



Navy League Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – June 29



PACIFIC OCEAN (June 23, 2018) Naval Aircrewman (Helicopter) 2nd Class Denzal O'Neal observes a live-fire exercise aboard an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the "Black Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 4 near Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). Carl Vinson is currently underway in preparation for the ship's participation in the Rim of the Pacific Exercise 2018. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Ellen Sharkey/Released)

Capitol Hill Update

Senate Defense Appropriations

This week, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed its version of the FY2019 defense appropriations bill out of committee with a vote of 30-1. The bill appropriates \$607.1B for base defense spending and \$67.9 billion for OCO funds, totaling \$675 billion with DOE security programs. This is \$20.4B over FY18 funding levels. It includes a 2.6 percent pay raise for the military. A summary is below:

Procurement

Shipbuilding: \$24B, \$2.3B over the funding request for new ships and industrial base programs

- Funds the construction of 13 ships (number of ships matches NLUS recommendation, but is about \$2B short of our funding recommendation)
- Two Virginia-class submarines
- Three DDG-51 destroyers
- Two Littoral Combat Ships

- One Expeditionary Sea Base
- One Expeditionary Fast Transport
- Two TAO Fleet Oilers
- One Towing, Salvage and Rescue Ship
- One Cable Ship
- \$500M in advanced procurement for an LPD Flight II amphibious transport dock
- \$350M in advanced procurement for the LHA 9 amphibious assault ship
- \$250M in advanced procurement to purchase an additional DDG-51 in FY 2020
- \$250M for submarine industrial base expansion
- \$3B for advance procurement to support the construction of the Columbia-class submarine
- Has language preventing block buys for CVN 80 and 81 (see below for more details on this issue).

Aviation: \$1B over budget request

- \$1.2B for additional eight F-35 carrier variant and four F-35 STOVL (USMC variant) over request, total of 17 and 24, respectively
- \$240M for three additional V-22 Osprey aircraft for the Navy for a total of 10
- Adds one #2D Hawkeye for a total of 5
- Cuts two C-40A
- \$200M for Navy and Marine Corp aviation spares and repair parts for maintenance and readiness, per Navy League recommendation

Other

- Adds 58 Sidewinder missiles for a total of 249, five MK-48 torpedoes for a total of 50
- Adds \$206M for Navy test and evaluation infrastructure
- \$18.992B in RDTE, \$510M over request
- Adds \$18M for industry studies and requirements definition for the Common Hull Auxiliary Multi-Mission Platform to replace sealift and auxiliary vessels and directs the Navy to present an updated acquisition strategy for CHAMP
- \$5.6B for Operations & Maintenance, \$815M over budget request

House Passes Defense Bill

The House of Representatives passed its version of the FY9 defense appropriations bill, 359-49. There were no major changes from the summary that went out June 15th, but some changes to language are detailed below. The \$674.6 billion legislation includes \$606.5B in base defense funding and \$68.1B in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) dollars. Please [email us](#) if you'd like us to resend you the details!

While the House was considering amendments to the defense bill, the Navy League sent an alert during amendment deliberations supporting two amendments. One would have altered language allowing for the procurement of long lead materials for two carriers at once, [creating up to \\$2.5B in savings](#), and the other reallocated funds to support the addition of two additional Virginia-class submarines in FY2022 and FY2023. Unfortunately, only the carrier amendment was accepted, as appropriators were campaigning hard against this issue, which

has wide support from authorizers and retired Navy leadership. We'll fight again next year to at least get the additional buys in FY2023! Learn more about the looming submarine shortfall, and how we can fix it, [here](#) and [here](#).

NEXT STEPS: After the full Senate passes its version, the House and the Senate will meet in conference to work out differences in their respective versions of the bill.

Navy League helps defeat attack on cargo preference!

