



NAVY LEAGUE

of the United States

Inside this issue

Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – August 17

- [You Can Help Secure the Coast Guard's Heavy Polar Icebreaker](#)

Other stories of interest:

- [Top Stories](#)
- [Seapower](#)
- [Surface and Submarine Warfare](#)
- [Expeditionary Warfare](#)
- [Homeland](#)
- [Aviation](#)
- [Jones Act discussion](#)

Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – August 17

You Can Help Secure the Coast Guard's Heavy Polar Icebreaker

Navy League staff have been spending this recess week on Capitol Hill meeting with House of Representatives offices to impress the importance of funding the Coast Guard's Heavy Polar Icebreaker program in Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19). As we've explained previously, the Coast Guard has just one operational Heavy Icebreaker left in service, which is due to be decommissioned in 2023. The House removed the \$750 million in the President's FY19 Budget Request from their Homeland Security Appropriations bill, while the Senate included the funding. We must ensure the new heavy icebreaker is delivered by 2023 or risk being an Arctic nation without an icebreaker.

Read more, and please contribute your Voice to Congress at

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

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



MERIDIAN, Miss. (Aug. 14, 2018) Military Dog Handler Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Jonathan White demonstrates the capabilities of his military working dog (MWD) "Baba" on Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Dylan Pilkington as part of a MWD demonstration onboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian. Baba is NAS Meridian's first MWD in 11 years with plans to expand the program to five dogs. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Chris Liaghat/Released)

[Top](#)

Other stories of interest:

Top Stories

[Exclusive: 2 Marines Received Valor Awards For Secret Gunfight Against Al Qaeda In North Africa - Task and Purpose/Aug 15](#)

Two members of Marine Special Operations Command received valor awards for their heroism during a gun battle last year with al Qaeda militants in Northern Africa, a spokeswoman for U.S. Africa Command confirmed on Wednesday.

[The US Navy's fight to fix its worn-out Super Hornet fleet is making way - Defense](#)

[News/Aug 16](#)

In an Aug. 7 media roundtable, Navy Secretary Richard Spencer told reporters the Navy had been chipping away at long-term down aircraft that had been clogging the aviation maintenance depots. The Navy started 2018 with 241 fully mission capable aircraft, and that number is now at 270, he said.

["Just Say No" Isn't the Answer - Proceedings Magazine/August 2018](#)

Much has been written in the year since the USS John. S. McCain (DDG-56) and USS Fitzgerald (DDG-62) collisions. A common theme revolves around the need for Navy leaders to "just say no" when they feel unable to execute tasking, whether because of manning shortages, technical issues, fatigue, training, or maintenance shortfalls. The recent conviction at court-martial of a chief petty officer from the John S. McCain for dereliction of duty is a perfect example of why this "just say no" conversation is meaningless unless backed up by action from Navy leaders.

[The US armed forces have a mobility problem - Defense News/Aug 14](#)

There's only one problem - the U.S. armed forces cannot show up as required right now. Our Merchant Marine fleet's wartime role is to move weapons, ammunition, troops, equipment, fuel and supplies. Our current fleet - simply put - does not have the capacity to meet today's requirements.

[Top](#)

Seapower

[US needs national maritime strategy to sustain US-flagged commercial fleet for defence needs, GAO says - Janes Defense Weekly/Aug 10](#)

The US Department of Transportation (DOT) should complete a national maritime strategy to sustain the US-flagged commercial cargo ships on which the Pentagon relies to ship Defense Department cargo, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has said.

[Navy Tests Helicopter-Lowered Undersea Warhead - to Explode Enemy Mines - Maven/Aug 12](#)

The Navy can now use sonar and video-guided underwater warheads to attack and destroy enemy sea mines at the bottom of the ocean, improving protection for submarines and surface ships while bringing new combat ability to maritime war operations, service officials said.

[US Navy's focus on rapid acquisition is opening up opportunities for Europe - Defense News/Aug 13](#)

The Navy's new over-the-horizon missile destined for the littoral combat ship and the future frigate was recently awarded to the Norwegian firm Kongsberg, in partnership with U.S. company Raytheon, for its Naval Strike Missile.

[US Navy supercarrier John C. Stennis is headed for a complex overhaul - Defense News/Aug 14](#)

WASHINGTON - Huntington Ingalls Newport News is gearing up to start a years long overhaul of the U.S. Navy carrier John C. Stennis, which is shifting home ports from Washington state to Norfolk to get ready for its break from the rotation.

[Top](#)

Surface and Submarine Warfare

[U.S. Navy Boosts Submarine Plans As Tensions With Russia And China Worsen - Forbes/Aug 9](#)

In the years since the Cold War ended, the Virginia class of nuclear-powered attack submarines has been one of the defense department's most successful weapons programs. Produced from its inception through a partnership of the Electric Boat unit of General Dynamics and the Newport News Shipbuilding unit of Huntington Ingalls Industries, the program consistently delivers the world's most advanced multi-role submarines on time and on cost. Both companies contribute to my think tank; GD is a consulting client.

[Could China's New Destroyer 'Sink' the Navy? - National Interest/Aug 13](#)

So the short answer to the question "does the United States need to respond to the Type 055" is "no, not in the medium term." The longer answer is that the U.S. Navy needs to figure out its procurement and shipbuilding policies soon in order to credibly approach design of the next big surface combatant.

