



The National Fleet:

A Joint United States Navy and United States Coast Guard

Policy Statement

Preamble

Since the earliest days of the Republic, the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard have successfully and frequently combined our forces. We do this to support each other's missions in safeguarding the Nation's security, citizens, interests and allies wherever they might be at risk. This experience in peace and war has led to the enduring value of the National Fleet.

The Navy and Coast Guard best serve the Nation when we deliberately prepare our forces for integrated naval and maritime operations. Such preparation ensures the Nation has capable and ready forces to address the full spectrum of national requirements from routine peacetime operations to crisis and sustained conflict. The National Fleet is the result of the successful combination of our forces for integrated operations.

The National Fleet Policy provides direction and guidance for our Services to achieve commonality and interoperability for 21st century maritime and naval operations. This Policy is particularly important in light of: significantly constrained fiscal resources; the growing costs of acquiring, training, and maintaining technologically advanced forces; and the complexity and lethality of national security threats and challenges confronting the Nation in and from the maritime domain.

National Fleet Policy

1. While remaining separate Services, but mindful that the Coast Guard has statutory requirements (14 USC § 2 and 14 USC § 3) to maintain a state of readiness to function as a specialized service in the Navy in time of war or when the President directs, the Navy and the Coast Guard:
 - a. Commit to preparing our forces to mutually support each other when conducting integrated maritime and naval operations from nearby homeland waters to distant waters around the world to include the emerging Arctic environment.
 - By forces we mean our complementary and non-redundant ships, aircraft, and boats; resilient shore command, control, and communications nodes; their associated infrastructure; basing and training infrastructure; and the personnel who operate, train, and maintain them.

- b. Will maximize commonality and interoperability of our current and planned forces to the greatest extent practicable.
 - Commonality is defined as the acquisition and employment of common command, control, communications, and computer systems; weapon systems; engineering systems; and platforms. It also includes integrated operational planning, training, and logistics. Commonality initiatives will be pursued to the greatest extent possible to maximize the potential efficiencies for the lifecycle support of these systems.
 - Interoperability is defined as the ability and capability for our forces to operate synergistically when executing missions in the maritime domain. Commonality provides the basis for interoperability. However, Navy and Coast Guard must be able to seamlessly deploy scalable and tailored forces and force packages on and with each other's ships, aircraft, boats, and shore command and control nodes in support of national requirements.
- c. Establish, under separate charter, a National Fleet Board to implement this Policy. This flag officer Board will report to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy and the Deputy Commandant for Operations and will provide an implementation update at each Navy-Coast Guard Staff Talks.

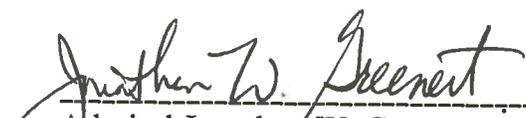
Action

1. The National Fleet Board will:
 - a. Submit to the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Coast Guard, within six months of signing this Policy, a comprehensive plan of actions and milestones, titled The National Fleet Plan, to implement the direction and guidance prescribed herein for approval via the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy and the Deputy Commandant for Operations. The National Fleet Plan will:
 - Identify potential opportunities to increase the commonality and interoperability of the National Fleet. Specifically focus on platforms, equipment, weapons and weapons systems, material, supplies, facilities, maintenance, and supporting services. Additionally, recommend the equipment and material to be procured or developed, training and certifications required for missions and integrated operations, operational energy security and facility energy security initiatives which serve as enablers for the above items, and the operation of our supply/logistics systems.

- Examine Navy and Coast Guard logistics processes and integration initiatives, research and development, acquisitions, energy strategies, information and intelligence systems integration, force planning, resourcing, procurement, doctrine development, training, exercises, and operational planning processes to further develop recommendations for improved mutual support.
 - Validate the warfighting requirements and necessary support functions required to ensure the Coast Guard remains fully capable of fulfilling its defense operations missions.
- b. Review each Service's budgets and programs supporting the National Fleet Plan commensurate with current Coast Guard and Navy policy. This review will ensure Service alignment in resourcing the future Fleet.
 - c. Conduct an annual review and update of the progress to implement this Policy and present the review results at the annual Navy-Coast Guard Staff Talks.
 - d. Develop an annual update to the National Fleet Plan based on this review and direction given at the Navy-Coast Guard Staff Talks.
 - e. Direct the efforts of all planned and existing working groups that conduct initiatives to increase Navy-Coast Guard interoperability and commonality. This direction should include specific metrics. A briefing on these working groups' progress will be presented at the annual Navy-Coast Guard Staff Talks.

Conclusion

Full implementation of the National Fleet Policy provides the Nation more capable, affordable, and interoperable Navy and Coast Guard forces. This Policy enables Navy and Coast Guard forces to effectively and efficiently support each other while identifying specific methods and measurements, avoid redundancies and achieve economies of scale to maximize our Nation's investment of increasingly scarce resources. Given current and projected threats in the maritime domain, it is vital for America's national security that the Navy and Coast Guard plan, field, and sustain interoperable and affordable forces collaboratively to provide complementary—not redundant—support for each other's mission sets. In this way, our national leaders will be assured of flexible, adaptive, and capable forces suited to 21st century naval and maritime operations.



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 Chief of Naval Operations



 Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr. USCG
 Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard