



WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD

OF

THE

ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES NAVY

BEFORE

THE

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE – Public Hearing

ON

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By

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Executive Director

The Association of the United States Navy

The Association of the United States Navy (AUSN) recently changed its name as of May 19, 2009. The association, formerly known as the Naval Reserve Association, traces its roots back to 1919 and is devoted solely to service to the Nation, Navy, the Navy Reserve and Navy Reserve officers and enlisted. It is the premier national education and professional organization for Active Duty Navy, Navy Reserve personnel, Veterans of the Navy, families of the Navy, and the Association Voice of the Navy and Navy Reserve.

Full membership is offered to all members of the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve. Association members come from all ranks and components.

The Association has active duty, reserve, and veterans from all fifty states, US Territories, Europe, and Asia. Forty-five percent of AUSN membership is active reservists, active duty, while the remaining fifty-five percent are made up of retirees, veterans, and involved DoD civilians. The National Headquarters is located at 1619 King Street Alexandria, VA. 703-548-5800.

DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL GRANTS OR CONTRACTS

AUSN does not currently receive, and has not received during the current fiscal year, or either of two previous years, any federal money for grants. All activities and services of the Association are accomplished free of any direct federal funding.

Mister Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee, the Association of the United States Navy is very grateful to have the opportunity to testify.

Our newly transitioned VSO-MSO association works diligently to educate Congress, our members, and the public on Navy equipment, force structure, policy issues, personnel and family issues and Navy veterans.

I thank this Committee for the on-going stewardship on the important issues of national defense and, especially, the reconstitution and support of the Navy during wartime. At a time of war, non-partisan leadership sets the example.

Your unwavering support for our deployed Service Members in Iraq and Afghanistan (of which over 14,000 Sailors are deployed at Sea in the AOR and over 10,000 are on the ground – Active and Reserve) and for the world-wide fight against terrorism is of crucial importance. Today's Sailors watch Congressional actions closely. AUSN would like to highlight some areas of emphasis.

As a nation, we need to supply our service members with the critical equipment and support needed for individual training, unit training and combat as well as humanitarian and peacekeeping operations.

Additionally, we must never forget the Navy families, reserve members and the employers of these unselfish volunteers – Active and Reserve.

In recent years, the Maritime Strategy has been highlighted, debated and disputed. We feel this is a time where the Total Navy force needs to be stabilized, strengthened, and be reconstituted – because of the consistent, constant, and increasing National Security crisis in a dangerous world –

- **Piracy is on the rise in many areas of the world, and especially in the 5th Fleet AOR**
- **the flow of commerce still remains a top priority for our economy,**
- **Naval engagement and support on the ground, in the air, and on the seas for OIF and OEF has not decreased,**
- **Ever increasing Middle East instability,**
- **Ballistic missile threats (N Korea – Iran) and the Navy requirement to be the front line of defense for missile defense threat,**
- **US Navy response to natural disasters; tsunami, Haiti, Chile, and possible man made disasters (oil spill support)**
- **Humanitarian assistance in the Philippines, Indonesia, and American Samoa**
- **And, ever increasing and changing Arctic issues.**

In addition to equipment to accomplish assigned missions, the AUSN believes that the Administration and Congress must make it a high priority to maintain, if not increase, but at least stabilize the end strengths of already overworked, and perhaps overstretched, military forces. This includes the Active Navy and the Navy Reserve. Reductions in manpower

are generally for appropriations reasons within the Service, not because people are not needed and their benefits are not a requirement.

Our current maritime history and strategy – requires that our nation must achieve the 313+ Navy Ships, not decrease them, and there should be a balance between personnel end-strengths and equipment.

Carriers, submarines, and Naval Aviation are more relevant than ever – as proven by initial and constant actions in Iraq and Afghanistan and ongoing operations in OIF-OEF and throughout Southwest Asia.

Additionally – Navy weapon systems and personnel play a critical role in Natural disasters around the world! Therefore, it is not a time – to cut back.

