



Combat information center aboard USS Kitty Hawk.

# The Navy in 2010: A Joint Vision

By JAY L. JOHNSON

## EDITOR'S Note

The Navy's ability to project power from the sea will provide the initiative in dominant maneuver. It is also intended to preclude any possible resistance against our forces. Forward deployed naval forces offer an advantage in precision engagement. They can strike beyond an enemy's reach and mass fires without massing forces. Naval forces will supply the shield which protects joint forces and our allies from ballistic missile threats. By 2010, sea control will take on a renewed meaning: it will require naval forces to roll back enemy strike and surveillance capabilities. *JV 2010* means changing the way we think—a challenge which the Navy is committed to accept.

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America is at relative peace and will enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century as the premier military power in the world. But that world is an unstable and often chaotic place. Despite our best hopes, the next century may be no more peaceful than the last. Rapid social, economic, and technological changes are transforming the global environment before our eyes. Crises, conflicts, and direct threats to U.S. lives and interests will continue to be a fact of international life.

Threats from transnational terrorism and the proliferation of weapons

of mass destruction seem certain to expand and to join other challenges as yet unforeseen. The future presents a major puzzle to the Armed Forces: how do we ensure the Nation's continued operational primacy? How do we ensure that the United States has the best military in the world tomorrow as well as today? *Joint Vision 2010* represents the first step in resolving these issues and planning for that continued pre-eminence. It is the conceptual template for the Armed Forces of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*JV 2010* is particularly significant for the Navy because it reinforces a revolution in naval thinking set in motion with the post-cold war white paper *Forward . . . From the Sea*. *JV 2010* combines technology with innovative operational concepts to multiply the

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impact of all our forces. In essence, it depicts how the Navy will implement *Forward . . . From the Sea* in the next century—how we can give our naval forces a decisive, direct impact ashore in peacetime, crisis, and war. Our joint vision is about more than harnessing emerging technologies. It is about a new joint kind of warfare which will enable us to optimize the capabilities of every ship, submarine, and aircraft by putting them in a joint context where they support and are supported by the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps to maximize the full range of military power.

The impact of this joint vision will be especially telling in the case of our forward deployed sailors and marines. It will put the resources of the United States, including national surveillance assets, at their disposal and allow our on-scene naval forces to act quickly, flexibly, and decisively to prevent, contain, and control crises and conflicts.

#### Opportunities for Naval Forces

The core of *JV 2010* is a series of exciting concepts for leveraging our national strengths, exploiting an enemy's weaknesses, and attacking

hostile centers of gravity. Taken together, they define a new kind of warfare based on maneuver and precision and enhanced by technology and information superiority. Joint precision does not replace older forms of combat; rather, *JV 2010* poses new opportunities for our forces and an alternative to attrition style warfare.

*Information Superiority.* Emerging technologies, particularly in information, will be force multipliers in 21<sup>st</sup> century warfare. Technological innovations foreseen by *JV 2010* will greatly increase the lethality, speed, and reach of naval forces. They will introduce a new dimension to naval combat by letting us mass the effects of our actions rather than the forces themselves.

Naval forces in turn bring a unique dimension to the technologies and concepts of *JV 2010*. For example, autonomous forward naval forces offer new flexibility to the concept of information superiority. They can furnish agile, distributed, and integrated command, control, and information systems that joint forces need to maneuver or mass combat power—without local shore facilities. Indeed, the ability of forward naval forces to arrive early and stay on-scene offers a multi-faceted, high-technology nucleus about which the powerful joint and coalition forces of 2010 will coalesce. But they also give information superiority a peacetime dimension, a visible forward reminder of what America can do to foreclose enemy options and help shape the local security environment.

*Dominant Maneuver.* Maneuver—with speed and surprise to exploit enemy vulnerabilities, disrupt decisionmaking, paralyze response, and break enemy will—has always been an attribute of naval warfare. The unique contribution of naval forces to joint maneuver warfare is the utilization of the sea to gain strategic and operational advantage over enemies.

Projecting power from the sea provides initiative. It prevents an enemy from anticipating when, where, or how we will attack, or the direction

or strength of an attack. However, maneuver dominance means taking an additional step. We will use our agility and information superiority to anticipate an enemy's movements and prevent the execution of its plans. In effect, our objective is to make maneuver at sea and from the sea so convincing and decisive that it effectively forecloses any possibility of successful action against U.S. forces, thereby deterring aggression.

