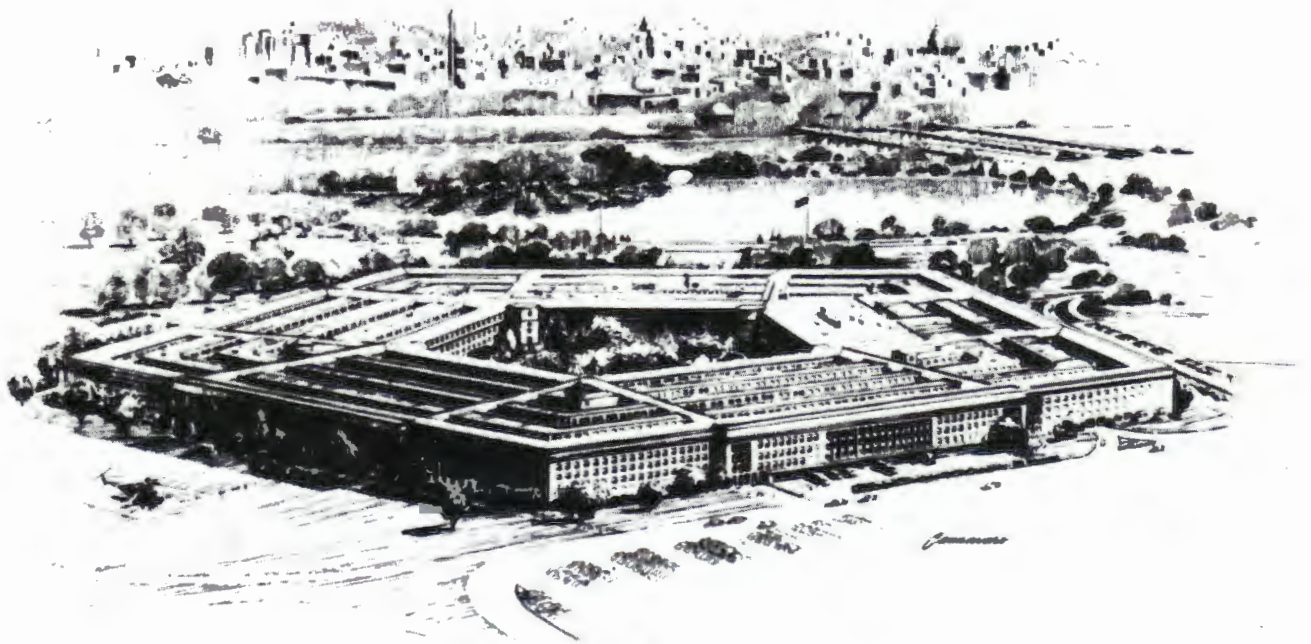




# Annual Report to the President and the Congress

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**Les Aspin**  
**Secretary of Defense**

**January 1994**

## FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION

The United States remains committed to the principle that the world's seas must be open to all nations. The armed forces continue to be the instrument for the United States to exercise and assert its navigation and overflight rights and freedoms consistent with the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention. As a matter of policy, the United States will not acquiesce in unilateral acts of other states that unlawfully restrict the rights and freedoms of the international community in navigation and overflight and other related high seas uses. When nations do not exercise these rights, the international community may come to accept claims constraining use of the seas as binding. Accordingly, it is necessary for maritime nations, such as the United States, to protest excessive claims through diplomatic channels and to exercise their navigation and overflight rights in the disputed regions. The United States has accepted this responsibility as an important tenet of national policy. Therefore, the Department of Defense maintains an active Freedom of Navigation program. From October 1, 1992, to September 30, 1993, Freedom of Navigation assertions were conducted against the following countries with maritime claims contrary to international law.

Country	Excessive Claims Challenged
Burma*	Prior permission for warship to enter 12 nautical mile (nm) territorial sea
Cambodia*	Prior permission for warship to enter 12 nm territorial sea; excessive straight baselines
China*	Prior permission for warships to enter 12 nm territorial sea
Djibouti*	Excess straight baselines
Ecuador*	200 nm territorial sea
Egypt	Prior notification for warship to enter 12 nm territorial sea
India*	Prior notification for warship to enter 12 nm territorial sea; historic claim to Gulf of Mannar
Iran*	Prior permission for warship to enter 12 nm territorial sea
Maldives*	Prior permission for warship to enter 12 nm territorial sea
Mauritania	Excess straight baselines
Nicaragua*	200 nm territorial sea (and overflight clearance); 25 nm security zone
Oman*	Excessive straight baselines; recognizes only innocent passage, not transit passage, through international straits
Peru*	200 nm territorial sea
Philippines	Excessive straight baselines; claims archipelagic waters as internal waters
Somalia*	200 nm territorial sea
Sudan*	Prior permission for warship to enter 12 nm territorial sea
Sweden	Prior permission for warship to enter 12 nm territorial sea

\*Denotes that Freedom of Navigation assertion was also conducted in FY 1992.

In addition, military craft frequently conducted routine transits on, over, and under international straits, such as the Strait of Gibraltar and Strait of Hormuz, and through archipelagic sea lanes, such as those of Indonesia and the Philippines, in accordance with the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention.