



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
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IN REPLY REFER TO
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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3501.316

Subj: POLICY FOR CARRIER BATTLE GROUPS

Ref: (a) Title 10, U.S.C., section 5062

Encl: (1) CVBG Tasks

1. Purpose. To provide policy which will guide the development of operational concepts, requirements, doctrine, and training programs as they pertain to Carrier Battle Groups (CVBG).

2. Background

a. Reference (a) directs the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) to organize, train, and equip Navy forces for prompt and sustained combat incident to operations at sea.

b. The CVBG is a combat formation of ships and aircraft which comprises a principal element of our national power projection capability. It is the essential foundation of our ability to conduct operations as envisioned in the most recent edition of our strategic concept, "Forward... From the Sea." It includes capabilities sufficient to accomplish a variety of combat tasks in war, and it serves a wide variety of functions in situations short of war. Simply put, our mission in peacetime is to conduct forward presence operations to help shape the strategic environment by deterring conflict, building interoperability, and by responding, as necessary, to fast breaking crises with the demonstration and application of credible combat power.

c. The primary objective in defining the CVBG capabilities and composition is to provide the combatant commanders with adequately balanced capabilities to deal with a variety of present and future threats. The objective is to train and equip forward deploying forces which are balanced, sustainable, flexible, and, most importantly, responsive to the requirements of the supported commanders and able to carry out tasking from the National Command Authority.

3. Discussion

a. CVBG Capabilities. Tasks which are critical to the success of initial crisis response missions are assumed to be undertaken in non-permissive environments characterized by multiple threats including, but not limited to, advanced anti-ship missiles, third/fourth generation fighter/attack aircraft,



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advanced electromagnetic sensors and jammers, modern cruise missile equipped surface combatants, and attack submarines (both nuclear and diesel types). The CVBG is intended to be a flexible naval force that can operate in shallow, and narrow, waters or in the open ocean, during day and night, in all weather conditions, and under restricted Emissions Control (EMCON). The tasks enumerated in the subsequent sections define the capabilities necessary for forward presence (including timely initial crisis response).

b. Standard CVBG Composition. The critical tasks in enclosure (1) define the standard CVBG in terms of required capabilities and therefore provide the basis from which to derive required force structure. A "standard" CVBG is deemed to provide the capabilities required to accomplish all tasks in a notional threat environment against a notional threat, thereby the means to provide an initial crisis response mission from a rotationally deployed forward posture.

A standard CVBG is defined as:

- One CV/CVN
- One Carrier Air Wing
 - 50 Strike/Fighter A/C (Peacetime Norm)
 - four E-2C AEW
 - four E-A6B SEAD/EW
 - eight S-3B
 - two ES-3A
 - six H-60
- Six Surface Combatants comprising at least:
 - three Aegis CG/DDG
 - four VLS-Tomahawk ships
 - ten Lamps
- Two SSN (1 VLS)
- One Multi-purpose AOE

CVBG's deploying with other than the standard force composition will be described as "CVBG plus or minus." For example, a CVBG deploying with fewer than six surface combatants would be considered a "CVBG Minus." Should the situation warrant a surge of force capability for an extended crisis or contingency, a "CVBG Plus" could be fielded which would include the standard CVBG composition with an augmented air wing (e.g., 62 Strike/Fighter A/C) or additional surface combatants or submarines.

4. Action

a. The Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Plans, Policy and Operations) will coordinate the implementation of this definitional guidance and serve as the focal point on the Office

of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) staff for joint and interagency policy matters bearing on the composition and capabilities of CVBGs.

b. Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet will:

(1) Provide unified combatant commanders with organized, trained, and equipped forces in accordance with this instruction. A deploying CVBG will be described as a standard CVBG or as a CVBG plus or minus specified capabilities.

(2) Provide input to the combatant commanders to ensure that CVBG capabilities are integrated into the Commander in Chiefs' Joint Mission Essential Task Lists.

(3) Together with supported component commanders establish the appropriate pre-deployment certification procedures and processes.

c. Commander, Naval Doctrine Command will develop doctrine for forward presence operations including initial and sustained crisis response measures and the initial phases of combat operations centered on the capabilities available in one or more CVBGs.


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CVBG TASKS

1. SURVEILLANCE/INTELLIGENCE. Achieve and maintain a comprehensive operational picture of the littoral environment including surface, undersea, air, and relevant land areas of interest.

