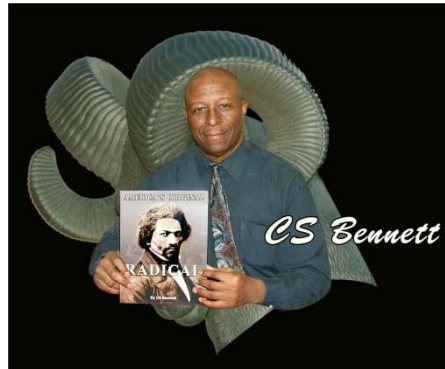


# Why We Need A Strong Navy

By CS Bennett



There was a time the world was dangerous, and being the forward looking country we were, at the time, we prepared ourselves to confront it, and if necessary, to do battle. But after World War II, it seemed as though we had to rebuild our forces after years of neglect by democrat administrations. For some reason, they refuse to see the world as being dangerous. If they did, they would never cut our defense budget or diminish our troop levels as they have gone about doing. It has taken a strong republican president to rebuild our mighty forces every time a democrat president left office.

When I started out in the United States Navy, we never had less than a two aircraft-carrier battle group stationed in the Mediterranean Sea. Towards the end of my sixteen year tour, we were down to one carrier battle group. And during the last eight years of democrat rule, there were times we had no carrier groups in that area. To my astonishment, for the first week of this year, and for the first time since World War II, no U.S. aircraft carriers were deployed, and I mean anywhere in the world.

The Navy blamed the absences, and delay of our ‘operational readiness’ with our eleven carrier battle groups, on increased wear and tear, that have resulted from extended deployments, most of them a result of real world conflicts popping up anywhere in the world at any given time. Others blamed it on budget cuts. There was a time our military strategy was predicated on fighting two major wars and one conflict simultaneously. Today there has been a push to reshape the armed forces to provide for more flexibility in tackling a wide range of conflicts.

We are fortunate to live in a country that has a formidable military fighting force. There are really bad leaders out there and they do not like us. We face major threats from China, Russia, North Korea, Iran and Islamic terrorists. It is incumbent that we maintain a modernized and lethal fighting force, at all times. We must also project strength and be ready to act, if we need to. Americans love to win and hate to lose. We fought the British, the Mexicans, two World Wars, and we are now fighting Islamic Jihadists.

As President Theodore Roosevelt often proclaimed, we should always ‘speak softly, and carry a big stick.’ Let us support our military and preserve and secure our freedoms. This is not about flaunting our capabilities, as some may think. This is purely a matter of our survival.