



NAVY LEAGUE *of the United States*

Navy League Legislative Affairs Weekly Round-Up – May 25

National Defense Authorization Act

House: The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, by a vote of 351-66 Thursday. The House whittled down the over 500 amendments submitted by members, and then held debate on over a hundred amendments Wednesday and Thursday morning. The vote cleared the annual Pentagon policy bill on one side of the Capitol, as the Senate Armed Services Committee just finished its markup Thursday morning and reported the bill to the full Senate by a vote of 25-2, CQ reports. The full Senate is expected to vote on the measure in the following weeks. There are no major changes to funding levels that have been previously reported.

Senate: The Senate Armed Services Committee released a summary of its markup of the National Defense Authorization Act. It meets the Bipartisan Budget Act levels of \$715.9B for national defense, with \$639 billion in base DOD funding and the remainder for DOE programs, and \$69 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations. The full mark isn't yet available, but programs of interest from the committee-released summary are copied below, with some notes/observations:

It authorizes \$23.1 billion for shipbuilding to fully fund 10 new construction battle force ships and accelerate funding for several future ships, which is \$1.2 billion more than the administration's request. Note it does not add new battle force ships like the House-passed version (one aircraft carrier and two additional LCS).

- Includes \$5.9 billion for Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, which is \$250 million more than the administration's request for long lead material.
- Includes \$7.4 billion for Virginia-class submarines, which is \$250 million more than the administration's request for either economic order quantity procurement or initiatives to expand the submarine industrial base.
- Includes \$3 billion for Columbia-class submarines, which fully funds the administration's request.
- Includes \$650 million for either multiyear economic order quantity procurement for San Antonio-class flight II amphibious ships (LPD) and/or advance procurement for LPD-31, which is in addition to the administration's request.
- Includes \$250 million for 1 cable ship, which is in addition to the administration's request.
- Includes \$25 million to accelerate replacement of Yard Patrol training ships (training craft at the Naval Academy).

Authorizes the full budget request procurement quantities of:

- 3 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers;
- 2 Virginia-class submarines;
- 1 Littoral Combat Ship;

- 1 Puller-class expeditionary transport dock;
- 2 Lewis-class oilers; and
- 1 Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship.

Authorizes 117 naval aviation aircraft, including:

- 24 F/A-18 Super Hornets;
- 10 P-8A Poseidons;
- 2 KC-130J Hercules;
- 25 AH-1Z Cobras;
- 8 CH-53K King Stallions;
- 7 MV-22/CMV-22B Ospreys;
- 6 VH-92A Presidential Helicopters;
- 3 MQ-4 Tritons; and
- 5 E-2D Advanced Hawkeyes, including \$175 million for 1 additional E-2Ds above the administration's request.

Authorizes multiyear contract authority for up to:

- 72 F/A-18 Super Hornet;
 - 24 E-2D Advanced Hawkeye;
 - 625 SM-6 standard missiles; and
 - 204 SM-3 IB guided missiles.
- Authorizes \$100 million to procure Marine Corps light attack aircraft and associated long lead material.
 - Authorizes \$100 million to procure a Marine Corps Group 5 Unmanned Aerial System.
 - Authorizes several provisions, based on the Surface Warfare Enhancement Act of 2018, to improve the readiness of naval surface ships in the wake of the USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain collisions. This bill has been introduced into the Senate by Senator Roger Wicker, and can be read [here](#).
 - Limits funds for the Littoral Combat Ship until the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment submits a certification related to the transition to the guided missile frigate (FFG(X)).
 - Authorizes the Coast Guard to enter into a contract or contracts for up to 6 polar-class heavy icebreakers.
 - Navy grows to 331,900 active-duty Navy sailors, fewer than the 335,400 in the House bill.
 - Marine Corps grows to 186,100, matching the House and the President's request.



Caption: Alan Kaplan, Navy League national president, speaks in support of the Energizing American Shipbuilding Act on Capitol Hill May 22. Photo by James Peterson.

