



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

November 28, 2011

The Honorable J. Randy Forbes  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Forbes:

Thank you for your letter of October 14, 2011 on our Navy and its importance to our national security. I appreciate your insights and fully concur that we need to have an in-depth discussion about our defense strategy and the value of the United States Navy.

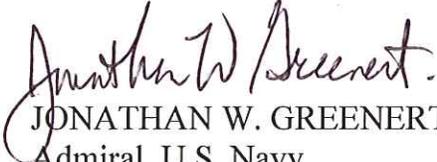
As General Amos indicated in his letter to Secretary Panetta, the Navy/Marine Corps team gives the President offshore options to deter aggression, advance our interests and win our nation's wars in an era of growing uncertainty. Naval forces have done this for more than 200 years by delivering credible capability for deterrence, sea control and power projection to secure our Nation from attack, assure Joint operational access and maintain freedom of the seas. And as our ground forces draw down in the Middle East, the Navy/Marine Corps team will continue to deter aggression and reassure our partners. In short, we will have the watch.

The world is experiencing sweeping economic and political changes. With their inherent flexibility and ability to remain forward without provocation, naval forces allow our Nation to influence events at strategic crossroads where trade, resource flows and information intersect. In particular, naval forces form the basis of U.S. military capability in the Asia-Pacific. As the Secretary of Defense said during his recent visit to Japan, after ten years of war the United States is at a "turning point" where Asia will be its next big priority. The Navy/Marine Corps team is critical to this strategic shift.

Having had many conversations with the Secretary of Defense on the subject, I am confident he understands the value of our Navy to U.S. national security. During a recent trip to Europe, Mr. Panetta said "The most important thing we can do is to project our force into the Pacific. To have our carriers there, to have our Fleet there, to be able to make very clear to China that we are going to protect international rights to be able to move across the oceans freely." I look forward to continuing my engagement with the Secretary, with Congress, and ultimately with the American people to articulate the strategic importance of the United States Navy and our Navy/Marine Corps team. Enclosed is an advance copy of my upcoming article in the December issue of the *Proceedings of the U.S. Naval Institute* in which I further describe the value of the Navy and my vision for the Navy's future over the next two decades.

Thank you for your continued support of our 625,000 Sailors and civilians and their families. It is through their commitment to our country and their courage to serve that our Navy continues to be at the front line of our nation's efforts in war and peace. I look forward to working with you to ensure our Navy remains the world's pre-eminent maritime force and a cornerstone of our nation's security.

Sincerely,



JONATHAN W. GREENERT  
Admiral, U.S. Navy