornet for fusing data from numerous sensors, and operating fire control, propulsion and maintenance diagnostics systems.

[Return to Index](#)

30. Inouye Sees F-35 Second Engine Losing Funding, Eyes Future Lifeline

(DEFENSE DAILY 16 MAR 11) ... Emelie Rutherford

A senior senator said yesterday Congress likely will not approve monies for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter's alternate engine this year, admitting his only hope for the program is partial funding next year.

Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC) Chairman Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), a longtime supporter of the F-35 backup engine developed by General Electric [GE] and Rolls-Royce, said he does not see any way his congressional colleagues will support the controversial program in fiscal year 2011, which started last October, as lawmakers fight over how and whether to pass a long-delayed defense appropriations bill.

"There are no more votes; everyone's against it," Inouye told Defense Daily at the Capitol.

The SAC did not fund the second engine on March 4 in a now-moot FY '11 Pentagon appropriations measure, which was part of a continuing resolution (CR) funding the entire government for the rest of the year largely at FY '10 levels that the Senate rejected last week. The committee's dismissal of the engine program followed the House's vote on Feb. 16 to strip \$450 million for it from a competing FY '11 defense bill, also within a government-wide full-year CR, that the Senate rejected last week.

Asked yesterday whether the General Electric-Rolls-Royce engine will be funded in FY '11, Inouye said: "I don't think so."

Inouye's backing of the second engine has been seen as key to its survival, considering his sway over appropriations bills in the Senate and diminished support for the engine in the House. He is under pressure to not fund the alternate engine in the Pentagon's FY '12 budget, which lawmakers began deliberating last month.

In a letter to Inouye and SAC Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) last week, a bipartisan group of 19 senators applauded the SAC's move to leave funding for the alternate engine out of it CR and urged the panel to reject the engine in FY '12 as well. Signers include Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) Ranking Member John McCain (R-Ariz.)

"Good progress has been reported on writing code," but total lines of software needed continue to grow, said GAO.

"Officials underestimated the time and effort needed to develop and integrate the software, substantially contributing to the program's overall cost and schedule problems, testing delays and requiring the retention of engineers for longer periods," it said.

The total system-development cost since 2001, when Lockheed Martin won the program from Chicago-based Boeing, has risen to \$56.4 billion from \$34.4 billion and has extended to 2018, a five-year slip from the current schedule that was revised in 2007.

Lockheed Martin's cost-plus type development contract since 2001 has increased to at least \$33.9 billion from \$19 billion, GAO said.

The total program, including development, production and military construction has increased to \$382 billion, up 64 percent from the October 2001 estimate of \$233 billion.

and members Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I/D-Conn.) and Jack Reed (D-R.I.).

Inouye, though, said the alternate engine may not be completely dead in the Senate in FY '12, which begins Oct. 1.

"There may be a way to keep it alive," he said. "But to fully fund it, there are no votes. Why go through all that misery?"

Inouye added "if there's a rationale way" to keep the alternate engine alive in FY '12, he'd "like to see it."

He noted his support for the concept of the alternate engine has not waned.

Congress has consistently funded the alternate engine in recent years despite Pentagon and White House opposition to continuing to develop it. Defense Secretary Robert Gates argues the Pentagon cannot afford to spend billions of dollars on the engine, a backup to the F-35's primary one developed by Pratt & Whitney [UTX]. The alternate engine is supported by lawmakers whose districts benefit by its development, including House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), as well many members of the House Armed Services Committee, who argue there are multiple benefits to maintaining competition between two F-35 engine makers and note a Pentagon analysis showed the long-term costs of building one or two engines would be nearly the same.

Gates said on Feb. 14 that he would look at "all available legal actions to close down" the alternate engine programs after Congress stopped funding the FY '11 budget with CRs.

Also yesterday, the House passed another short-term CR that will last for three weeks and start when the current resolution expires Friday. The Senate is expected to approve it this week.

McCain said Monday he wants to attach a full-blown FY '11 defense appropriations bill to the CR, via an amendment; such an attempt, though, is not expected to pass.

Lawmakers' patience with funding the government through a series of CRs is waning.

Boehner told reporters yesterday: "We've been in conversations with the Senate and the White House and we're

hopeful that we'll have a long-term continuing resolution through September 30th, and we're hopeful that we'll have it soon."

House Republicans and Senate Democrats have been at odds over how much funding to cut in FY '11. The House-passed CR the Senate rejected last week called for trimming

[Return to Index](#)

31. Northrop Celebrates First Navy Drone Fuselage

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 15 MAR 11)

MOSS POINT, Miss. — Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems has completed work in Moss Point on the first drone fuselage for the Navy, part of a multibillion-dollar contract.

The Broad Area Maritime Surveillance program (BAMS) is the Navy's version of the Air Force's RQ-4 Global Hawk drone.

The Navy's version of the drone is equipped with a multifunction active sensor, a 360-degree radar.

Navy officials have said the unmanned drones will use one-tenth of the fuel and 25 percent less manpower than manned surveillance options. They can go up to 60,000 feet high for a better view, compared to only about 25,000 feet in a manned P-3 aircraft.

[Return to Index](#)

BASES / COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

32. Base Land Transfer Timeline Evolving

(BRUNSWICK (ME) TIMES RECORD 15 MAR 11) ... Seth Koenig

BRUNSWICK — The Navy is scheduled to clear more than 1,500 acres of Brunswick Naval Air Station property for transfer to civilian redevelopers between June and November of this year, according to a report delivered last week.

That property is likely to include airport hangars, base housing, a golf course and land for an expansion of Bowdoin College.

The 3,200-acre base is slated to close as an active military installation in a ceremony on May 31, after which properties deemed to have met environmental cleanup standards will be incrementally ceded to civilian entities for redevelopment.

During last Wednesday's meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board at the Parkwood Inn in Brunswick, board members received a report about the timetable for base property transfers.

That nearly two-thirds of the base property could be cleared for civilian reuse the same year that the installation closes is considered rapid progress in the world of military base closures. Past rounds of base realignments across the country have been marked by instances of parcels that the federal government held for several years after the surrounding bases shut.

"The Navy wants to try and convey as much of this base as they can this fiscal year," said Steve Levesque, executive director of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority. "The Navy's been very responsive and they really want to get through this."

The Navy has already pledged an early transfer of 714 acres associated with the base airfield to the Midcoast

\$61 billion from current spending, while the SAC version included a \$6 billion cut. The SASC bill would cut President Barack Obama's Pentagon proposal by \$17.3 billion, while the House's version would provide \$2.13 billion more.

The drones also can be used to watch hurricanes, assess damage after tsunamis and other disasters and alert merchant ships of potential piracy.

The fuselage finished Thursday is the first of three in a \$1.8 billion Navy design, development and construction contract. The Navy plan is to have 20 flying by 2019 and eventually order 68, a \$10 billion prospect for Northrop.

Paul Diggs, deputy manager for the BAMS program's integrated product team, said from Mississippi, the fuselage will go to Temecula, Calif., for calibration; Palmdale, Calif., for final assembly; back to Temecula for structural testing; then back to Palmdale "to finish buttoning it up."

The first flight is scheduled for next May, he said.

Northrop's high-tech assembly plant, just north of Trent Lott International Airport, employs 70.

Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRA), the group charged with overseeing the civilian reuse of the base.

Before the Navy can turn over parcels for redevelopment, the service must issue a Finding Of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) or Finding Of Suitability to Lease (FOSL), meaning the Navy completed immediate environmental remediation necessary at the respective parcels.

Levesque said officials from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and federal Environmental Protection Agency must review the findings before the Navy can finalize them.

"(The FOST) processes have to be done well," Levesque said. "They have to be signed off on by the regulators. They're basically certifying that these properties are clean enough to transfer, and are clean enough for reuse. There will be properties that will need more work. It's not a rubber stamp at all. It's a very thorough process the Navy, MRRA and regulators have to go through to issue a FOST."

According to a Navy report delivered to the Restoration Advisory Board last week, 1,512 acres of base property, in addition to the 714 airfield acres already tapped for transfer, are scheduled to receive FOSTs or FOSLs between June and November.

The property to be cleared for transfer in the late summer and fall includes significant lots and buildings, including nearly all of the base housing, the remainder of the airport and the base golf course.

In June, the Navy is scheduled to issue FOSTs for 473 acres, including several parcels for a proposed Bowdoin College expansion, buildings and land tied to a Brunswick

campus for Southern Maine Community College, as well as land on the west side of the base due to be transferred to the town of Brunswick.

In August, the base's electrical, water and sewer systems are in line to receive FOSTs, along with 323 additional acres — including the housing on the base and on McKean Street in Brunswick, and the satellite Topsham Navy Annex property.

In September, a FOST is planned for 213 acres largely associated with the base airfield. The September FOST will likely include three hangars not included in the original 714-acre airport conveyance, the old taxiway and new fuel farm area, and the old control tower. Also lined up for September findings are Buildings 225 and 252, two buildings that make up the base's vehicle maintenance facilities.

[Return to Index](#)

33. U.S. Navy SEAL Fitness Challenge

(KEYE CBS AUSTIN (TX) 15 MAR 11)

This Sunday at noon the Navy SEALs will be parachuting onto the field of a YMCA to put some very brave individuals through the seal fitness challenge.

[Return to Index](#)

[View Clip](#)

NEWS OF INTEREST:

34. Government Would Save Billions By Capping Pay, CBO Says

(GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE 15 MAR 11) ... Kellie Lunney

Reducing annual pay increases for federal civilian workers and military personnel would save the government billions of dollars during the next decade, according to the latest figures from the Congressional Budget Office in a report on trimming the burgeoning deficit.

CBO estimates the deficit will rise to \$7 trillion during the next 10 years if mandatory and discretionary spending is not reined in across government. Capping military pay increases and reducing the annual across-the-board adjustment for civilian raises are two available areas, among several others, for cuts, the March 2011 report said.

The nonpartisan CBO said if the government capped the basic pay increase for service members from 2012 to 2015 and set raises at a rate 0.5 percentage points below the increase in the employment cost index, it would save about \$6 billion between 2012 and 2016, and \$17 billion between 2012 and 2021. Since 2001, lawmakers have approved military pay raises for the average service member that exceeded the ECI by 0.5 percentage point.

President Obama's fiscal 2012 budget request proposes a 1.6 percent pay raise for military personnel and allocates an overall \$8.3 billion for education, housing and other quality of life programs for service members.

"Between 2001 and 2009, per capita spending on three major components of cash compensation for active military personnel rose by 37 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars," the report said, citing basic pay, and allowances for housing and subsistence, as the primary compensation categories. Overall, the Defense Department accounts for more than half of all annual discretionary funding, and any significant deficit reduction needs to take into account Defense appropriations, CBO said. Nearly 40 percent of all spending is discretionary, totaling more than \$1.3 trillion in 2010.

The base's nine-hole golf course and three more lots slated to be transferred to the town of Brunswick make up another 503 acres due to receive FOSTs in November.

Levesque said any properties not approved for no-cost Public Benefit Conveyances to entities such as the town, Bowdoin College or Southern Maine Community College will likely be surrendered to MRRA through the federal Economic Development Conveyance process.

Federal law now allows the Navy to transfer closing base properties for little or no cost. Just a few years ago, such redevelopment-friendly property transactions were discouraged at the federal level.

Levesque said MRRA and the Navy continue to negotiate terms of the Economic Development Conveyances.

As for civilian compensation, CBO says the government could save about \$10 billion during five years and \$50 billion during 10 years by reducing by 0.5 percent the annual across-the-board pay raise expected under the 1990 Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act from 2013 to 2021. Obama has called for a federal civilian pay freeze in 2011 and 2012. Compensation costs for civilian personnel make up about 15 percent of federal discretionary spending, according to CBO.

But the report said the bigger savings would come from capping military pay. According to CBO's analysis, "median cash compensation for military personnel -- including the tax-free cash allowances for food and housing -- exceeds the salaries of most civilians who have comparable education and work experience."

CBO acknowledged that reducing pay for service members and civilians could hinder recruitment and retention. "That effect might be more pronounced for federal agencies that require workers with advanced degrees and professional skills." To offset some of the pain associated with lowered base pay for service members in particular, CBO suggested expanding reenlistment bonuses.

The report highlighted other areas for spending savings that would affect the health care benefits of Defense personnel, among them:

- An increase in cost-sharing in TRICARE for military retirees who are not yet eligible for Medicare;
- A limit on the TRICARE benefit for military retirees and their dependents (many enrollees who already have employer-sponsored insurance through a civilian job opt for enrollment in TRICARE Prime, which has the lowest out-of-pocket costs within the TRICARE system);

- An increase in cost-sharing for prescription drugs under TRICARE.

[Return to Index](#)

35. Veterans: Don't Cut Military Benefits

(THE HILL 15 MAR 11) ... Alicia M. Cohn

Veterans service organizations are flooding Capitol Hill this month to make the case that military benefits should be kept out of proposals to reduce the deficit.

Nearly 20 groups that represent the 23 million veterans in the United States are scheduled to testify at joint hearings of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees on March 16 and 30.

Unlike many other groups fighting spending cuts, the veterans service organizations (VSOs) are expecting a warm reception from both sides of the aisle.

"It's pretty hard for the committees, when we have 50 or 60 guys sitting there in wheelchairs due to their military service, to be very critical of them," said Doug Vollmer, associate executive director for government relations at Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Veterans Affairs is one of the few government departments not facing steep cuts. The president's 2012 budget proposes \$61.9 billion for the VA, an increase of \$1.8 billion, and few Republicans have taken on veterans' services in proposed cuts, despite claims that there are no sacred cows in the budget.

But the bipartisan support doesn't necessarily mean that military benefits will be excluded from Washington's austerity drive.

"We don't want to be pawns in budget debates," said René A. Campos, deputy director of government relations for the Military Officers Association of America.

"The compassion of Congress is there," said Vivianne Wersel, chairwoman of government relations at Gold Star Wives of America. "When we testify, they're very kind. They echo our sentiments, and they back us up by being co-sponsors, but when it's said and done at the end of the day, it's not our turn [for funding]. But we've been told that for many years."

The VSOs have a number of issues they plan to raise with lawmakers during their visits. Many are concerned about discrepancies in benefits for veterans and their caregivers and want to ensure that the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act — signed into law by President Obama last year — is fully implemented.

Others are concerned about the president's proposed reduction in spending for construction and non-recurring maintenance in VA funding research. Several are concerned that cuts to the information technology budget will undermine the effort to streamline the exchange of electronic medical records between the Department of Defense and VA systems.

[Return to Index](#)

The Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), meanwhile, will focus on getting veterans jobs this year.

"We have a high national unemployment rate, but we have a much higher veterans unemployment rate. It's typically about two points higher," said Tom Tarantino, senior legislative associate for IAVA.

The organization wants Congress to request a report from the private sector, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, unions and others who "understand the market" to find solutions to the problem.

There is also support among VSOs for increased oversight of the VA, so long as the focus is on waste and not reducing benefits.

"We want to keep what we've got," said Hershel Gober, legislative director for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. "We are in strong support of going after all the waste, fraud and abuse that we can find. I really believe if we do that across the government, we'll find enough waste, fraud and abuse that we won't have to take benefits away from veterans."

Rep. Jeff Miller (R-Fla.), chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, has called for increased oversight of the VA department. "I think we need to focus not only on delivery of services but the cost at which those services are being delivered to the veteran," Miller said.

Many VSOs welcomed the call for transparency. "If it's done with an eye to improving benefits and services for veterans, it's hard not to be supportive of that," said Vollmer. "If it's just an artifice to dig into this particular administration or particular programs, that's not really good oversight; that's just plain politics."

VSOs scheduled to testify at Wednesday's hearing include AMVETS, the Jewish War Veterans, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association and the Fleet Reserve Association. The Vietnam Veterans of America, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Retired Enlisted Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Wounded Warrior Project and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs will testify March 30.

Two other large veterans organizations testified before the committees earlier this month: the Veterans of Foreign Wars on March 8 and the Disabled American Veterans on March 1.

"We all know we're much stronger when we work together," Tarantino said of the groups descending on Congress in the next two weeks.

OPINION:

36. After Japan's Quake, Rethinking How We Build Our Navy

Amphibious assault ships have been crucial in aiding Japan, so why is the Navy trying to kill them?

(THE ATLANTIC 15 MAR 11) ... Craig Hooper

Of the 11 commissioned U.S. warships en route to Japan, almost half are big Cold War-era amphibious assault vessels purpose-built to land Marines on hostile shores. But while these unglamorous transport ships dispatch helicopters and critical aid to a grateful ally, they're being marginalized by a Navy that tends to fixate on the capabilities to wage a high-tech, blue-water war, while underestimating the importance of mundane disaster-response work in maintaining our global power and influence.

The Navy's amphibious forces have carried out the lion's share of America's disaster-response work, responding to 114 crises and contingencies over the past 20 years. Yet this enviable record means little inside the beltway. With the recent cancellation of the pricey \$25-million dollar Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle, a specialized floating tank meant to speed Marines from sea to shore, defense leaders are signaling that troop transporters, helicopter carriers, and other old-school "charge the beach" tools of amphibious warfare are obsolete and not worth full funding. The EFV deserved cancellation for a number of reasons, not the least of which was its price tag, but skeptics of amphibious warfare are using the EFV's demise to claim that the amphibious fleet as a whole has lost its reason for being and should be cut.

But even as Washington cuts, more countries are investing in amphibious warfare platforms than ever before. Last December, Russia solidified plans to buy four \$900 million-dollar Mistral-class assault ships from France; Canada is mulling a purchase of two. China, almost done with a second new amphibious warfare vessel, is in the early stages of a rumored 16 assault-ship building program. Australia is planning for a pair of massive helicopter carriers. South Korea, Japan, and even Indonesia are building amphibious craft, all capable of transporting and landing hundreds of fully equipped troops on hostile shores.

This buildup of amphibious warfare platforms is unprecedented, yet the Pentagon seems unconcerned, perhaps psychologically unready to grapple with the dramatic proliferation of amphibious power. And why should it be? The U.S. has enjoyed 60 years of overwhelming superiority in amphibious force. It hasn't felt compelled to update, luxuriating in the assumption that it could hand to like-minded junior partners the disaster response, non-combatant evacuations, and other stability-enhancing projects blue-water warfighters no longer want.

But these new navies will not collaborate forever, and the U.S., its attention focused elsewhere, risks missing that this world-wide build-up of new, versatile assault craft could affect our ability to project force in the global littorals.

Rather than join in the build-up, U.S. amphibious assault capabilities are being targeted by budget-cutters. Last year, the

[Return to Index](#)

White House Deficit Commission urged on the demise of the Marines' MV-22 Osprey helicopter-plane, the Marine version of the F-35 strike fighter, and the Future Maritime Prepositioning Force, floating warehouses meant to support the Marine Corps in a major contingency. Plans to purchase several cheap and speedy Joint High Speed Vessels, a modernized fast ferry and potential mainstay of the future amphibious assault fleet, is under pressure. Modernization aside; fiscal hawks are expressing an eager desire to shrink the existing fleet of 33 specialized amphibious ships used to transport Marines -- the very ships that are, right now, leading the way in our effort to support a beleaguered Japan.

