



NAVY LEAGUE

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Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – August 24

Funding the Pentagon

The full Senate passed the Defense Appropriations bill by an 85-7 vote Thursday attached to the funding legislation for the Labor, Health, and Education departments. Only one amendment of interest was approved before passage, which allows for multi-year procurement contracting for the Virginia-class submarines.

Congress has until September 30 to reconcile the legislation with the House passed funding bill, and send it to the President to avoid needing to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR), something Defense officials have warned against.

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Coast Guard Icebreaker Program in Jeopardy

National Defense Magazine [reports](#) that the after a good start to 2018 the Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Karl Schultz was caught off guard by the House putting the Icebreaker program in jeopardy. The year began with a \$750 million budget request from the Administration for a new heavy icebreaker and the same amount funded by the Senate, yet when the House released its Homeland Security Appropriations bill it included \$5 billion for the border wall and no icebreaker funding. Deputy Commandant for Mission Support Vice Adm. Michael McCallister told Congress recently that this puts the programs schedule at risk. We need your voice to insist House members reinsert the funding before the bill goes to the president, **take action at**

<https://www.votervoice.net/NavyLeague/Campaigns/60071/Res pond>

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China Military Report

The [Pentagon released its annual report](#) on Chinese Military Power for 2018 last week detailing the advancements China has made in the last year. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is modernizing rapidly at the direction of President Xi Jinping, expanding its use of theatre commands not unlike the U.S. regional combatant commanders, and expanding its capability to project power. Among China's tactics to achieve this are Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), exploiting private Chinese nationals access to information, and well-known cyber theft. The FDI portion principally incorporates the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which includes leveraging Chinese state capital to use economic coercion on other nations to achieve its foreign policy goals. The PLA is modernizing by reducing manpower in non-combatant personnel, investing more in the PLA Air Force and Navy, and emphasizing "maritime and information domains, offensive air operations, long-distance mobility operations, and space and cyber operations" according to the report. It is also pushing civil-military cooperation, and focusing heavily on Science and Technology.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to your councils, as well as friends and potential Navy League members!



GREAT LAKES, Ill. (Aug. 19, 2018) Lt. Jamil Khan, one of 14 chaplains at Recruit Training Command (RTC), conducts suicide awareness training to recruits in their compartment at the USS Hopper recruit barracks. More than 30,000 recruits graduate annually from the Navy's only boot camp. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Spencer Fling/Released)

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Other stories of interest:

Top Stories

["Top Gun" sequel filming aboard Norfolk-based aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln - Virginian-Pilot/Aug 21](#)

The sequel to the 1986 blockbuster "Top Gun" is being filmed aboard the Norfolk-based USS Abraham Lincoln this week, according to the Navy. The original film inspired a generation of fighter pilots and served as a recruiting bonanza for the Navy.

[USS John S. McCain Collision, A Year Later - USNI News/Aug 21](#)

Last year, Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain (DDG-56) collided with a merchant ship while approaching Singapore, an incident that resulted in the death of 10 sailors and prompted the Navy to take

a hard look at how it operates and trains crews on forward-deployed ships.

[What Duncan Hunter's indictment means for defense issues - Defense News/Aug 22](#)

But following his indictment, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., announced that Hunter's committee assignments would be revoked while the criminal case is pending - including his seat on the House Armed Services Committee. And if the indictment eventually forces Hunter from office one way or the other, it could have fallout for a number of the congressman's areas of focus.

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Seapower

[U.S. to Send Hospital Ship to Colombia - Maritime Exec/Aug 19](#)

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has committed to sending a U.S. Navy hospital ship to Colombia on what he says is "absolutely a humanitarian mission."

[IF YOU WANT MORE DEFENSE INNOVATION, SPEND LESS ON LEGACY PLATFORMS - War on the Rocks/Aug 20](#)

An important effort, led by the Senate Armed Services Committee, to address an alarming shortfall in defense research and development investment by changing the "acquisition system's 'rules of the game'" is bound to fail. Why? Because a resource problem can't be solved by changing organizations and processes. If the Department of Defense is spending too much money on legacy weapon systems and too-big-to-fail successors to those systems, the answer is not to change processes. The answer is to buy different things. The shortfall in defense innovation is not a problem of organization and process, it is a problem of resource allocation - and it won't be solved without making new and different resource choices.

