



NAVY LEAGUE of the United States

Navy League Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – June 22

Navy League on the Hill



This Friday, the Navy held its monthly pizza lunch brief for congressional sponsored by your Navy League memberships and donations! In a lively and informative presentation, three exceptional Naval Aviators gave a short history of naval aviation and discussed their backgrounds and experiences as pilots. They also brought flight suits for them to try on. It was an excellent opportunity to educate Congressional staff.

NDAA passes the Senate

On Monday evening, the [full Senate passed](#) the Fiscal Year 2019 National

Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), paving the way for a conference committee with the House to



reconcile differences between the two bills before it heads to the White House for signature. The legislation, named in honor of Senator John McCain, passed overwhelmingly by a vote of 85-10. It authorizes a total of \$708.1B for defense discretionary spending, including a \$617.6B for the base Pentagon budget and \$68B for overseas contingency operations (OCO) funding. The bill was amended on the Senate floor to include bipartisan language preventing the Administration from

dropping sanctions against Chinese tech firm ZTE and to prevent the sale of F-35s to Turkey. Other amendments included provisions authorizing the transfer of excess ships to Bahrain and the requirement of an annual report to Congress on differences in ship repair contract and final delivery costs. A significant amendment included authorization of the Maritime Administration, including \$300 million for the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel program, \$300 million for the Maritime Security Program, and \$33 million for the Title XI loan guarantee program.

Homeland Security Appropriations Markup

On Tuesday the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a markup of its draft legislation, which includes the Coast Guard budget. The recommendations in the bill include: \$11.9B for the Coast Guard, \$496.2M above the budget request and \$173.3B below FY2018 funding levels (base is \$11.8B; remainder is in Overseas Contingency Operations). A breakdown is below.

\$7.8B in operations and support, \$212.7M above the request and \$419.1M over FY2018, a 5% increase that matches NLUS recommendations.

- Adds an additional 250 personnel
- Includes language allowing USCG to buy/lease new small boats
- Includes language to allow operations funds for minor shore infrastructure
- Encourages USCG to request more funds if needed for Arctic presence
- Upgrades for Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore
- \$5M for Coast Guard museum

\$2.17B in Procurement, Construction and Improvements, \$282.5M above the request and \$524.5M below FY2018, above \$2B matches NLUS recommendations:

- Protects the \$750M request for the heavy polar icebreaker
- Adds \$5M for design work for a replacement to the USCGC Mackinaw
- Adds \$76M for advance purchase of several systems for the tenth and eleventh NSCs (i.e. wind indicating systems, homing beacons, sensors)
- Other vessel funds match budget request
- Rejects USCG efforts to extend fleet service life of MH-60, provides \$175M to find the safest option
- Funds the top two unfunded priorities, both aids to navigation and the replacement of a pier

Aviation Mishap Prevention hearing

Thursday afternoon the House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee held a hearing titled “Aviation Mishap Prevention-A Progress Report” examining steps to improve aviation safety in the services. The committee heard from Rear Admiral Roy J. Kelley, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, and Lieutenant General Steven R. Rudder, Deputy Commandant for Aviation, U.S. Marine Corps. Ranking Member of the Committee Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam) announced her support for a commission on aviation safety proposed by HASC Ranking Member Adam Smith (D-WA) in response to the mishaps over the past several years. She questioned the effectiveness of a one-day stand-down in response to mishaps and argued that a lack of proper maintenance and sustainment is driving incidents. LG Rudder likened the practice to “Taking a knee” and said that an operation pause helps to review and drive a culture of accountability within air crews. He noted that monthly flight hours are up to 17.2 from 12 several years ago, and that the Marine Corps is implementing a new risk management system and information system which will share information on mishaps to help air crews. RADM Kelly lamented that although readiness is up because of funding and budget stability, the Navy was meeting readiness requirements at expense of units at home. He hoped that funding stability would make maintenance planning much easier in the future and said the Navy is implementing programs to foster a culture of trust among crews and aviators.

Take Action to speak out to your Members of Congress on the readiness crisis here:

<http://cqcengage.com/navyleague/app/write-a-letter?3&engagementId=389513>

You can watch the full hearing here: <https://armedservices.house.gov/hearings/aviation-mishap-prevention-progress-report>



MEDITERRANEAN SEA (June 20, 2018) A pilot prepares to launch from the flight deck aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75). Harry S. 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 Rebekah A. Watkins/Released)

Other stories of interest:

Top Stories

[Thomas Donnelly: Navy must modernize quickly to blunt Chinese’s aggressive posture – Tribune News Service/June 18](#)

Addressing the “Shangri-la Dialogue,” the most important annual conference on security in East Asia, U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis described China’s increasingly aggressive military posture in the South China Sea as a strategy “of intimidation and coercion.”