Some vigorous pruning of bloated naval programs is overdue, but Washington's over-enthusiastic campaign to cut amphibious warfare appears founded on a flawed assumption -- that the era of World-War II-like offshore assaults is over forever, ended by accurate anti-ship weaponry and the proliferation of sea mines, submarines, and other area-denial capabilities.

We had a similar debate 50 years ago, when Navy theorists predicted that nuclear weapons would mean the end of beach assaults. But big amphibious fleets are still here. To take Grenada in 1983, the Pentagon marshaled 22 ships and 11,414 sailors to support an assault by some 8,000 soldiers and Marines. The decoy fleet off Kuwait in 1991 was even larger. Amphibious assault ships will always gather when America needs to "kick in the door" someplace. Perhaps even more importantly, they're a crucial tool for the sorts of humanitarian response missions we're leading in Japan. Providing relief for Japan isn't just the right thing to do, it's necessary for us to maintain a strong naval presence at both ends of the Pacific. If our amphibious fleet continues to decay, and China's continues to evolve, then Japan may look west rather than east the next time it needs a foreign navy to intervene.

Though it may be tempting to consign "charging the beach" tactics as outmoded, amphibious warfare seems set for a perilous global renaissance. Even if island warfare remains a rare phenomenon, amphibious ships are some of the most useful, if unglamorous, military tools in the arsenal. After responding to two tsunamis in the space of six years, amphibious assault platforms have proven their ability to do a lot of good in key places. Supporting a large, utilitarian fleet of floating pick-up trucks may not be very exciting, but Japan's earthquake and tsunami are important reminders of the importance of amphibious capability -- and of the risks of neglecting them. After all, the next mega-tsunami may very well be our own.

37. Osprey: A Marine's Best Friend

Versatile aircraft lets leathernecks accomplish the otherwise impossible

(WASHINGTON TIMES 15 MAR 11) ... Gen. Paul X. Kelley

In the early 1980s while serving as assistant commandant and later as commandant of the United States Marine Corps, I was called upon - along with other members of the Pentagon leadership team - to make the type of far-reaching acquisition decisions that would arm our military services with the resources necessary to prevail in the conflicts of the 21st century. Our overarching concern was that the innovative weapons systems of tomorrow ensure that the forces of the future could meet the challenges of new types of missions in the harsh terrain of faraway countries against a diverse array of potential enemies.

The V-22 Osprey, an innovative aircraft that combines the best of both helicopter and airplane, was one of the programs under consideration. In combat conditions, the Osprey could move our Marines in and out of battle safer and faster than any of the helicopter options available then or even on the drawing board. It was clear that for the force of the future, an aircraft with game-changing capabilities was the smart choice. The decision to proceed with this forward-looking program was, and remains, one of the best acquisition decisions we made.

Fast-forward to 2011, with 132 V-22 aircraft currently in service: The Osprey has served with distinction in 14 highly successful deployments. From Iraq to Afghanistan, to humanitarian service in areas of Africa and Haiti that could not be reached by conventional helicopters, the Osprey has distinguished itself - and it has earned unprecedented high marks for safety, survivability and speed. For the past 10

[Return to Index](#)

years, the V-22 has earned the lowest mishap rate of any currently fielded Marine rotorcraft. In fact, studies by both industry and the government conclude that the V-22 is more operationally efficient than any helicopter alternative.

Not surprisingly, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates has decided to maintain funding for the V-22 Osprey. This is the right choice. The V-22 has grown into a mature, successful aircraft that each day takes on many of our hardest combat missions. This remarkable aircraft is hard at work deploying and extracting personnel whose service to our nation takes them into harm's way, combining the vertical landing and takeoff of helicopters with the speed, range and altitude of a turbo-prop airplane and the survivability of a state-of-the-art composite exterior.

As members of Congress debate the Pentagon's funding priorities for 2012 and beyond, they would be wise to remember the strong record of service achieved by the V-22 Osprey. They should recognize that this unprecedented aircraft, now well into its maturity, is serving our nation both in combat and on critical humanitarian missions and has achieved a remarkable record for safety and effectiveness. The V-22 Osprey provides the flexibility that the men and women of our military need and deserve in order to serve in and survive combat and to successfully execute the ever-evolving mission requirements of today and tomorrow.

Gen. Paul X. Kelley served as commandant of the United States Marine Corps from 1983 through 1987.

ODriscoll, James

From: ODriscoll, James
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 6:07 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Japan ECAI Standup

Scott,
Thanks. Yes. I need berthing ck in 3/17 check out 3/21. Hopefully NAF can turn it around in time for tomorrow.
Thanks,
Jim

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/98

(b) (5)

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 2:16 PM

(b)(6)

Subject:

RE: URGENT: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/99

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 2:21 PM

To:

ODriscoll, James; (b)(6)

Subject:

Re: URGENT: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/100

ODriscoll, James

From: ODriscoll, James
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 8:56 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Commander Odriscoll, resked paperwork.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/101

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 1:40 PM

To:

ODriscoll, James

Subject:

RE: URGENT: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/102

ODriscoll, James

From: ODriscoll, James
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 1:44 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: URGENT: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/103

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 10:35 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

ODriscoll, James

Subject:

RE: Japan ECAT Standup

Attachments:

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/104

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 7:38 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

ODriscoll, James

Subject:

Re: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/105

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)
Wednesday, March 16, 2011 6:19 PM

(b)(6)

Cc:
Subject:

RE: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/106

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 6:01 PM
To: ODriscoll, James (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/107

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 5:35 PM
To: ODriscoll, James; (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Watch

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/108

ODriscoll, James

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 5:01 PM
To: (b)(6); ODriscoll, James; (b)(6)
Subject: Re: URGENT: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/109

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 4:25 PM

(b)(6)

Subject:

RE: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/110

(b)(1)

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 4:05 PM

(b)(6)

Cc:
Subject:
Attachments:

Japan ECAT Standup
(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/III

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 3:52 PM

To:

(b)(6) ODriscoll, James; (b)(6)

Subject:

RE: URGENT: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/112

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: ODriscoll, James
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 2:24 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: URGENT: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/113

(b)(6) *

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 2:23 PM

(b)(6)

Subject:

RE: URGENT: Japan ECAT Standup.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/114

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 6:36 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Fw: NAVAL RESERVE FISCAL YEAR 2012 NATIONAL COMMAND AND SENIOR OFFICER (O5/O6) NON-COMMAND BILLET SCREENING AND ASSIGNMENT BOARD//

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Saturday, March 19, 2011 7:39 AM
Flag Status: Flagged

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/115

(b)(7)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Thursday, March 17, 2011 7:22 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

RE: DEFENSE TRAVEL SYSTEM (DTS) AND ENTERPRISE WEB TRAINING SYSTEM (EWTS) MAINTENANCE

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/116

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 12:41 PM
Subject: If this isn't the funniest thing I have read in quite some time...

"The people's demands for change must be respected. How is it possible to stop waves of humanity with military force?" Ahmadinejad said, according to Iranian state TV.

Sailors warned to avoid Bahrain protests

Staff and wire reports
Posted : Wednesday Mar 16, 2011 12:25:34 EDT

MANAMA, Bahrain — Soldiers and riot police expelled hundreds of protesters from a landmark square in Bahrain's capital Wednesday, using tear gas and armored vehicles to try to subdue the growing movement challenging the 200-year-old monarchy. At least five people were killed as clashes flared across the kingdom, according to witnesses and officials.

As the clash grows more violent, Bahrain-based 5th Fleet warned its 6,100 personnel to avoid contested areas, including Pearl Square and the Financial District, which have been central to the month-long protest.

After Bahrain's king imposed a curfew in some areas from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. on Wednesday, 5th Fleet cautioned personnel who may live there to observe the curfew, in a posting on their official Facebook page. The curfew covers those living between the Saif Flyover and the Shaikh Isa bin Salman Bridge.

"Service members who live in these areas should speak with the personnel manning government checkpoints to receive authorization to travel within," 5th Fleet said in the "Situation Update" posting. "Violation of the curfew areas can face legal action."

5th Fleet spokesman Lt. Frederick Martin said he had no estimate for how many personnel live in the area now under curfew.

Asked if the base's hours had changed to accommodate the curfew, Martin responded, "The responsibility for personnel falls to their chain of command. If they're having issues, we're directing our personnel to discuss it with their chain of command and go from there. But there is no sweeping policy that says we're changing hours at the base or anything along those lines. We really are still operating pretty much normally."

The latest advisory comes a day after the Defense Department announced it would offer voluntary relocations for military families and non-essential civilians assigned to Bahrain. There are approximately 670 dependents stationed in Bahrain, most of whom live off-base. Naval Support Activity Bahrain spokeswoman Jennifer Stride said in an email.

Military personnel, however, are not eligible for the program.

A stop movement order was also issued, preventing more military families from traveling to Bahrain on orders while the voluntary relocation plan is in place, Martin said.

The Navy, however, says it is not leaving the island nation. A report on the website WorldTribune.com and repeated on social media sites Wednesday stated that the Navy had evacuated NSA Bahrain, leaving behind only a small team of caretakers. Two Navy spokesmen called the report patently false, saying that the number of service members and DoD civilians assigned to the base hadn't changed at all recently.

DM/117

"There has not been any change to the number of personnel serving here in Bahrain," Martin said, adding "I do not know what they're talking about."

The unrest that began last month has increasingly showed signs of a sectarian showdown: The country's Sunni leaders are desperate to hold power, and majority Shiites are calling for an end to their dynasty. A Saudi-led force from Gulf allies, fearful for their own regimes and worried about Shiite Iran's growing influence, has grown to more than 1,000 soldiers.

Wednesday's full-scale assault launched at dawn in Pearl Square, the center of the uprising inspired by Arab revolts in Egypt and Tunisia. Hours later, security forces were picking through burned debris and other remains of the protest camp.

In another area of Bahrain, one witness described police in a village "hunting" Shiites in what could be part of a wider campaign of intimidation.

The king's announcement Tuesday of a three-month emergency rule and the crackdown on Pearl Square sent a message that authorities will strike back with overwhelming force in the strategic island nation, which hosts the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet.

Security forces barred journalists and others from moving freely around Manama and other areas of the country a day after emergency rule was declared.

Witnesses said at least two protesters were killed when the square was stormed. Officials at Ibn Nafees Hospital said a third protester who later died from wounds. The witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity because of fears of reprisals from authorities.

But a government statement said the only fatalities during the raid were two policemen who were "repeatedly run over by three vehicles containing protesters leaving the fringes of the scene." The Interior Ministry also policeman was killed late Tuesday.

The government did not say whether the offensive included soldiers from other Gulf nations.

State TV broadcast video showing military vehicles in the square flying Bahrain's red-and-white flag as security officials moved through the wreckage of the encampment, set up at the base of a towering monument to the country's history as a pearl diving center. The video showed the ground littered with debris, including satellite dishes and charred tent poles.

Helicopters crisscrossed over the square, which was cleared by security forces late last month but was later retaken by protesters after a deadly confrontation with army units.

During the attack, protesters fled for cover into side streets and security forces blocked main roads into Manama. Mobile phones were apparently jammed in central Manama during the height of the attack and Internet service remained at a crawl.

Hamid Zuher, a 32-year-old protester who slept at the square, said riot police first moved in on foot.

"They fired tear gas and then opened fire," Zuher said. "We lifted our arms and started saying 'Peaceful, Peaceful.'" Then we had to run away."

The government presented a different story, saying security forces came under attack from about 250 "saboteurs" hurling gasoline bombs and later fired back with tear gas. It said no live ammunition was used.

In Shiite villages, people went to mosques and held protest prayers. Others lit fires in anger. Clashes were reported in other mostly Shiite areas of the country, where traffic was tightly controlled by military forces in an apparent attempt to prevent gatherings or a surge of people toward the capital.

In Sitra, resident Rania Ali said police were charging after Shiites even as they ran for shelter.

"I'm scared. I can't move from my house," said Ali, who is a Sunni married to a Shiite man. "I saw them chasing Shiites like they were hunting ... It is a cleansing war against our Shiite brothers."

Roadblocks around the country also prevented injured protesters from reaching the main state hospital, which was working on generator power. The extent of the blackout in Manama was not immediately clear.

The official Bahrain news agency said the emergency rule bans "rallies and disrupting the public order," restricts movement and could impose curfew.

For Bahrain's authorities, clearing Pearl Square would be more of a symbolic blow against protesters than a strategic victory. Opposition groups can still mobilize marches and take other actions against the leadership.

Bahrain's sectarian clash is increasingly viewed as an extension of the region's rivalries between the Gulf Arab leaders and Iran. Washington, too, is pulled deeply into the Bahrain's conflict because of its key naval base — the Pentagon's main Gulf counterweight to Iran's growing military ambitions.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Wednesday denounced the Bahraini government's crackdown and the presence of the Saudi-led force.

"The people's demands for change must be respected. How is it possible to stop waves of humanity with military force?" Ahmadinejad said, according to Iranian state TV.

Iran has no direct political links with Bahrain's main Shiite groups, but Iranian hard-liner in the past have called the tiny island nation that "14th Province" of the Islamic Republic.

On Tuesday, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton expressed alarm over "provocative acts and sectarian violence," and said she telephoned Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saudi to stress the need for the foreign forces to promote dialogue.

The Pentagon has authorized military families and civilians with non-emergency jobs to leave Bahrain.

The international credit agency Fitch Ratings cut its rating on Bahrain's sovereign wealth fund Mumtalakat by two notches Wednesday.

In mostly Shiite southern Iraq, more than 4,000 people joined a march calling for the Arab League to halt attacks on Bahraini civilians. "Bahrain is the Gaza of the Gulf," some chanted in reference to past Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip.

Navy Times staff writer San Fellman contributed to this report.

~~ODriscoll, James~~

From: John M Fusco [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 8:03 AM
To: Maryann Fusco; ODriscoll, James
Subject: Fwd: Super Full Moon

Can't wait to check it out...

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: NASA Science News <snglist@snglist.msfc.nasa.gov>
Date: March 16, 2011 19:40:07 EDT
To: NASA Science News <snglist@snglist.msfc.nasa.gov>
Subject: Super Full Moon

NASA Science News for March 16, 2011

On March 19th, a full Moon of rare size and beauty will rise in the east at sunset. It's a super "perigee moon"--the biggest in almost 20 years.

FULL STORY at

http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2011/16mar_supermoon/

You are currently subscribed to snglist as: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

This is a free service.

To unsubscribe click here: <http://lyris.msfc.nasa.gov/u?id=839162U&n=T&l=snglist>
or send a blank email to leave-snglist-839162U@lyris.msfc.nasa.gov

DM/118

ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 7:53 AM
Subject: Naval News Summary 17 Mar

- >
- > 12 March
- >
- > GREECE – TURKEY
- > A Turkish navy corvette allegedly "harassed" an Italian exploration vessel ... in international waters near Crete (rmks: another source "off Cyprus") ... studying with Greek permission a possible route for an underwater fiber optic cable from Italy to Israel.
- > update: Greek on 16 Mar launched an official protest.
- >
- >
- > 14 March
- >
- > FRANCE
- > Training mission Jeanne D'Arc 2011: Helicopter carrier MISTRAL ends three days of amphibious exercises at Cyprus ... "certifying" embarked amphibious forces.
- >
- > INDIA
- > MoD: Delivery of the first SCORPENE submarine being license-built in India now delayed by three years, until late 2015.
- >
- >
- > 15 March
- >
- > JAPAN (disaster relief, maritime only)
- > +++ While enroute the disaster area, US Navy amphibious assault ship ESSEX on-loads 45 pallets of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief supplies ... during a replenishment at sea with the dry cargo/ammunition ship MATTHEW PERRY (T-AKE 9).
- > +++ US Navy dock landing ship TORTUGA loads Japanese army vehicles and trailers in Tomakomai Ko ... now proceeding towards the disaster area ... will offload the equipment in Ominato.
- >
- > LIBYA (maritime only)
- > +++ Chinese frigate XUZHOU reported back at anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden, thus obviously ended interim deployment to the Mediterranean.
- > +++ Netherlands navy frigate TROMP has ended operations off Libya, passing the Suez Canal southbound to join NATO SNMG-2 for anti-piracy operations.
- >
- > PIRACY
- > +++ Anti-Piracy Forces: The 8th Chinese anti-piracy task group (frigates WENZHOU and MA'ANSHAN) arrive in the eastern entrance to the Gulf of Aden ... meeting ships of the 7th task group (frigate XUZHOU and supply ship QIANDAO HU).
- > +++ Anti-Piracy Forces: Netherlands navy frigate TROMP passing the Suez Canal southbound to join NATO SNMG-2 for anti-piracy operations.
- >
- > USA
- > VIRGINIA class submarine NEW HAMPSHIRE and SEAWOLF class submarine CONNECTICUT commenced Ice Exercise 2011 (ICEX-2011) in the Arctic Ocean.

DM/119

- >
- >
- > 16 March
- >
- > BAHRAIN
- > Local media allege many US Navy 5th Fleet personnel and ships left Manama ... US Navy spokesmen calls the reports "patently false" ... USNAVCENT denying an evacuation underway ... some assets are "transferred to Oman for a naval exercise".
- >
- > INDIA (RUSSIA)
- > Transfer of AKULA-mod class submarine NERPA delayed again ... now "before October" ... NERPA ready for transfer but crew training, which is to include live missile firing, not yet complete.
- > (rmks: had been scheduled for transfer by "end of March")
- >
- > IRAN
- > Frigate ALVAND and supply ship KHARG berth in Muscat, Oman, for a port visit.
- >
- > JAPAN (disaster relief, maritime only)
- > +++ Okinawa-based US Navy maritime patrol aircraft P-3C Orion fly aerial search missions over the debris field off the Japanese coast.
- > +++ US Navy 7th Fleet ships incl. aircraft carrier RONALD REAGAN continue support "Operation Tomodachi" ... have moved a bit north to stay outside radioactive plume.
- > +++ US Navy now operating a total of 14 ships off the disaster area ... ESSEX Amphibious Ready Group arrived but will remain on the western side of Honshu to avoid radiation ... embarked Marines and heavy equipment heading for Sendai to help clean up a Japanese military airport there.
- > +++ US Navy salvage ship SAFEGUARD delivered high-pressure water pumps to Yokota Air Base for transfer to the Japanese government for use at the Fukushima nuclear power plant.
- >
- > NIGERIA
- > Major reshuffling at the top of the Nigerian Navy ... with nine Rear Admirals and eight Commodores assigned to new posts.
- >
- > PIRACY
- > Anti-Piracy Forces: New Zealand has turned down a United Nations request to provide a warship for piracy patrols off Somalia. No assets available.
- >
- > RUSSIA
- > The MoD is said to have "finally approved" relocating the Main Naval Staff from Moscow to St. Petersburg ... no dates given yet ... some officials fear a "temporary gap" in command & control, as facilities and infrastructure at new locations are not yet up to the new task.
- >
- > SPAIN
- > Frigate ALMIRANTE JUAN DE BORBON returns to home port after completing
- > intensive naval training exercise with the US Navy
- > (rmks: will later in spring join the GEORGE BUSH Carrier Strike Group
- > during part of its scheduled deployment)
- >
- >
- > 17 March
- >
- > ISRAEL
- > Israeli authorities released container ship VICTORIA after confiscating three containers with hidden arms and ammunition ... thorough search of cargo at the port of Ashdod gave no reason for objection.
- >
- > JAPAN (disaster relief, maritime only) US 7th Fleet flag ship BLUE
- > RIDGE to arrive in the disaster area.

