

## *Role of Forward and Ready Naval Forces*

The Marine Corps and Navy provide a credible and capable forward presence that gives national authorities immediate response options while buying time for distant elements of the Joint force to mobilize and deploy. There is a strategic relationship between forward presence and access, and the extent to which we maintain and enhance the former improves our options and ability to ensure the latter. Operating with partners forward builds and develops access to protect and promote our national interests. The Naval force's investment in forward presence reduces the challenges we will face if we have to create access in crisis and force access in hostilities. To preserve the credibility and capability of our forward presence, we must:

- Structure exercises to provide actionable feedback on the effectiveness of our integrated command relationships, including under realistic conditions where our use of space, cyberspace, and communications is degraded or denied.
- Explore alternative approaches to power projection given the limited capacity of the Naval force to deploy Marines in a standard ARG/MEU formation, which results from the fixed inventory of L-class amphibious warfare ships.
- Integrate MAGTFs operating from amphibious warfare ships, expeditionary land bases, and auxiliary ships with other forward-postured Navy and SOF elements.
- Ensure the ARG/MEU operating distributed or disaggregated retains its capabilities and its ability and authority to operate as a cohesive Naval force.