As many of you know from our Maritime Policy Report and Anchors Aweigh Fly In, cargo preference programs like Food for Peace provide peacetime work that keeps U.S.-flag ships in business, and keeps American mariners working, trained, and certified. Senator Lee of Utah attempted an amendment that would have stripped the cargo preference requirement from food aid programs. Navy League sprung to action, sending an alert to vote NO against including this amendment to Senate staffers, and were victorious! This was not included in the House version of the bill and so this program is safe another year.

Legislative Affairs Committee News

Upcoming Events: We're sponsoring the next Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus breakfast on July 12th. If you are in town, you are of course invited to join us, and please feel free to invite your Congressional contacts—it's a great way to keep the doors of communication open! Invitation is attached.

Changes coming to Voice to Congress

You'll notice this alert has no links to Voice to Congress—over the weekend, we're switching platforms. This should fix some of the complaints we've heard about wanting more of an overview before the issues are posted. The site will be down next week as we move everything over and while you're having hot dogs and watching fireworks!

For RVPs: Next LA Committee Call will happen as scheduled on July 6th. Have a happy 4th of July celebrating America!

Other Stories of Interest

[China wants to rival U.S. in trade, maritime power](#)

WHILE PRESIDENT Donald Trump struggles to further a campaign promise to improve our nation's aging infrastructure, China has undertaken a \$900 billion infrastructure project of its own. But China's undertaking is a global one. It's well underway and achieving global buy-in.

[Trump administration plans to use Coast Guard money to pay for border enforcement](#)

The Trump administration, facing a growing immigration enforcement mission on the southern U.S. border, is considering a plan to shift money from the U.S. Coast Guard to other parts of the

Department of Homeland Security, according to U.S. officials and an internal Coast Guard message obtained by The Washington Post.

[Caution in the High North: Geopolitical and Economic Challenges of the Arctic maritime environment](#)

At the 2011 Arctic Forum, then-Prime Minister Vladimir Putin expressed his maritime ambitions for the Arctic by **declaring**, “The shortest route between Europe’s largest markets and the Asia-Pacific region lie across the Arctic.” He went on to add, “the Northern Sea Route ... will rival traditional trade lanes.”

[RIMPAC begins without China but adds Army and Air Force firepower](#)

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — The absence of China’s rising navy won’t have much impact on this year’s Rim of the Pacific drills, the commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet said during a dockside launch of the month-long exercise.

[New Surface Warfare Officer Career Path Stresses Fundamentals; More Training Before First Ship, More Time At Sea](#)

The U.S. Navy is retooling the career path for surface warfare officers in the aftermath of last year’s fatal guided-missile destroyer collisions. The plan requires more school for new officers before they report to their first ships, institutes a new testing regime through major commands and shapes the career path so SWOs spend more time at sea.

[Google’s Withdrawal from Pentagon AI Project Risks US Lives, Says Work](#)

Google’s decision to withdraw from some Pentagon business following an internal revolt is creating a moral hazard for itself and its employees, former Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work said.

[Special Report: How America Protects Its Citizens and Allies from Ballistic Missiles](#)

Whether it’s U.S. islands like Guam or Hawaii, coastal cities like San Diego or New York City, or allied territories across the ocean, the 21st century has heightened the threat of ballistic missiles to the United States and its allies.

[Marine Warbot Companies: Where Naval Warfare, the U.S. National Defense Strategy, and Close Combat Lethality Task Force Intersect](#)

The Marine Corps has a tendency toward paranoia over its institutional purpose – *America doesn’t need a Marine Corps, America wants a Marine Corps*. We were recently reminded that there are reasons this insecurity endures. After all, in addition to directing the Pentagon to produce a “**sweeping roles and missions report**,” the Senate Armed Services Committee just **questioned** “the survivability of Navy-Marine flotillas” and viability of **amphibious forced entry operations** given today’s pacing threats and precision weapons. Going one step further, the committee asked if the joint force should have “**one Armed Force dedicated primarily to low-intensity missions**,” with the implication that this should be the Marine Corps. In addition to the Senate Armed

Services Committee's skepticism, there's also a growing schism developing between the Navy and Marine Corps, putting their interdependence at risk.

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