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast, for I intend to go in harm's way."
CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast, for I intend to go in harm's way."
CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

>
>
>
>
>
>

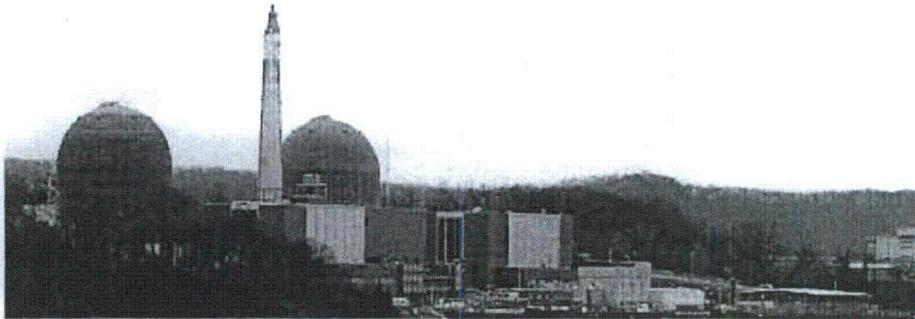
ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 8:23 AM
Subject: You knew this was coming...

And I wonder how they propose making up for the two gigawatts of energy we would lose when these plants are shut down?

It's too risky to keep Indian Point nuclear power plant open: Gov. Cuomo

BY DOUGLAS FEIDEN AND BRIAN KATES
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS
Thursday, March 17th 2011, 4:00 AM



The Indian Point nuclear power plant, 24 miles from Bronx, 'should be closed,' Gov. Cuomo says.

Sabo/News

Risky business

Do you believe the Indian Point nuclear power plant should be closed?

- Yes. Any risk of a nuclear meltdown is an unacceptable risk.
- No. When was the last time a major earthquake hit New York?

[vote]

- Indian Point officials call radioactive steam 'insignificant'
- Nuke plant floats cheaper way to cool down
- Indian Point's nuclear contamination woes with extension talk
- Judge: Indian Point's fish-killing cooling process must stop
- Coked-up nuke guards suspended at Indian Point power plant
- Daly: Can Chernobyl-on-the-Hudson happen?
-

DM/120

Gov. Cuomo on Wednesday called for shutting down the Indian Point nuclear power plant after a federal report branded it the most vulnerable to earthquakes in the nation.

"The suggestion is that of all the [104] power plants across the country, that the Indian Point power plant is most susceptible to an earthquake because Reactor No. 3 is on a fault [line]." Cuomo said as nuclear meltdown fears deepened in Japan.
"It should be closed. This plant in this proximity to the city was never a good risk."

Cuomo, who has long opposed the plant, spoke after new data from the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission show the Hudson River plant was the most vulnerable to a quake.

It also came about two weeks after a judge let the Indian Point nuke plant - just 24 miles north of the Bronx - cut back on meltdown prevention. In its 40-year history, Indian Point has suffered radiation leaks, useless warning sirens, transformer explosions and oil spills.

Twenty million people live within 50 miles of the Westchester County plant, and many local politicians and environmentalists oppose extending its license.

On March 4, Manhattan Federal Judge Loretta Preska upheld an NRC decision to let Indian Point operator Entergy use insulation that withstands fire for only 27 minutes.

The NRC usually requires that insulation on cables that control reactor core shutdown must withstand fire for at least a full hour.

Entergy insisted that other safety and fire-suppression systems can handle a plant fire. They include the five-member internal fire brigades on each shift and the nearby volunteer firefighters in the tiny hamlet of Verplanck.

Preska's ruling came in response to a suit filed by former Assemblyman Richard Brodsky (D-Westchester) and environmental groups. Brodsky blasted the ruling.

"These are the cables that control the shutdown of the reactors," he said. "You can't bet the safety of New York on the ability of firefighters to get there in 25 minutes. The consequences are enormous."

Scientists say a magnitude 9.0 earthquake like the one that crippled Japan is unlikely to hit Indian Point, although a quake as big as 7.0 is not out of the question.

That was the conclusion of Columbia University researchers, who discovered in 2008 that the plant sits at the intersection of two active fault lines. An MSNBC analysis of the NRC data put the odds of a quake disabling the core of Indian Point's No. 3 reactor at 1 in 10,000 - far worse than the 1 in 74,176 chance of a typical American reactor.

Paul Gallay, head of the environmental group Riverkeeper, said the conclusion the plant can withstand an earthquake is based on 40-year-old data. Indian Point passed its most recent NRC preparedness drill last October, but records reveal a troubled history:

- Radioactive material - including tritium levels 10 times higher than what the feds say is safe in drinking water - leaked from a nuclear-waste storage pool in 2005.

- The NRC ordered malfunctioning emergency sirens replaced by January 2007, but they remained out of service until August 2008. The NRC levied \$780,000 in fines.

- A steam generator tube ruptured in 2000, spewing contaminated steam into the air and flooding the Hudson with radioactive water. The reactor shut down for 11 months.

Detailed plans for evacuation exist, but few believe they're realistic. A 2003 traffic study concluded it would take nine hours to evacuate a 10-mile radius around Indian Point in good weather; snow would boost that to 12 hours.

With Kenneth Lovett
bkates@nydailynews.com

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."
CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 11:35 PM
Subject: Revealed: US spy operation that manipulates social media

GUARDIAN (UK)

Revealed: US spy operation that manipulates social media
Military's 'sock puppet' software creates fake online identities to spread pro-American propaganda

Nick Fielding and Ian Cobain guardian.co.uk,
Thursday 17 March 2011

The US military is developing software that will let it secretly manipulate social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter by using fake online personas to influence internet conversations and spread pro-American propaganda.

A Californian corporation has been awarded a contract with United States Central Command (Centcom), which oversees US armed operations in the Middle East and Central Asia, to develop what is described as an "online persona management service" that will allow one US serviceman or woman to control up to 10 separate identities based all over the world.

The project has been likened by web experts to China's attempts to control and restrict free speech on the internet. Critics are likely to complain that it will allow the US military to create a false consensus in online conversations, crowd out unwelcome opinions and smother commentaries or reports that do not correspond with its own objectives.

The discovery that the US military is developing false online personalities – known to users of social media as "sock puppets" – could also encourage other governments, private companies and non-government organisations to do the same.

The Centcom contract stipulates that each fake online persona must have a convincing background, history and supporting details, and that up to 50 US-based controllers should be able to operate false identities from their workstations "without fear of being discovered by sophisticated adversaries".

Centcom spokesman Commander Bill Speaks said: "The technology supports classified blogging activities on foreign-language websites to enable Centcom to counter violent extremist and enemy propaganda outside the US."

He said none of the interventions would be in English, as it would be unlawful to "address US audiences" with such technology, and any English-language use of social media by Centcom was always clearly attributed. The languages in which the interventions are conducted include Arabic, Farsi, Urdu and Pashto.

Once developed, the software could allow US service personnel, working around the clock in one location, to respond to emerging online conversations with any number of co-ordinated Facebook messages, blogposts, tweets, retweets, chatroom posts and other interventions. Details of the contract suggest this location would be MacDill air force base near Tampa, Florida, home of US Special Operations Command.

DM/121

Centcom's contract requires for each controller the provision of one "virtual private server" located in the United States and others appearing to be outside the US to give the impression the fake personas are real people located in different parts of the world.

It also calls for "traffic mixing", blending the persona controllers' internet usage with the usage of people outside Centcom in a manner that must offer "excellent cover and powerful deniability".

The multiple persona contract is thought to have been awarded as part of a programme called Operation Earnest Voice (OEV), which was first developed in Iraq as a psychological warfare weapon against the online presence of al-Qaida supporters and others ranged against coalition forces. Since then, OEV is reported to have expanded into a \$200m programme and is thought to have been used against jihadists across Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Middle East.

OEV is seen by senior US commanders as a vital counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation programme. In evidence to the US Senate's armed services committee last year, General David Petraeus, then commander of Centcom, described the operation as an effort to "counter extremist ideology and propaganda and to ensure that credible voices in the region are heard". He said the US military's objective was to be "first with the truth".

This month Petraeus's successor, General James Mattis, told the same committee that OEV "supports all activities associated with degrading the enemy narrative, including web engagement and web-based product distribution capabilities".

Centcom confirmed that the \$2.76m contract was awarded to Ntrepid, a newly formed corporation registered in Los Angeles. It would not disclose whether the multiple persona project is already in operation or discuss any related contracts.

Nobody was available for comment at Ntrepid.

In his evidence to the Senate committee, Gen Mattis said: "OEV seeks to disrupt recruitment and training of suicide bombers; deny safe havens for our adversaries; and counter extremist ideology and propaganda." He added that Centcom was working with "our coalition partners" to develop new techniques and tactics the US could use "to counter the adversary in the cyber domain".

According to a report by the inspector general of the US defence department in Iraq, OEV was managed by the multinational forces rather than Centcom.

Asked whether any UK military personnel had been involved in OEV, Britain's Ministry of Defence said it could find "no evidence". The MoD refused to say whether it had been involved in the development of persona management programmes, saying: "We don't comment on cyber capability."

OEV was discussed last year at a gathering of electronic warfare specialists in Washington DC, where a senior Centcom officer told delegates that its purpose was to "communicate critical messages and to counter the propaganda of our adversaries".

Persona management by the US military would face legal challenges if it were turned against citizens of the US, where a number of people engaged in sock puppetry have faced prosecution.

Last year a New York lawyer who impersonated a scholar was sentenced to jail after being convicted of "criminal impersonation" and identity theft.

It is unclear whether a persona management programme would contravene UK law. Legal experts say it could fall foul of the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981, which states that "a person is guilty of forgery if he makes a false instrument, with the intention that he or another shall use it to induce somebody to accept it as genuine, and by reason of so accepting it to do or not to do some act to his own or any other person's prejudice". However, this would apply only if a website or social network could be shown to have suffered "prejudice" as a result.

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."
CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778

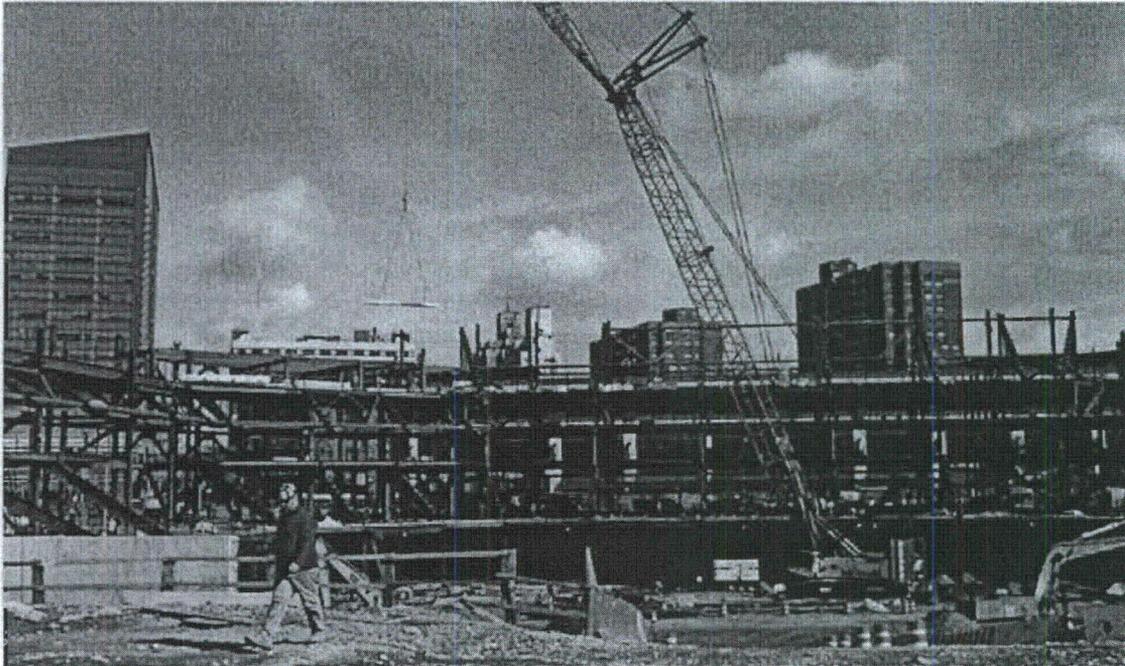
Sent from my iPad

ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 8:17 AM
Subject: -Pre-fab tower and unions

This should be interesting to see if it can actually work for such a tall building. Of course, what's more interesting is discussed at the end of the story, and that is the fight with the unions.

Prefabricated Tower May Rise at Brooklyn's Atlantic Yards



Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

A 34-story structure at Atlantic Yards would satisfy an obligation of the developer, Bruce C. Ratner, to build affordable housing.

By CHARLES V. BAGLI

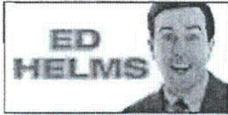
Published: March 16, 2011

- RECOMMEND
- TWITTER
- COMMENTS (12)
- SIGN IN TO E-MAIL
- PRINT
-

REPRINTS

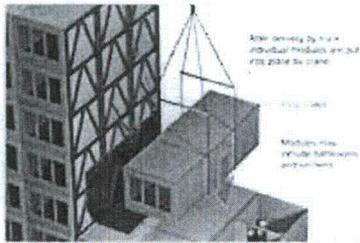
- SHARE

DM/122



In a bid to cut costs at his star-crossed Atlantic Yards project in Brooklyn, the developer Bruce C. Ratner is pursuing plans to erect the world's tallest prefabricated steel structure, a 34-story tower that would fulfill his obligation to start building affordable housing at the site.

Multimedia

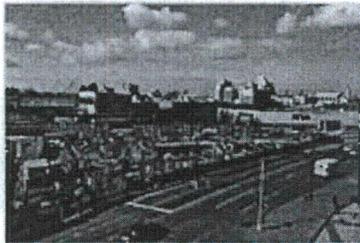


Graphic

A Modular High-Rise

Related

- [Times Topic: Atlantic Yards \(Brooklyn\)](#)



[Enlarge This Image](#)

Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

Erecting a 34-story prefabricated apartment building at Atlantic Yards, in Brooklyn, would satisfy an obligation of the developer, Bruce C. Ratner, to provide affordable housing at the site.

Readers' Comments

Share your thoughts.

- [Post a Comment »](#)
- [Read All Comments \(12\) »](#)

The prefabricated, or modular, method he would use, which is untested at that height, could cut construction costs in half by saving time and requiring substantially fewer and cheaper workers. And the large number of buildings planned for the \$4.9 billion Atlantic Yards — 16 in all, not including the Nets arena now under construction — could also make it economical for the company to run its own modular factory, where walls, ceilings, floors, plumbing and even bathrooms and kitchens could be installed in prefabricated steel-frame boxes.

The 34-story building, with roughly 400 apartments, would comprise more than 900 modules that would be hauled to Atlantic Yards, lifted into place by crane and bolted together at the corner of Flatbush Avenue and Dean Street, next to the arena.

Mr. Ratner's development company, Forest City Ratner, has been investigating modular construction for a year, but has kept its plans secret. MaryAnne Gilmartin, executive vice president of Forest City Ratner, confirmed Wednesday that the company was seriously considering the modular method, although, she added, no final decision had been made.

The company has also continued to design a conventional tower. Forest City hired Ove Arup & Partners, a prominent engineering firm, for the modular work, while SHoP Architects is working on designs for both types of buildings. The developer has also recently directed real estate brokers to scout for sites in Long Island City, Queens, that would be large enough to accommodate the modular factory.

"The company is interested in modular, high-rise construction in an urban setting," Ms. Gilmartin said. "It's driven by cost and efficiencies."

But it would also infuriate the construction workers who were Mr. Ratner's most ardent supporters during years of stormy community meetings, where they drowned out neighborhood opponents with chants of, "Jobs, jobs, jobs."

"This is something that could be of great consequence to the building trades," said Gary La Barbera, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York, an umbrella group for the construction unions. "We have never been supportive of prefab buildings, for obvious reasons." After several years of delays, Forest City is under considerable pressure because of the difficulty in obtaining financing for the building and the weak real estate market. Work on the arena began a year ago. The developer has delayed the start date for the 34-story building, the first of the 16 planned for Atlantic Yards, several times. He now says he hopes to begin by the end of the year.

Under an agreement with the state, Forest City must begin excavation by May 2013, or pay up to \$5 million in penalties for every year it falls behind.

Affordable-housing advocates, who supported Atlantic Yards because at least 30 percent of the more than 6,000 apartments would be reserved for low-, moderate- and middle-income tenants, have been pressuring the company to start building. But Rafael E. Cestero, the city's commissioner of housing preservation and development, who had already set aside \$14 million to subsidize 150 units in the first building, declined Mr. Ratner's recent request for an additional \$10 million in subsidies.

In pursuit of cutting construction costs, Mr. Ratner and Ms. Gilmartin recently traveled to Europe to talk to builders involved with what is currently the world's tallest modular building: a 25-story dormitory in Wolverhampton, England, that was built last year in less than 12 months.

Mr. Ratner has also become captivated by a YouTube video depicting the assembly of the 15-story Ark Hotel in China in a matter of days.

Modular buildings are not new to New York City. The School Construction Authority has used the technology to build classrooms. Capsys, a modular builder at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, has built steel-frame, prefabricated housing up to seven stories tall in Clinton Hill and East New York, Brooklyn, and on Long Island.

Whether taller modular buildings can be built to withstand intense wind shear and seismic forces, while retaining cost savings, is another question, because the higher a structure is built, the more bracing it would require.

“At a smaller scale, prefab buildings have proven to be more efficient, more sustainable and less expensive,” said Thomas Hanrahan, dean of Pratt Institute’s School of Architecture. “The taller the building, the logistical and structural issues become much more complex.”

Tony Sclafani, a spokesman for the Department of Buildings, said city rules did not prohibit Forest City Ratner from using modular construction on the building. “There’s nothing standing in the way of a prefab building as long as they follow our regulations,” he said.

If it is feasible, Mr. Hanrahan and Ms. Gilmartin of Forest City said that Atlantic Yards is an ideal site because it is large enough for cranes to maneuver. “Industrialized and modular construction is an idea whose time has come,” said the architect James Garrison, who worked briefly on the project.

Modular construction saves time because the building components can be put together at the same time the foundation is being dug, and because the factory is indoors, weather is not a problem. Materials can be bought in greater bulk and stored on-site. More of the work is done horizontally, on the factory floor, rather than vertically, saving the time it would normally take for all the plumbers, carpenters, electricians and others to move up and down the structure every day.

