



NAVY LEAGUE

of the United States

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Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – August 3

Defense policy update

On Wednesday the Senate voted 87-10 to adopt the reconciled National Defense Authorization Act and send the bill to the president after the House approved it last week.

The Senate will continue work on the Fiscal Year 2019 Defense Appropriations bill when it returns from a brief recess on August 13 after the Appropriations Committee passed the legislation in July. The House approved its defense funding bill in June.

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Iranian Navy exercises

The Iranian Navy is holding large exercises in the Persian Gulf amid threats from the Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to close the Strait of Hormuz if the US reimposes sanctions, after the Administration withdrew from the Nuclear Deal. As [VOA reported](#) Chief of Naval Operations Admiral John Richardson said the Navy is monitoring the situation closely, and is committed to maintaining freedom of navigation. The Navy League is highlighting [this threat to disrupt maritime traffic](#) because at a time when over 100 Iranian vessels are active in the Gulf the Navy remains overstretched due to its inadequately sized fleet. [We're asking Navy League members to speak out](#) and contact their representatives to tell them we cannot under resource shipbuilding in 2019 and must reach a 355-ship fleet as soon as possible.

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- [Expeditionary Warfare](#)
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MARAD funding passes Senate

The Senate passed its version of the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill Wednesday as part of a larger appropriations package. This bill has significant benefits for MARAD that match our recommendations.

- \$300M for the Maritime Security Program, matching Navy League recommendation and \$86M over the request
- \$71M for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy operations, including \$10M for capital improvements, \$8M for equipment/maintenance/repairs
- \$60M for MARAD operations, including \$7M for Short Sea Shipping program (Marine Highways) and \$3M for environment and technology grants
- \$340.2M for the six State Maritime Academies (moves state maritime academy account to a new account line)
 - \$300M is for the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel, per Navy League recommendation
 - \$8M for ship sharing amongst the schools
- \$20M for Assistance to Small Shipyards, \$20M over the request
- \$5M for ship disposal, \$25M below request due to the "non-recurring cost of the decommissioning of the N/S Savannah"
- \$3M for Maritime Guaranteed Loan Program (Title XI), \$3M over request but still far below the \$25-\$30M NLUS recommends

The House has not yet passed its version, though it is through Committee.

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



JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (Aug. 1, 2018) Korean War veterans pay respects after an honorable carry ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Aug. 1, 2018. The United Nations Command recently repatriated 55 transfer cases from North Korea to the U.S. that contain what are believed to be the remains of American service members lost in the Korean War.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Apryl Hall/Released)

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Other stories of interest:

Top Stories

[Panel: China Continues to Coerce South China Sea Neighbors with its Maritime Forces - USNI News/July 30](#)

Nowhere is that more visible than Beijing's "persistent and flexible presence" from its maritime militia, Coast Guard and People's Liberation Army Navy. It is a maritime force that also keeps open the Malacca Straits, a vital passageway for its energy imports, as well as backing up its territorial claims far from its shores and extending its reach into the Indian Ocean and Africa, Bonnie Glaser, director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies China Power Project, said on

Thursday.

[CNO Pledges to Build Partnerships in the Americas Amid Drug Battle - Military.com/July 28](#)

The Navy's top officer met with maritime leaders from across the Western Hemisphere this week, as they work to thwart drug trafficking that's led to security and humanitarian challenges throughout the region.

[Coast Guard Commandant Schultz Optimistic Congress Will Fund New Heavy Icebreaker Program - USNI News/Aug 3](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Fiscal Year 2019 money for a Coast Guard heavy polar icebreaker is frozen on Capitol Hill, but the service's commandant is optimistic the project will ultimately be funded.

The Senate's Fiscal Year 2019 Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill includes \$750 million for the heavy icebreaker but the House version zeroed-out the heavy icebreaker money for the year to make additional funds available for building a barrier along the U.S. southern border.

[U.S. Was Right to Give China's Navy the Boot - Bloomberg Views/Aug 2](#)

By Adm. (Ret) James Stavridis

The vast annual military operation known as the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (simply RIMPAC in Pentagon jargon) just concluded on the beaches of Southern California with a huge demonstration of an amphibious assault, which involves sending troops ashore from warships at sea - a highly complex maneuver whether D-Day or present day.

[Failure of Two Ships to Participate in RIMPAC Highlight Amphibious Readiness Gap - USNI News/Aug 1](#)

THE PENTAGON - The two U.S. amphibious warships that were planned to be central to the Rim of the Pacific 2018 exercises were unable to fully participate in the event due to mechanical failures that highlight continued readiness problems with the Navy's amphibious fleet.

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Seapower

[What deckplates need to know about winning the next great naval battle - Navy Times/July 27](#)

NAVAL BASE NORFOLK, Va. — If the Navy's going to win the next war against a great or rising power, America's chief petty officers must prepare deckplate sailors to fight.

['Leave immediately or you will pay' - China is warning foreign ships that get close to its island fortresses, but the US Navy isn't changing a thing - Business Insider/Aug 1](#)

The U.S. Navy and allies have noticed an increase in Chinese radio queries to foreign ships and planes operating in the South China Sea, some less than friendly and others downright threatening.