We must fund the Navy for proper shipbuilding and aviation programs which the House this year authorized funds to accomplish.

As you know, neither the Navy nor the Navy Reserve has ever been a garrisoned force – but, a deployed force. Nothing has changed in recent contingency operations or wars, except that the Navy's forces needs equipment as much as anyone.

We recognize that there are many issues that need to be addressed by this Committee and this Congress. The Association of the United States Navy supports the Navy's FY 2011 Budget submission and the Unfunded Programs List provided by the Chief of Naval Operations that addressed

an increased shipbuilding and increase aircraft procurement to relieve the documented shortages and maintenance requirements.

Overwhelmingly, we have heard Service Chiefs, Reserve Chiefs and Senior Enlisted Advisors discuss the need and requirement for more and unit equipment for training in order to be ready as well as combat equipment in the field. Navy needs to have equipment and unit cohesion to keep personnel trained. This means – Navy equipment and Navy Reserve equipment with units.

Equipment Ownership

Issue: Sharing of equipment has been done in the past. However, nothing could be more of a personnel readiness issue and is ill advised. This issue needs to be addressed if the current National Security Strategy is to succeed.

Position: The overwhelming majority of Navy and Navy Reserve members join to have hands-on experience on equipment. The training and personnel readiness of members depends on constant hands-on equipment exposure. History shows, this can only be accomplished through appropriate equipment, since the training cycles are rarely if ever - synchronized with the training or exercise times or deployment times. Additionally, historical records show that units with unite hardware maintain equipment at higher than average material and often have better training readiness. This is especially true with Navy Reserve units. Current and future war fighting requirements will need these

highly qualified units when the Combatant Commanders require fully ready units.

Navy has proven its readiness. The personnel readiness, retention, and training of all members will depend on them having equipment that they can utilize, maintain, train on, and deploy with when called upon. AUSN recommends the Committee strengthen the Navy equipment appropriation as the House has done in the FY 2011 NDAA in order to maintain optimally qualified and trained Navy and Navy Reserve forces.

Pay, Promotion, and Pride.

Pay needs to be competitive. If pay is too low, or expenses too high, a service member knows that time may be better invested elsewhere. The current pay raise discussions of 1.9% is woefully inadequate when the Nation considers what service members, Navy members, are doing in defense of this nation. The risks and sacrifices of every service member, to defend this great nation, make it illogical to formulate a direct comparison of civil pay to military pay. It just does not make common sense.

Promotions need to be fairly regular, and attainable.

Pride is a combination of professionalism, parity and awards: doing the job well with requisite equipment, and being recognized for one's sacrifices and efforts.

Care must be taken that the current tremendous reservoir of operational capability be maintained and not lost due to resource shortages. Officers, Chief Petty Officers, and Petty Officers need to exercise leadership and professional competence to maintain their capabilities. In the current environment of Navy Individual Augmentee in support of ground forces, there is a risk that Navy mid-grade leadership will not be able to flourish due to the extended ground war of OIF and OEF. Having the right equipment is critical to our Maritime Strategy.

In summary, we believe the Committee needs to address the following issues for Navy and Navy Reserve in the best interest of our National Security:

- **Fund the 9 Navy Ships provided for in the House FY 2011 NDAA.**
- **Fund one C-40A for the Navy, per the past years documented request; Navy must replace the C-9s and replace the C-20Gs in Hawaii and Maryland.**
- **Fund the FA-18 E/F and FA-18 E/F Growlers per the House FY 2011 NDAA & include unit assets for Navy Reserve units currently in EA-6B aircraft.**
- **Just as other services are having difficulties with intra theater C-130 assets, the Navy needs to replace their C-130 aircraft with C-130J for the Navy and Navy Reserve.**
- **Increase funding for Naval Reserve equipment in NGREA**
 1. **Increase Navy Reserve NGREA by \$100 million**
 2. **Naval Expeditionary Combat Equipment**

