



NAVY LEAGUE of the United States

Navy League Legislative Affairs Weekly Round-Up – June 15

NDA in the Senate

The Senate Armed Services Committee released its report and summary of its National Defense Authorization Act markup, which was approved in a 25-2 vote in late May. It includes a total of \$716 billion in fiscal year 2019 for national defense including a base budget of \$617.6 billion for the Department of Defense, \$21.6 billion for the Department of Energy, and \$69 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations. Includes provisions based on the *Surface Warfare Enhancement Act of 2018*, to improve naval readiness surface ships after collisions in the Pacific. The markup authorizes an increase in end strength to 331,900 (4,000 more than 2018 but less than the 335,400 the Administration requested) in the Navy; and 186,100 in the Marine Corps (100 more than 2018 and matching the request). It also includes a 2.6% pay raise and increases R&D spending by \$1.2 billion.

Shipbuilding: \$23.1 billion for 10 new construction ships and accelerate funding for several future ships, \$1.2 billion more than the administration's request. Also provides \$9.7 billion for depots which matches the request.

- \$5.9 billion for Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, which is \$250 million more than the administration's request for long lead material.
- \$7.4 billion for 2 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.
- \$3 billion for Columbia-class submarines, which fully funds the administration's request.
- Eliminates funding from the DDG-1000 Zumwalt-class program
- \$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.
- \$250 million for 1 cable ship, which is in addition to the administration's request.
- \$25 million to accelerate replacement of Yard Patrol training ships.

Authorizes the full budget request for:

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

Naval Aviation: Authorizes 117 aircraft

- F-35: Authorizes 2 aircraft fewer than the administration's request to realign the program towards sustainment.
 - \$2.4 billion to procure 20 F-35B fighters

- *\$1.1 billion* to procure 8 F-35C fighters.
 - 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.
- 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.
 - Authorizes \$2.3 billion to procure 14 KC-46 aircraft, which is 1 aircraft fewer than the administration's request, to restore program accountability.

House marks up Defense Appropriations

The full House Appropriations committee [passed the Fiscal Year 2019 defense spending bill](#) Wednesday after the Defense Subcommittee markup of the **\$674.6 billion** bill last Thursday. The legislation includes \$606.5B in base defense funding and \$68.1B in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) dollars. The bill gives a 2.6% raise for all military personnel, matching the Administration's request, a breakdown of the portions relevant to the Navy League are below.

Total Department of the Navy (DON) Base funding: \$181 billion [1% increase over the Administration's FY2019 Budget Request]

- Navy End Strength: 335,400 (same as request and 7500 more than 2018)
 - USMC End Strength: 186,100 (same as request and 100 more than 2018)
- Navy Reserve End Strength: 59,100
 - USMC End Strength: 38,500
- Navy Operations & Maintenance (OM): \$48.9B
 - USMC (OM): \$6.8B
- Navy Reserve (OM): \$1B
 - USMC Reserve (OM): \$281.5M
- **Procurement: \$59.1 Billion [2% increase over the Request]**

