



NAVY LEAGUE

of the United States

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Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – July 27

NDAA Complete!

The Conference Committee reconciling the House and Senate versions of the Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act finished its work Monday evening, and on Thursday the House voted 359 - 54 to approve the bill, and a motion to limited debate has been filed in the Senate. It includes a total of \$708 billion in fiscal year 2019 for national defense including a base budget of \$639.1 billion for the Department of Defense, \$21.9 billion for the Department of Energy, and \$69 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations. The legislation also includes language from the [Surface Warfare Enhancement Act of 2018](#) to improve readiness after last year's collisions in the pacific. It also includes a provision preventing the SecDef from procuring more than two foreign constructed vessels unless an acquisition strategy is submitted to Congress for construction of at least ten new sealift vessels in US shipyards delivered no later than 2026. The FY19 NDAA authorizes an increase in end strength to 335,400 for the Navy (matching the Administration request); and 186,100 for the Marine Corps (100 more than 2018 and matching the request) and includes a 2.6% pay raise. Below is a summary of major account authorizations:

- *\$49 billion* for Navy Operations & Maintenance (OM) (\$11M more than requested)
 - Includes \$1.3B for aviation depot maintenance (\$37.4M more than requested)
- *\$3.8 billion* for Navy Weapons procurement (\$74M less than requested)
- *\$2.9 billion* for Marine Corps general procurement (\$73M less than requested)

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- \$18.4 billion for Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (\$97M less than requested). This includes:
 - \$526M for the Ohio Replacement program (\$12M more than requested)
 - \$182M for advanced technology development including the railgun (\$20M more than requested)
 - \$160M for prototype applied research including directed energy (matches request)

Shipbuilding: \$24.1 billion for 13 new construction ships and accelerated funding for several future ships (\$2.2 billion more than requested). The bill also authorizes \$8.9B billion for ship depot maintenance (\$148.6M more than requested) and requires the Navy to incorporate operations and sustainment costs into its 30-year shipbuilding plan.

- \$3.24 billion for Columbia-class advanced procurement (\$237M more than the administration's request)
- \$1.6 billion in advanced procurement for CVN-80, authorizes CVN-81, and requires the SecDef to certify that a block-buy contract will result in significant cost savings.
- \$7.6 billion for 2 Virginia-class submarines (matching the administration's request). Sec.130 prohibits SecNav from entering into economic order quantity contracts until he certifies that such funding shall be used for 12 Virginia-class submarines and ensures that an option to procure one additional Virginia-class submarine in each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 is included in the associated multiyear procurement contract award planned for fiscal year 2019.
- \$5.9 billion for 3 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers (\$250M more than requested, for advanced procurement)
- \$1.6 billion for 3 Littoral Combat Ships (\$950M and 2 more than requested)
- \$500 million for advanced procurement of LPD amphibious ships (no Administration request)
- \$647 million for 1 Expeditionary Sea Base (ESB)
- \$500 million for 8 ship-to-shore connectors (3 more than requested)

- \$250 million for 1 cable ship (no administration request)

Authorizes the full budget request for:

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

Naval Aviation: Authorizes \$18.8 billion for 119 aircraft (1 less than requested)

- 24 F/A-18E/F Super Hornets (sec. 128) would require the SecNav to modify F/A-18 aircraft to reduce the occurrence of, and mitigate the risk posed by, physiological episodes affecting crewmembers.
 - 29 Joint Strike Fighters (F-35) (same as requested)
 - \$2.5 billion to procure 20 F-35B fighters
 - \$1.3 billion to procure 9 F-35C fighters.
 - 8 CH-53K King Stallions
 - 7 MV-22/CMV-22B Ospreys
 - 25 AH-1Z Cobra upgrades
 - 10 P-8A Poseidons
 - 5 E-2D Advanced Hawkeyes, including \$175 million for 1 additional E-2Ds above the administration's request.
 - 2 KC-130J Hercules
 - 3 MQ-4 Tritons; and
 - 6 VH-92A Presidential Helicopters
-
- Authorizes the Coast Guard to enter into a contract or contracts for up to 6 polar-class heavy icebreakers.
 - Mandates retention of a United States Navy Hospital ship capability.
 - Limits the time a Navy vessel is forward deployed to no more than ten years and requires the Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey inspections to be conducted on a no-notice basis