But it is the labor savings that are suddenly worrying some union officials, who were repeatedly asked by Forest City to mobilize their members for years of raucous community meetings.

The state and the city agreed to provide \$300 million in direct subsidies for Atlantic Yards, in part, because Forest City insisted that the project would generate “upwards of 17,000 union construction jobs.”

Not to worry, Ms. Gilmartin said, “We’re a union shop, and we build union.”

But under current wage scales, union workers earn less in a factory than they do on-site. A carpenter earns \$85 an hour in wages and benefits on-site, but only \$35 an hour in a factory.

And while modular construction employs a large number of carpenters, iron workers, who earn as much as \$93.88 an hour in pay and benefits, could lose a lot of jobs.

One construction professional, who was familiar with Forest City Ratner's plans but requested anonymity because he did not want to anger the company, said, "The incentive is to move as much work as possible to the factory from the field."

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."
CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 7:48 AM
Subject: I hope they were paying attention...

Roughead said, "As economies rise it follows there will be a strong navy."

"They want to ensure their sea lanes are able to be used,"

Rougheadsays Russian, Chinese navies growing

By Christopher P. Cavas - Staff writer
Posted . Wednesday Mar 16. 2011 22:10:12 EDT

"The Russian Navy is moving again."

That was the description given Wednesday by Adm. Gary Roughead, the Navy's chief of naval operations, when asked for his assessment of America's former Cold War opponent.

"The Russian Navy still has great ambition, still has great pride," he said.

The collapse of the Soviet Union significantly reduced the navy, Roughead noted, with most shipbuilding programs coming to a halt or dragging out.

"That has stopped in recent years," he said. An improving Russian economy will mean "you're going to see an increase in their capability and capacity, with new shipbuilding programs taking hold." Roughead noted the recent move by Russia to acquire several French-designed Mistral-class amphibious ships as an indication of rising interest in increased operations.

The navy "will now begin to rebuild itself," he said, "and bring more modern capability to bear and operate more widely."

Roughead did not speak of a growing Russian naval force as a threat.

"I believe we should work closely with the Russian Navy to see where we can work together," he said, and cited operations with Russian ships working to counter pirates off Somalia.

Roughead was asked for his assessment of the Russian and Chinese navies during an appearance before the Senate Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee. It was the last of several hearings before the House and Senate to present the 2012 budget request.

The Chinese Navy is the fastest-growing in the world today, Roughead said.

"We see their submarine fleet expanding, their surface combatants expanding. But it's also how they're using their command and control facilities," he said, "and the nature of expanding beyond the first island chain," the ring of islands that surround the Chinese mainland.

DM/123

The strategic objectives of China's naval expansion seem to be same "that nations and navies have had throughout history," Roughead said. "As economies rise it follows there will be a strong navy."

"They want to ensure their sea lanes are able to be used," he told Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., who specifically asked about China's anti-carrier missile capability.

"There has been a lot of discussion about the Dong Feng 21 missile," Roughead acknowledged. "But the DF 21 is no more an anti-access weapon than a submarine is. I would argue that you can put a ship out of action faster by putting a hole in the bottom than by putting a hole in the top."

Noting the superiority of the Navy's Virginia-class attack submarines over the several types China is building, Roughead declared that "even though the DF 21 has become a newsworthy weapon, the fact is our aircraft carriers can maneuver, and we have systems that can counter weapons like that."

"My objective," in regards to the Chinese, Roughead said, "is to not be denied ocean areas where we can operate, or not be restricted in our ability to operate."

The Chinese being constantly scrutinized as to their intentions, Roughead told Coats.

"I think it's important to gain insight into what their intent is," he said. "So we watch developments very closely."

China's designs on the Arctic Ocean were also questioned by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, who asked how the Navy planned to respond to increased activity in the region due to climate change.

"There is no question in my mind that the Arctic is changing," Roughead said. But along with working closely with the Coast Guard, the CNO again observed that "the most important thing is to become party to the convention of the Law of the Sea" treaty, long hung up in the Senate. "If we are not party to that treaty we will not have a seat at the table as this unfolds."

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Thursday, March 17, 2011 10:40 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

RE: mtgs

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/124

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Thursday, March 17, 2011 5:06 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

Re: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/125

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Thursday, March 17, 2011 3:03 PM

(b)(6)

Subject:

March 2011 DWE Attendance

(b)(6)

DM/126

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Thursday, March 17, 2011 2:52 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

RE: mtgs

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Thursday, March 17, 2011 2:50 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

mtgs

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 2:33 PM
To: Odriscoll, James (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Japan ECAT Standup -O'Driscoll drill plan

CDR O'Driscoll

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/129

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Thursday, March 17, 2011 2:16 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Subject:

Fw: ECAT Parking

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/130

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:
Cc:

(b)(6)

Thursday, March 17, 2011 2:16 PM

(b)(6)

Subject:

Re: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/131

(b)(6)²

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 2:15 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Japan ECAT Standup

Attachments: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

>
>

DM/132

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Thursday, March 17, 2011 2:09 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

ODriscoll, James

Subject:

RE: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Thursday, March 17, 2011 1:29 PM

(b)(6)

Subject:

RE: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/134

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Thursday, March 17, 2011 1:16 PM

(b)(6)

Subject:

RE: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Thursday, March 17, 2011 1:09 PM

(b)(6)

Subject:

RE: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/136

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: Odriscoll, James G (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 11:57 AM
To: (b)(6); ODriscoll, James
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Japan ECAT Standup -O'Driscoll drill plan

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/137

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject:

(b)(6)

Thursday, March 17, 2011 11:19 AM

(b)(6)
ODriscoll, James

Re: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

>
> r/
>
>
>

DM/138

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 8:35 AM
To: ODriscoll, James; (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Japan ECAT Standup -O'Driscoll drill plan

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: ODriscoll, James [mailto:James.ODriscoll@nrc.gov]

DM/139

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Thursday, March 17, 2011 9:21 AM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

ODriscoll, James

Subject:

RE: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Thursday, March 17, 2011 9:17 AM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

ODriscoll, James

Subject:

RE: Japan ECAT Standup

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

O'Driscoll, James

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 8:25 AM
To: O'Driscoll, James; (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Japan ECAT Standup -O'Driscoll drill plan

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: ODriscoll, James
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 5:55 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Japan ECAT Standup -O'Driscoll drill plan

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

v/r

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Friday, March 18, 2011 7:02 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

NOSC Washington Training UPDATE for MARCH Gold DWE 26/27 March

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/144

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 7:36 AM
Subject: Navy news summary and new LHAs

The folks in the Navy who approve ship designs need to have their heads examined, to say the least. Now the third and follow-on ships of the new America-class LHA will have well decks. I wonder what made them change their minds? I mean every other LHD/LHA has had a well deck, and NOW someone says, hey, maybe a well deck would come in handy every now and then?

Who knows, maybe they bought into the theory that armed beach assaults and opposed landings are relics of the past? And the Navy has never really wanted to invest in amphibs. So now the first two ships will not be nearly as capable as older LHA/LHDs in the fleet (and those that have recently been scrapped). That's ok, the San Antonio-class will make up the difference I am sure! Oh wait, reports have said they wouldn't be "survivable" in combat (see story I have included below the news summary). Maybe we can buy some of those Mistral from France like the Russians.

16 March

PIRACY

+++ Arabian Sea: Indonesian flagged and owned bulk cargo ship SINAR KUDUS (20 Indonesian crew) is hijacked some 300 nm northeast of the island of Socotra ... 50-60(!) pirates board the ship and instantly turn it into a mother ship for further attacks. Within 24 hours already used to launch an attack on Liberian flagged cargo vessel EMPEROR ... which is repelled by an embarked armed security team.

+++ Somalia: Pirates release chemical tanker HANNIBAL II, hijacked on 11 Nov in the Arabian Sea. Ship with 30 crew now on its way to safe harbour.

USA

Southern Partnership Station 2011: HSV-2 SWIFT now in San Lorenzo, Honduras

17 March

AUSTRALIA

Jane's: The head of Australia's Future Submarine programme has virtually ruled out the acquisition of off-the-shelf diesel-electric submarines from Europe to replace the COLLINS class boats.

BAHRAIN (maritime only)

Kuwait plans to deploy naval vessels to Bahrain "soon" to protect the Gulf Arab island nation's waters, responding to an official request under the Gulf Defence Pact.

JAPAN (disaster relief, maritime only)

+++ The US Navy (Naval Sea Systems Command) provides five high-capacity pumping systems to

DM/145

assist in the efforts to cool the core of the damaged No. 3 reactor at the Fukushima ... also delivered special protective suits and masks.

+++ Chinese hospital ship DAISHANDAO (866) reportedly preparing to deploy for Japan.

+++ some smaller ports “limited operational” again ... with berthing space and offloading facilities repaired for use by smaller ships.

PIRACY

+++ Puntland: Semi-autonomous Puntland has suspended a deal with private security firm Saracen International, contracted to train a 1,050-man anti-piracy force ... following international pressure after it turned out that the company was closely linked to notorious founder of private security firm Blackwater.

+++ Anti-Piracy Forces: The Iranian navy dispatches its 13th task group to the Gulf of Aden ... comprised of landing ship TUNB and transport ship DELVAR ... replace frigate ALVAND and supply ship KHARG ... will operate for 60 days.

RUSSIA

MoD by signature officially confirms St. Petersburg based Severnaya (Northern) Shipyard as sole supplier of six new frigates Project 22350 (GORSHKOV class) and eleven corvettes Project 20385 (?).

RUSSIA

Sevmash will start construction of third YASEN (GRANEY class) “this year”. First boat SEVERODVINSK to enter service by end of 2011 ... a total of 10 YASEN class boats planned.

RUSSIA

According to a high-ranking naval staff officer, development of a “fundamentally new” coastal submarine has begun. New “closed circuit” propulsion system.

SPAIN

Expedition Malaspina 2010: Survey ship HESPERIDES ends a visit to Perth (Australia), beginning the fourth leg of its round-the-world expedition.

USA

Continuing Promise 2011 (CP11): US Navy hospital ship COMFORT sails from Baltimore, Md. for humanitarian civic assistance mission CP 11 ... five-month mission to nine countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Peru) ... more than 480 Navy medical personnel will work side-by-side with medical professionals from the nine host nations, five partner nation militaries, and more than 30 NGOs to provide medical care to patients both ashore and aboard the ship.

USA

The US Navy has ordered two more Littoral Combat Ships. LCS-7 will be built by Marinette Marine (completed by Apr 2016). LCS-8 to be built by Austal in Mobile, Alabama (completed by Oct 2015).

USA

The design of the AMERICA class amphibious assault ship is to be amended to include a stern dock in the third-of-class and subsequent vessels.

UPCOMING / PLANNED EVENTS

FRANCE (18 May)

DCNS has scheduled launching GOWIND class Offshore Patrol Vessel L'ADROIT (Project HERMES) on 18 May.

RUSSIA (Jun)

Next Bulava test launch tentatively scheduled for June ... by which time the White Sea should be free of ice.

San Anton Class 'Not Survivable'



By Colin Clark Thursday, October 28th, 2010 1:29 pm
Posted in Land, Naval

Northrop Grumman's shipyards may have become a bit harder to sell in the wake of a story that the \$1.7 billion San Antonio class it built would not be effective in combat. The story was broken by my colleague Tony Capaccio at Bloomberg.

The Department of Defense's top testing official, Michael Gilmore, told Tony, according to his story, "that critical systems, such as electrical distribution, ship-wide fiber optics and voice-communications networks, are not reliable." Perhaps even worse, Tony reports that "the ship's armaments can't effectively defend against the most modern anti-ship weapons."

Raytheon does not come out of this very well either. They supplied electronics, a fiber-optics network and an anti-missile system that Tony reports "the testing office concluded had 'persistent engineering deficiencies.'"



Military Fitness Blog

Military training is hard enough. Don't make it any harder by being physically unprepared. Visit the fitness blog today.

Bottom line: Gilmore told Tony in an email that the ship is "not effective, suitable and not survivable in a combat situation," he said.

What this says about Navy oversight and Northrop's management would appear to be obvious. We wonder how much these deficiencies, which the company has known about for several months as they were provided in a classified report to Congress, played a role in the company's decision to put its shipbuilding business up for sale. The Navy told Tony is aware of the problems and will correct them on all ships in the class.

Share|

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN

16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
Subject:

John M Fusco (b)(6)
Friday, March 18, 2011 5:21 PM
More good news on the LCS...

Cracks Turn Up in U.S. Navy's First LCS

By CHRISTOPHER P. CAVAS
Published: 18 Mar 2011 16:06



SHARE  

A 6-inch crack in the hull of the littoral combat ship USS Freedom caused the ship to abort sea-keeping trials in mid-February and return to its homeport of San Diego for repairs, the U.S. Navy confirmed March 18.

The crack, about three and a half feet below the waterline in a weld seam between two steel plates in the hull, allowed water to enter a void space in the ship, according to Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA). Flooding was contained, however, and the vessel sailed about 800 miles to San Diego to begin repairs.

RELATED TOPICS

- Americas
- Naval Warfare

NAVSEA and Lockheed Martin, the ship's prime contractor, are reviewing the ship's design, construction drawings and welding procedures to determine what caused the hull crack. It is not yet clear, NAVSEA said, whether the problem is due to a design flaw or faulty construction techniques.

"Lockheed Martin is working closely with the Navy to confirm the root cause and have made all necessary repairs to the ship," Lockheed spokeswoman Kimberly Martinez said in a March 18 e-mail. "We are also supporting the Navy in additional testing along the hull to confirm this crack was an isolated anomaly."

The hull crack was first reported March 18 by Bloomberg News.

The crack appeared while the ship was performing heavy-weather sea trials off the northern California coast, said Cmdr. Jason Salata of Naval Surface Forces in San Diego.

A watch was kept on the space throughout the ship's return to San Diego, and the problem did not restrict the ship's maneuverability or speed, NAVSEA said.

The horizontal crack measured just over 6 inches on the outside of the ship, and was about 3 inches long on the inside. It was amidships, at a point where the hull turns sharply inward.

DM/146

Repairs to the hull were completed March 12 at San Diego after a cofferdam was built and installed around the crack. The hull repairs were made while the ship was undergoing a scheduled repair period.

A separate issue regarding hull cracks in the aluminum superstructure was dealt with during the repair period, NAVSEA said.

"Several small cracks" appeared aboard the ship last fall, NAVSEA said in a statement, correlating to predicted high-stress areas in the superstructure. Those areas had been "instrumented" before that time to detect problems, and "cracks were identified within the welds, indicating lack of fusion or weld defects."

Changes already have been made in the ship's design to correct the superstructure stress, metal fatigue and cracking, NAVSEA said, and many of those changes are being done in the current repair period.

USS Fort Worth (LCS 3), the next ship being built to the LCS 1 design, "had detail changes incorporated which mitigate these high stress areas," NAVSEA said.

ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 10:30 PM
Subject: Obama Faces Choice on Petraeus - The Wall Street Journal.

I thought you would be interested in the following story from The Wall Street Journal.

Obama Faces Choice on Petraeus

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704396504576204532468138822.html>

The Wall Street Journal for iPad provides a new way to experience the Journal's award winning coverage, blending the best of print and online. Special features include:

- **"Now" Issue** featuring updated coverage throughout the day, with top article picks from Journal editors
- **Market Data** including quote search and customizable Watchlist
- **Videos and slideshows** published with free articles

Click or tap the link below to download The Wall Street Journal from the Apple iTunes App Store.

<http://www.wsj.com/ipad>

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."
CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

DM/147

ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 10:38 PM
Subject: Added to Utah list of symbols: State firearm

Mar 18, 2011 09:20 PM EDT

Added to Utah list of symbols: State firearm

By Michael Martinez, CNN

(CNN) -- Until this week, Utah had 24 state symbols, from tree (the blue spruce) to insect (the honeybee) to even cooking pot (the Dutch oven).

Now it's added an official state firearm -- the John M. Browning-designed M1911 pistol, becoming the first state in the nation to have one, according to the state legislator who sponsored the law.

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert signed the new symbol into law this week.

State Rep. Carl Wimmer, a Republican who was a police officer and SWAT team commander, came up with the idea for a state firearm last year after hearing about how Pennsylvania lawmakers wanted to make the Pennsylvania long rifle its official state firearm, Wimmer told CNN on Friday.

That measure eventually failed, he said.

Wimmer selected the semi-automatic M1911 because gun maker Browning was born and raised in Ogden, Utah, and was the son of Utah pioneers who crossed the plains in the 1800s, Wimmer said.

This year is also the 100th anniversary of when the U.S. military chose the M1911 to be its standard-issue sidearm for all branches of service, Wimmer said. That's how the pistol got its name: "M" for military and 1911 for the year that the military began issuing the gun to all its servicemen and women, Wimmer said.

In a state more known for its strong Mormon traditions and breathtaking national parks, the creation of an official state firearm raised controversy, especially when the measure was pursued even after January's mass shooting in Tucson, Arizona, that killed six persons and wounded 13 others, including U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. The bill was introduced just before the horrific shootings, Wimmer said.

"People say the timing is terrible, and I admit the timing is terrible," Wimmer said. "We have a part-time legislature in Utah, and we are only in session for 45 days. Certainly meaning no disrespect to the tragedy in Arizona, we moved forward in doing this because it's the only opportunity that we had."

Other critics have said the new state symbol implicitly condones gun violence.

"There was more controversy than I anticipated, but it really passed with bipartisan support," Wimmer said. "One of the biggest comments from the critics was that we should not honor an implement of death. And my response to that has always been is that this firearm does not represent an implement of death. It represents an implement of freedom -- just the mere fact that our soldiers have used this firearm to defend liberty and freedom around the world for the last 100 years."

The governor's office played down the lethality of the new symbol and focused more on its creator.

"This bill isn't so much about a weapon as it is about honoring John Moses Browning, who was a Utah inventor and entrepreneur, and he repeatedly gave back to the state," said the governor's spokeswoman, Ally Isom.

The governor's office and both chambers of the legislature are controlled by Republicans.

The M1911 had been the standard issue in the military until about 15 years ago, when the Beretta 9mm became its common sidearm because it holds 15 rounds and the M1911 only eight, Wimmer said. However, the M1911 is still used by elite units like Delta Force, Wimmer said.

"I thought how appropriate that we honor John Moses Browning on the 100th anniversary of the U.S. military's adoption of the M1911 as their official pistol," Wimmer said.

"The list of firearms that he invented is too exhaustive for me to go into," Wimmer added about Browning. Wimmer owns a Browning-designed M1911, he said.

"Almost every military weapon that is currently in use today has one point or another been modeled after a Browning firearm," Wimmer said.

Wimmer, 35, is now considering running for Utah's fourth congressional seat, newly created after the latest census, he said. He was a SWAT commander, canine patrol officer and sex crimes detective in South Jordan, Utah, for seven years and then a patrol officer in West Valley City, Utah, for four years, he said.

He left the police force to serve in the state legislature and is now a partner in the security consulting firm Corporate Task Force in Riverton City, Utah, where he lives.