For the foreseeable future, we must be realistic about what the unintended consequences are from a high rate of usage. History shows that an Active force and Reserve force are needed for any country to adequately meet its defense requirements, and to enable success in offensive operations. Our Active Duty Navy and the current operational Reserve members are pleased to be making a significant contribution to the nation's defense as operational forces; however, the reality is that the added stress on Active Navy and the Reserve could pose long term consequences for our country in recruiting, retention, family and employer support. In a time of budget cut discussions, this is not the time to cut end-strengths on an already stressed force. We have already been down this road previously. This issue deserves your attention in pay, maintaining end-strengths, proper equipment, Family Support Programs, Transition Assistance Programs and for the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve programs.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Nation, the Armed Services, The United States Navy, The United States Navy Reserve, their families, and Navy veterans, and the fine men and women who defend our country.

RADM CASEY W. COANE, USN (Ret)
Association of the United States Navy
National Executive Director

Born and raised in Redondo Beach, California, RADM Coane is the son of a California National Guard officer who served in the South Pacific in WWII as a Brigadier General. Both he and his father attended the University of California, Berkeley. Graduating as an ensign in the ROTC program, RADM Coane reported to flight training in the fall of 1968.

RADM Coane's thirty-four year military career consisted of eleven years of Active Duty and twenty-three years of Reserve Duty. Trained as a P3 Maritime Patrol/ Reconnaissance and Antisubmarine Warfare pilot, RADM Coane flew in the Vietnam Theater; tracked Soviet submarines in the Pacific, Atlantic, and Mediterranean; and, in the late nineties, flew reconnaissance missions over Bosnia and Kosovo. In 1995, RADM Coane completed a three-month tour as Deputy Commander, Joint Task Force Southwest Asia in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As the Navy Deputy for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, he was responsible for enforcing United Nations sanctions against Iraq. RADM Coane was also a qualified Surface Warfare Officer and served aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Constellation* (CV-64) as Tactical Action Officer and Officer of the Deck. During that tour, he also flew the ship's supply aircraft, the C1A.

During his career, RADM Coane held five Commanding Officer assignments including command of Patrol Squadron Nine Four in New Orleans, LA, and Reserve Readiness Command Southeast where he was responsible for six thousand Reservists in seventeen reserve centers across four states and Puerto Rico. His Flag Officer assignments included three years as the Deputy Commander U.S. SIXTH Fleet embarked aboard the *USS LaSalle* (AGF-3). During this tour, he personally conducted official visits to Romania and, twice, to Bulgaria where he negotiated bilateral exercises. His last assignment was as the Deputy Commander for the Naval Network Warfare Command/Naval Space Command in Little Creek, VA. There, he also served as the Director for the Naval Reserve Space and Network Warfare Program. Other assignments included a four-year tour on the Secretary of the Navy's National Naval Reserve Policy Board, Naval War College reserve course series, Army War College Course for Senior Reserve Officers, and the Executive Program for General Officers at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Admiral Coane retired on 01 October 2002.

In civilian life, RADM Coane worked for thirty-two years as a pilot for Eastern Air Lines and Delta Air Lines where he retired as a Captain on the MD-88 aircraft. While at Delta, he served as Program Manager for all pilot Human Factors programs responsible for training program development and execution. Most recently, he served as a trained facilitator for the company's New Captain leadership seminar.

In the community, RADM Coane is the Chairman of ARMAC, the Atlanta Regional Military Affairs Council. This is a fifty-seven-year old Atlanta organization which seeks to bring area military leadership and business leadership together. RADM Coane also serves on the Board of Careers in Aviation, a non-profit organization which seeks to encourage youth to pursue careers in aviation, space, and related engineering disciplines.

RADM Coane is married to the former Judith Ann Osborn of Torrance; CA. Judy is a National Board Certified high school English teacher and Department Head in Cobb County, GA. They have two children, a son Brian, a chef in Atlanta, and a daughter Kathryn Lee, who recently worked for the Defense Department in Washington, DC.