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Coast Guard Appropriations in the House

The House Appropriations Committee released its full report language after the Homeland Security Subcommittee marked up its appropriations bill last Thursday. The committee again failed to include funding in Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) for the first Polar Icebreaker--this puts them in opposition to both the Senate and the Administration. This gives us a good chance to fight these potential cuts. Your voice is urgently needed to convince the House of Representatives to reverse this shortsighted decision. The Navy League last week highlighted this elimination of funds in a press release, [a letter to House leadership](#), and in an [online advocacy](#) and social media campaign via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). The Navy League also published an op-ed in the Hill: [Coast Guard icebreakers not optional as China and Russia surge in Arctic](#). We encourage you to send the op-ed and the letter to your contacts in Hill offices. In its report, the committee says it will work with the Coast Guard to assess what is needed to advance the program and is waiting for a Service Life Extension Project (SLEP) cost estimate for the Polar Star, [the last operational heavy icebreaker](#). Below is the full summary of the House's proposed FY19 Coast Guard appropriations.

- **Total Appropriation: \$11.1 Billion (\$321M below the Administration's final 2019 Budget Request) including:**
- **Operations and Support: \$7.6 Billion (\$27M above request)**
- **Procurement, Construction, and Improvements (PCI): \$1.5 Billion (\$480M below request) including:**
 - \$1.06B for Ships (\$480M less than requested) including:
 - \$235M (\$170M more than requested) for the 12th NSC and Post Delivery Activities (PDA) for the National Security Cutter program.
 - \$400M (equal to request) to fund construction of the second Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC), long lead time materials for the third, and program management costs.

- \$340M (\$100M more than requested) for six Fast Response Cutters (FRC)
- Eliminates \$750M in funding for first Polar Icebreaker
- \$261M for Aircraft (\$113M more than requested)
- \$140M for Shore Facilities and Aids to Navigation (ATON). This is \$5M above the request and funds infrastructure work from the Coast Guard's unfunded priorities list.
- \$60M for other programs

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Jones Act roundtable



On
Wednesday
afternoon
your Navy
League

Government Affairs team attended a Jones Act roundtable organized by the House Transportation Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. Testifying at the roundtable was Jon Kaskin, Navy League Vice President for Legislative Affairs and chairman, Merchant Marine Affairs Committee; economist John Reeve, principal, Reeve & Associates; Michael G. Roberts, senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of Crowley Maritime; Augustine Tellez, executive vice president, Seafarers International Union. Seapower Magazine's Rick Burgess has an article, [Maritime Experts Defend Jones Act](#), on the event.

If you would like to sign up for more Jones Act related updates from friend of the Navy League the American Maritime Partnership, please click here: <https://www.votervoice.net/AMP/Register>. When you click the link, you will have the opportunity to join a group of Jones Act

supporters. Thank you for your continued interest in and support for the domestic maritime industry.

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Defense Appropriations Update

CQ reports that the Senate will take up the House passed Defense appropriations bill in mid-August combined with the Labor-Health-Education bill, according to Republican Appropriations Committee Chair Richard Shelby (R-AL). The Senate majority, and minority leaders are on board with the plan.

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



Rear Adm. Alene B. Duerk, director of the Navy Nurse Corps, in her office in 1974. She said of being the Navy's first female rear admiral, "It was a lot to take on because when you are the first women in any high-profile role everyone is watching you." U.S.

Navy photo. Read more at [Seapower Magazine](#).

Other stories of interest:

Top Stories

[Trump's impulsive decrees weigh on Pentagon - Politico/July 22](#)

President Donald Trump's flair for the unpredictable has taken a toll on his defense leaders, handing them orders and major policy shifts with little or no notice - ranging from his transgender ban, a military parade and a separate Space Force to his musings about reducing U.S. troop strength in Europe or intervening in Venezuela.

