

USN issues its Strategic Readiness Review (SRR)

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On 15 December the US Navy announced from Washington issue of the Strategic Readiness Review (SRR).

In September, the Secretary of the Navy, Richard V. Spencer, ordered a fleet-wide review in the light of recent surface fleet incidents which resulted in significant loss of life and injury.

It is understood that the SRR was an independent review by a team of subject-matter experts that examined the systemic conditions influencing and existing within the Navy over the last 30 years.

Running concurrently with the US Fleet forces-led Comprehensive Review the SRR considered its findings, but its assessments and judgments are independent of the military Comprehensive Review findings.

Over a 90-day period, the Review team consulted with leading corporations, organizations and current and past Department of Defense officials and advisors. This team also reviewed previous studies and current instructions.

Furthermore, the review looked beyond the particulars of individual ship and crew performance to examine the state of major generators of readiness; governance, operations, command and control; organizational structure; personnel management; and the fiscal environment during and since the end of the Cold War.

To continue, the SRR examined stress on the force due to operational culture, budgetary trade-offs, accountability structures and risk management. Of particular importance was the examination of the force's prolonged deviation from accepted standards which, in hindsight, had become normalized and subsequently institutionalized. Additionally, the Strategic Review analyzed career patterns, manning trends, training architectures, operational tempo and the infusion of new technologies into the Fleet.

These elements were evaluated and assessed for their cumulative effect on the Navy's operational readiness against shifts in US strategy and evolving peer-on-peer threats.

Key findings in the SRR indicate that the US Navy's emphasis on readiness as the primary enabler of warfighting capability and capacity must be re-energized, embedded and continuously monitored throughout the Naval enterprise.

Finally, the Review provided four broad strategic recommendations that the US Navy should:

- **Re-establish Readiness as a Priority;**
- **Match Supply and Demand;**
- **Establish Clear Command and Control Relationships; and**
- **Become a True Learning Organization.**

The Secretary of the Navy has already begun to take action to address readiness issues, and Navy leadership recognizes that improvements in readiness will not happen overnight—they will require sustained focus, commitment and funding.

The Strategic Readiness Review's recommendations will be examined by the Secretary for acceptance and subsequent implementation.

As directed, the US Navy will execute with diligence and urgency throughout the entire organization, it has been reported.