Addressing other critics who say he's merely seeking publicity for his possible congressional run, Wimmer responded: "People will second-guess everything I do and say everything I do is because of the congressional race, and it's simply not true."

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."
CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 7:37 AM
To: ODriscoll, James; James G O'Driscoll
Subject: Toyota

Hey, how have you liked your Toyota? Any problems or issues? How about service?

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast, for I intend to go in harm's way."
CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

DM/149

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Friday, March 18, 2011 10:36 AM

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

March 23rd - Site R Indoc Training

Attachments:

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/150

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Friday, March 18, 2011 9:30 AM

To:

Cc:

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James;

Subject:

RE: ECAT Update 18 March

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM / 151

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Friday, March 18, 2011 9:23 AM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James;

Subject:

ECAT Update 18 March

(b)(6)

DM/152

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
Cc:

(b)(6)

Friday, March 18, 2011 9:53 AM

(b)(6)

Subject:
Attachments:

NOSC Washington AIRMAIL - 18 March

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/153,

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: John Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 7:16 PM
Subject: FACTBOX-Military assets in play in Libya crisis

FACTBOX-Military assets in play in Libya crisis

Sat Mar 19, 2011

March 19 (Reuters) - Military action authorised by the United Nations against Libyan forces loyal to Muammar Gaddafi could take place under NATO command or under a coalition of the willing led by France and Britain. NATO said its ambassadors would meet to discuss their response, while analysts expect an initial strike would target Libya's military aircraft, air force bases and communication systems. Following are assets that could be used in action against Libya, and those belonging to Gaddafi's military:

FRANCE France, which was at the forefront of the push to take action in Libya, would likely deploy Mirage and Rafale fighters from air bases near the Mediterranean towns of Marseille and Istres or from the island of Corsica. Airborne refuelling tanker aircraft are also ready to depart from Istres. Fighter jets could reach Libya in around an hour and a half from the south of France and in around an hour from Corsica. France's Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier is at the Mediterranean port of Toulon and could be deployed on Sunday. The carrier could reach the Libyan coast in one and a half days carrying 15 fighter jets. Its battle group includes three frigates, a fuel-supply ship and an attack submarine. France rejoined NATO's military command in 2009.

BRITAIN Britain said it would deploy Typhoon patrol jets and all-weather Tornado attack aircraft which are based at Royal Air Force bases in Scotland and the eastern county of Norfolk but would be moved in the coming hours to unidentified bases nearer Libya. Prime Minister David Cameron told parliament that air-to-air refuelling and surveillance aircraft would also be used. Britain has two frigates off the Libyan coast: HMS Cumberland and HMS Westminster. The Ministry of Defence said it was not clear if they would be used in any operation and added destroyers could also be deployed.

UNITED STATES The Pentagon said that it was ready to carry out orders on Libya but said it would not discuss possible operations. The U.S. Navy has five combat ships in the Mediterranean, including at least one guided missile destroyer. The United States does not have any aircraft carriers close to Libya. The USS Enterprise, which in recent weeks was stationed in the Red Sea, has been moved eastwards, away from Libya, to join the USS Carl Vinson, in the Arabian Sea to support Afghanistan operations. Aviano, south of the Alps in Italy, is the region's only U.S. air base with aircraft assigned to it -- 42 F-16s. The Pentagon has declined to discuss the positioning of other planes in the region. The United States has a range of military bases and installations in the Mediterranean elsewhere in Italy, Greece, Spain and Turkey.

ITALY Italy has given its full support to military action against Libya, saying that it would actively participate and offering its airbases. Defence Minister Ignazio La Russa said seven bases in Italy -- at Amendola, Gioia del Colle, Sigonella, Aviano, Trapani, Decimomannu and Pantelleria -- were available and some allies

had already asked to use them. Five of them are on the southern mainland or Sicily, making them some of the closest available bases to Libya:

NORWAY Norway said it will make its F-16 fighter jets available for an operation in Libya and could also provide Hercules transport aircraft to assist in humanitarian efforts.

DENMARK Denmark said it would send six F-16 planes and one military transport plane to support an intervention in Libya. The planes were ready to leave Denmark on Saturday for a southern European base with around 100 personnel including pilots and support.

NETHERLANDS The Dutch government said it backs the no-fly zone over Libya and would support a military intervention if asked, but has not been asked to contribute for now.

SWEDEN Non-NATO member Sweden is seen as possibly coming into support enforcement of the no-fly zone at a later stage.

ARAB NATIONS Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar are seen as the most likely Arab nations to provide back-up for an operation.

LIBYA Libya's military before the insurrection was on paper made up of 100,000 troops, backed by heavy artillery, tanks, warplanes and a small navy. Since the rebellion, some members of the armed forces have defected and some hardware has fallen into rebel hands. The level of rebel strength is difficult to ascertain, but the best-equipped and -trained units -- up to 12,000 men -- have remained loyal to Gaddafi because they are outside the regular army structure and are commanded by family members or people in his inner circle. Libya's military has been undermined by sanctions and neglect. Much equipment is poorly maintained or unusable. In Libya's east around Benghazi, regular military forces appear to have either defected to the opposition or melted away. Citizen groups have taken up arms. But analysts say the opposition lacks command and control.

STRENGTH ON PAPER: GROUND FORCES - Numbers: 50,000 including 25,000 conscripts. Main Battle Tanks - 800, although many are thought to be inoperable. Armoured Infantry Fighting vehicles - 1,000. Armoured personnel carriers - 945. Artillery pieces 2,421 Air Defence surface-to-air missiles - More than 400.

NAVY - Numbers: 8,000. Two patrol submarines, which might both be out of action. Three surface vessels and 16 patrol and coastal ships.

AIR FORCES Numbers: 18,000. Combat capable aircraft - 394 (A mixture of Russian and French aircraft, many non-operational or in store) French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said on Tuesday that only 20 were operational. Air Defence Command has at least 216 surface-to-air missiles and 144 towed and 72 self propelled missiles. Maintenance may be an issue. Most analysts believe Libya's armed forces could not seriously threaten outside air forces enforcing a no-fly zone.

Sources for Libyan military: Reuters/ISS Military Balance 2011.

(Reporting by Catherine Bremer in Paris, Keith Weir in London; Additional reporting by David Cutler; Editing by Jon Boyle)

--

ODriscoll, James

From: John Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 8:38 PM
Subject: The Libyan War of 2011

The Libyan War of 2011
March 19, 2011 | 2333 GMT
PRINT Text Resize:
ShareThis

RELATED SPECIAL TOPIC PAGE
Libya Unrest: Full Coverage
By George Friedman

The Libyan war has now begun. It pits a coalition of European powers plus the United States, a handful of Arab states and rebels in Libya against the Libyan government. The long-term goal, unspoken but well understood, is regime change — displacing the government of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and replacing it with a new regime built around the rebels.

The mission is clearer than the strategy, and that strategy can't be figured out from the first moves. The strategy might be the imposition of a no-fly zone, the imposition of a no-fly zone and attacks against Libya's command-and-control centers, or these two plus direct ground attacks on Gadhafi's forces. These could also be combined with an invasion and occupation of Libya.

The question, therefore, is not the mission but the strategy to be pursued. How far is the coalition, or at least some of its members, prepared to go to effect regime change and manage the consequences following regime change? How many resources are they prepared to provide and how long are they prepared to fight? It should be remembered that in Iraq and Afghanistan the occupation became the heart of the war, and regime change was merely the opening act. It is possible that the coalition partners haven't decided on the strategy yet, or may not be in agreement. Let's therefore consider the first phases of the war, regardless of how far they are prepared to go in pursuit of the mission.

Like previous wars since 1991, this war began with a very public buildup in which the coalition partners negotiated the basic framework, sought international support and authorization from multinational organizations and mobilized forces. This was done quite publicly because the cost of secrecy (time and possible failure) was not worth what was to be gained: surprise. Surprise matters when the enemy can mobilize resistance. Gadhafi was trapped and has limited military capabilities, so secrecy was unnecessary.

While all this was going on and before final decisions were made, special operations forces were inserted in Libya on two missions. First, to make contact with insurgent forces to prepare them for coming events, create channels of communications and logistics and create a post-war political framework. The second purpose was to identify targets for attack and conduct reconnaissance of those targets that provided as up-to-date information as possible. This, combined with air and space reconnaissance, served as the foundations of the war. We know British SAS operators were in Libya and suspect other countries' special operations forces and intelligence services were also operating there.

War commences with two sets of attacks. The first attacks are decapitation attacks designed to destroy or isolate the national command structure. These may also include strikes designed to kill leaders such as Gadhafi and his

sons or other senior leaders. These attacks depend on specific intelligence on facilities, including communications, planning and so on along with detailed information on the location of the leadership. Attacks on buildings are carried out from the air but not particularly with cruise missile because they are especially accurate if the targets are slow, and buildings aren't going anywhere. At the same time, aircraft are orbiting out of range of air defenses awaiting information on more mobile targets and if such is forthcoming, they come into range and fire appropriate munitions at the target. The type of aircraft used depends on the robustness of the air defenses, the time available prior to attack and the munitions needed. They can range from conventional fighters or stealth strategic aircraft like the U.S. B-2 bomber (if the United States authorized its use). Special operations forces might be on the ground painting the target for laser-guided munitions, which are highly accurate but require illumination.

(click here to enlarge image)

At the same time these attacks are under way, attacks on airfields, fuel storage depots and the like are being targeted to ground the Libyan air force. Air or cruise missile attacks are also being carried out on radars of large and immobile surface-to-air (SAM) missile sites. Simultaneously, "wild weasel" aircraft — aircraft configured for the suppression of enemy air defenses — will be on patrol for more mobile SAM systems to locate and destroy. This becomes a critical part of the conflict. Being mobile, detecting these weapons systems on the ground is complex. They engage when they want to, depending on visual perception of opportunities. Therefore the total elimination of anti-missile systems is in part up to the Libyans. Between mobile systems and man-portable air-defense missiles, the threat to allied aircraft can persist for quite a while even if Gadhafi's forces might have difficulty shooting anything down.

This is the part that the United States in particular and the West in general is extremely good at. But it is the beginning of the war. Gadhafi's primary capabilities are conventional armor and particularly artillery. Destroying his air force and isolating his forces will not by itself win the war. The war is on the ground. The question is the motivation of his troops: If they perceive that surrender is unacceptable or personally catastrophic, they may continue to fight. At that point the coalition must decide if it intends to engage and destroy Gadhafi's ground forces from the air. This can be done, but it is never a foregone conclusion that it will work. Moreover, this is the phase at which civilian casualties begin to mount. It is a paradox of warfare instigated to end human suffering that the means of achieving this can sometimes impose substantial human suffering itself. This is not merely a theoretical statement. It is at this point at which supporters of the war who want to end suffering may turn on the political leaders for not ending suffering without cost. It should be remembered that Saddam Hussein was loathed universally but those who loathed him were frequently not willing to impose the price of overthrowing him. The Europeans in particular are sensitive to this issue.

The question then becomes the extent to which this remains an air operation, as Kosovo was, or becomes a ground operation. Kosovo is the ideal, but Gadhafi is not Slobodan Milosevic and he may not feel he has anywhere to go if he surrenders. For him the fight may be existential, whereas for Milosevic it was not. He and his followers may resist. This is the great unknown. The choice here is to maintain air operations for an extended period of time without clear results, or invade. This raises the question of whose troops would invade. Egypt appears ready but there is long animosity between the two countries, and its actions might not be viewed as liberation. The Europeans could do so. It is difficult to imagine Obama adopting a third war in Muslim world as his own. This is where the coalition is really tested.

If there is an invasion, it is likely to succeed. The question then becomes whether Gadhafi's forces move into opposition and insurgency. This again depends on morale but also on behavior. The Americans forced an insurgency in Iraq by putting the Baathists into an untenable position. In Afghanistan the Taliban gave up formal power without having been decisively defeated. They regrouped, reformed and returned. It is not known

to us what Gadhafi can do or not do. It is clear that it is the major unknown.

The problem in Iraq was not the special operations forces. It was not in the decapitation strikes or suppression of enemy air defenses. It was not in the defeat of the Iraqi army on the ground. It was in the occupation, when the enemy reformed and imposed an insurgency on the United States that it found extraordinarily difficult to deal with.

Therefore the successes of the coming day will tell us nothing. Even if Gadhafi surrenders or is killed, even if no invasion is necessary save a small occupation force to aid the insurgents, the possibility of an insurgency is there. We will not know if there will be an insurgency until after it begins. Therefore, the only thing that would be surprising about this phase of the operation is if it failed.

The decision has been made that the mission is regime change in Libya. The strategic sequence is the routine buildup to war since 1991, this time with a heavier European component. The early days will go extremely well but will not define whether or not the war is successful. The test will come if a war designed to stop human suffering begins to inflict human suffering. That is when the difficult political decisions have to be made and when we will find out whether the strategy, the mission and the political will fully match up.

Read more: [The Libyan War of 2011 | STRATFOR](#)

--
"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."
CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778

ODriscoll, James

From: John Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 7:52 PM
Subject: Coalition aircraft involved in Libya attack

19 March 2011 Last updated at 15:03 ET

Share this page

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Share
- Email
- Print

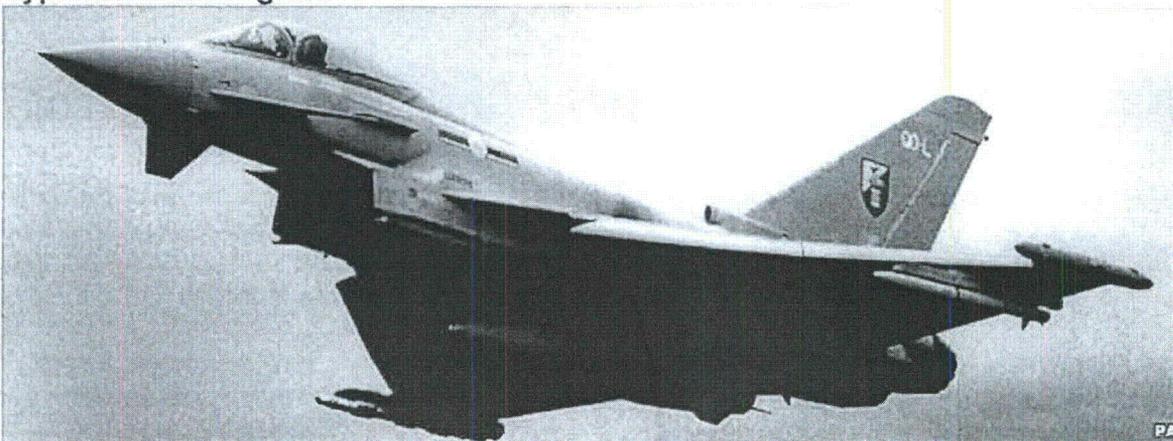
Coalition launches Libya attacks

- Latest
- Live
- In pictures
- Conflict mapped
- Aircraft guide
- Gaddafi warned

A joint operation to enforce a UN-backed no-fly zone over Libya has begun. Here we look at some of the British and French fighter jets and reconnaissance aircraft likely to be involved.

UK AIRCRAFT

Typhoon - Eurofighter



Continue reading the main story

Typhoon

- Crew: 1

DM/156

- Speed: 2 Mach
- Weapons: Air-to-air missiles (AMRAAM, ASRAAM), Brimstone, Enhanced Paveway, Paveway IV

The RAF's Typhoon, or Eurofighter, is an agile aircraft which could be used in air-to-air combat if the Libyan airforce tries to get airborne.

Typhoons were built to criteria set by the UK, Spain, Germany and Italy to replace the Tornado fighter. It boasts stealth technology and weapons systems include medium and short-range air-to-air missiles and various air-to-ground weapons.

The Typhoon entered service with the RAF in 2003, primarily based at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire and RAF Leuchars in Scotland. It has also been operational in the Falkland Islands since September 2009.

Tornado



[Continue reading the main story](#)

Tornado GR4

- Crew: 2
- Max speed: 1.3 Mach
- Weapons: Storm Shadow, Brimstone, ALARM, AIM-9 Sidewinder, Paveway II, Paveway III, Enhanced Paveway, General Mauser 27mm cannon
- Source: RAF

The Tornado has been one of the mainstays of the RAF since first entering service in 1980 and the aircraft were used to enforce no-fly zones in Iraq.

It is mainly used as a strike or attack aircraft and could have a key role in taking out Libyan surface-to-air missile systems.

Weapons such as the Storm Shadow cruise missile mean that the Tornado can hit targets from a significant distance. The MOD describes the missile as being designed for "long range, highly accurate, deep penetration" against enemy command and control bunkers. It is fired from a Tornado GR4.

Tornado GR4s are also equipped with Brimstone missiles, an effective anti-armour weapon and can also be used for all-weather, day and night tactical reconnaissance.

Nimrod



Continue reading the main story

Nimrod R1

- Crew: 29
- Speed: 360 knots

Nimrod R1 reconnaissance aircraft, derivative of the maritime patrol version, are expected to be involved in surveillance operations.

The suite of monitoring systems are used for reconnaissance and gathering electronic intelligence. It can sit over an area, flying at low speeds for long periods - which can be extended by mid-air refuelling.

The Nimrod R1s are operated by No 51 Squadron, from RAF Waddington.

Sentinel



Continue reading the main story

Sentinel R1

- Crew: 5
- Speed: 0.89 Mach
- Systems: Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Ground Moving Target Indicator (GMTI)

The Sentinel R1 aircraft, used in intelligence operations in Afghanistan, is also expected to be used in any Libya mission.

It is part of the Sentinel system which is made up of air, land and support segments.

The aircraft are converted Bombardier Global Express aircraft which are fitted with radar and monitoring systems which can be used to track and target enemy ground forces.

The reconnaissance aircraft is scheduled to be scrapped after the UK withdraws its forces from Afghanistan.

FRENCH AIRCRAFT

France is clearly one of the key players in this crisis.

In diplomatic terms it has been one of the main promoters of UN Security Council resolution 1973 allowing the use of force. French aircraft, thought to be Rafale fighters, according to reports from Paris, have been the first to operate over Libya ensuring, according to French President Nicolas Sarkozy, that Libyan government aircraft cannot operate over the Benghazi.