[Mattis Is Pushing The Navy To A Brand New Fleet Strategy - Task and Purpose/Aug 17](#)

Secretary of Defense James Mattis recently hinted at major changes to how aircraft carrier battle groups are deployed, saying that the current eight-month deployment cycle is "no way to run a Navy."

[Navy's Troubled \\$11 Billion Carrier Falts on Another Milestone -](#)

[Bloomberg/Aug 17](#)

Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc., the sole U.S. builder of aircraft carriers, continues to fall short of the Navy's demand to cut labor expenses to stay within an \$11.39 billion cost cap mandated by Congress on the second in a new class of warships.

[Navy Battle Force Tally Dips By 2, After New Ship-Counting Rules Postpone Zumwalt Destroyers - USNI News/Aug 21](#)

The 2019 defense authorization bill clarifies what lawmakers tried to do two years ago related to Navy ship-counting, making clear that a ship cannot be included in the Naval Vessel Register's list of battle force ships until it has been fully delivered to the Navy - and in the case of ships with a phased delivery, where the Navy takes custody of the hull but adds in the combat system or electronics later, that means the final delivery date.

['Giraffes' join the Navy and hunt enemy threats - Fox News/Aug 23](#)

Onboard warships, Sea Giraffes radar systems are constantly conducting surveillance around the ship - scanning the air and the water surface - looking out for any possible threat large or small. The floating base's Giraffe can even detect small, fast threats like enemy rockets, missiles and more.

The Navy's new warships, ESBs, are floating sea bases that can be used to enhance combat power. In fact, the ESB used to be known as the "Afloat Forward Staging Base" which is an apt description but describes only one aspect of the huge flexibility and capabilities it can provide.

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Surface and Submarine Warfare

[The littoral combat ship program again draws White House ire - Defense News/Aug 19](#)

The full Senate is getting ready to take up the 2019 Defense Appropriations bill but the White House has made clear it does not approve of a provision that made it out of committee that funds two littoral combat ships in 2019, one more than the Navy asked for in its budget.

[Toward a 21st-Century US Navy Mining Force - Defense One/Aug 22](#)

Standoff weapons and other initiatives promise a renaissance in U.S. naval mine warfare.

[Newly reorganized littoral combat ship program faces its first big test in 2019 - Defense News/Aug 22](#)

Four littoral combat ships are on track to be available to deploy in 2019, the head of the U.S. surface Navy told Defense News in an interview.

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Personnel

[Navy moves to help enlisted get ahead - Navy Times/Aug 22](#)

The Navy tried for four years to kill enlisted advancement exams, but officials say they'll survive and become part of an expanded mixed system to move sailors up in rank.

[Congress, Navy revolutionize officer promotions - Navy Times/Aug 22](#)

ARLINGTON, Va. - For the first time in nearly four decades, Congress has radically reshaped the way officers can be recruited, trained and retained.

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Aviation

[Naval Test Pilot School's Flying Classroom Takes First Flight - Seapower Magazine/Aug 23](#)

PATUXENT RIVER, Md. - The U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) conducted its first flight of Airborne Systems Training and Research Support (ASTARS) III on Aug. 21, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division said in a 22 release.

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Homeland

[Hawaii's Ports Prepare for Hurricane Lane - Maritime Exec/Aug 23](#)

The Captain of the Port for Sector Honolulu has set port condition Zulu for Hawaii County and port condition Yankee for Oahu, Maui, Lanai, Molokai and Kauai. The commercial ports affected include Hilo Harbor and Kawaihae Harbor on the Big Island, and Barber's Point Harbor, Honolulu Harbor, Kalaeloa and Kewalo Basin on Oahu. Other primary ports across the island chain are also covered.

[Hunter steps down from House committee assignments - Politico/Aug 23](#)

Indicted Rep. Duncan Hunter told Speaker Paul Ryan on Thursday that he will step down from his committee assignments after initially declining to do so, according to a letter obtained by POLITICO.



BLACK SEA (Aug. 22, 2018) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64) transits the Black Sea, Aug. 22, 2018. Carney, forward-deployed to Rota, Spain, is on its fifth patrol in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of regional allies and partners as well as U.S. national security interests in Europe and Africa. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Ryan U. Kledzik/Released)

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