



## Warfighting Readiness

### GOAL

*Speed up our ability to meet the needs of the fleet during wartime, which requires being ready at all times across the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division (NSWCDD).*

### Background

In light of ongoing challenges faced by our nation and the Navy, it's crucial to emphasize the importance of being ready for wartime. Warfighting readiness means making sure everyone in our workforce understands its significance. We need the right policies and procedures in place to help our military succeed, whether we're at peace, trying to deter conflict, or in times of war. We must support our service members who carry out their duties regardless of the situation by developing and delivering weapon systems to deter and defeat our adversaries. We do this through a hands-on research, development, test and engineering life cycle.

### Objectives

NSWCDD's dedication to supporting warfighters relies on three key factors: our technical excellence, product driven approach and a mission focus. We need to be ready for a shift from peacetime to wartime operations and be fully staffed in fiscal year 2024 (FY24) to meet the demand which is essential to warfighting preparation and culture shift. Personnel readiness is the foundation for ensuring every individual is ready to respond effectively to wartime demands. Although it mainly focuses on the readiness of each person, it's fundamentally about preparing the entire workforce for a shift in cultural readiness mindset. While identifying the necessary skillsets to meet wartime needs and deciding on task assignments are crucial aspects, the administrative side is equally vital. Preparedness becomes especially critical in areas such as training, personnel security clearances, passports, and more.

Command and control communication is a vital part of warfighting readiness because it allows us to respond quickly to the needs of the warfighter and stakeholders, offering a 24/7 support system for the fleet. Our existing Warfare Center Crisis Response Center allows for a sustained response to national crisis and upon notification, leverages our Crisis Response Plan.

In FY24, we are establishing the Dahlgren Proving Ground Operations Center which will serve as the "hub and spoke" enabler for executing effective command and control enhancing communication, collaboration, capability cognizance, and risk mitigation for our technical portfolio while striving for consistent architectures across the warfare center community. The Wartime Acquisition Response Plans (WARP) strategy aims to enhance our capacity and capability, identify and address potential gaps swiftly, make use of science and technology resources, speed up acquisition processes, and create a workforce and culture that can seamlessly shift from peacetime to wartime operations.

We will continue to participate in Table Top Exercises (TTX) like the Wartime Acquisition and Sustainment Support Plan (WASSP). These events help train us to respond effectively in wartime scenarios. They offer valuable opportunities for rapid analysis and decision-making, fostering coordination among warfare centers and the fleet in communication-challenged environments, and enhancing communication up and down the chain of command. For FY24, we are developing quarterly TTXs via SIPR VTC in the iLab with each of the numbered fleets.

Our policies and processes should be effective and efficient, but during wartime, we need to eliminate all barriers, maximize flexibility, and act quickly. WARP playbooks help us respond faster and cover important areas like urgent contracting, purchasing, finance, personnel, security, and cyber operations. As departments support events like the TTX and participate in relevant wartime scenarios, we continue to develop program playbooks that will encompass overall mission readiness of both NSWCDD's technical and support departments. Warfighting readiness success relies on teamwork.

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