Energize American Shipbuilding Act

At a press conference featuring Navy League National President Alan Kaplan, California Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) launched the Energize American Shipbuilding Act Tuesday afternoon with Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS). The bill, presented on [National Maritime Day](#), would require a small percentage of exports be transported on U.S.-Flag vessels and “would result in the domestic construction of over 50 vessels,” said Rep. Garamendi. The legislation would strengthen national security said Senator Wicker, and create more “American ships

to depend on” in a time of crisis, according to a report by our own [Seapower Magazine](#). [Take action to support the bill here!](#)

Foreign Affairs hearing

Wednesday afternoon the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere held a hearing examining the threat of Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) in the region. Chaired by Congressman Paul Cook (R-CA), the panel heard from the interagency group combating these threats including representatives from the State Department, Department of the Treasury, Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Defense. The Pentagon was represented by Navy Rear Admiral Brian Hendrickson, Director of the Network Engagement Team at Southern Command. Admiral Hendrickson discussed SOUTHCOM’s strategy of training partners in nations across South and Central America, and supporting these countries to combat the various threats emanating from instability and weak governance in the region. The threats as described by the panel included: illegal migrant smuggling, drug smuggling from Columbia and Mexico, and the opportunity taken by Hezbollah and other terrorist groups to make money and attempts to infiltrate the homeland from the South. Much of the focus was on Venezuela’s failing state, and the Maduro regime’s corrupt administration supporting smuggling operations in its neighbor Colombia, as well as the region as a whole. Members of the committee also implored the Administration to cultivate and support partners in the region to counter the growing influence of China.

You can watch the full hearing on the House Foreign Affairs Committee website [here](#).

Coast Guard change of watch

At a ceremony attended by the Navy League, Admiral Charles W. Ray assumed the position of Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, and relieved Admiral Charles Michel who retired after 33 years of service. Admiral Paul Zunkuft, who will be relieved in a change of command ceremony next week, delivered the Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal to Adm. Michel at the Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington. Adm. Ray was most recently the Deputy Commandant of Operations.



Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft looks on as Adm. Charles Ray thanks Adm. Chuck Michel for his service as the 30th vice commandant of the Coast Guard during the vice commandant change of watch ceremony at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C., May 24, 2018. During the event, Adm. Charles Ray (left) became the 31st vice commandant of the Coast Guard. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick Kelley.

Other stories of interest:

Top Stories

[The cost of not having a Merchant Marine – Washington Times/May 22](#)

Freedom of the seas is critical to America's economic and political security, enabling the transportation of goods manufactured in the United States to other places around the world, and enabling Americans to obtain things otherwise unobtainable here, like bananas every day of every year. What would life be without the freedom to enjoy an occasional banana split?

[America's industrial base is at risk, and the military may feel the consequences – Defense News/May 22](#)

WASHINGTON — Underneath the rosy picture of a strong U.S. defense industry lies a demographic challenge for the workforce and contraction issues, a new government study has concluded.

[Navy Secretary prioritizes 'people, capabilities & processes' – Government Matters/May 20](#)

From the restructuring of their offices to investigating ship collisions, the Department of the Navy is having a very busy year. In charge of it all is Richard V. Spencer, 76th Secretary of the Navy. Spencer says that the department's most urgent needs are addressing issues with "people, processes, and capabilities."

[U.S. Disinvites China's Navy from RIMPAC Exercise – Maritime Exec/May 23](#)

The United States has revoked China's invitation to participate in this year's Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) naval exercise, the largest naval drill in the world. China had been slated to bring several ships to the drills, which will be held off Hawaii this summer.

[Day 2 of Fleet Week brings out charity, technology from armed forces – NY PIX11](#)

NEW YORK — Tens of thousands of visitors made their way to the Westside Thursday, for the second day of Fleet Week.

The navy vessels are just one part of the week long festivities where 2,300 servicemen and women converge on the region.

Seapower

[It's Time For a New Maritime Strategy – USNI Blog/May 21](#)

In The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire, Edward Luttwak described the Roman perspective on military force during the imperial period as an instrument of state power which is essentially limited, costly, and brittle—three words that can be applied to the current state of the U.S. Navy. He describes military power as something that is to be conserved and use indirectly as an instrument of political coercion, a recommendation that has long been ignored by leadership in the United States, as the military has been used as an effective tool for direct political coercion, influencing other nations, promoting U.S. interests, and driving foreign policy.

