



NAVY LEAGUE

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Navy League Legislative Affairs Weekly Round-Up – May 4

With Congress on recess this week there isn't much action on the Hill, coverage of the 2019 National Defense Authorization will continue next week.

Jones Act

The Wall Street Journal published an op-ed titled "[The Jones Act Drives America's Finest Into Exile,](#)" a highly misleading piece by an analyst at the Cato Institute, a Jones Act opponent.

At the Navy League's most widely attended Sea Air Space Exposition maritime and homeland security experts convened on a panel to discuss the Jones Act and all were in consensus about its continuing necessity. You can watch the video [here](#). Speaking on the panel former MARAD Administrator Paul Jaenichen [called the Act](#) "an integral part of the nation's border protection."

State of the Navy

May 2 at the Pentagon the Department of the Navy [held a press briefing on the State of the Navy](#) featuring the service's three top leaders, Secretary Richard V. Spencer, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral John Richardson, and Marine Corps Commandant General Robert Neller.



Aviation Electronics Mate Airman Adam Lowery, front, and Aviation Electronics Technician Airman Tyler Humphries, conduct routine maintenance on an MH-60S Sea Hawk. Naval Air Forces identified a six-year rise in Class C mishaps, many during routine maintenance. (MC2 Jesse L. Gonzalez/Navy).

Other stories of interest:

[Is Secretary of Defense Mattis planning radical changes to how the Navy deploys? – Defense News/May 2](#)

WASHINGTON — A typical carrier deployment from Norfolk goes like this: A tearful goodbye on the pier, a trip across the Atlantic, then one or maybe two port visits in Europe before heading through “The Ditch” and into U.S. Central Command territory. There you will stay for the bulk of the cruise before returning the way you came.

[Navy Reestablishes U.S. 2nd Fleet to Face Russian Threat; Plan Calls for 250 Person Command in Norfolk – USNI News/May 4](#)

Faced with a more active Russian fleet and increasing military competition across the world, the Navy has elected to reestablish U.S. 2nd Fleet to manage assets closer to the homeland, according to a memo announcing the command obtained by USNI News.

[Aucoin: Navy Knew About 7th Fleet's Problems – Maritime Exec/Apr 30](#)

Since last year's deadly collisions involving the destroyers USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain, the Navy has made mid-level leadership development a top priority. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson has urged all officers to feel empowered to speak up when their units aren't ready to go; he is retooling the sailor fitness report (FITREP) to incorporate ethics and character; and he has launched a new "College of Leadership and Ethics."

[Navy to stop announcing names of officials fired for misconduct: report - The Hill/May 2](#)

The Navy has stopped announcing the names of commanders removed from their positions for misconduct or bad performance, USA Today reported on Wednesday.

[CNO: Navy Can Learn From Syria Strikes to Prepare for Higher-End Conflicts – USNI News/May 2](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Navy is studying its recent strikes on Syria to understand how the fleet performed well in a real-world event and how it may need to perform differently in a future higher-end engagement, the chief of naval operations said on Wednesday.

[USS George Washington Will Return to Japan After Midlife Refueling, Overhaul – USNI News/May 4](#)

USS George Washington (CVN-73) will return to Japan as the Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier once it completes a four-year Refueling and Complex Overhaul at Newport News Shipbuilding, USNI News has learned.

[US Training Ship to Aid Puerto Rico Recovery – Marine Link/May 4](#)

More than 400 SUNY Maritime College students and others this summer will spend three days assisting ongoing hurricane recovery efforts in San Juan, Puerto Rico, during the college's annual summer sea term onboard Training Ship Empire State VI. The ship will leave the college campus, bound for San Juan, on May 7.

[Naval aviation plagued by 'disturbing' trend of ground mishaps – Navy Times/May 3](#)

The Navy's air boss announced that "Class C" ground mishaps in naval aviation have doubled in the past decade, and he's made eliminating the mistakes his current No. 2 priority — behind the continued efforts to eliminate cockpit physiological episodes.

[Shelby likes Austal's chances for Navy frigate contract – Binghamton News/May 1](#)

Sen. Richard Shelby's clout may have risen in Washington this year, but he said Tuesday that won't give him more influence over a Navy shipbuilding contract that could be a boon for Mobile-based Austal USA.

[Blockchain Can Protect the Supply Chain – USNI Magazine/May 2018](#)

When the government of Britain presented the administration of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson with what became known as “ the Zimmerman Telegram ” in 1917, it created a quandary for the U.S. government. The message appeared to be a proposal from Germany to Mexico to form an alliance against the United States, with Germany offering Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona to Mexico in the event of a victorious outcome. But was it genuine?

[Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center’s Role Evolving as Warfare Advocate, Trainer – USNI News/May 3](#)

When the U.S. Navy conducted strikes on Syrian targets last month, the Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center (SMWDC) was on hand to provide expertise on conducting high-end tactics in a complex environment. When U.S. Navy ships were targeted by Houthi anti-ship cruise missiles in October 2016, SMWDC swarmed in afterwards to understand what happened and how to learn from it. And when operators in the Mediterranean Sea needed additional protection from growing threats in the region, SMWDC experts joined an effort to help integrate the SeaRAM weapon system with ballistic missile defense destroyers and write the tactics and procedures so sailors could operate safely in the region.

[LPD to be Named for Navy Medal of Honor Recipient – Seapower Magazine/May 2](#)

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Navy’s 13th San Antonio-class amphibious dock ship (LPD) will be named for a naval officer who was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry during a kamikaze attack during the 1945 Okinawa campaign.

[Here’s the latest on America’s next supercarriers – Defense News/May 3](#)

WASHINGTON — The future Ford-class aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy is nearing the halfway mark, the head of Huntington Ingalls said Thursday.

In a conference call with investors, Ingalls chief executive Mike Petters said the Kennedy, being built in Newport News Shipbuilding, was tracking to launch ahead of schedule.



180430-N-ZH683-0145 MEDITERRANEAN SEA (Apr. 30, 2018) An F/A-18E Super Hornet, assigned to the “Knighthawks” of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 136, takes off from the flight deck aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75). Truman is currently deployed as part of an ongoing rotation of U.S. forces supporting maritime security operations in international waters around the globe. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Juan Sotolongo/Released)

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