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CSBA RELEASES NEW REPORT: THINKING ABOUT SEABASING: ALL AHEAD, SLOW

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The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments has released *Thinking About Seabasing: All Ahead, Slow* by Senior Analyst Robert Work.

The report grew out of a broader Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments study to define an alternative US fleet naval platform architecture, completed in 2005, and was prompted by a request from the Office of Force Transformation in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for a more detailed look at the development of US seabasing concepts and programs since the end of the Cold War.

After a historical review of seabasing's role in US military and naval operations, as well as the evolution of thinking about seabasing since the end of the Cold War, Robert Work suggests that OSD should slow further development of seabasing programs and order a thorough zero baseline review of the joint seabasing concept. This review should take its basic guidance from the 2005 National Defense Strategy and the 2005/06 Quadrennial Defense Review and include four key steps: 1) Establishing new overarching definitions for seabasing and seabases that highlight their contributions in maritime operations; 2) Questioning the assumptions that now drive the development of joint seabasing programs—and developing new ones; 3) Reviewing current seabasing plans and initiatives, diagnosing the most pressing joint seabasing deficiencies, and coming up with alternative plans to address them; and 4) Establishing a set of principles to guide follow-on debates and discussions and to help prioritize required and desired joint seabasing capabilities.

The 313-page report offers recommendations for each of these steps to further the debate about seabasing and to contribute toward a final joint seabasing program that is best suited for the expected challenges of the 21st century.

A free preview copy of the report is available at www.csbaonline.org. To pre-order a bound report copy (\$20 each) call (202) 331-7990.

"DOD should slow its pursuit of the MPF(F) squadron until a thorough, independent, joint review of the seabasing concept is conducted."