[WHY PEACETIME NAVAL BUILDUPS ARE DIFFICULT – Center for International Maritime Security/May 21](#)

There has been much gnashing of teeth and complaint in response to the U.S. Navy's slow build toward a goal of 355 ships. Peacetime naval buildups by free societies have never been simple undertakings. Such governments usually retire large numbers of warships in search of "peace dividends," from which recovery is often a challenge. If ill-timed, they can result in large numbers of warships that are out of

date before they complete even a decade of service, or need to be retired before the end of the service lives to cut costs. Getting to the right numbers of ships, especially in a period of tight finance may mean holding onto old ships well past their expected service life. Past examples of peacetime buildups by the British Royal Navy and U.S. Navy suggest that while getting to larger numbers of ships is possible, the costs can be prohibitive; especially in an environment of rapid, technological advancement.

[US strengthens capacity building efforts across Asia Pacific with expeditionary fast transport ships – Jane’s 360](#)

The US Navy’s (USN’s) increased involvement of its expeditionary fast transport ship (EPF) vessel type in the 2018 iteration of Exercise ‘Pacific Partnership’ has enabled the service to better service ports in regions that are otherwise unreachable by other vessel types.

[Indo-PACOM? Pentagon may rename US Pacific Command – Military Times/May 21](#)

The Pentagon may soon be announcing a new name for its largest area of operations, with a change to Indo-Pacific Command to “better encapsulate the responsibilities the command currently has,” Pentagon spokesman Army Col. Rob Manning said Monday.

[Swift Calls for Navy Readiness Improvements Before Fleet Buildup in PACFLEET Retirement Speech – USNI News/May 18](#)

The outgoing commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet used his change-of-command and retirement ceremony speech to address the external threat of nations increasingly willing to use military means to exert their influence, and the internal threat of insufficient time and funding to create a ready fleet.

[How the American Aircraft Carrier Became King of the Seas – Popular Mechanics/May 22](#)

In just a century, the aircraft carrier has evolved from launching canvas-winged biplanes to formidable fighter jets capable of attacking targets hundreds of miles away. Although the ships themselves have changed greatly over the past 100 years, the carrier remains the answer to one of the most difficult questions for any navy: How to project power by sea.

[Why the Navy’s newest aircraft carrier was forced back into port – Navy Times/May 22](#)

NORFOLK, Va. — Yet another propulsion train problem has forced the Navy’s newest aircraft carrier, the Gerald R. Ford, back into port for “adjustments” before it can get back underway to complete what had been expected to be a long testing period.

[Back Off, Congress: Don’t Meddle With the US Navy’s Command Philosophy – Defense One/May 23](#)

This week, the full House of Representatives will debate the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, the legislation that, among other things, sets funding levels and priorities for the U.S. Navy. A full treatment of the bill is beyond the scope of this essay; suffice it to say that from the standpoint of one who advocates for American Seapower, there is a lot to like in the bill produced by the House Armed Services Committee. Congress appears to be onboard with growing the Navy and ensuring that it is more lethal, both of which are to be encouraged. Yet the bill does much more than that, and one provision contained within it is worthy of closer examination and ultimately, removal.

Homeland

[Fleet Week rebuilds around upcoming Navy battle with Notre Dame – San Diego UT/May 22](#)

The nonprofit organization that stages Fleet Week is back in the black and rebuilding around this year’s San Diego football game between Notre Dame and Navy.

Pushed to the brink of insolvency in late 2016 after 15 years of boom-or-bust financing, the Fleet Week San Diego Foundation nixed the Coronado Speed Festival for last year's celebration of the active-duty military.

[Thirty-five years later, Naval Academy graduate speaking at graduation as under secretary – Capital Gazette/May 18](#)

On Friday, Crownsville resident and Under Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly will address the Naval Academy's Class of 2018. The event falls 35 years to the day after his own graduation.

[Norfolk training: 'No ship is worth the life of a firefighter' – Stars and Stripes/May 18](#)

NORFOLK, Va. — Fighting fires is among the most dangerous of professions. The Federal Emergency Management Agency reports that 93 firefighters lost their lives last year and 38 have been killed in the line of duty in 2018.

