



# U.S. Navy Team Begins Search For Innovative Warfare Capability

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WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy is looking for the next breakthrough in naval warfare, akin to the development of nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers in earlier eras.

To spearhead that effort, a team of experts hand-picked by Navy leaders has been brainstorming innovative concepts that could bring revolutionary change to future naval operations.

"Our fundamental objective is to develop long-term, that's 30 years and beyond, warfighting concepts that will provide great breakthrough capabilities for the Navy," retired Adm. James Hogg, director of the brainstorming team called the Strategic Studies Group, said Aug. 19.

The Strategic Studies Group, located at the Naval War College, Newport, R.I., has existed for some time. However, the group's mandate was dramatically broadened by Adm. Mike Boorda, former chief of naval operations. Boorda's intent was to establish an internal team focused exclusively on assessing technologies and concepts that could significantly change naval warfare, Hogg explained.

In addition to Hogg, the Strategic Studies Group consists of 25 officers, including nine senior Navy captains and another 16 junior officers pulled from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.

The group began work last September under Boorda's tutelage and expects to inform Adm. Jay Johnson, newly installed chief of naval operations, of its progress later this month, Hogg said.

The group has unearthed at least five promis-

ing concepts to date, said Hogg, who was reluctant to discuss them in detail before Johnson's review.

Hogg named two of the concepts that he maintains show the most promise: Cognitive Warfare and The Future Force. He refused, however, to give details about what these concepts entail.

Johnson will be briefed on each concept during a day-long meeting at the Naval War College scheduled for the middle of this month. His decisions and choices significantly will affect the next stage of the group's work, Hogg said.

If several of the concepts are selected, they then will be assessed and demonstrated as part of experiments with real naval forces funded through the Navy's science and technology budget.

"A key point is that it's nice to develop a warfighting concept 30 years into the future, which is very revolutionary, but it means little to the Navy unless we underpin it with technical experiments, testing, demonstrations or advanced technology demonstrations that will move us in the near term along an evolutionary path toward that revolutionary concept," Hogg said.

Other naval sources also said that the ultimate measure of the group's success is whether anything is implemented by the fleet.

"It is very hard to say how important it is," a defense industry source said Aug. 26, "because the issue is not so much the studies, but what the [chief of naval operations] decides to do with them. ... It has potential if they can identify concepts and [those concepts then] find their way into the fleet."