Dassault Rafale



[Continue reading the main story](#)

Dassault Rafale

Crew: 1/2

Speed: 1.8 Mach

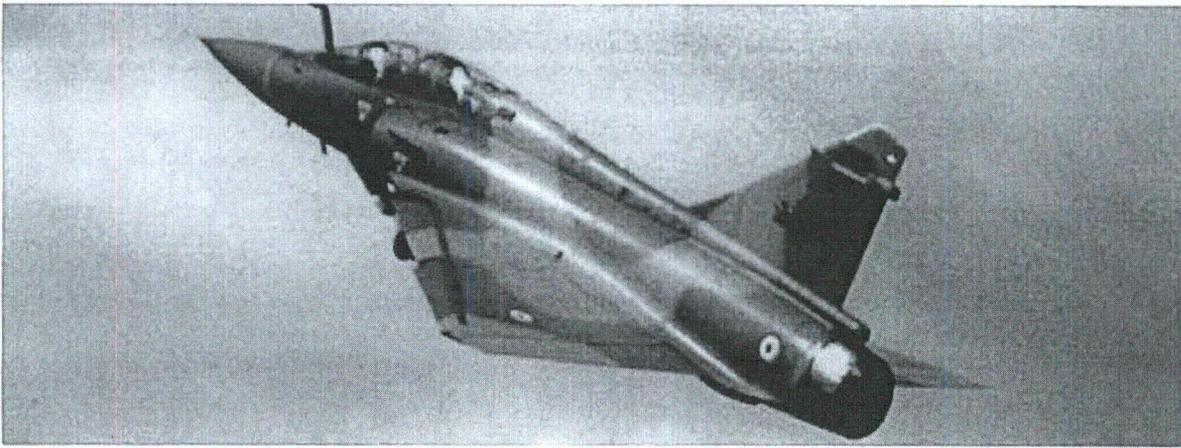
Weapons: Air-to-ground missile, including Apache and Exocet, air-to-air missiles and anti-ship missiles

The Dassault Rafale is a multi-role, twin-engined delta wing aircraft capable of mounting air defence, ground attack, and reconnaissance missions.

It is operated by the French Air Force and a variant of the plane is the mainstay of the French Navy, operating from the carrier Charles de Gaulle.

The Rafale carries a sophisticated electronic survival system named Spectra. It can detect and track up to eight targets simultaneously and generate 3D maps for navigation and targeting.

Mirage 2000



[Continue reading the main story](#)

Mirage 2000

Crew: 1/2

Speed: 2.2 Mach

Weapons: built-in twin DEFA 554 30mm revolver-type cannons. Air-to-air missiles

Again a multi-role fighter, the descendant of the famous Mirage III of the 1960s. Entered service in 1982 but some were extensively modernised in the late 1980s to fill a gap until the Rafale entered service. There is also a strike version of the aircraft, the Mirage 2000D.

Mirage F1

This is an older model from the Mirage stable, the first aircraft entering service in 1983. While there are several variants, the most important in current front-line service is the Mirage F1CR which is a highly specialised reconnaissance platform carrying cameras, and optical and electronic sensors.

F-18 Hornet



[Continue reading the main story](#)

F-18 Hornet

Crew: 1/2

Speed: 1.7 Mach

Weapons: Vulcan cannon. Four AIM-9M Sidewinders - supersonic, heat-seeking air-to-air missiles

The Canadian Air Force's front-line multi-role fighter used for air superiority and tactical support.

Canada has committed six Hornets to help enforce the no-fly zone. The Canadian jets were seen at Prestwick airport in Scotland on Saturday where they landed for a refuelling stop before heading towards the Mediterranean.

The aircraft is equipped with a sophisticated radar system that can track targets in all weather and from great distances. A Sniper Advanced Targeting pod, which contains an infra-red (heat-sensitive) camera and TV camera, allows pilots to see targets at night and in low visibility conditions.

The pod also has a laser designator to guide precision bombing, and a laser spot tracker. The newly acquired Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS) allows the pilot to effectively designate targets anywhere around the aircraft.

--
*"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."*

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778



ODriscoll, James

From: John Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 9:29 PM
Subject: Corpsman awarded Silver Star for bravery

Go Navy! (of course, note in the first sentence they identify him as a Marine, not as a US Navy Corpsman. Don't these reporters fact check anything anymore?)

Corpsman awarded Silver Star for bravery

The Associated Press
Posted: Saturday Mar 19, 2011 18:49:43 EDT

SYRACUSE, Kan. — A 24-year-old Kansas Marine has been awarded the Silver Star for his bravery as a medic in Afghanistan.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Peter Gould was in an Afghanistan field hospital in July recovering from severe wounds caused by a roadside bomb when he learned he had been awarded the Silver Star.

"I didn't believe it, really, it was the last thing on my mind," Gould said, speaking by cell phone from Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he is currently stationed.

He told The Hutchinson News he was still in shock then and more concerned about the others in his unit and if they survived the Taliban ambush.

Earlier this month, Gould was officially pinned with the star for his bravery during the firefight that took the life of Marine Cpl. Larry Harris Jr., and wounded two other Marines in the unit.

Attending the ceremony at a Camp Pendleton parade deck were Peter's parents, Joe and Malissa Gould, Syracuse, and some of his seven siblings.

Joe Gould, pastor of Syracuse's Christ's New Covenant Church recalled when his son called home that July morning, downplaying his injuries.

"He also told us that the Marines would call and say he was in bad shape, but they would just be exaggerating," **Joe Gould** said. During the firefight, Gould and Harris ran out to rescue a machine gunner who had been hit and pulled him behind a wall. He began working on the injured soldier, but then orders came to get the injured out.

When they were carrying the injured to the medi-vac area, Gould was hit by an explosion.

"My right side went numb," he said.

Despite the shrapnel blast to his face and neck, Gould continued to administer aid. He was told that Harris was bleeding bad and not breathing. Gould directed them in how to start CPR. While he couldn't see anything, they kept relaying to him what they were doing.

Within 30 minutes a helicopter came within 100 yards, but an enemy rocket was fired and the helicopter took off.

"That's when I felt my chances were pretty much gone," Peter said. "I didn't think we had a chance."

He said the helicopter didn't have to come back for them. But it circled once and did return. Four of the men in the unit were rescued.

DM/157

When he woke in the field hospital Gould asked about Harris and the gunner. He learned Harris had died and the gunner was still in surgery.

Gould has gone through several surgeries, with crushed bones in his face, a perforated eardrum, and lot of plastic surgery on the right side of his face. The shrapnel hit his carotid artery. He also injured his arm, which is healing.

"It definitely was one of the most loneliest times coming home by myself," he said. His unit remained in Afghanistan until November. In a company of 89, 17 Marines were killed and about 50 were wounded, during their time in country.

Gould will get out of the military in June. He plans to stay in California, attend college and eventually hopes to go to medical school.

*"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."*

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778



ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Saturday, March 19, 2011 1:28 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

Odriscoll, James G CDR (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject:

ECAT Update 18 March

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/158

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Sunday, March 20, 2011 2:23 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

FW: ECAT Update 18 March

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/159

ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 10:05 PM
Subject: Fwd: [NIPmail] France sends carrier to Libya, conducts more flights

France sends carrier to Libya, conducts more flights
By Elizabeth Pinéau and John Irish

PARIS | Sun Mar 20, 2011.

PARIS (Reuters) - France sent an aircraft carrier toward Libya on Sunday and its warplanes carried out further operations over the north African country, armed forces and defense officials said.

The Charles de Gaulle carrier, the flagship of the French fleet, left the southern port of Toulon at around 1200 GMT, carrying around 1,800 crew members and some 20 aircraft.

The carrier was accompanied by an attack submarine, several frigates and a refueling ship, defense officials said.

"The French operations continue," said a source at armed forces headquarters. "French planes are in place (over Libya)."

President Nicolas Sarkozy's government, alongside Britain, was at the forefront of a campaign to win U.N. backing for a no-fly zone over Libya and to build an international coalition for military strikes to enforce it.

French planes fired the first shots on Saturday in the campaign to force Muammar Gaddafi's troops to cease fire and end attacks on civilians.

FILLIP FOR SARKOZY

France's leadership in the diplomatic and military arenas appeared to have rallied public opinion behind President Nicolas Sarkozy, whose approval ratings have been languishing near record lows ahead of presidential elections early next year.

Elections for local councilors this Sunday and next will provide the last litmus test before the 2012 vote

Even former prime minister Dominique de Villepin, one of Sarkozy's bitterest political critics, applauded the government's role.

"France has, in these circumstances, been true to its ideals," he told the Journal du Dimanche newspapers.

Some cautioned, however, that the attacks could bring repercussions in terms of domestic security.

"We're preparing for all eventualities," Britain's ambassador in Paris, Peter Westmacott, told Europe 1 radio. "He (Gaddafi) has been involved in a lot of terrorist activities in the past. We can't rule anything out."

(Writing by Daniel Flynn; editing by Mike Peacock)

DM | 1160

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN

16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
Subject:

John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sunday, March 20, 2011 10:11 AM
AT Mahan and the Chinese

The 'blue national soil' of China's navy
By George F. Will, Friday, March 18, 2011
NEWPORT, R.I.

When some Chinese naval officers crossed the Pacific to visit the Naval War College here on an Atlantic-lapped island, they gazed reverently at a desk used by Capt. Alfred Thayer Mahan (1840-1914). This compliment to America's preeminent naval strategist has scholars here wondering whether Mahan's Chinese readers are taking from him lessons similar to those Theodore Roosevelt derived.

How could they not? Mahan did not make TR bellicose; nature did that, immoderately. But Mahan supplied a theory for Roosevelt's metabolic urge to throw around his nation's rapidly growing weight.

Mahan and Roosevelt met in 1887, when Mahan was president of the college and the future president — an amateur naval historian and general know-it-all — was a guest lecturer in his late 20s. From Mahan's 1890 book, "The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660-1783," Roosevelt learned that a powerful navy is indispensable to a nation with great commercial interests and an interest in geopolitical greatness.

China certainly has the former. Does it have the latter?

China may not forever be a "Blanche DuBois nation," akin to the woman in "A Streetcar Named Desire" who said, "I have always depended on the kindness of strangers." Today, Americans are the strangers. Their Navy — "today's naval hegemon," in Chinese parlance — is the constabulary that patrols what Mahan called "the great common" — the ocean highways of the trade on which China's growth, and hence its stability and geopolitical weight, depends.

America's cheerful assumption has been that although its ships are not as numerous as they recently were — 286 now, down from 594 in 1987 — there actually is a 1,000-ship Navy. That comforting figure aggregates all the navies of nations that have no agendas beyond keeping the great common orderly.

China is deploying new submarines at an impressive rate — three a year. They are suited to pushing back U.S. power projection in the Western Pacific. China's much-discussed ballistic and cruise missiles also seem designed to keep U.S. surface forces far from China's soil. And China seems increasingly inclined to define the oceans off its shores as extensions of the shores — territory to be owned and controlled like "blue national soil." This concept is incompatible with the idea of the oceans as a "common."

This includes the "near seas" — the Yellow, South China and East China seas. But such "far seas" as the Indian Ocean also are crucial to China's global commercial reach as a hyperactive importer and exporter. Disciples of Mahan want a national capacity to protect their nation's interests there.

In "Red Star Over the Pacific: China's Rise and the Challenge to U.S. Maritime Strategy," Toshi Yoshihara and James R. Holmes, both on the War College faculty, remind readers that Mahan defined "command of the sea" as "overbearing power on the sea." And that, he said, means power "which drives the enemy's flag from it, or allows it to appear only as a fugitive; and which, by controlling the great common, closes the highways by which commerce moves to and fro from the enemy's shores."

When Mao reigned, say Yoshihara and Holmes, Mahan was "reviled" as "an apostle of imperialism and colonialism." Now, they report, at major international conferences Chinese analysts have cited Mahan's bellicose definition of command of the sea to emphasize "the value of sea power for China."

Even with its reduced numbers, the U.S. Navy may have such command — as long as no rival power covets command. But Mahan's writings, say Yoshihara and Holmes, encourage "zero-sum thinking." In the Social Darwinian spirit of his day, Mahan wrote: "Growth is a property of healthful life" and implies a "right to insure by just means whatsoever contributes to national progress, and correlatively to combat injurious action taken by an outside agency, if the latter overpass its own lawful sphere." Concerning China's thinking about lawful spheres, see above: "blue national soil."

Extraordinarily dependent on sea lanes because of what one Chinese intellectual calls its "outward-leaning economy," and now largely free from land threats, China has the opportunity and incentive to project power beyond the Asian continent. In Mahan, it has an excuse.

In his Navy career, Mahan seemed to heed Gilbert and Sullivan's advice in the 1878 operetta "H.M.S. Pinafore": "Stick close to your desks and never go to sea/ And you all may be rulers of the Queen's Navee!" Ships Mahan commanded tended to collide with ships and other things. Ashore, however, he was a force to be reckoned with. It seems he still may be.

georgewill@washpost.com

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."
CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

ODriscoll, James

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 11:46 AM
To: (b)(6); 'Skubic,
Cc: 'ODriscoll, James (b)(6); ODriscoll, James (b)(6)
Subject: ECAT Update 21 March

(b)(5),(b)(6)

DM/162

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Monday, March 21, 2011 1:49 PM

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

NR CNO Fleet Readiness & Logistics POM for March 2011

(b)(6)

DM/163

ODriscoll, James

From: Hallam, Mary F. [Mary.Hallam@dhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 1:52 PM
To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject: RE: NR CNO Fleet Readiness & Logistics POM for March 2011

All,

Please make sure you have your SITREP and Timesheet information completed by Thursday 0900. If you have any problems please feel free to send me the information directly.

V/r,

(b)(6)

DM/164

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Monday, March 21, 2011 8:18 PM

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

RE: NK CNO Fleet Readiness & Logistics POM for March 2011

(b)(6)

DM/165

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: John Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 9:39 AM
Subject: Then what's the point?...

Gadhafi 'Not on US Target List'

March 21, 2011
Military.com|by Bryant Jordan



A senior Pentagon official said flatly that killing Col. Moammar Gadhafi is not one of Operation Odyssey Dawn's objectives in spite of reports that coalition aircraft attacked the dictator's Tripoli compound during the initial phase of establishing the no-fly zone over Libya.

"I can guarantee that he's not on a targeting list," Vice Adm. Bill Gortney, director of the Joint Staff, told reporters late Sunday afternoon at the Pentagon.

But Gadhafi could still be killed by an airstrike "if he happens to be in a place," Gortney said. "[He could be killed] if he's inspecting a surface-to-air missile site and we don't have any idea if he's there or not."

Gortney said Odyssey Dawn has already effectively eliminated the possibility of Gadhafi using jets against civilians or rebels, many of whom are holed up in Benghazi in eastern Libya.

The no-fly zone called for by a United Nations' resolution last week is now in place, he said.

ADVERTISEMENT

Join us and save.

Sprint

We're thanking the military by offering a 15% discount. Cut your bill and get unlimited text, Web and calling to any mobile in America.

Gortney also said the U.S. has no indications of civilian casualties caused by coalition bombings, a more definitive comment than his boss, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen, made earlier in the day when he said he had seen no reports of any "significant civilian casualties."

Gortney told Pentagon reporters that the airstrikes have been "very effective in significantly degrading" the Libyan government's ability to launch surface-to-air missiles, including the long-range SA-5s.

"There's been no new air activity by the regime, and we've detected no radar emissions from any of the air defense sites targeted," Gortney said. "And there has been a significant decrease in all Libyan air surveillance radars."

B-2s from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., conducted a bombing run on a dual-use airfield, striking it with JDAMs and destroying hardened shelters built for Libyan fighters, officials said.

DM/166

Gortney said the civilian areas of the airfield were not targeted.

About 15 U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps aircraft, along with British and French, attacked a mechanized force about 10 miles south of Benghazi. Gortney said Gadhafi's forces were marching on the rebel-held city.

While Libya's fixed surface-to-air missile threat and early warning radars are gone, the threat from mobile surface-to-air missile launchers and shoulder-fired rocket launchers remains, he said.

Also, Gadhafi still has helicopters he can use for strikes against rebels, Gortney acknowledged.

"But anything that does fly that we detect, we will engage," he said.

Canada, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Norway and Denmark will also be joining the coalition, according to Gortney.

But only a day into the air campaign over Libya, fractures have emerged in the U.S. Congress over the Obama administration's strategy there.

The influential chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., has raised questions about Odyssey Dawn.

▼ ADVERTISEMENT



Established Relationships

You're part of the military family, so at AFI you're also part of our family. We strive to protect your belonging anywhere worldwide. [Get a quote now.](#)

McKeon issued a statement yesterday stating that Obama "now has an obligation to explain to Congress and the American people what his administration's goals are for these operations."

"I am concerned that the use of military force in the absence of clear political objectives for our country risks entrenching the United States in a humanitarian mission whose scope and duration are not known at this point and cannot be controlled by us," McKeon wrote.

--

*"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."*

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN

16 Nov 1778



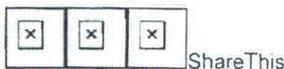
ODriscoll, James

From: John Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 1:32 PM
Subject: Libya's Opposition Leadership Comes into Focus

Libya's Opposition Leadership Comes into Focus

March 20, 2011 | 2222 GMT

PRINT Text Resize:



MARCO LONGARI/AFP/Getty Images

Libyan rebels duck as a bomb from an air force jet explodes March 7 near a checkpoint outside Ras Lanuf

Summary

Libya has descended to a situation tantamount to civil war, with forces loyal to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi in the west pitted against rebels from the east. One of the biggest problems faced by Western governments has been identifying exactly who the rebels are. Many of them, including former Libyan Justice Minister Mustafa Abdel-Jalil and former Interior Minister Gen. Abdel Fattah Younis, defected early on from the Gadhafi regime and represent part of the leadership of the National Transitional Council, which lobbied Western governments for support soon after its formation. Challenges posed by geography and lack of military capabilities remain, however, meaning that even with the aid of foreign airstrikes against

DM/167

Gadhafi's forces, the rebel council will struggle to achieve its stated goal of militarily toppling Gadhafi and unifying the country under its leadership.

Editor's note: *This analysis was originally published March 8 but has been significantly updated with current, accurate information.*

Analysis

Identifying the Opposition

One of the biggest problems Western governments have faced throughout the Libyan crisis has been identifying who exactly the "eastern rebels" are. Until the uprising began in February, there was thought to be no legitimate opposition to speak of in the country, and thus no contacts between the United States, the United Kingdom, France or others. Many of those who now speak for the rebel movement are headquartered in Benghazi. There have been several defections, however, from the regime of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi to the eastern rebel leadership, and it is men like these with whom the West is now trying to engage as the possible next generation of leadership in Libya, should its unstated goal of regime change come to fruition.

The structure through which the Libyan opposition is represented is the National Transitional Council. The first man to announce its creation was former Libyan Justice Minister Mustafa Abdel-Jalil, who defected from the government Feb. 21 and declared the establishment of a "transitional government" Feb. 26. At the time, Abdel-Jalil claimed that it would give way to national elections within three months, though this was clearly never a realistic goal.

One day after Abdel-Jalil's announcement, a Benghazi-based lawyer named Abdel-Hafidh Ghoga held a news conference to refute his claims. Ghoga pronounced himself to be the spokesman of the new council and denied that it resembled a transitional government, adding that even if it did, Abdel-Jalil would not be in charge. Ghoga derided the former justice minister as being more influential in the eastern Libyan city of Al Bayda than in Benghazi, which is the heart of the rebel movement.

The personality clash between Abdel-Jalil and Ghoga continued on for most of the next week, as each man portended to be running a council that spoke for the eastern rebel movement in its entirety. It was significant only insofar as it provided just a glimpse of the sort of internal rivalries that exist in eastern Libya, known historically as Cyrenaica. Though Cyrenaica has a distinct identity from the western Libyan region historically referred to as Tripolitania, that does not mean that it is completely unified. This will be a problem moving ahead for the coalition carrying out the bombing campaign of Libya, as tribal and personal rivalries in the east will compound with a simple lack of familiarity with who the rebels really are.