[Navy ships sent elsewhere for repairs leads to salvo from Florida politicians – Stars and Stripes/May 20](#)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — From routine maintenance to engine overhauls, plenty of companies in Northeast Florida are ready to offer the necessary services when the military needs work done. So when that work goes elsewhere, it's no surprise politicians get involved.

[Ship Tech: U.S. Coast Guard R&D Center – MarineLink/May 23](#)

The U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center (RDC) in New London, Connecticut, is the service's only command conducting research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) support for all 11 statutory missions. Since its commissioning in 1972, RDC has been involved in over 2,000 projects and initiatives that have significantly benefited the Coast Guard and the components of the Maritime Transportation System.

[The Inexorable Retreat of the US Merchant Marine Today Only Transports 2% In Value of the Goods That Transit Through The US Ports – Maritime Herald/May 22](#)

The once powerful fleet of the US merchant marine is on the verge of collapse under the weight of high labour costs, federal zigzag policies and intense competition from abroad, damaging the ability of the United States to be the only country in the world with the power to supply and sustain a long-distance war.

Surface Warfare

[U.S. Naval Accidents Revisited – Real Clear Defense/May 21](#)

The U.S. Navy is usually acknowledged as the biggest and best navy in the world. It is by far the biggest, and the best in terms of the hardware of naval warfare, although that position is now being challenged by China in some dimensions, such as missile technology and a ship-mounted electromagnetic railgun.

[Rep. Wittman Pushing Trio of U.S. Navy Surface Warfare Community Reforms – USNI News/May 22](#)

Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Va.) is pushing a trio of legislative reform efforts to professionalize surface warfare officer training and simplify command and control for forward forces in an effort to prevent avoidable mishaps like the two fatal collisions the U.S. Navy suffered in 2017.

[Women power at full throttle with USS Manchester – Stars and Stripes/May 20](#)

PORTSMOUTH — The strength and force of the 608-ton, 421-foot future USS Manchester is undeniable. But perhaps one of the most historic aspects of the U.S. Navy's newest littoral combat ship is the clout of the women behind it.

[Forward Deployed Carrier USS Ronald Reagan Back in Port After Sea Trials – USNI News/May 20](#)

Aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76) is back in port after a week's worth of sea trials, according to U.S. 7th Fleet.

Tests included, "the execution of high-speed turns, sea and anchor evolutions, precision anchoring trials, testing of countermeasure wash-down and aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) systems and testing of the ship's self-defense weapons system," according to the statement.

[Could this be the new US Navy frigate design? – Navy Times/May 18](#)

NORFOLK, Va. — The Italian navy frigate Alpino visited Norfolk this week after participating in exercises with U.S. ships while at sea.

But its mission goes deeper than that, as the Italian Defense Ministry also says it's here to hopefully interest U.S. officials in the ship's design and capabilities as the U.S. Navy investigates future frigate designs.

[DDG 51 Program Marks Start of Construction Milestones at BIW, HII – Seapower Magazine/May 17](#)

WASHINGTON — The Navy's Arleigh Burke-class (DDG 51) destroyers continue to achieve shipbuilding milestones with start of construction at both shipbuilders, Bath Iron Works (BIW), Bath, Maine, and Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII), Pascagoula, Mississippi, Naval Sea Systems Command said in a May 17 release.

[USS Blue Ridge ignites its boilers for first time in 2 years – Stars and Stripes/May 24](#)

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS Blue Ridge lit its boilers for the first time in two years this week, signifying a big step toward bringing the Navy's oldest deployable warship back to sailing condition.

Personnel

[Retired SEAL to Receive Medal of Honor at the White House Today – Military.com/May 24](#)

At a White House ceremony Thursday, President Donald Trump will present the Medal of Honor to a retired Navy SEAL who led a daring mission to rescue a teammate from a mountain top in Afghanistan during Operation Anaconda in 2002.

[This Marine Will Be The Corps 1st Female Lt. General In 9 Years – Task and Purpose/May 23](#)

Marine Maj. Gen. Loretta Reynolds, currently head of Marine Corps Forces Cyber Command, has been nominated to be the Corps' first female three-star general in nearly a decade, officials announced recently.