- Aircraft \$20.1B including:
 - \$1.9B for 24 F/A–18E/F Super Hornets
 - \$1.8B for 10 P–8A Poseidon aircraft;
 - \$1.1B for 6 E–2D Advanced Hawkeye an increase of two aircraft and \$340M above the request
 - \$798M for 25 AH–1Z helicopters;
 - \$1.1B for 13 V–22 aircraft, an increase of six aircraft and \$328M above request;
 - \$4.9B for the procurement of 37 Joint Strike Fighters, an increase of \$1B above the President’s request: including 22 short take-off and vertical landing variants for the Marine Corps, 15 carrier variants for the Navy and Marine Corps
- Weapons \$3.5B \$[147M less than requested]
 - \$43M more for 59 more sidewinders
 - \$24M more for 10 more LRASM
 - \$11M more for 10 more MK-48 torpedoes
 - \$12M for more Harpoon mods
 - \$125M less eliminating SM-6 advanced procurement
- DON/USMC Ammo \$ 973.5M
- USMC: \$2.6B
- Other procurement: \$9B
- **Shipbuilding Total \$22.7 Billion for 12 ships [2 ships and 3.83% increase over Request]**
 - Carrier Replacement Program (CVN 80) \$1.6B
 - 2 Virginia Class Submarines: \$4.3B
 - Virginia Class Submarine (AP): \$2.8B
 - CVN Refueling Overhauls (AP): \$425.8M
 - DDG–1000 Program: \$271M
 - 3 DDG–51 Destroyers: \$5.2B
 - DDG–51 Destroyer (AP): \$392M
 - 3 Littoral Combat Ships: \$1.6B for 2 more ships than requested
 - 1 Expeditionary Sea Base: \$647M
 - 2 TAO Fleet Oiler: \$977M
 - TAO Fleet Oiler (AP): \$75M
 - 1 Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship: \$80.5M
 - LCU 1700: \$41.5M
 - Ship to Shore Connector: \$507.8M for 3 additional ships
 - 24 Service Craft: \$72M
 - 25 LCAC Service Life Extensions (SLEP): \$23M
- Research and Development: \$17.7B
 - Includes \$496.6M for Columbia-class
- Prohibits using any funding for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)
- OCO Total: \$7.5 Billion, \$152M more than requested to replace 2 non-operational V-22 Ospreys

Navy Depot Hearing

On Thursday morning the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing examining the Navy’s Depot policy issues, with some focus on this year’s budget request. The subcommittee heard from VADM Thomas Moore, NAVSEA Commander, as well as recently installed NAVAIR Commander

VADM Dean Peters. As Subcommittee Ranking Member Rep. Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam) remarked, the depots “are critical, and Americans don’t always think about them, but our forces can’t perform without them.” As the Navy adds combat ships to reach the 355-ship goal mandated by last year’s FY18NDAA, depot importance only grows. As VADM Moore noted one third of the battle force is in NAVSEA’s care at any one time.

The admirals gave mostly good news to the committee on their recovery from sequestration and budget caps, but they need time to reach full effectiveness. Rep. Bordallo highlighted a pending Navy report on depot level maintenance in the Pacific mandated by the FY18 NDAA, which VADM Moore promised would be delivered by the end of the fiscal year. Rep. Bordallo also questioned why the budget only funded 90-percent of the depot requirement, because Congress hasn’t received an explanation why the Navy is at “maximum executable rate.” As a part of their 20-year shipyard optimization plan they have come a long way towards their goal of hiring 36,100 depot workers by the end of FY19. [VADM Peters touted the progress](#) of the Fleet Readiness Centers (FRCs) in meeting demand for 485 of 487 aircraft and engines for the first time in five years while improving turnaround time, and reducing the backlog of repairs. Component workload is lagging however, partly due to aging facilities and tools, he said. VADM Peters gave the example of an FRC in Jacksonville with no air conditioning, and paint and strip facility in Norfolk that must shut down when it rains. NAVAIR will not be able to sustain the F-35 fleet with current infrastructure, one reason the Senate Armed Services Committee capped the number of jets purchased to divert dollars to sustainment.

All panelists and the subcommittee members highlighted the hiring issues faced by Navy depots as well. The admirals thanked the members for providing direct hiring authority to hire local technical college graduates, but they asked for pay raises, infrastructure and facilities upgrades, and elimination of the 180-day cooling off period to hire retired active servicemembers as priorities to retain civilian personnel. Congressman Joe Courtney (D-CT), ranking member of the Seapower Subcommittee, raised concern about a potential drop off or “valley” in shipyards work that could force layoffs, and cause delays and cost increases. VADM Moore shared the concern, and said [NAVSEA is looking at moving submarine work into the private sector](#). “We need to look 2/3 years out and put work into private sector instead of delaying it to retain the work in our yards, we may also keep some repair work in private yards long term to build proficiency,” he said.



