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NAVY FORCE STRUCTURE

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According to the Department of Defense, combatant commanders have traditionally used forward presence to enhance crisis response, provide deterrence, gain trust, create allies, and build partner capacity.

Combatant commander demand for forward presence is at historically high levels and is rising. The Navy reports that it met about 44 percent of the requests from combatant commanders around the world for Navy forces to support ongoing operations and theater security cooperation efforts in its assignment of forces for fiscal year 2015.¹³ The Navy has reported that it would require over 150 more ships to fully source all combatant commander requests for Navy forces. To meet these increasing demands for forward presence in recent years, the Navy has extended deployments; increased operational tempos; and shortened, eliminated, or deferred training and maintenance.