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NAVAL AVIATION VISION
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Letter from the Leadership of the Naval Aviation Enterprise

In the coming year, Naval Aviation will reach its centennial. In those 100 years, Naval Aviation has grown from a marginal force fulfilling a niche role in the nation's military strategy, to the centerpiece combat force that is powerfully and uniquely well-suited to conduct expeditionary operations and lethal sea-based power projection. This transformation resulted when visionary men and women looked beyond the obvious realm of the possible and into the promise of the future. That over-the-horizon focal point continues today, ensuring that Naval Aviation's support of our defense and naval strategies is significant, relevant, and uninterrupted.

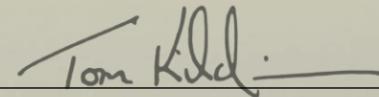
The importance of Naval Aviation is founded on the Navy and Marine Corps partnership. From deployed Marine expeditionary units and aviation combat elements embarked aboard amphibious assault ships conducting expeditionary operations ashore, to Navy and Marine Corps fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft embarked aboard aircraft carriers streaming alongside surface combatants as part of carrier strike groups, Naval Aviation is ideally suited to carry out the national security strategy in any maritime conflict.

On 8 May 1911, Captain Washington Irving Chambers, the officer in charge of aviation, requisitioned the Navy's first aircraft – an A-1 *Triad* – from aviator and inventor Glenn H. Curtis. This aircraft first flew on 1 July 1911. The following year, the first Marine Corps aviator reported for duty, launching Marine Corps Aviation. Nearly a century later, the Navy's newest aircraft, the P-8A *Poseidon*, flew for the first time on 25 April 2009. This book shares the vision of today's Naval Aviation leaders, extending the earliest plans for Naval Aviation from 1911 into the year 2032 and beyond. It underscores our focus on current readiness, the future capabilities and readiness necessary for the fleet of the future, and the people who form the cornerstone of all our successes.

- Naval Aviation is engaged in operations worldwide. The aircraft, weapons, and systems we employ and the sustainment of that inventory are the focus of our current readiness efforts. Maintaining appropriate readiness levels creates the ability for Naval Aviation forces to respond to the full range of national tasking – whether as a part of Operation *Enduring Freedom* or a humanitarian assistance effort. Navy and Marine Corps units apply readiness improvement strategies that keep our aircraft mission-capable and effective within the constraints of funding realities.
- Future capabilities and readiness represent the roadmap that Naval Aviation will follow to remain capable of executing traditional Naval missions while also improving our ability to conduct non-traditional missions in any post-9/11 operating environment. This roadmap outlines the platform transformation for our aircraft carriers, amphibious assault ships, aircraft, unmanned systems, and weapons. An essential part of developing future capabilities is our science and technology research efforts that will allow faster responses and enable precision effects to meet emerging threats to the benefit of our Sailors and Marines.

- As elaborated in the *Marine Corps Commandant's Planning Guidance*, "our Marines and Sailors in combat are our number one priority in all that we do." The people who serve within Naval Aviation bring the skills, dedication, and motivation that will lead to successful execution of this vision. We are committed to recruiting, training, retaining, and improving the quality of life for this exceptional team of patriots. It should not be lost on anyone that the aircraft, weapons, and systems that we design and buy rely on our people to operate and fight them. This stellar collection of warfighters, civilian employees, and contractor personnel will ultimately define our success, and we will capitalize on their diverse talents to deter or defeat disruptive forces that threaten the security of our nation.

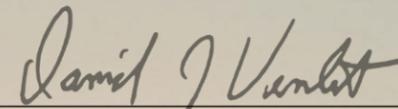
The threats to our country and allies are complex and unpredictable. This vision ensures Naval Aviation has the capability and flexibility to succeed in a challenging environment. It forms the basis for the strategic, operational, and fiscal decisions to be made today and in the future, and it supports Program Objective Memorandum (POM)-12 and its 20-year plan. It guides us to the year 2032 and beyond in our commitment, as codified in the Maritime Strategy, "to protecting our homeland and winning our Nation's wars [which is] matched by a corresponding commitment to preventing war." We share this vision to inform and guide the actions of those in Naval Aviation and those whose support is critical to our continued success.



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