[If Iran tries to close this strait crucial to the oil trade, the US Navy can unblock it quickly - Adm. Stavridis - CNBC/July 23](#)

If Iran closes the crucial Strait of Hormuz one former U.S. admiral with in-depth knowledge of the challenge says the Navy is prepared to unblock it, quickly.

[Lawmakers: Funding disruptions that fueled readiness crisis, deadly accidents must stop - Stars and Stripes](#)

WASHINGTON - The House on Tuesday passed several legislative measures to draw attention to defense funding disruptions that some lawmakers contend have helped fuel a crisis in military readiness.

[U.S. Lawmakers Take Aircraft Carrier Savings on Faith for the Time Being - Bloomberg/July 24](#)

Lawmakers gave conditional approval in their compromise defense policy bill for the U.S. Navy to buy its next two aircraft carriers in a single contract even though the service has yet to provide data showing how it can deliver on a promise of major savings.

[MARAD Awards More Than \\$20 Mln to Small US Shipyards - Marine Link/July 24](#)

More than \$20 million in grant funding has been awarded to support capital improvement projects at 29 small shipyards in 22 states across the U.S.

[Navy's First Female Admiral, Alene Duerk, Passes Away - Seapower Magazine/July 25](#)

WASHINGTON - Retired Rear Adm. Alene B. Duerk, the Navy's first female admiral, passed away July 21, 2018. She was 98 years old, the Naval History

and Heritage Command's Communication and Outreach Division said in a July 25 release.

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Seapower

[Mattis's New Unpredictable Carrier Strike Group Deployment Strategy Has Begun - The Maven/July 23](#)

Early last May we received clear indications that Secretary of Defense James Mattis was looking to radically overhaul the way the Navy deploys its forces, and most importantly, their carrier strike groups-the most powerful flotillas on the sea. Now, the first example of this new strategy has come to pass, and it is likely just a preview of what's to come.

[Navy's second-ranking officer: USS Harry S. Truman's return to Norfolk is a working port visit - Virginian-Pilot/July 23](#)

The USS Harry S. Truman's return to Norfolk on Saturday is a working port visit and the aircraft carrier will deploy again, the Navy's second-ranking officer said during a visit here Monday.

Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Bill Moran is visiting U.S. naval installations throughout the world during the next few months to get feedback from sailors on the Navy's efforts to address readiness issues following the collisions of two destroyers - the USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain - in separate incidents last summer in the service's 7th Fleet that killed 17 sailors. Moran spoke for about seven minutes before opening the floor to an auditorium full of sailors, who used the hour to bring up concerns about the availability of training, advancement, manning, child care and the structure of future deployments following the Truman's return to Naval Station Norfolk after leaving in April.

[SELF, SHIPMATE, AND SHIP: BRINGING BALANCE TO NAVAL LEADERSHIP - Center for International Maritime Security/July 25](#)

Secretary of Defense James Mattis was on a plane last year, wrestling with how he would explain President Trump's "America First" policy to our allies, when an idea came to him. He would draw a parallel to flight attendants requesting passengers put their own oxygen mask on first in the event of an emergency, before assisting family members. Say what you will about our national leadership, this is a wonderful metaphor. America can only contribute to the common interests of our Allies when we first secure our own national interests,

across the entire political spectrum. Taking care of our own interests first allows America to be what our allies need - a strong, legitimate partner in promoting freedom and democracy.

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Surface and Submarine Warfare

[Pentagon Sounds Alarm Over Sub-Hunting Tech Shortage, Hypersonic Funding - Breaking Defense/July 23](#)

WASHINGTON The Navy says it is running short of critical submarine-detecting sonobuoys, thanks to stepped-up submarine activity by Russia in the Mediterranean and around Europe.

[Navy Asks Hill for \\$64M for Short-Term Surface Warfare Reforms - USNI News/July 23](#)

NAVAL STATION NORFOLK - The Navy is asking Congress for a \$64-million adjustment in its budget to begin work on a series of reforms to the surface force following the fatal collisions of two warships in 2017, Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Bill Moran confirmed to USNI News on Monday.