*Precision Engagement.* Naval forces are particularly suited to precision engagement at any level from contingency operations to major land campaigns. In the context of *JV 2010*, precision operations from the sea will employ high-technology sensors, information systems, and weapons to attack specific targets which are critical to an enemy's ability or willingness to fight. Forward deployed naval forces (ships, submarines, aircraft, marines, missiles, and guns) afford joint forces unique advantages in executing precision engagement. Operations can be launched from the sea, beyond enemy reach, then rapidly directed or redirected to create and sustain a lethal concentration of fires rather than a vulnerable concentration of forces. Moreover, sea-basing allows us to sustain a significant mass of precision capabilities in forward positions. Such immediate availability on-scene underlines the U.S. capacity to respond quickly and decisively to aggression and adds a new dimension to deterrence.

*Full Dimensional Force Protection.* The technologies and concepts foreseen in *JV 2010* are a two-edged sword. They will proliferate and be used against us and our allies—at sea, in the air, and perhaps most significantly ashore. Creation of a mobile shield, including ballistic and cruise missile defenses, will be a prerequisite not only for effective employment of joint forces in wartime but in the sensitive pre-conflict period when a coalition is being formed and a conflict may still be deterred. Forward naval forces will be pivotal. In crises naval forces will offer prospective allies non-intrusive but effective protection from international waters, and during conflict they will furnish comprehensive full-dimensional protection for land-based forces,

USS Gates replenishing USS George Washington.



U.S. Navy

especially during the critical early stages of deployment.

*Focused Logistics.* The ability of the Navy to sustain itself and joint forces at sea or ashore remains one of the Na-

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tion's greatest strengths. Information technologies offer ways to streamline the logistics requirements of both Navy and joint forces, moving beyond the cumbersome logistics tail needed to supply immediate support to forces ashore today. In a warfare environment in which enemies can target any shore-based fixed sites or concentrations of munitions and supplies, such a responsive sea-based logistics infrastructure will be necessary for ground operations.

#### Implications for the Navy

The fundamental Navy roles described in *Forward . . . From the Sea* are fully applicable to *JV 2010*. Without question, warfighting will remain our primary mission. A navy that cannot win a war cannot deter one. *Forward . . . From the Sea* made clear that our Navy will be prepared to close with an enemy at any and all levels of con-

flict and use forward presence to project American influence ashore to deter crisis and conflict. That will not change, but the environment described in *JV 2010* will significantly alter how we fight and how we deter—especially by increasing the role and capabilities of forward naval presence. New technologies and concepts will greatly enhance the Navy's ability to perform its basic roles: sea control, strategic and conventional deterrence, and projecting decisive power ashore, but they will also bring new challenges.

Sea control and maritime dominance will take on an entirely new dimension. We will still need to defeat enemy naval forces and secure air and sea lanes. However, in 2010 we will also have to roll back and destroy enemy surveillance and strike capabilities, whether they are at sea, in the air, ashore, or in space. Then we will need to transform control of the maritime battlespace into full dimensional protection for forces ashore.

Similarly, proliferation of chemical and biological as well as nuclear weapons and the threat of transnational terrorism will magnify the requirements of strategic deterrence. Ballistic missile submarines and undersea superiority will remain the mainstay of our nuclear deterrent. However, the precision engagement capabilities of

forward naval forces of the future may provide a flexible conventional supplement to it as well as an enhanced means of preventing crises and protecting U.S. interests at home and overseas.

Finally, all elements of *JV 2010* will come to bear on the Navy's ability to project decisive combat power ashore. Dominant maneuver and precision engagement will multiply the impact of naval strike operations, manned or unmanned, while providing full dimensional protection, precise fires, and focused logistics from offshore will enable joint forces to maneuver from the sea.

The concepts outlined in *JV 2010* can multiply our combat power. They permit the Navy to combine traditional strengths—balanced forward combat capability and the freedom of operating from the international high seas—with the use of new weapons and capabilities to exploit enemy vulnerabilities. But the real challenge is in changing our way of thinking. The Navy has accepted that challenge and will aggressively exploit emerging technologies and encourage innovative operational thinking. We will combine the ideas of *JV 2010* with the revolutionary naval thinking contained in *Forward . . . From the Sea* to optimize the unique impact of sea-based forces. But we also recognize that the real key to implementing *JV 2010* or carrying the concepts of *Forward . . . From the Sea* into the next century will not be technology or concepts but people—our sailors and marines. Visions of operational primacy will not be attainable without leadership, teamwork, and pride in a rich heritage that makes the Navy great today. The courage and skill of our people will remain the true wellspring of victory. Their imagination, initiative, and determination will drive the necessary innovations in warfare. They will create the opportunities for revolutionary advances in combat power and ensure that the Nation has the best navy in the world today, in 2010, and in all the years between. **JFQ**