The National Transitional Council officially came into being March 6, and — for the moment, at least — has settled the personal and regional rivalry between Abdel-Jalil and Ghoga, with the former named the council's head and the latter its spokesman. Despite the drama that preceded the formal establishment of the council, all members of the opposition have always been unified on a series of goals: They want to mount an armed offensive against the government-controlled areas in the west; they want to overthrow Gadhafi; they seek to unify the country with Tripoli as its capital; and they do not want foreign boots on Libyan soil. The unity of the rebels, in short, is based upon a common desire to oust the longtime Libyan leader.

The transitional council asserts that it derives its legitimacy from the series of city councils that have been running the affairs of the east since the February uprising that turned all of eastern Libya into rebel-held territory. This council is, in essence, a conglomeration of localized units of makeshift self-governance. And while it may be centered in the east, the rebel council has also gone out of its way to assert that all Libyans who are opposed to Gadhafi's rule are a part of the movement. This is not a secessionist struggle. A military stalemate with Gadhafi that would lead to the establishment of two Libyas would not represent an outright success for the rebels, even though it would be preferential to outright defeat. Though it has only released the names of nine of its reported 31 members for security reasons, the National Transitional Council has claimed that it has members in several cities that lie beyond the rebel-held territory in the east (including Misurata, Zentan, Zawiya, Zouara, Nalut, Jabal Gharbi, Ghat and Kufra), it has promised membership to all Libyans who want to join, and it asserted that the council is the sole representative of the whole of Libya.

The council's foremost priorities for the past several weeks have been garnering foreign support for airstrikes on Gadhafi's forces and the establishment of a no-fly zone. Absent that, the rebels have long argued, none of their other military objectives stood a chance of being realized.

It was the lobbying for Western support in the establishment of a no-fly zone that led the transitional council's "executive team," also known as the crisis committee, to go on a tour of European capitals in mid-March designed to shore up support from various governments and international institutions. Mahmoud Jibril, an ally of Abdel-Jalil, and de facto Foreign Minister Ali al-Essawi, the former Libyan ambassador to India who quit in February when the uprising began, comprise the executive team. The result of this trip was the first recognition of the transitional council as the legitimate representative of the Libyan people, which was provided by France on March 10. France, as we were to see in the following days, was to become the most vociferous advocate of the international community coming to the aid of the rebel council through the use of airstrikes.

Challenges

Before the decision was made to implement a no-fly zone, the Libyan opposition forces collapsed in the face of Gadhafi's onslaught, and they have shown little sign of coalescing into a meaningful military force. While the loyalist eastward thrust was against a disorganized rebel force, Gadhafi's forces have demonstrated that they retain considerable strength and loyalty to the regime. That means that even with coalition airstrikes taking out armor and artillery, there will still be forces loyal to Gadhafi inside any urban center the rebels might encounter in a westward advance, meaning that the rebels would be forced to fight a dedicated force dug into built up areas while operating on extended lines, a difficult tactical and operational challenge for even a coherent and proficient military force. So even though the coalition airstrikes have since shifted the military balance, the fundamental challenges for the rebels to organize and orchestrate a coherent military offensive remain unchanged.

It is important to note that little of the territory that fell into rebel control in the early days of the insurrection was actually occupied through conquest. Many military and security forces in the east either deserted or defected to

the opposition, which brought not only men and arms, but also the territory those troops ostensibly controlled. Most fighting that occurred once the situation transitioned into what is effectively a civil war, particularly in the main population centers along the coastal stretch between Benghazi and Sirte, consisted of relatively small, lightly armed formations conducting raids, rather than either side decisively defeating a major formation and pacifying a town.

Just as the executive team represents the National Transitional Council's foreign affairs unit, the council also has a military division. This was originally headed by Omar El-Hariri, but the overall command of the Libyan rebels has since reportedly been passed to former Interior Minister Gen. Abdel Fattah Younis. Younis' name arose early on as the man with whom the British government was engaging as it tried to get a grip on the situation unfolding in rebel-held territory. He was not included in the original transitional council membership, however, despite several indications that he did in fact retain widespread support among eastern rebels. This, like the clash between Abdel-Jalil and Ghoga, was another indication of the rivalries that exist in eastern Libya, which paint a picture of disunity among the rebels.

Younis, however, now appears to have been officially incorporated into the command structure and is presiding over a National Transitional Council "army" that, like the council itself, is the sum of its parts. Every population center in eastern Libya has since the uprising began created respective militias, all of which are now, theoretically, to report to Benghazi. Indeed, the most notable of these local militias, created Feb. 28, has been known at times as the Benghazi Military Council, which is linked to the Benghazi city council, the members of which form much of the political core of the new national council. There are other known militias in eastern Libya, however, operating training camps in places like Ajdabiya, Al Bayda and Tobruk, and undoubtedly several other locations as well.

Younis has perhaps the most challenging job of all in eastern Libya: organizing a coherent fighting force that can mount an invasion of the west — something that will be difficult even after an extensive foreign bombing campaign. More defections by the military and security forces in the west, like the earlier defections in Zawiyah and Misurata, would perhaps benefit the transitional council even more than the bombing campaign under way.

There is no sign of imminent defections from the west, however, which will only reinforce the military and geographic challenges with which the rebel council is faced.

Libyan society is by definition tribal and therefore prone to fractiousness. The Gadhafi era has done nothing to counter this historical legacy, as the Jamahiriya political system promoted local governance more than a truly national system of administration. Ironically, it was this legacy of Gadhafi's regime that helped the individual eastern cities to rapidly establish local committees that took over administration of their respective areas, but it will create difficulties should they try to truly come together. Rhetoric is far different from tangible displays of unity.

Geography will also continue to be a challenge for the National Transitional Council. The Libyan opposition still does not have the basic military proficiencies or know-how to project and sustain an armored assault on Tripoli; if it tried, it would run a serious risk of being neutralized on arrival by prepared defenses. Even Gadhafi's hometown of Sirte — almost certainly a necessary intermediate position to control on any drive to Tripoli — looks to be a logistical stretch for the opposition. An inflow of weapons may help but would not be the complete solution. Just as the primary factor in eastern Libya's breaking free of the government's control lies in a series of military defections, the occurrence of the same scenario in significant numbers in the west is what would give the National Transitional Council its best chance of overthrowing Gadhafi.

Read more: [Libya's Opposition Leadership Comes into Focus | STRATFOR](#)

--
*"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."*

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778



ODriscoll, James

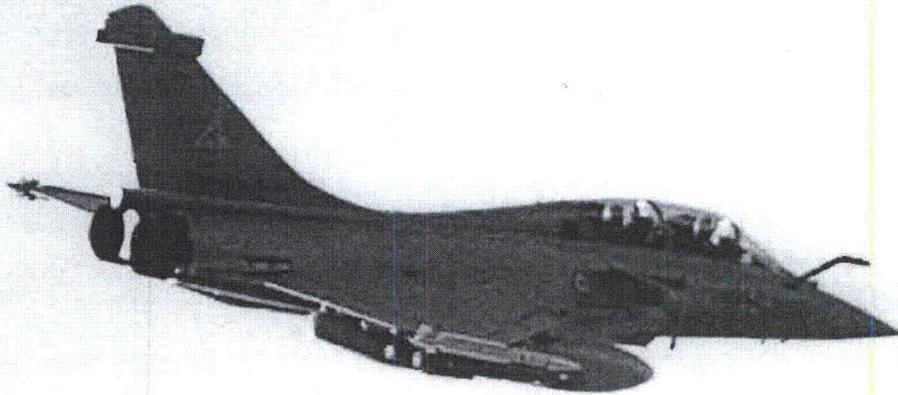
From: John Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 6:32 PM
Subject: Vive la France!

French Willing to Assume Command of Libyan Air Ops

By PIERRE TRAN
Published: 21 Mar 2011 15:56



PARIS - France is capable of providing the command and control for the multinational military forces ranged against Libya in support of U.N. resolution 1973, which is aimed at protecting the civilian population and enforcing a no-fly zone, a French defense spokesman said.



DM/168

A FRENCH RAFALE jet fighter prepares to land March 21 at the aerial military base of Solenzara in Corsica. (Stephan Agostini / AFP via Getty Images)

The U.S. authorities provide the command structure that coordinates national contributions, and American officials have said they would like to hand over the command to the allies leading the European effort, namely Britain and France.

RELATED TOPICS

- Europe
- Air Warfare
- Land Warfare

Asked if France has the means for assuming the command role, Army Col. Thierry Burkhard, spokesman for the Joint Staff, told the daily briefing on French operations in Libya, "France has the means."

Each country proposes its military capabilities in the Libyan theater and the U.S. command structure "deconflicts" them, deputy Defense Ministry spokesman Philippe Pontiès said.

Any NATO involvement in the command structure would be in a "support" role, Pontiès said.

France opposes the command function being assumed by NATO, which French officials view as highly bureaucratic, daily Le Monde reported.

The U.S. Ramstein base in Germany has the most extensive facilities for the command mission, French Defense Ministry spokesman Laurent Teissere told journalists.

On the third day of air operations over Libya, dubbed Operation Harmattan, the French Air Force had flown more than 55 sorties and over 400 hours, Burkhard said. The aircraft did not fire on the third day, he said.

Amid international concern over the bombardment of Libya over the weekend by coalition forces, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé said March 21 that the allies' action had prevented a "bloodbath" in Benghazi by saving civilian lives in the city.

Some 20 aircraft had flown on March 22 to enforce the no-fly zone, as Rafale and Mirage 2000 jets patrolled the skies over Benghazi, flying air superiority missions and threatening ground strikes against Libyan Army armor. They were supported by in-flight refueling tankers and airborne warning and control systems aircraft. The Corsican airbase of Solenzara has become the base for those combat aircraft.

As announced, the Charles de Gaulle carrier and its task force would arrive on station off the Libyan coast on March 22, and its fleet of Rafales and Super Etendard fighters would be operational over Libya "as of tomorrow," a French defense spokesman said.

--

*"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."*

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778



ODriscoll, James

From: John Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 6:41 PM
Subject: Next up - Yemen...

Yemeni leader loses more of his dwindling power base as top army officers defect

- - Text Size
- Print
- E-mail
- Reprints

By Associated Press, Monday, March 21, 6:08 PM

SANAA, Yemen — A top military commander and at least 18 other senior officers defected Monday to the opposition movement demanding the ouster of Yemen's embattled president, depriving the U.S.-allied ruler of most of his power base.

Monday's defections led to rival tanks being deployed in the streets of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, creating a potentially explosive situation and prompting Saleh's defense minister, Mohammed Nasser Ahmed, to announce the military remained loyal to the longtime leader. The looming collapse of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime throws into doubt the American campaign against a major al-Qaida wing that plotted attacks in the United States.

The armed forces will counter any plots against the government, Ahmed declared on state television, following a meeting of the National Defense Council, which is led by Saleh and includes Ahmed, the prime minister and the intelligence chief.

The defection of Maj. Gen. Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar, a longtime Saleh confidante and commander of the army's powerful 1st Armored Division, was seen by many as a turning point. It followed a major escalation in the regime's crackdown on demonstrators, when more than 40 people were killed in bloody clashes Friday.

Speaking in Paris, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe called Saleh's resignation "unavoidable" and pledged "support to all those that fight for democracy."

Tanks, armored vehicles and soldiers directed by al-Ahmar fanned out around the Sanaa square that has become the epicenter of the opposition movement, moving in for the first time to protect demonstrators.

Al-Ahmar also sent tanks to the state television building, the Central Bank and the Defense Ministry. Just miles away, at least a dozen tanks and armored personnel carriers belonging to the Republican Guards, an elite force led by Saleh's son and one-time heir apparent, Ahmed, were deployed outside the presidential palace.

DM/169

The deployment of al-Ahmar's troops in Sanaa was greeted by wild jubilation from protesters, many of whom posed with soldiers for photographs. greeted them with military style salutes or offered them roses.

Calling Al-Ahmar's defection "a turning point," Edmund J. Hull, U.S. ambassador to Yemen from 2001 to 2004, said it showed "the military overall ... no longer ties its fate to that of the president."

"I'd say he's going sooner rather than later," Hull said.

In a sign of the Obama administration's growing alarm over the regime's crackdown on demonstrators, State Department spokesman Mark Toner called on the Yemeni leader to refrain from violence.

"We abhor the violence. We want a cessation of all violence against demonstrators," Toner said, calling on Saleh to "take the necessary steps to promote a meaningful dialogue that addresses the concerns of his people."

The 65-year-old president and his government have faced down many serious challenges in the past, often forging fragile alliances with restive tribes to extend power beyond the capital. Most recently, he has battled a seven-year armed rebellion in the north, a secessionist movement in the south and an al-Qaida offshoot that is of great concern to the U.S.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, formed in 2009, has moved beyond regional aims and attacked the West, including sending a suicide bomber who tried to down a Detroit-bound airliner on Christmas Day with a bomb sewn into his underwear. The device failed to detonate properly.

Yemen is also home to U.S.-born radical cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, who is believed to have offered inspiration to those attacking the U.S., including Army Maj. Nidal Hasan, who is accused of killing 13 people and wounding dozens in a 2009 shootout at Fort Hood, Texas.

Saleh has been a key, though not entirely reliable, U.S. ally in the fight against al-Qaida, frustrating his Washington backers with the delicate balancing act he has undertaken to maintain the goodwill of powerful tribes providing refuge to operatives from the terror network.

He has also earned a reputation for milking the "al-Qaida card," demanding millions of dollars in military aid that he has used to bolster the capabilities of units loyal to him rather than take on al-Qaida.

A Saleh successor would not be much different since Yemen's complex tribal system would stay intact after he is gone.

Al-Ahmar and two other senior army officers who defected Monday belong to Saleh's Hashid tribe and a tribal leader said it was rallying behind al-Ahmar as a possible replacement for Saleh, eager to keep the president's job for one of its own. The leader spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

A key Hashid leader, Sadeq al-Ahmar, said he and his supporters were also joining the protest movement. Speaking to Al-Jazeera television from Sanaa, he said the death of scores of protesters on Friday made him decide to back the opposition after weeks of trying to mediate between Saleh and the protesters.

"The demands of the protesters are the demands of the Yemeni people," he said. "I can no longer fool myself, it is not the custom of men or tribes to do so."

Monday's defections included at least 15 other top military figures. Among them were Sanaa's military commander, a former defense minister who served as a presidential adviser and a military police brigadier who is a member of the president's personal security detail.

Several top diplomats also said they were joining the opposition, including Yemen's ambassadors to Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Japan and the Arab League. Lawmakers, editors of state-owned newspapers, parliament's deputy speaker and the governor of the southern province of Aden also quit their jobs to join the opposition and urge Saleh to step down.

Meanwhile, in a sign of the deepening divisions in the armed forces, gunfire broke out late Monday between the central security force protecting the presidential compound in the port city of Mukalla and the Yemeni army outside, security officials said. The compound, where Saleh stays when he is in town, is about a half-mile (kilometer) from where hundreds of protesters have been camping out to call for his ouster.

Maj. Gen. al-Ahmar has been close to Saleh for most of the Yemeni president's 32 years in power. He has close associations with Islamist groups in Yemen that are likely to raise suspicions in the West about his willingness to effectively fight al-Qaida operatives active in the country.

He is a veteran of the 1994 civil war that saw Saleh's army suppress an attempt by southern Yemen to secede. Al-Ahmar also fought in recent years against Shiite rebels in northern Yemen.

His support for the opposition was welcomed by protesters, but the warm reception may not guarantee him a political career in a post-Saleh Yemen given his close links to the president.

"He comes from the very heart of Saleh's ruling dynasty," Yemeni analyst Mansour HaieI said of al-Ahmar, who has sometimes been seen as a rival to the president and his son, Ahmed.

"He could easily become the head of the next ruling dynasty."

In the southern port city of Aden, Muslim militants set fire to a jazz club and a bar, objecting to their serving alcohol, a security official said. The men were part of an Islamist group taking advantage of the city's security void, as police were busy dealing with demonstrations, the official said.

Hendawi reported from Cairo.

Copyright 2011 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

--
*"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."*

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN

16 Nov 1778



ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Monday, March 21, 2011 11:49 AM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

(b)(6) ODriscoll, James; (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject:

Re: ECAT Update 21 March

(b)(6)

[Redacted content]

(b)(5)

[Redacted content]

ODriscoll, James

From: ODriscoll, James
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:51 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: ECAT Update 21 March

(b)(5),(b)(6)

(b)(5),(b)(6)

DM/171

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:40 PM

To:

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc:

(b)(6); ODriscoll, James; Odriscoll, James

Subject:

RE: O'Driscoll ECAT Watchstanding

Attachments:

img-110322130614.pdf

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/172

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: ODriscoll, James
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:57 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: FEB DWE pay

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/173

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: ODriscoll, James
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:58 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: O'Driscoll ECAT Watchstanding

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/174

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:08 AM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

ODriscoll, James

Subject:

RE: O'Driscoll ECAT Watchstanding

Attachments:

ODRISCOLL FY11 Flex Drills 10DP 17 to 21 Mar 2011.pdf

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/175

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:54 AM

To:

Odriscoll, James G (b)(6) ODriscoll, James

Cc:

(b)(6)

Subject:

O'Driscoll ECAT Watchstanding

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM | 176

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:47 PM

To:

ODriscoll, James

Subject:

RE: FEB DWE pay

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM|177

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
Subject:

/John Fusco (b)(6)
Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:17 PM
In Combat Debut, Navy Jammer Targets Libyan Tanks

In Combat Debut, Navy Jammer Targets Libyan Tanks

- By [Spencer Ackerman](#) 
- March 21, 2011 |
- 10:47 am |
- Categories: [Navy](#)
-



As the United Nations-sanctioned war against Libya moves into its third day, no U.S., French or British aircraft have been shot down by Libyan air defenses. Part of the credit should go to the Navy's new jammer, which is making its combat debut in Operation Odyssey Dawn. But the jammer isn't just fritzing Moammar Gadhafi's missiles, it's going after his tanks.

Vice Adm. Bill Gortney told the media on Sunday that the EA-18G Growler, a Boeing production, provided electronic warfare support to the coalition's attacks on Libya. That's the first combat mission for the Growler, which will replace the Navy's Prowler jamming fleet. Only Gortney added a twist: not only did the Growler go after Libya's surface-to-air missiles, it helped the coalition conduct air strikes on loyalist ground forces going after rebel strongholds.

According to Gortney, coalition air strikes "halted" the march of pro-Gadhafi troops 10 miles south of Benghazi, thanks to French, British and U.S. planes — including the Marine Corps' Harrier jump jet — thanks in part to Growler support. There's no word yet on whether the Growler's jamming functions disrupted any missiles that the pro-Gadhafi forces carried, or fried any communications the Libyan loyalists attempted to make back to their command. But Robert Wall of *Aviation Week* notes that the continued "risk from pop-up surface to air missile firings" prompts the need for Growlers above Libya.