[Keep Ships Longer To Boost Fleet Size: 355 Ships By 2035 – Breaking Defense/June 20](#)

WASHINGTON: The Navy can cut 20 years off the time to grow to its target of 355 ships, the service’s chief shipbuilder said today, if it invests more in maintaining and upgrading its current vessels so it can keep them longer. Instead of growing from 284 ships now to 355 in 2052-2055, the timeframe officials cited in the past, the Navy could reach its goal in 2032-2035, said Vice Adm. Thomas Moore, chief of Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA).

Support the Navy League’s call to action to increase the Navy Fleet here:

<http://cqrcengage.com/navyleague/app/onestep-write-a-letter?7&engagementId=356553>

Seapower

[The next ‘cold’ war: America may be missing the boat in the Arctic – Washington Examiner/June 19](#)

At a House subcommittee hearing this month, Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., had a trick question for one of the witnesses.

“How would you align our Arctic strategy with what Gen. Mattis has talked about in our National Defense Strategy?” Hunter asked Adm. Charles Ray, vice commandant of the Coast Guard.

[The Navy’s acquisition boss has a plan to get fleet maintenance back on track – Defense News/June 19](#)

WASHINGTON — The Navy’s acquisition boss, aiming to get his arms around the long-term maintenance and ownership costs of the world’s most complex fleet, has directed Naval Sea Systems Command to undertake an ambitious long-term plan for all the ships in the fleet.

[Navy Will Release New 30-Year Ship Repair, Modernization Plan with Annual Shipbuilding Report – USNI News/June 19](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Navy will release a 30-year ship repair and modernization plan alongside its 30-year shipbuilding plan next spring, to help the maintenance industry plan its workforce and infrastructure investments with the same confidence that yards on the new-construction side can, the Navy’s acquisition chief said today.

Homeland

[One year after the Fitzgerald collision, the families of the fallen grieve and search for answers – Navy Times/June 17](#)

After the call, after the casualty assistance officer’s visit and after the TV news interviews, the memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery and periodic updates from the Navy, Darrold Martin found himself face to face with Lt. j.g. Sarah Coppock.

[Secretary Mattis Calls on USMMA Grads to Lead – Maritime Exec/June 17](#)

On Saturday, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) at Kings Point graduated 187 new merchant marine and military officers in the Class of 2018. Secretary of Defense James Mattis delivered the keynote address before a crowd of about 4,500, including family members of the graduating class, senior officers from the U.S. military, executives from the maritime industry, alumni and others.

Surface and Submarine Warfare

[The US Navy is fed up with ballistic missile defense patrols – Defense News/June 17](#)

The U.S. Navy’s top officer wants to end standing ballistic missile defense patrols and transfer the mission to shore-based assets.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson said in no uncertain terms on June 12 that he wants the Navy off the tether of ballistic missile defense patrols, a mission that has put a growing strain on the Navy’s hard-worn surface combatants, and the duty shifted towards more shore-based infrastructure.

[Upgrading US Navy ships is difficult and expensive. Change is coming. – Defense News/June 21](#)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy is looking at extending the life of its surface ships by as much as 13 years, meaning some ships might be 53 years old when they leave the fleet.

Here’s the main problem: keeping their combat systems relevant.

Expeditionary Warfare

[BAE Systems Will Make Marines' New Wheeled Amphibious Combat Vehicle – Military.com/June 19](https://www.military.com/2018/06/19/bae-systems-will-make-marines-new-wheeled-amphibious-combat-vehicle)

The Marine Corps announced today that BAE Systems will make the service's brand-new amphibious combat vehicle, planned to replace aging tracked amphibious assault vehicles that have been in service since the 1970s.

Personnel

[Officers censured for bringing 'embarrassment' on Navy in 'Fat Leonard' scandal – Stars and Stripes/June 20](https://www.starsandstripes.com/2018/06/20/officers-censured-for-bringing-embarrassment-on-navy-in-fat-leonard-scandal/)

WASHINGTON — Navy Secretary Richard Spencer has issued letters of censure to a retired rear admiral and two other officers found to have accepted inappropriate gifts and maintained unethical relationships with “Fat” Leonard Francis, the central figure in a widespread fraud investigation.

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](https://www.voicetocongress.com/) if you haven't taken action already!*



180619-N-IL409-0103 PACIFIC OCEAN (June 19, 2018) A C-2A Greyhound assigned to the "Crusaders" of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 30, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11, prepares to take off from the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). CVW-11 is currently embarked aboard John C. Stennis conducting carrier qualifications. John C. Stennis is underway preparing for its next scheduled deployment. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Joshua Leonard/Released)