- Using organic assets in conjunction with theater and national systems, collect, fuse, analyze, and disseminate intelligence necessary for indications and warning, targeting of hostile forces, battle damage assessment (BDA), and maintenance of current tactical plots which also include friendly and neutral forces.

- Undertake all source surveillance of surface, subsurface, air, and land based targets of interest. Maintain full spectrum (e.g., visual, electromagnetic, acoustic) surveillance of enemy harbors, coastline, airfields, and other key installations including coastal cruise missile and theater ballistic missile sites.

- Have the capability to take a slice of the battle group (a scouting force, as defined by current North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) tactical publications) in order to extend air, surface, and subsurface surveillance utilizing surface combatants, attack submarines, and organic aircraft. Maintain access to national and theater intelligence systems. Exploit threat emissions to determine locations, intentions, and dispositions of potentially hostile forces.

- Conduct covert surveillance operations and tactical reconnaissance for tactical, operational, and theater commanders as well as for the National Command Authorities (NCA).

2. COMMAND AND CONTROL (C2). Exercise command and control of assigned U.S. and multinational forces. Coordinate tasking of space-based surveillance and communications systems during the enabling phase of a major regional conflict.

- Ensure readiness to exercise initial command and control over organic, joint, and multinational forces assigned.

- Be capable of functioning as a naval forces (NAVFOR) component commander for a Joint Task Force Commander; in this capacity be capable of commanding an integrated task force consisting of a CVBG, Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Special Operations Capable (SOC), and other attached naval units (i.e., mine countermeasure forces).

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- Be capable of functioning as both a joint force commander afloat and an expeditionary Joint Force Air Component Commander (JFACC) afloat when the CVBG constitutes the preponderance of power that can be brought to bear in the theater.
- Be capable of ensuring a seamless transfer of command from afloat to ashore and from ashore to afloat as the preponderance of combat power in the theater shifts.
- Be capable of functioning as an Area Air Defense Commander (AADC) against both air-breathing and ballistic missile threats.
- Have the capability to cooperate and interoperate with other U.S. armed forces and allied forces using joint and combined systems, doctrine, and procedures.
- Maintain capability to share a common battlespace tactical picture with other forces (joint and multinational) afloat and ashore.
- Integrate operations security, military deception, psychological operations, electronic warfare, and physical destruction, supported by intelligence, in order to deny information to influence, degrade, or destroy adversary C2 capabilities, while protecting friendly C2 capabilities against such actions. Integrate with joint C2W.

3. AIR SUPERIORITY. Seize and maintain control of designated airspace.

- Detect, monitor, and maintain readiness to intercept aerial contacts.
- Establish and enforce "no-fly zones," employing organic air-to-air refueling as necessary.
- Detect and defeat a coordinated, multi-axis attack by advanced cruise missiles.
- Project a region of air superiority over littoral landmasses by detecting, intercepting, and destroying hostile aircraft (employing organic air-to-air refueling as necessary).
- Integrate sea-based and land-based air superiority efforts.
- Have the capability to take a slice of the battle group (a scouting force) in order to provide forward Anti-Air Warfare (AAW) cueing and engagement.

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4. MARITIME SUPERIORITY. In a multi-threat environment, control maritime areas including coastal regions, bounded seas, choke points, as well as the open ocean.

- Overtly and covertly detect, identify, monitor, track, and intercept special/threat shipping in coastal and open ocean sea routes.

- Restrict and/or deny transit in a designated area through enforcement of maritime exclusion zones (e.g., quarantine or blockade operations). Board and inspect suspect merchant traffic and neutralize hostile naval vessels as necessary.

- Deny enemy surface ships, amphibious units, sustainment or sea lift assets use of sea space (Regional sea denial).

- Detect and engage both nuclear and advanced diesel attack submarines in open ocean and shallow water.

- Maintain readiness to detach forces as necessary to extend a protective cover around detached formations such as strategic sealift, ARGs, maritime propositioned squadrons, combat logistics groups, and mine countermeasures forces.

- Detect, track, and engage conventional and unconventional surface threats.

- Have the capability to take a slice of the battle group (a scouting force) in order to provide forward anti-surface cueing and engagement and/or to conduct precursor operations.

5. POWER PROJECTION. Project power ashore, on short notice, against a wide range of strategic, operational, and tactical targets in the face of sophisticated air defense systems, during day and night, in all weather conditions. Following augmentation to 62 strike/fighter A/C:

- Conduct coordinated Tactical Air (TACAIR) strikes from multiple axes to achieve tactical surprise and destroy limited target sets, employing organic air-to-air refueling as necessary.