[Top](#)

Expeditionary Warfare

[Work on Guam's \\$8.7 billion portion of Pacific realignment gaining momentum, officials say - Stars and Stripes/Aug 13](#)

DEDEDO, Guam - Driving north on Route 3 toward the site of the yet-to-be-built Marine Corps Base Guam, signs of construction are everywhere. Workers clearing land and signs warning of detours because of unexploded ordnance are common sights.

[The very few, the proud: 100 years of women in the Marine Corps - Marine Times/Aug 13](#)

Johnson enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as a 39-year-old on Aug. 13, 1918, two years before women were able to vote. About 300 other women joined the Corps' ranks that day, but because she was first in line, Johnson's name has endured as a legend of Marine Corps history.

[Marine Grunts on 1st-Ever Female Infantry Leader: 'She's One of Us' - Military.com/Aug 13](#)

First Lt. Marina Hierl is the only female Marine to lead an infantry platoon in her service's history. About a year after she reported to Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, the novelty of it all has worn off a bit -- and she's even left some male grunts rethinking their opinions about women in the infantry.

[Shipbuilding Industry Pushing to Accelerate Amphibious Ship Construction - USNI News/Aug 14](#)

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. - The Navy should accelerate the production of its two newest class of amphibious ships to avoid creating a cold construction line and to get the ships it needs cheaper, an industry official from Huntington Ingalls Industry told the Marine Corps and Navy last week.

[More U.S. Marines to train in Norway, closer to Russia - Reuters/Aug 16](#)

OSLO (Reuters) - The United States will more than double the number of Marines stationed in Norway, in line with plans first outlined in June, the Norwegian defense ministry said on Wednesday.

[THE SAILOR WHO FOUGHT THE MARINE CORPS AND WON - War on the Rocks/Aug 17](#)

Few military organizations have completely changed their roles and missions on a dime and survived the transition. The U.S. Marine Corps is one. The development of modern amphibious doctrine by the Marine Corps during the interwar years,

doctrine subsequently adopted by the Navy and Army, is a well-told story. According to J.F.C. Fuller, this shift was "in all probability ... the most far reaching tactical innovation" of World War II.

[Top](#)

Homeland

[First in a Quartet of New Coast Guard Cutters Arrive in Los Angeles - USNI News/Aug 13](#)

The Coast Guard's fast response cutter Forrest Rednour (WPC-1129) arrived Saturday at its new California home, marking the first of four of the multi-mission cutters to be homeported at Coast Guard Base Los Angeles-Long Beach, Calif.

[Learn from the El Faro Disaster - USNI Magazine/August 2018](#)

A search team on the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's research vessel Atlantis looked intently at their video screens and other remote sensors in the early morning hours of 26 April 2016. Three miles below, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) scanned the bottom for clues to the location of the mast that had carried the SS El Faro 's simplified voyage data recorder (S-VDR).

[Navy admiral, Mattis aide to be nominated to head US Southern Command - Navy Times/Aug 16](#)

WASHINGTON and SANTIAGO, Chile - Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Thursday that his senior military assistant, Navy Vice Adm. Craig Faller, will be nominated to serve as the next head of U.S. Southern Command.

[Top](#)

Aviation

[Marine aviation squadron commanders inaccurately reported readiness, aircraft counts, DoD IG found - Marine Times/Aug 11](#)

A recent audit found that most Marine Corps aviation squadron commanders reviewed by investigators were not accurately reporting their unit's aircraft readiness, providing inconsistent and unreliable data in their reporting, and Marine aviation officials at higher levels failed to provide clear guidance or oversight on readiness.

[Northrop Grumman's New Radar Could Mean Big Things for Marine Corps F/A-18C Fighter Jets - National Interest/Aug 13](#)

The Marine Corps, which is the sole remaining operator of the classic Hornet in active U.S. military service, hopes to replace the mechanically-scanned Raytheon AN/AGP-73 radar with a new AESA radar.

[After Years of Waiting, Blue Angels Set for 'Super' Upgrade - USNI News/Aug 14](#)

Boeing was awarded the contract to retrofit nine Block 1 F/A-18E Super Hornets and two Block 1 F/A-18F Super Hornets for the team from the current crop of F/A-18C/D fighters. Typically the squadron has a total of 11 fighters, according to information from the Navy.

[The Navy, Air Force and Army collect different data on aircraft crashes. That's a safety problem, watchdog says. - Virginian-Pilot/Aug 16](#)

The Navy, Air Force and Army collect different information when they investigate why an aircraft crashes or has a problem, making it difficult for the Defense Department to compare trends as it works to improve safety and share lessons learned across the services, according to a congressional watchdog report.

[Top](#)

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 time is past due to end the outdated, protectionist relic known as the Jones Act - AEIdeas/Aug 10](#)

Tim Taylor has a good primer on the protectionist, regulatory relic known as the Jones Act on his Conversable Economist blog ("A Primer on the Jones Act and American Shipping") based on the Cato Institute's policy analysis "The Jones Act: A Burden America Can No Longer Bear" by Colin Grabow, Inu Manak, and Daniel Ikenson. Here are a few of Tim's "money quotes" (my emphasis):

[A fair assessment of the Jones Act's costs - JOC.com](#)

The fact is that the freight cost to Puerto Rico is higher than it would be if foreign-flag carriers could pick up freight at US ports and deliver cargo to Puerto Rico because their costs are considerably lower for two primary reasons: the cost of Jones Act vessels and the cost of US crews.



ATLANTIC OCEAN (Aug. 6, 2018) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Mason (DDG 87) performs an underway replenishment with the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacques-Laurent Jean-Gilles/Released)

[Top](#)

Navy League of the United States
2300 Wilson Blvd, Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22201
703-312-1571



