Being There Matters: Around the World, Around the Clock

Your Navy protects and defends America on the world’s oceans. Navy ships, submarines, aircraft and most importantly, tens of thousands of America’s finest young men and women are deployed around the world doing just that. They are there now. They will be there when we are sleeping tonight. They will be there every Saturday, Sunday and holiday this year. They are there around the clock, far from our shores, defending America at all times.

That they are there is critically important because, as in virtually any global endeavor, being there matters. It matters in business: it is why American firms maintain a presence in their overseas markets. It matters in politics: it is why the State Department maintains a diplomatic contingent in nearly every other nation on earth. It certainly matters to our national defense: it is why U.S. forces are stationed around the world.

As the world’s geopolitical and economic climates continue to evolve, the case for America maintaining a strong Navy grows. Indeed, the President’s national security strategy calls for a renewed focus on enduring threats in the Middle East, as well as an increased American commitment in the Asia-Pacific region — a vast, mostly ocean-covered area of the world ideally suited for operations from the sea and in which the Navy maintains a robust presence.

When it comes to protecting and defending America, being there matters. And America’s Navy is already there.
The United States Navy has been operating regularly in Pacific Northwest waterways since 1841. The Navy, Marine Corps, and Revenue Marine (forerunner of the U.S. Coast Guard), explored, charted, and protected the area during the mid-nineteenth century. Naval personnel worked to keep the peace between natives and settlers, and helped negotiate boundary disputes over the San Juan Islands. When the U.S. purchased Alaska in 1867, the sea services began patrols to regulate fishing and sealing, assist mariners in distress, and establish forward presence in the Last Frontier.

Bases and a shipyard were operating in Puget Sound by the 1890s, and on May 7, 1903, the Thirteenth Naval District was established in Seattle. Through World Wars, natural disasters, and incredible changes in the population and economy of the area, the Navy remained a steadfast presence, providing defense, security, and stability. Even in the inland States of the Region, Navy Reserve and Training centers gave testament to the fact that the Northwest, like all of America, was dependent on Sea Power.

The Thirteenth Naval District was renamed Naval Base Seattle in 1980, and subsequently renamed Navy Region Northwest in 1999. In 2005, Navy Region Northwest moved from Seattle and consolidated operational headquarters for the Region at Naval Base Kitsap.

Today, Navy Region Northwest provides consolidated base operations support for Navy activities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota and Iowa. The Commander oversees the assigned shore organization and provides facilities and space management, exercise coordination, and support to homeported and transient ships, submarines, aircraft, afloat and ashore tenants, and our military members and their families.

Puget Sound is the Navy’s third largest fleet concentration area. The Department of the Navy spends about $5.3 billion annually in the Northwest Region.
At-A-Glance:
Your Navy in the Northwest

MISSION
Navy Region Northwest provides shore-based services, enabling the Fleet and supported commands to focus on their mission. The effective management of our installations is integral to delivering essential operations, facilities, and quality of life programs.

VISION
We understand and deliver customer-oriented, reliable, responsive, and secure shore services and infrastructure. We will continue to be the best at supporting Navy readiness.

11 STATE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY
• Alaska • North Dakota
• Idaho • Oregon
• Iowa • South Dakota
• Minnesota • Washington
• Montana • Wyoming
• Nebraska
Security, Stewardship and Community

SECURITY

The Navy’s mission in the Northwest directly supports the National Security mission. The forces for which we provide Shore Management and Integration are vitally important capabilities to the nation.

STEWARDSHIP

Sustaining our mission, including executing today’s operations and developing the capability and capacity for tomorrow’s force, depends on our responsible stewardship of the land, waterways and resources with which we are entrusted.

COMMUNITY

Navy personnel and facilities are an integral and beneficial part of the Northwest communities in which they operate. Our communities are our most important operational network: we depend on them, and they depend on us.
Sustaining Our Environment: Protecting Our Freedom

Environmental Stewardship is an essential part of our National defense mission.

Environmental stewardship is crucial to enable Navy forces to be ready to defend our Nation at any time: mission and environmental stewardship are, and must be, compatible goals. We are committed to operating in an environmentally sustainable way while fulfilling our warfighting mission.

STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

We demonstrate our commitment through our environmental policies, compliance, pollution prevention, and continual improvement of our management systems. We strive to be recognized as an environment-friendly neighbor, actively engaged in community outreach, and resource conservation while executing the Navy mission.

• Navy Region Northwest exceeded the goal of reducing energy usage by 30 percent and water consumption by 16 percent by the end of 2015. Moving forward, the region’s new goal is to reduce energy by two and a half percent annually and water usage by two percent annually, using 2015 as a baseline.
• Partnering in EPA’s “Federal Green Challenge Program” (water and energy conservation areas) since 2009.
• Implementing the use of alternative fuels, green building design, green procurement and management of electronics.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Navy works with other military services and regulatory agencies to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal regulations. We partner with federal, state, local agencies, and non-governmental organizations to collaborate on environmental issues, and compatible planning in Washington, the Pacific Northwest, the Midwest and Alaska.

• Alaska Statement of Cooperation
• Hood Canal Coordinating Council
• Kitsap Peninsula Clean Runoff Collaborative
• The Trust for Public Lands
• The Nature Conservancy
• Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
• Puget Sound Federal Caucus
• Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Program Executive Steering Committee
• Department of Defense Regional Environmental Coordinator for Region 10
• Whidbey-Camano Land Trust
• Washington Department of Natural Resources
• West Coast Regional Planning Body – National Ocean Policy

SUSTAINING TRIBAL RELATIONS

We consult with Native American and Alaska Native tribes on Navy proposed actions that may significantly affect tribal interests. We collaborate with western Washington tribes through the Northwest Navy Tribal Council. Focusing on open dialogue and early consultation, we foster strong Navy-tribal relations and fulfill our federal trust responsibility.