- Generate up to 170 total initial crisis response tactical aviation (including close air support (CAS), air superiority, airborne early warning, surface search coordination, and organic tanking) sorties per day for surge operations.

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- Generate up to 140 strike and/or close air support sorties per day for surge operations over a 3- to 5-day period, and up to 90 strike and/or close air support sorties per day for sustained operations.

- Provide close air support sorties against hostile targets in proximity to friendly forces.

- Integrate each air mission with the fire and movement of friendly forces.

- Provide forward air control for CAS missions.

- Conduct coordinated cruise missile strikes.

- Conduct naval surface fire support.

- Conduct strikes against relocatable targets.

- Deliver ordnance with sufficient accuracy to avoid an effect on friendly forces, neutrals, and non-combatants.

- Integrate TACAIR and other strike operations with joint and multinational forces under an Air Tasking Order (ATO).

- Have the capability to forward position a slice of the battle group (a scouting force) to conduct cruise missile strikes and naval surface fire support.

6. THEATER BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE (TBMD). Provide defense of littoral areas and selected theater wide areas against attack by tactical ballistic missiles.

- Project a ballistic missile defense envelope over designated land and sea zones.

- Integrate sea-based and land-based missile defense efforts.

- Provide Theater Ballistic Missile (TBM) cueing and tracking information to forces afloat and ashore.

- Have the capability to take a slice of the battle group (a scouting force) in order to provide forward TBMD.

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7. OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE PEACETIME PRESENCE MISSION.

Support U.S. diplomacy through cooperative engagement with designated allied forces, normal peacetime operations, and shows of force.

- Conduct protocol visits in selected foreign ports.
- Conduct Freedom of Navigation Exercises.
- Conduct interoperability operations (bilateral and multilateral exercises/training).
- Conduct humanitarian assistance operations.
- Conduct peace support and civic action operations.
- Conduct CVBG-only permissive evacuation of non-combatants.

8. AMPHIBIOUS FORCE OPERATIONS. As NAVFOR, Joint Task Group Commander, or Officer in Tactical Command (OTC) of a task force including the CVBG and an ARG, MEU, SOC, execute missions involving projection of power ashore (i.e., amphibious raids, non-combatant evacuation operations, security operations, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel, direct action, and humanitarian/civic assistance). As CVBG commander, extend maritime and air superiority sufficient to cover a Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) operation against air, surface, undersea, and ground opposition. Provide close air support to MAGTF.

9. INSERTION AND WITHDRAWAL OF LAND-BASED FORCES INTO UNCERTAIN AND HOSTILE ENVIRONMENTS. Provide cover and support to enable the delivery of joint and/or multinational ground forces/equipment, the arrival of land-based air expeditionary tactical units onto a littoral, and their subsequent removal/departure.

- Provide the Command Controlled Communications Connectivity and Intelligence (C4I) required to stand up joint and/or multinational operations in a region.

- Extend air superiority over a littoral landmass to permit introduction of joint and/or multinational forces onto that landmass.

- Be prepared to host joint and/or multinational forces for the accomplishment of limited objectives on a littoral landmass.

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- Extend air superiority over a littoral landmass to permit the safe withdrawal of joint and/or multinational forces from that landmass.

10. SPECIAL OPERATIONS. Execute overt or clandestine insertion/extraction by air, surface, or subsurface means and support Special Operations Forces (SOF) in order to conduct surveillance or special tasking in hostile or potentially hostile environments.

11. COMBAT SEARCH AND RESCUE. Locate and rescue downed air crews and other personnel over water and inland. Be capable of functioning as a joint rescue coordination center/search and rescue center.

12. MINE WARFARE. Employing organic and attached forces, conduct offensive mining and mine countermeasure operations.

- Control or deny enemy use of a strait, channel, or harbor area by means of covert/overt offensive mining.

- Detect and destroy mine laying surface craft.

- Detect and plot the location of threat mines.

- Support attached forces conducting mine clearing operations.

13. SUSTAINMENT. Sustain combat and peacetime operations through the use of organic sustainment levels supplemented by underway replenishment.

- Be capable of replenishing with both U.S. and multinational assets.

- Be capable of increasing the range and endurance of organic aircraft by using organic, joint, and multinational air-to-air refueling assets.

- Be capable of providing air-to-air refueling services to appropriately-equipped joint and multinational assets.

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