[Navy Shifting Homeports of 3 Carriers: Lincoln to San Diego, Stennis to Norfolk, Vinson to Bremerton - USNI News/Aug 2](#)

Aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) will rejoin the U.S. Pacific Fleet when it shifts its homeport from Norfolk, Va., to San Diego, Calif. Two other Nimitz-class carriers will change homeports to accommodate scheduled carrier maintenance periods, Naval Air Forces announced in a Thursday news release.

[Navy's Aegis Combat System Takes Center Stage As Missile Threats Proliferate - Forbes/Aug 2](#)

The U.S. Navy plays a vital role in deterring nuclear aggression with its fleet of ballistic missile submarines. Because the subs can't be targeted when submerged, they are the most survivable component of the nation's strategic deterrent. Being able to survive an attack and then retaliate appropriately is what makes a deterrent credible to enemies.

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Surface and Submarine Warfare

[Navy Exercises Options For Additional Future Frigate Design Work - USNI News/July 31](#)

The Navy expects bids from the following shipbuilders - Austal USA, Huntington Ingalls Industries, General Dynamics Bath Iron Works, Lockheed Martin and Fincantieri Marinette Marine. A final request for proposal is expected in 2019, with the Navy planning to award a single source design and construction contract in 2020, according to the Navy. Ultimately, the Navy plans to build a fleet of 20 frigates

[Navy practices with key anti-mine asset: dolphins - Navy Times/July 27](#)

WASHINGTON — When it comes to minesweeping at the 2018 Rim of the Pacific exercises, the top sonar for the job isn't located on any of the 46 ships and five subs sailing in the maneuvers.

[VIDEO: Navy May Bring Back Harpoon Missiles on Attack Subs After Successful SINKEX; RIMPAC Also Highlights Ground-to-Ship Strike Capability - USNI News/July 30](#)

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM - The Navy may once again arm its attack submarines with the Harpoon anti-ship cruise missile, after a sub-launched Harpoon performed well during a sinking exercise this month in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2018 exercise.

[The Navy Has One Big Weakness: Old Ship-Killer Missiles \(But That Will Soon Change\) - National Interest/Aug 3](#)

The U.S. Navy is taking a number of steps to close this gap. Most important among these is the Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRASM). LRASM is a DARPA and U.S. Navy-funded program meant to provide the U.S. Navy and Air Force with an offensive anti-surface weapon (OASuW) to counter the growing threats from anti-access/area-denial (A2/AD) doctrines.

[The Navy and the High North - Proceedings Magazine/August 2018](#)

The Navy has been present in the Arctic since the USS Nautilus (SSN-571) first ventured to the North Pole in 1958, albeit primarily in the undersea and air domains. While the region was of tremendous strategic importance during the Cold War, the years that followed saw diminished geopolitical interest. However, regional warming trends, combined with the potential for vast economic resources, have sparked global interest. While the Arctic has long been considered a peaceful and stable region, the Navy must seek to better understand the Arctic and to build greater capacity for operations there to ensure continued protection of U.S. strategic interests-and those of our allies-in the High North.

[The Navy Needs People Even More Than Ships - USNI Blog/Aug 1](#)

The United States and its allies have far fewer ships than they did in the 1980s but have larger commitments. The number of ships is not the best measure of sea power; the kinds of ships matter, too. A fleet that has to patrol large parts of the world needs numbers, however; no ship, no matter how impressive, can be in two

places at once. And in a protracted war, hull casualties are inevitable. Ships take time to build. An early wave of losses, such as the United States suffered in the Pacific during 1942, has to be replaced.

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Aviation

[Navy Triton Squadron Begins First Flight Operations - Seapower Magazine/July 31](#)

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Navy's first Triton squadron has flown its MQ-4C unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in functional check flights in preparation for the UAV's first operational deployment.

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Expeditionary Warfare

[Marines receive new advanced air defense system as air threats loom - Marine Times/July 31](#)

Air defense is something the Corps hasn't had to think much about over the past 17 years in Iraq and Afghanistan, where U.S. aircraft have dominated the airspace. An advanced radar system will be pivotal to the Corps as it prepares for a potential fight with near-peer adversaries where air and ballistic missile threats are rising.

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Homeland

[Crowley's LNG-Fueled Con/Ro Begins Puerto Rico Service - Maritime Exec/July 31](#)

Crowley Maritime's new con/ro El Coquí has delivered its first cargo from Florida to Puerto Rico, marking the start of a new high-speed service for vehicles and consumer goods on one of the largest Jones Act routes. She departed for her inaugural voyage from Jacksonville on Friday and arrived in San Juan on Monday, carrying a full load of containers, reefers and vehicles.

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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 latest edition of the MaritimeTV has A.C. Cartner discuss the CATO Institute article on the Jones Act. <http://www.maritimetv.com/Featured-Content/Featured-Videos/Videoid/3308/UseHtml5/True>



RED SEA (Aug. 1, 2018) The guided-missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109) transits the Red Sea at night during exercise Eagle Salute 18. Eagle Salute 18 is a surface exercise with the Egyptian Naval Force (ENF) conducted to enhance interoperability and war-fighting readiness, fortify military-to-military relationships and advance operational capabilities of all participating units. Jason Dunham is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points. (U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Intelligence Specialist Matt Bodenner/Released)

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