And expect the Growler to keep up the pressure. The Pentagon plans to transfer control of Odyssey Dawn from Gen. Carter Ham and U.S. Africa Command to an as yet undetermined multinational command entity — at which point, the U.S. is expected to take a backseat in combat missions. But it'll continue to contribute "unique capabilities" to the Libya mission. Namely, Gortney specified, "specialty electronic airplanes" such as the Growler. (And refueling tankers, spy planes, cargo haulers and command n' control aircraft.) No wonder Defense Secretary Robert Gates hearts it so much.

This may be the Growler's first combat mission since Boeing delivered the first run of the refitted F/A-18 Super Hornets to the Navy in 2007. But its next usage may be more deadly. The Navy sped up production of its Next Generation Jammer earlier this year, meaning the Growler's payload will soon be able to insert viruses into enemy command networks, not just block radars and communications transmissions in under five years.

Photo: U.S. Navy

*"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."*

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN

16 Nov 1778



ODriscoll, James

From: John Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:40 PM
Subject: Oh, THAT Constitution....

Attack Renews Debate Over Congressional Consent

By CHARLIE SAVAGE

Published: March 21, 2011

WASHINGTON — President Obama is facing criticism that crosses the political divide for not seeking Congressional authorization before ordering the American military to join in attacks of Libyan air defenses and government forces.

A Libyan rebel south of Benghazi on Monday. Critics say President Obama needed Congressional consent to attack Libya.

Some Democratic lawmakers — including Representatives Jerrold Nadler of New York, Barbara Lee of California and Michael E. Capuano of Massachusetts — complained in a House Democratic Caucus conference call as the bombing began that Mr. Obama had exceeded his constitutional authority by authorizing the attack without Congressional permission.

That sentiment was echoed by several Republican lawmakers — including Senators Richard G. Lugar of Indiana and Rand Paul of Kentucky and Representative Roscoe G. Bartlett of Maryland — as well as in editorials and columns published over the weekend and on Monday in conservative opinion outlets like the Washington Times editorial page and National Review.

On Monday, Mr. Obama sent Congress a two-page letter saying that as commander in chief, he had constitutional authority to authorize the strikes, which were undertaken with French, British and other allies. He wrote that the strikes would be limited in scope and duration, and that preventing a humanitarian disaster in Libya was in the best interest of American foreign policy and national security goals.

The White House also noted that Mr. Obama had met with Congressional leaders to consult about the Libya situation on Friday. On March 1, the Senate unanimously approved a resolution calling for the United Nations Security Council to impose a no-fly zone over Libya. The Security Council approved such a measure Thursday night.

Critics say the merits of the operation and its legality under international law are matters separate from the domestic legal question of who — the president or Congress — has the authority to decide whether the United States will take part in combat.

“When there is no imminent threat to our country, he cannot launch strikes without authorization from the American people, through our elected representatives in Congress,” wrote Representative Justin Amash, a freshman Republican of Michigan, on his Facebook page. “No United Nations resolution or Congressional act permits the president to circumvent the Constitution.”

Most legal scholars agree that the nation’s founders intended to separate the power to decide to initiate a war from the power to carry it out. But ever since the Korean War, presidents of both parties have ordered military action without Congressional authorization.

The divergence between presidential practice for the past 60 years and the text and history of the Constitution makes it hard to say whether such action is lawful, scholars say. "There's no more dramatic example of the 'living Constitution' than in this area," said David Golove, a New York University law professor.

Still, as a presidential candidate who promoted his background as an instructor of constitutional law, Mr. Obama appeared to adopt a more limited view of executive power when he answered a question about whether a president could order the bombing of Iranian nuclear sites without a use-of-force authorization from Congress.

"The president does not have power under the Constitution to unilaterally authorize a military attack in a situation that does not involve stopping an actual or imminent threat to the nation," Mr. Obama told The Boston Globe in December 2007.

The administration's legal team appears to be distinguishing between a full war and a more limited military operation, on the theory that the Libyan intervention falls short of what would prompt any Congressional authority to control decisions about whether to initiate hostilities. Asked about Mr. Obama's 2007 statement, Tom Donilon, Mr. Obama's national security adviser, said Monday that the administration "welcomes the support of Congress in whatever form that they want to express that support." But, Mr. Donilon added, Mr. Obama could authorize the operation on his own.

"This is a limited — in terms of scope, duration and task — operation, which does fall in the president's authorities," he said.

In the Globe survey, Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., then a senator, argued that a president would have "no authority" under the Constitution to bomb Iranian nuclear sites without Congressional authorization because even limited strikes can unintentionally prompt all-out war.

The question of whether presidents may initiate war has been disputed since 1950, when President Harry S. Truman went to war in Korea without going to Congress. Truman said it was enough that the United Nations Security Council, new at the time, had granted permission. That claim was disputed, but it became a precedent. Subsequent presidents added more such precedents.

President Lyndon B. Johnson cited the Congressional Tonkin Gulf resolution, which expressed support for defending American interests in Southeast Asia, as authorizing the Vietnam War. Lawmakers later repealed it, but President Richard M. Nixon said he could keep the war going.

In 1973, lawmakers enacted the War Powers Resolution, which directed presidents to get Congressional authorization to send troops into hostilities except in an emergency; in that case troops must be withdrawn after 60 or 90 days unless Congress gave retroactive approval.

Still, presidents continued to send the military into action without prior Congressional approval — both with United Nations authorization, as when George Bush intervened in Somalia in 1992, and without it, as when Bill Clinton ordered the bombing in Kosovo in 1999.

Representative Dennis J. Kucinich, Democrat of Ohio, said Monday that even though previous presidents had sidestepped Congress, Mr. Obama's decision was still a "serious" abuse.

"It needs to be pointed out that what he is doing is outside the Constitution," Mr. Kucinich said. "If he is relying on precedent, then he ought to say so. But he's got to square that with his own understanding of the Constitution prior to becoming president."

ODriscoll, James

From: John M Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:42 PM
Subject: -Marines go green...

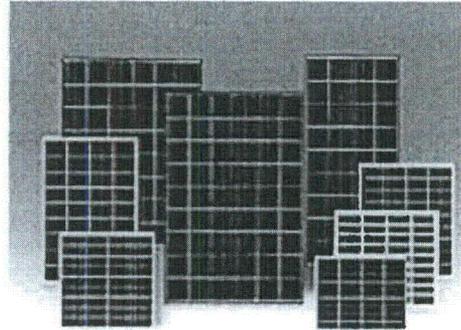
KYOCERA Supplies Solar Modules For US Marines' Largest PV Installation

by Staff Writers
Scottsdale AZ (SPX) Mar 15, 2011

Kyocera Solar and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southwest have announced the completion of a 1.4 megawatt (MW) solarelectric system on the United States Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, just north of San Diego, Calif. NAVFAC Southwest celebrated the completion of the project with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, held on February 3.

Composed of 6,300 KD235 modules produced locally at Kyocera's San Diego facility, the solar electric system represents the largest photovoltaic (PV) system on a Marine Corps base - and ranks among the largest solar installations in San Diego County.

File image.



Through a partnership with AEE Solar, San Diego-based integrator Synergy Electric Company installed the 225 panel solar system that stands on the site of the Box Canyon landfill - effectively transforming unusable land into a site producing clean energy.

Global engineering firm AECOM led the design of the project, including geotechnical, civil and photovoltaic system design. "AECOM incorporated numerous design elements to address the unique environmental and engineering challenges of the landfill site," said AECOM Project Manager David Cyr.

"We are proud to have contributed to the success of this significant project."

The ground-mounted system feeds Camp Pendleton's electric grid and is expected to produce about 2,400 megawatt-hours (MWh) annually, enough electricity to power 400 average homes.

NAVFAC anticipates the renewable energy conversion will save the Marine Corps \$336,000 yearly in electricity costs while more than tripling its previous solar energy capacity.

"The Box Canyon PV project is a very exciting venture that is making use of a previously unusable piece of real estate, and providing a renewable energy source to help Camp Pendleton meet its on-site renewable energy generation goals," said Bernadette Rose, NAVFAC Southwest ROICC Construction Manager at Camp Pendleton.

DM/180

4 The Camp Pendleton project demonstrates the growing demand for solar electricity. To meet the increasing market demand in the U.S., Kyocera began manufacturing solar panels at its San Diego production facility in June 2010.

"This sizable solar installation and the Marine Corps' sustainable energy goals demonstrate its commitment to environmental preservation and advancing national security through energy independence," stated Steve Hill, president of Kyocera Solar, Inc.

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN

16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

ODriscoll, James

From: John Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:13 PM
To: ODriscoll, James
Subject: Re: Toyota

Roger that, good to hear. We bought a Prius, waiting to pick it up. That 50mpg is looking great right now as gas is over 4 a gallon in some places around here. It cost me 46 to fill up the Outback on Ft. Dix this weekend. Crazy.

On Tue, Mar 22, 2011 at 12:09 PM, ODriscoll, James <James.ODriscoll@nrc.gov> wrote:
Outstanding. Two years free service with the car, they are all hooked into email reminders etc, so it's easy to do an appointment. Zero issues with my Corolla so far. Gets 37 mpg highway and about 32 mpg city. The avg. mileage for me is a bit 33 mpg, much better than the 26 mpg I was getting with the 2003 Focus. I only put about 7500 miles on it since June, so take this with a grain of salt.

-----Original Message-----

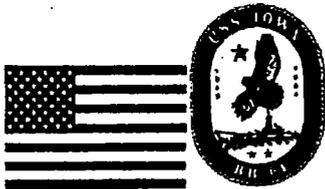
From: John M Fusco [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 7:37 AM
To: ODriscoll, James; James G O'Driscoll
Subject: Toyota

Hey, how have you liked your Toyota? Any problems or issues? How about service?

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."
CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778

Sent from my iPad

--
*"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."*
CAPT John Paul Jones, USN
16 Nov 1778



DM/181

ODriscoll, James

From: ODriscoll, James
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:25 AM
To: 'mailto:Mary.Hallam@dhs.gov'
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Timesheet update for CDR O'Driscoll

Mary,

(b)(6)

CDR Jim O'Driscoll
(301) 415-1325(w)

(b)(6)

DM/182

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Wednesday, March 23, 2011 8:32 PM

To:

ODriscoll, James; (b)(6)

Subject:

COOP Indoc

Jim

Tim

How did COOP Indoc go?

Any problems or issues?

Thank you

Regards,

Dave

DM/183

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6)

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:31 AM

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

USMC Evening Parade

All

Mark your calendars: 24 June, 1900 HRS, Marine Barracks Washington DC.

http://www.marine-corps-video-evening-parade.com/the_evening_parade.html

I made reservations for 10 people to witness the Evening Parade, a tradition for over 60 years at the Oldest Post of the Marine Corps, during our June Friday drill.

Need to determine if I need to make arrangements for more tickets. Please let me know asap if you (and family members) would like to attend.

| V/r,

(b)(6)

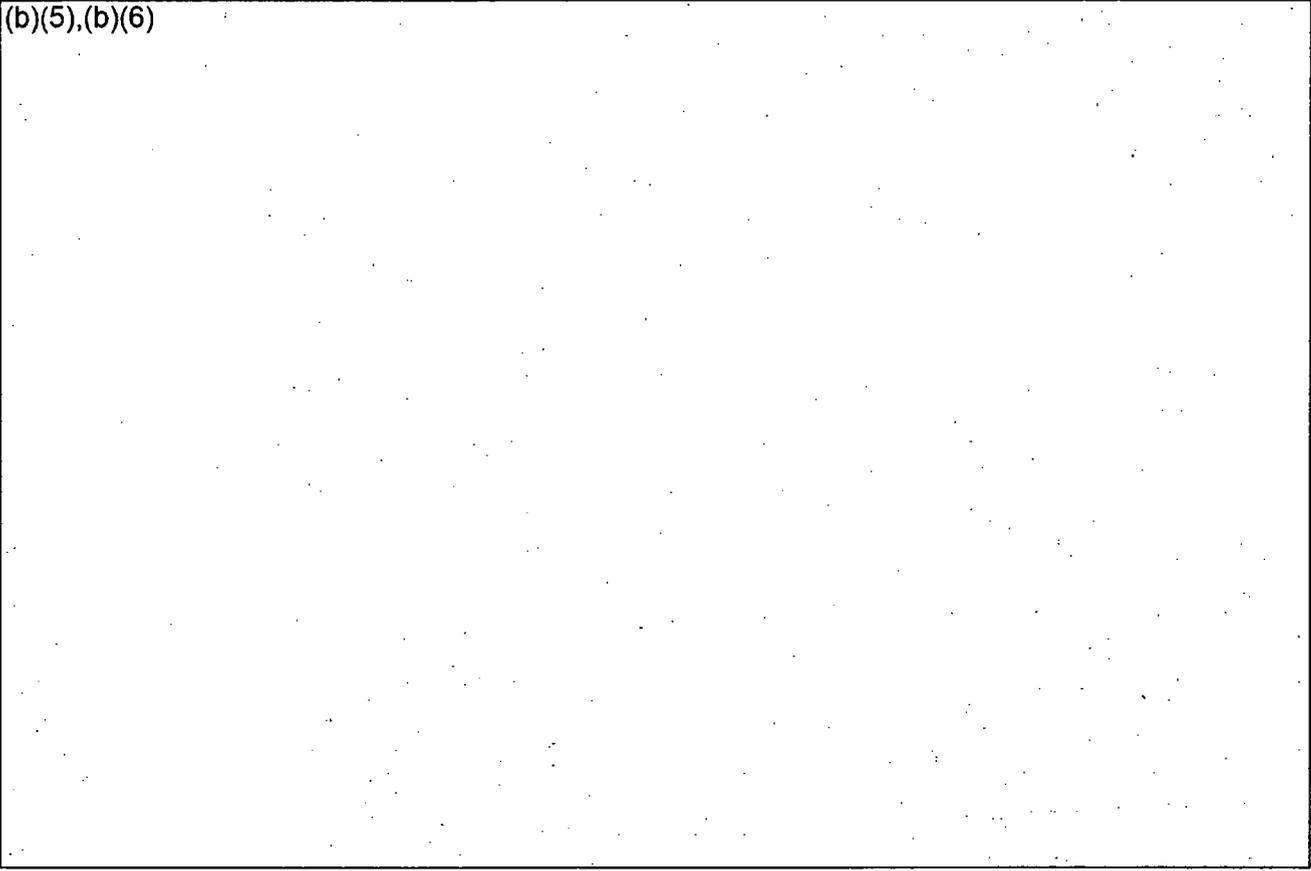
DM/184

ODriscoll, James

From: John Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:58 AM
To: ODriscoll, James
Subject: Re: FW: ECAT Update 21 March

I was wondering where you had disappeared too!! I am back at work today for the first time. I already miss the time off!!!

(b)(5),(b)(6)



(b)(5),(b)(6)



--
*"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail just
for I intend to go in harm's way."*

DM/185

ODriscoll, James

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:51 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: (b)(6) Update Report 29 - Earthquake - Tsunami - Japan

Attachments: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/186

(b)(5)

(b)(5) -

(b)(5) · "

ODriscoll, James

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:31 AM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

Request for More LCAC Watchstanders

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DM/187

(b)(6)

ODriscoll, James

From: John Fusco (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:02 PM
Subject: no thanks...

Electrician at 150ft



Close inspection ... the engineer leans out of chopper

By STAFF REPORTER

Published: Today

A DAREDEVIL engineer gets a close-up look at some high voltage lines near a nuclear power plant.

The electrician was snapped dangling out of a helicopter 150ft up to inspect the lines at Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant on the Hudson River, in Buchanan, New York.

The power station, comprised of two nuclear reactors, sits atop the Ramapo fault line, which is causing concern for some residents.

Fears have grown about the safety of the plant following the catastrophe at Japan's Fukushima nuclear power station, which has been in near-meltdown after a massive 9.0 magnitude quake and tsunami knocked out its power leading to the failure of its cooling systems.

ODriscoll, James

From:
Sent:
Subject:

John Fusco (b)(6)
Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:52 AM
Rescue of pilots...

Marines Face Questions About Rescue of Officers in Libya

By **ELISABETH BUMILLER**

Published: March 22, 2011

WASHINGTON — An American pilot and a weapons officer were safely rescued in Libya on Tuesday after their warplane crashed near Benghazi, but the United States Marine Corps dropped two 500-pound bombs during the recovery and faced questions about whether Marines had fired on villagers.

In an episode that reflected the unpredictability of an air campaign designed to keep American troops off the ground, the United States military said that an equipment malfunction rather than enemy fire brought down the plane. A Marine Corps officer in the Mediterranean strongly denied that any shots were fired at civilians during the rescue, but Marine Corps officers at the Pentagon said they did not know what happened or whether any civilians were killed or injured when the bombs exploded.

United States military officials said the pilot was recovered by a Marine rescue team and was now aboard an American ship in the Mediterranean, the Kearsarge. The weapons officer was found on the ground by “the people of Libya,” said Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, the tactical commander of the United States-led effort in the country. At a Pentagon briefing, Admiral Locklear did not describe them as rebels but made clear that they were not forces loyal to Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi.

Admiral Locklear said the people treated the weapons officer “with dignity and respect.” The officer is now in American custody, but the admiral declined to say more.

United States military officers said the plane took off from Aviano Air Base in northeastern Italy late Monday on an airstrike mission to Libya. At some point over Benghazi, the jet experienced what military officials called an “equipment malfunction,” and at about 11:30 p.m. local time on Monday (about 5:30 p.m. Eastern time on Monday), both the pilot and the weapons officer ejected.

Their parachutes opened but landed them some distance apart near Benghazi, the military said. Although details remained murky on Tuesday, the Marine Corps said a rescue team that took off from the Kearsarge quickly located the pilot.

A Marine Corps officer said that the grounded pilot, who was in contact with rescue crews in the air, asked for bombs to be dropped as a precaution before the crews landed to pick him up. “My understanding is he asked for the ordnance to be delivered between where he was located and where he saw people coming toward him,” the officer said, adding that the pilot evidently made the request “to keep what he thought was a force closing in on him from closing in on him.”

In response, two Harrier attack jets that were part of the rescue team dropped two 500-pound bombs before a Marine Osprey helicopter landed to pick up the pilot, at about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday local time. The Marine officer

said he did not know if the people approaching the pilot were friendly or hostile or what damage the bombs had caused.

Channel 4 News in Britain reported that six villagers were shot by American troops in rescuing one of the two airmen. None of the villagers — who were interviewed by a reporter in a nearby hospital — were killed, although a small boy may need to have a leg amputated.

“No shots were fired,” said Capt. Richard Ulsh, a Marine spokesman aboard the Kearsarge. “The Osprey is not armed, and the Marines barely got off the aircraft. I was in the landing center the whole time, where we were monitoring what was going on, and firing was never reported.”

Neither he nor other Marine officials said specifically whether any shots were fired from the Harrier attack jets.

The military is investigating.

*"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast,
for I intend to go in harm's way."*

CAPT John Paul Jones, USN

16 Nov 1778

