

# CNO Releases Navigation Plan 2021



Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday, shown here at the Naval Postgraduate School in December, has released his Navigation Plan to the fleet. U.S. Navy / Javier Chagoya  
WASHINGTON – Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Gilday announced the release of his [Navigation Plan](#) to the fleet during virtual remarks at the Surface Navy Association Symposium Jan. 11.

“America is a maritime nation – our security and stability depend on the seas,” Gilday said. “The U.S. Navy is America’s away team, and alongside our allies and partners, we defend freedom, preserve economic prosperity, and keep the seas open and free. Today, we are engaged in a long-term competition. China and Russia are rapidly modernizing their militaries to challenge the international order that has benefited so many for so long. To defend our nation and interests around the

globe, we must be prepared to flawlessly execute our Navy's timeless roles of sea control and power projection. Joining with the Marine Corps and Coast Guard, we will generate decisive integrated all-domain naval power. There is no time to waste; our actions in this decade will set the maritime balance of power for the rest of the century."

This [Navigation Plan](#) nests under the recently-released [Tri-Service Maritime Strategy](#) and outlines how the U.S. Navy will grow its naval power to control the seas and project power across all domains, both now and in the future. It builds off the progress made under [FRAGO](#) and lays out what must be done this decade to deliver the naval power America needs to compete and win. This will be done by focusing on four key areas:

- **Sailors: Develop a Seasoned Team of Naval Warriors**

Objective: A dominant naval force that can outthink and outfight any adversary. Our Sailors will remain the best trained and educated force in the world. We will cultivate a culture of warfighting excellence rooted in our core values.

- **Readiness: Deliver a More Ready Fleet**

Objective: A Navy that is manned, trained, and equipped to deploy forward and win in day-to-day competition, in crisis, and in conflict. We will consistently deliver maintenance on-time and in full, refurbish our critical readiness infrastructure, master all-domain fleet operations, and exercise with like-minded navies to enhance our collective strength.

- **Capabilities: Delivering a More Lethal, Better-Connected Fleet**

Objective: A Navy capable of projecting synchronized lethal and non-lethal effects across all domains. We will deploy the Naval Operational Architecture by the middle of this decade; an array of counter-C5ISR capabilities; weapons of increasing range and speed; and

a directed-energy system capable of defeating anti-ship cruise missiles.

- **Capacity: Deliver a Larger, Hybrid Fleet**

Objective: A larger, hybrid fleet of manned and unmanned platforms – under, on, and above the sea – that meets the strategic and operational demands of our force. We will deliver the Columbia-class program on time; incorporate unmanned systems into the fleet; expand our undersea advantage, and field the platforms necessary for Distributed Maritime Operations.

“For 245 years, in both calm and rough waters, our Navy has stood the watch to protect the homeland, preserve freedom of the seas, and defend our way of life,” Gilday said. “The decisions and investments we make this decade will set the maritime balance of power for the rest of this century. We can accept nothing less than success. I am counting on you to take in all lines and get us where we need to go – and to do so at a flank bell.”

To read CNO’s Navigation Plan in its entirety, click [here](#).

To download a one-page infographic, click [here](#).