[Navy Drops Homicide Charge Against USS McCain's CO – Maritime Exec/May 23](#)

The U.S. Navy's prosecutors have dropped a charge of negligent homicide against Commander Alfredo Sanchez, the former commanding officer of the USS John S. McCain, for his role in the vessel's collision with a merchant tanker last year. The accident, which took the lives of 10 sailors, occurred while Cmdr. Sanchez was on the bridge, and a Navy investigation found that watchstanders' errors were the primary cause.

Aviation

[NASA Finds Boeing Showed 'No Initiative' to Fix F/A-18 Hypoxia – Real Clear Defense/May 21](#)

In a little-noticed addendum to NASA's report on the unexplained physiological episodes plaguing U.S. Navy F/A-18 pilots, the agency concluded that Boeing, the manufacturer, showed “no initiative” to fix the problem.

[Here's how House lawmakers plan to fix the US military's hypoxia problem – Defense News/May 17](#)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy and Air Force still don't know what is causing an influx of physiological episodes impacting pilots of tactical aircraft like the F-35 and F/A-18 Hornet, but House lawmakers are dealing with it in a characteristically congressional fashion: by ordering studies and throwing money at the problem.

[The F-35 Could Become a 'Navy' Killer \(Thanks to Norway\) – National Interest/May 20](#)

In the mid 2000s, the Royal Norwegian Navy was looking to select a new anti-ship missile (ASM) to equip their ships. They looked at all foreign offerings, didn't find any missile satisfactory, and instead drew up their own set of requirements. The requirements were: to meet the challenges of a future (up to 2040) ship-to-ship combat environment; to have a high probability of penetrating enemy air defense and countermeasures; to be effective in confined and open waters; and to be easily adaptable to different platforms.

[FRC East Completes First F-35C Modification – Seapower Magazine/May 21](#)

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, N.C. — Fleet Readiness Center (FRC) East achieved another accomplishment for its support of the F-35 Lightning II program May 17, 2018, the center announced in a May 18 release.

[Investigation: 2017 Osprey Crash Due to Heavy Downwash; Excessive Aircraft Weight May Have Contributed – USNI News/May 21](#)

In December 2015, the Marine Corps saw a near-miss when an MV-22B Osprey landed short of its parking spot on an amphibious transport dock's flight deck. The aircraft hung halfway off the back of the ship, but the crew and 22 passengers evacuated safely and the aircraft clung to the ship as it returned to port.

[Lockheed Martin Tests Long-Range Anti-Ship Missiles for Super Hornet Requirement – Seapower Magazine/May 23](#)

ORLANDO, Fla. – Lockheed Martin announced on Wednesday it has successfully fired two production representative Long-Range Anti-Ship Missiles (LRASMs) from a U.S. Air Force B-1B.

Jones Act discussion – *As you read these articles remember the Navy and Coast Guard leaders have said the Jones Act is critical for the military, oppose repeal now at our [Voice to Congress website](#) if you haven't taken action already!*

[U.S. Senators Seek Jones Act Attention – Lexology.com/May 22](#)

On May 21, 2018, 11 U.S. senators led by Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana sent a letter to Mr. Larry Kudlow, Director of the National Economic Council, and Mr. John Bolton, National Security Advisor, seeking attention to the Jones Act. That Act restricts U.S. domestic maritime commerce to U.S.-flag vessels built in the United States and owned and operated by qualified U.S. citizens, absent an exception.

[Fight over America's Finest vessel part of bigger processor battle – Alaska Journal of Commerce/May 23](#)

The ship was built with too much foreign steel in its hull, a Jones Act violation, and it may be sold at a loss, probably to Russia. The Jones Act, which is intended to protect American ship-building and jobs, allows for no more than 1.5 percent foreign steel in a vessel. The America's Finest has 7.5 percent.



180523-N-UN744-0164 NEW YORK (May 23, 2018) The amphibious transport dock ship USS Arlington (LPD 24) passing the Statue of Liberty during Fleet Week New York's (FWNY) Parade of Ships. FWNY is the city's time-honored celebration of the sea services and is an unparalleled opportunity for the citizens of New York and the surrounding tri-state area to meet Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, as well as witness the latest capabilities of today's maritime services. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Travis Simmons/Released)