

# American Maritime Supremacy for Peace, Jobs, and Prosperity

## A Draft Order

Section 1. Purpose. Unusual and extraordinary external threats exist to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. (a) The world's nations, citizens, and businesses benefit enormously from the protections the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard provide, for all nations profit from safe passage across the world's oceans that is primarily paid for by America's taxpayers. This extraordinary largesse ends now: Countries will help pay for the security we uphold and defend.

(b) Our actions, policies, and regulatory environment must enshrine America's maritime supremacy to ensure our nation's security due to our requirements for defense, trade, commerce, travel, and the harvest of resources.

Sec. 2. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to build our merchant fleet and maritime infrastructure and to enhance our Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard to guarantee the supremacy of these services and assets in any conflict or challenge.

Sec. 3. Definition. For the purposes of this order, the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps are defined in 10 U.S.C.; the United States merchant marine is defined in 46 U.S.C.; and the United States Coast Guard is defined in 14 U.S.C.

Sec. 4. Renaissance and Destiny. (a) To further the goals of peace through strength, America's seaborne forces, means of trade, and infrastructure must be rebuilt or augmented without delay.

(b) The once overwhelming capabilities of our Navy and Marine Corps, which have atrophied through insufficient funding, mismanagement, and flawed priorities, shall be restored.

(c) America's merchant marine and Coast Guard, which have declined beneath acceptable levels in ship numbers, sailors, and capabilities, shall be reconstituted in strength.

(d) Technology Transfer from America's allies, which excel in commercial vessel production, shall be attained.

(e) American shipyards, ports, related infrastructure, and fossil fuel storage and supporting facilities, which form the core of communities and commerce throughout our country, must be rebuilt, expanded, or created.

Sec. 5. Context. (a) America faces the People's Liberation Army Navy and the merchant fleet of the People's Republic of China as well as an array of adversaries that seek to exert naval power, dominate global commerce and foreign ports, and control access to key choke points.

(b) Our nation's maritime industrial base manifests an inadequate state of combatant and commercial vessel production, technology, and surge capacity, though the vibrancy of these attributes is necessary to arrest severe issues in naval ship construction costs, defects, and delays.

(c) These pernicious trends will only intensify if profound actions are not taken immediately.

Sec. 6. Tariffs and American Maritime Supremacy. (a) The following plan of action is essential if our maritime might is to remain the guarantor of world trade that is just and abundant, American jobs that are plentiful and remunerative, and peace that is made secure by our strength and commitment.

(b) Although artificial intelligence (AI), the necessary reshoring of manufacturing, and blockchain-enabled supply chains will influence future trade flows, America's trade with other nations exceeds seven trillion dollars and will grow as a function of world economic development. More than half this number is constituted by imports, which, with the exception of trade with Canada and Mexico, principally depend on freedom of the seas.

(c) Our Navy permits global trade, yet the cost to protect the viability of the world's sea lines of communication falls on the U.S. taxpayer, not the nations and foreign concerns that benefit by being able to ship their goods over vast distances – so that they may be sold to American consumers. The present condition permits foreign countries and their companies to reap unearned competitive advantages, for they often act as free-riders, which depend on the security our Navy conveys while shouldering few if any costs.

(d) America will levy a set percentage tariff on all goods imported by sea into our country; the only general exception should be for those industrial inputs or strategic materials that cannot be produced or mined in North America. Such a tariff should be designed to generate at least fifty billion dollars per year.

(e) This tariff plan may be part of existing or planned tariff structures. An interagency group chaired by the Secretary of the Treasury shall make recommendations in this regard.

(f) Over the course of the next thirty years, this initiative will provide at least 1.5 trillion dollars to make America a maritime power without equal. (Going forward, this sum shall be adjusted for inflation.)

(g) Split between our Navy and seaborne forces, and our merchant marine and its supporting infrastructure, this money will usher in a golden age that will remake America's might as it erodes the advantages conveyed by foreign nations to their subsidized industries.

(h) The true costs of our underwriting world trade have been buried under the moniker of free trade but have been borne by the American worker. It has been asserted that consumers benefit, but the true nature of this course is now obvious, for its effect has been the progressive deprivation of the American worker and farmer.

Sec. 7. Naval Supremacy. (a) We must restore our Navy in terms of its size and capabilities.

(b) Naval systems that employ robotics, stealth, AI, autonomous abilities, open architecture, new materials, lasers or directed energy weapons, drone swarms, unmanned submersibles, hypersonic missiles or projectiles, and new informational or electromagnetic domains, presage a revolution in naval warfare that America must dominate. We must be prepared if we are to attack, defend, and control future air, space, surface, subsurface, digital, and cyber battlespaces, thereby ensuring victory against any force.

(c) America's goal must be to achieve a greatly expanded Navy by 2050 and to maintain that number of manned and unmanned ships and submarines through the turn of the century.

(d) This unconquerable naval force must be substantially larger than that presently planned, and, at minimum, consist of ten Ford- or Nimitz-class aircraft carriers, supplemented by carriers of a new design, capable of embarking both unmanned and manned aircraft; twelve ballistic missile submarines; seventy or more attack or large-payload submarines; a mixed surface force comprised of cruisers or destroyers, frigates, combatants, and mine countermeasure ships; amphibious warfare ships of various classes; and combat logistics and support vessels equal to our needs.

(e) In addition to this fleet, America must deploy new classes of unmanned surface and subsurface vessels of various sizes as well as new drones of all types, including collaborative combat aircraft. Taken together, this combined force of manned and unmanned surface and subsurface vessels must constitute the 600-ship Navy America requires and was promised in 1980.

(f) Tariff-based supplements must be additive; future baseline Department of the Navy budgets, before annual, tariff-based enhancements, shall, at minimum, maintain the budgetary ratios to the other military service departments as formerly established by the Department of Defense for FY 2025.

Sec. 8. Semper Fidelis. (a) From its first amphibious raid in March 1776, the Marine Corps has represented a mobile force without equal in history. Marines project power ashore. As a single service, the Marines, alone, hold the capacity to field an indomitable combined-arms force; as

such, this service represents far more than an element of America's warfighting capacity, the Marine Corps and America's command of the seas reduce the threat and prospects of war.

(b) Our nation's capability to respond with great urgency to military emergencies that extend into multiple combatant realms is in danger of being lost should the decline in the Corps' capacities continue. Tanks are required to sustain infantry operations and to hold territory; artillery is paramount in reducing adversarial capabilities in any land engagement. These armaments, which have been removed from the Marine Corps, must be returned.

(c) Amphibious vessels will be built in substantially greater numbers, and new means of naval bombardment must be introduced without delay, so that the Marine Corps will once again constitute a military force of extraordinary capacity that guards peace, while its strength reduces the prospect of protracted, land-based engagements or wars.

Sec. 9. The United States Merchant Marine. (a) Funds obtained through the application of the noted tariff on seaborne imports will permit the transformation of our maritime industrial base, our shipyards, and professional opportunities afforded to Americans who go to sea or who build the ships and facilities that permit defense and trade.

(b) Over the next three decades, a minimum of 750 billion dollars will be directed to America's merchant fleet and industrial base that supports Navy, Coast Guard, and commercial vessel construction.

(c) The restoration and enlargement of our maritime industrial base will create opportunities in areas that have been impoverished by ill-considered or imprudent trade policies.

(d) This initiative will constitute the core of a new national infrastructure plan, which will benefit communities located near dormant shipyards or in areas where new yards and factories may be built. Vibrant career paths will be created to enable first-time home ownership, economic progress, educational opportunities, and the creation of intergenerational wealth.

(e) We must work with Japan and the Republic of Korea to ensure that the most modern shipbuilding technologies be adapted from these key allies and applied within American shipyards, whose manufacturing capacities necessarily guarantee our joint defense. Technology transfer from our allies is of utmost importance and must be accomplished in a manner that supports American companies and our workforce.

Sec. 10. Augment the Coast Guard. (a) In a world scarred by transnational criminal organizations, drug trafficking, terrorism, human exploitation, and illegal immigration, America's Coast Guard is of vital importance.

(b) The Coast Guard must be renewed if our homeland is to be made secure. New vessels, with enhanced capabilities, must be built. In certain cases, surplus Navy ships may be repurposed for Coast Guard use.

(c) The construction of several classes of icebreakers is imperative. Nuclear power should be considered for adoption in a larger class of vessels than those presently planned.

Sec. 11. Embrace Nuclear Power. (a) Small modular reactors (SMR) hold the promise to power significant numbers of large surface combatants, commercial vessels, and icebreakers, in addition to our submarines and aircraft carriers.

(b) The deployment of vessels powered by SMRs will convey crucial comparative advantages in propulsive technology and in the production of electricity — to enable the incorporation, into new warship designs, of powerful lasers, directed-energy weapons, or railguns, which propel metal rods to hypersonic speeds.

(c) The Department of Energy, its National Laboratories, and other associated governmental bodies, will assist this initiative.

(d) To attain and deploy nuclear power at sea, a streamlined regulatory environment is mandatory. "Underway on nuclear power" must become a prevalent standard of excellence for the United States Navy and America's merchant fleet.

Sec. 12. Congress. (a) The receipt of monies garnered from the application of tariffs does not absolve the House and Senate from their duties to fund America's military services and to

ensure the adequacy of our merchant marine and maritime industrial base. Instead, the actions taken pursuant to this Executive Order highlight the present deficient state of our preparedness in a time of searing threats.

(b) George Washington in his First Annual Address to both Houses of Congress on January 8, 1790, stated:

To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace. A free people ought not only to be armed but disciplined; to which end a Uniform and well digested plan is requisite: And their safety and interest require that they should promote such manufactories, as tend to render them independent on others, for essential, particularly for military supplies.

(c) President Washington's admonition was accepted by both Houses of Congress. In its January 11, 1790, response to the President, the United States Senate spoke:

SIR: We, the Senate of the United States, return you our thanks for your speech delivered to both Houses of Congress. . . . We are persuaded that one of the most effectual means of preserving peace is to be prepared for war, and our attention shall be directed to the objects of common defense and to the adoption of such plans as shall appear the most likely to prevent our dependence on other countries for essential supplies.

(d) In consideration of the unity of purpose demonstrated by our first President and Congress, today's House of Representatives and Senate must ensure that each of our military services is funded so that their strength is indomitable.

(e) Appropriate House and Senate committees should, in communication with concerned executive offices within the White House, prepare all necessary legislation or changes to existing law, to permit the full and expeditious enactment of the tenets of this Executive Order.

Sec. 13. Enshrine America's Maritime Heritage. (a) The United States Naval Academy, the United States Coast Guard Academy, and the United States Merchant Marine Academy must be modernized to meet the requirements of this plan. These institutions must exalt excellence as their standard.

(b) Maritime programs must proliferate in other colleges and universities.

(c) Colleges, universities, and trade schools must develop and provide programs to educate the next generation of our nation's shipyard workforce, as well as those involved with the creation and maintenance of nuclear plants or reactors.

(d) Students at all levels of education must be taught America's matchless maritime history, including the arduous sacrifices of all who have served at sea.

(e) America must remain the world's preeminent maritime power. This heritage shall be secured by knowledge, vigilance, and action.