ATLANTIC OCEAN (June 5, 2018) Boatswain's Mate Seaman Anthony Parkman, assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), stands as a phone talker during a replenishment-at-sea. Gerald R. Ford is underway conducting test and evaluation operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Murray/Released)

Other stories of interest:

Top Stories

[Latest Theft of Navy Data Another Sign of China Targeting Defense Companies – USNI News/June 11](#)

Earlier this year Chinese hackers broke into the computer systems of a U.S. Navy contractor, stealing a trove of data on American weapons systems. The 614 gigabytes of data taken from an unclassified network could undermine the fighting ability of U.S. submarines.

[Price Hikes, Production Delays Mark Navy Shipbuilding for Past Decade – USNI News/June 11](#)

Navy shipbuilding has been plagued for the last decade by programs running over-budget and underperforming once completed, according to a new government report, resulting in a smaller fleet than previously planned.

Seapower

[Navy cites concerns with nuclear work at Newport News shipyard – Daily Press/June 10](#)

The Navy has cited a developing shortage of skilled employees that handle nuclear-related work at Newport News Shipbuilding as an important concern that affects current operations and could delay future work if not addressed.

[EXCLUSIVE: 355-ship-fleet means more than plans to build ships, Kaine says – Federal News Radio/June 12](#)

The Navy is still planning to build its fleet to 355 ships in the next 30 years, but in order to do that Senate Armed Services Committee member Tim Kaine (D-Va.) said the government needs better planning to take on the herculean task.

Homeland

[With 11 tons of seized drugs, US Coast Guard asks for more ScanEagle drones – Defense News/June 9](#)

WASHINGTON — What can fly for 12 hours straight, launches from a catapult on the deck of a Coast Guard cutter and has helped apprehend more than 11 tons of contraband?

Surface and Submarine Warfare

[Navy Study Finds Junior SWOs Have Major Gaps in Seamanship, Ship Handling Knowledge – USNI News/June 6](#)

A comprehensive test of seamanship skills of 164 junior surface warfare officers found an alarming lack of basic navigation and ship handling knowledge, according to a message sent from the head of U.S. Navy surface forces and obtained by USNI News.

[The US Navy's fleet is getting old. It might get a lot older. – Defense News/June 8](#)

The U.S. Navy is considering extending the service life of all its ships by at least seven years, and could stretch the life of some ships by 13 years, according to an internal document produced by Naval Sea Systems Command.

[Lockheed, Austal USA serve up new batch of LCS amid frigate competition – Defense News/June 11](#)

The littoral combat ship program continues to push ships to the fleet as the program begins to wind down ahead of the Navy's planned transition to a future frigate.

[New sub-launched nuke clears congressional hurdle – Defense News/June 13](#)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate voted Wednesday to scuttle legislation that would have forced the Trump administration to seek congressional approval for a new low-yield, tactical nuclear weapon.

Aviation

[Navy Safety Admiral: Mishap Increases Correlate to Changes in OPTEMPO – Seapower Magazine/June 13](#)

ARLINGTON, Va. — The admiral in charge of Navy safety programs said that increases in aviation mishaps seem to correlate to changes in operational tempo (OPTEMPO) — up or down — of units, not a lack of flight hours.

Personnel

[Navy secretary says service needs to boost recruitment efforts – The Day/June 12](#)

The head of the Navy said the service needs to get creative about its recruitment and retention efforts as it seeks to bring on enough manpower to match a buildup in its fleet.

[Navy Official Recommends No Criminal Trial for USS Fitzgerald Junior Officers – USNI News/June 8](#)

Two officers who faced negligent homicide charges for their role in the fatal June 2017 USS Fitzgerald (DDG-62) collision have been recommended not to face court-martial and instead be separated from the Navy, according to a recommendation following a preliminary hearing last month.

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!



ADRIATIC SEA (June 6, 2018) The guided-missile cruiser USS Normandy (CG 60) fires its Mark 45 5-inch gun during a live-fire exercise. Normandy is deployed as part of the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Bobby Siens/Released)