[The US Navy's new anti-ship missile scores a hit at RIMPAC, but there's a twist - Defense News/July 21](#)

WASHINGTON - The U.S. surface fleet's brand-new anti-ship missile was used as part of the barrage of rockets and missiles that put an end to the landing ship tank Racine on July 12 during the Rim of the Pacific exercise, but it wasn't shot by the Navy.

[Courtney Urges Pentagon to Keep Columbia-Class Funding Separate - Seapower/July 24](#)

WASHINGTON - The provision for separate funding for the Columbia-class ballistic-missile submarine program is not being followed by Pentagon budget officials, which could "put tremendous pressure on the rest of the shipbuilding account," the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Seapower and Projection Forces subcommittee said July 24.

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Aviation

[USS Carl Vinson flies last legacy Hornets during RIMPAC drills - Stars and Stripes/July 24](#)

HONOLULU - This month's Rim of the Pacific exercise in Hawaii will mark the end of the line for the Navy's "Baby Hornets."

Ten F/A-18C multirole supersonic combat jets on the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier will be traded for newer, larger F/A-18E Super Hornets in January, said Lt. Kevin Frattin, the "senior-junior" officer for Strike Fighter Squadron 34 out of Virginia Beach, Va.

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Expeditionary Warfare

[Naval Expeditionary Warfare Director: Power Projection, Sea Control Must be Linked - Seapower/July 24](#)

WASHINGTON - The Marine Corps general who directs the Navy's expeditionary warfare programs said that, in addition to the Navy's need to increase from 32 to 38 amphibious warfare ships, the capabilities of those ships must be upgraded to ensure effectiveness and survivability in higher-end, full-spectrum conflict.

[Navy, Marine Corps Racing to Increase Amphibious Fleet as Demand Rises - USNI News/July 24](#)

CAPITOL HILL - The Navy and Marine Corps are running up against a deadline to add more amphibious warships to the fleet before older hulls start retiring, Marine Maj. Gen. David Coffman told lawmakers and shipbuilding industry representatives at a congressional forum Tuesday.

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Homeland

[Bon voyage, USS Toledo - Toledo Blade/July 22](#)

In many ways, the armed forces of the United States set the standard for behavior in this country.

An outstanding local example is the U.S. Navy and the crew of the USS Toledo, a submarine commissioned with this city's name in 1995.

[House Approves Save Our Seas Act - MarineLink/July 26](#)

New legislation approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday aims to address maritime transportation safety issues raised by the El Faro

sinking, promote the U.S. Coast Guard's awareness of technologies that could help improve service mission performance, and reduce marine debris.

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Personnel

[Second USS Fitzgerald Officer Defers Plea to Negligence, Hazarding a Vessel Charges - USNI News/July 23](#)

An officer charged with negligence for her role in the collision of USS Fitzgerald (DDG-62) reserved her right not to enter a plea on Monday during an arraignment before a military judge.

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Jones Act discussion

(Note: These stories do not reflect the Navy League's positions and are shared to highlight the need for our advocacy.)

[The Jones Act and Offshore Wind in Light of the Aeolus Energy Announcement - Marine Link/July 26](#)

A potential sea change came with the recent announcement from Aeolus Energy Partners that the renewable installation and operation company was investing in a fleet of Jones Act-compliant vessels dedicated to the offshore wind industry.



180718-N-VR594-1094 AT SEA (July 18, 2018) Royal Australian Navy Lt. Barrie Berggy, from Perth, Australia, observes as a U.S. Marine Corps CH-53E Super Stallion assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 463, lands on the flight deck of the Royal Australian Navy landing helicopter dock ship HMAS Adelaide (L01) during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, July 18, 2018. Twenty-five nations, 46 ships, five submarines, and about 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are participating in RIMPAC from June 27 to Aug. 2 in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships among participants critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security of the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2018 is the 26th exercise in the series that began in 1971. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kelsey J. Hockenberger/Released)

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