

"THE FOUR OCEAN CHALLENGE"

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Because of new areas of direct concern to the U.S., our vital interests now encompass the Arctic and Afro-Asian oceans as well as the Atlantic and Pacific. This is "THE FOUR OCEAN CHALLENGE."

The balanced, discriminating, peace-seeking response of American Sea Power is the answer to this challenge. The reasons may be briefly stated as follows:

- (1) Powerful American Fleets in the Atlantic-Mediterranean and Pacific waters continue to protect our national interests, the interests of our allies, and the freedom and independence of the newly established nations. We deploy the First Fleet in the Pacific, the Seventh Fleet in the Western Pacific, the Second Fleet in the Atlantic, and the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.
- (2) Today a challenge exists in the Arctic Ocean and in the vast expanse of a new strategic area from the South Atlantic around Africa through the Indian Ocean to Australia. This area--the Afro-Asian Ocean--is a power-vacuum.

"THE FOUR OCEAN CHALLENGE" stems from three basic factors which have political, economic, and military aspects:

- (1) The U.S. is presently engaged in a total wet war. This includes all

phases of naval power, merchant marine, fishing industry, and oceanography.

- (2) In order to expand any further geographically, the Communist Bloc would have to move into these areas which are directly and immediately influenced by sea power.

- (3) The most profound change in the history of warfare is the inland reach of modern weapons systems from the seas.

Today, this range has been increased to hundreds of miles--and is still increasing--with the advent of modern aircraft based on mobile airfields (more commonly called aircraft carriers) with ballistic missiles (Polaris) fired from submarines, and with the improved amphibious capability of the Navy-Marine Corps Team. Virtually no place on earth is today beyond the range of attack from the seas. Next year, with the new 2,875-mile Polaris there will be no place--period.

- (4) As a response to "THE FOUR OCEAN CHALLENGE," the U.S. must maintain strong, balanced, and mobile seapower throughout the world.

The Navy-Marine Corps Team must remember always that seapower is never an end unto itself, but a unique and invaluable tool to advance the cause of peace with justice for all men of good will.

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