



Guard Freedom of Seas

Americans enjoy many freedoms but one that most don't appreciate is freedom of the seas. Every person in the United States benefits from having a system of international trade. America is fortunate to have many navigable rivers allowing goods to be transported efficiently to ports where they can be shipped around the world for a low cost.

The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps team and their Coast Guard partner protect this system. Merchant ships travel through some of the most turbulent parts of the world. Wherever shipping vessels travel, the Navy and Marine Corps are there to protect in the event of a crisis and to enforce the rules of free travel in international waters. However, the Navy and Marine Corps are stretched and underfunded.

A few months back Iran forced several merchant vessels from internationally established shipping lanes into an Iranian port for inspection. We were able to respond by sending an aircraft carrier to the region. This fall the Navy may have to remove a carrier from the Middle East due to funding restrictions. I'm very concerned what will happen to trade and our economy if the Navy and Marine Corps are not forward deployed to act.

I urge everyone to support investment by Congress in the Navy and Marine Corps team and to convey their feelings to our elected representatives.

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