



NAVY LEAGUE

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Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – September 14

Defense Funding

On Thursday afternoon, the joint House and Senate Conference Committee reconciling the appropriations legislation for defense funding finished their work and agreed to their conference report. This legislation also contains a Continuing Resolution (CR) which funds the Departments of Homeland Security, State, Commerce, Justice and other agencies until December 7. The bill appropriates \$606.5B for base defense spending and \$67.9 billion for OCO funds, totaling \$675 billion. This is \$20.4B over FY18 funding levels and matches the FY19 request. It includes a 2.6 percent pay raise for the military. A summary is below:

Procurement

Shipbuilding: \$24B, \$2.3B over the funding request

- Funds the construction of 13 ships (number of ships matches NLUS recommendation, but is about \$2B short of our funding recommendation)
- \$4.3B for Two Virginia-class submarines (\$32M less than requested)
- \$5.3B for Three DDG-51 destroyers
- \$1.57 for Three Littoral Combat Ships (\$925M more than requested)
- \$647M for One Expeditionary Sea Base
- \$225M for One Expeditionary Fast Transport
- \$1B for Two TAO Fleet Oilers, including advanced procurement funding
- \$80.5M for One Towing, Salvage and Rescue Ship

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- \$350M 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
- \$3B for advance procurement to support the construction of the Columbia-class submarine

Aviation: \$1B over budget request

- \$3.5B for 13 F-35C and 22 F-35B (\$900M for additional four F-35 carrier variant and two F-35 STOVL (USMC variant) over request)
- \$1.1B for 13 V-22 Ospreys (\$240M for seven additional aircraft)
- \$1B for nine E-2D Hawkeyes (\$340M and 2 aircraft over request)
- Cuts two C-40A
- \$90M more for Navy and Marine Corp aviation spares and repair parts for maintenance and readiness, per Navy League recommendation

Other

- \$121M for Sidewinder missiles (\$44M over budget request), \$103M for MK-48 torpedoes (\$11M over budget request)
- Adds \$20M for Navy test and evaluation infrastructure
- \$18.511B in RDTE, \$29M 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
- \$55B for Operations & Maintenance about \$1.4B under budget request

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Sea Services affected by Florence

As Hurricane Florence bore down on the Carolinas, military communities across the East Coast prepared to ride out the storm and prepare for the aftermath. U.S. [Naval Institute News reported](#) that all flyable aircraft from Naval Air Stations up and down the coast were being relocated, while Naval Station Norfolk dispatched 30 ships out to sea Monday. The Coast Guard also sortied dozens ships and aircraft. Wednesday the Mid-Atlantic Navy Region Commander [Rear Admiral Charles Rocks said bases are ready](#). Ports up and down the Atlantic coast were also shut down Wednesday as the [Coast Guard ordered Condition Zulu](#) at Hampton Roads, VA and Wilmington and Morehead City, NC, meaning that gale force winds were expected within 12 hours. USNI News reported that [NORTHCOM is positioning amphibious assets](#) to chase the storm for relief.

Meanwhile the commanding general of [Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune assured Marines and their families the post was prepared to ride out Florence](#), and mandatory evacuation was not ordered despite evacuations of the surrounding counties. Social media posts caused confusion as some wondered why they were riding the storm out.

In Guam following Typhoon Mangkhut, the [Wasp Expeditionary Strike Group \(ESG\) is assessing damage](#) and assisting in recovery. The typhoon [hit the Northern Mariana Islands](#) as well, where the Coast Guard has already given the green light to open the ports.

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CBO Submarine Maintenance Study

The [Congressional Budget Office \(CBO\) released a study Wednesday](#) comparing the costs of submarine maintenance at public and private shipyards. The study was requested by the Chair and Ranking Members of the House Armed Services Seapower and Readiness subcommittees. The CBO found that between 1993 and 2017, after

adjusting for certain costs, the average costs of submarine repair at private shipyards were 38-percent lower than at public shipyards. They looked at Los Angeles-class Docking Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA) and said that the Navy had not calculated properly. USNI News quoted Navy officials as having said [private yards were more expensive](#).

Rep. Joe Courtney (CT-02) said in a statement that "Navy has often pushed back on assigning more availabilities to private shipyards claiming that the cost of conducting maintenance in the private yards comes at an unaffordable 'premium'. This analysis makes clear that these arguments do not hold up under objective scrutiny."

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Harbor Maintenance Funding

Thursday the House also unanimously passed the Fiscal Year 2019 Energy and Water appropriations legislation, making the first time since 2004 that the related departments won't have to operate on a Continuing Resolution (CR). The bill will now go to the President for signature. It includes \$1.54 billion in funds for Harbor Maintenance, a 10-percent increase from FY18 and the fifth year the funds have matched or exceeded Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) targets set in 2014, hitting 91% of expected revenues.

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RIMPAC Wrap

From the Honolulu Council we have an excellent wrap up of the Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Exposition (IMSE) which was timed to coincide with the RIMPAC exercises. View pictures at <http://imsehawaii.org/> and read a summary of all the military exercises and future planning, with great detail on the success of the exercise: [here](#).

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



180913-N-KW492-0092 ATLANTIC OCEAN (Sept. 13, 2018) Ensign Jibri Kea tracks the position of a surface contact using a polaris on the bridge of the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3). U.S. Naval Forces Northern Command deployed Kearsarge, along with embarked elements of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit and the Expeditionary Strike Group 2 command element, to be positioned to provide Defense Support to Civil Authorities from the sea in response to Hurricane Florence, should support be requested. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ryre Arciaga/Released)

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Top Stories

[Navy conducts three scheduled drills in Middle East as tensions simmer with Iran - Stars and Stripes/Sep 12](#)

It's rare to have so many naval exercises going on in the area simultaneously, but "this isn't in response to any one threat or any potential threat," said Lt. Christina Gibson, spokeswoman for U.S. Navy Central Command. "It is to demonstrate that we are operating and capable to respond to threats, should they arise," she said.

[Embrace the Coast Guard's Strength - Proceedings Magazine/September 2018](#)

What's in a motto? Can a few words set the tone for an organization? Or summarize its culture? The Coast Guard motto- Semper Paratus or "Always Ready"-supposedly does both. It is an aspirational slogan that also describes an ethos engrained in every Coast Guardsman. The Coast Guard prides itself on being ready for any and every task and mission.

[Trump OK's Huge Industrial Base Study: Rollout May Be Delayed - Breaking Defense/Sep 11](#)

WASHINGTON: The White House and Pentagon are planning a major rollout of the much-anticipated defense industrial base report scheduled for Friday, but Hurricane Florence might have something to say about that.

[Belt and Road: More Than Just a Brand - RealClearDefense/Sep 14](#)

For all of its grandiose ambition, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an enigma. The debate about Beijing's intentions continues. Is it a grand strategy? Or merely a clever repackaging of commercial activity, aimed at internal audiences?

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Seapower

[China Launches Icebreaker Xuelong 2 - Maritime Exec/Sep 10](#)

China launched Xuelong 2, the nation's first locally-built icebreaker, on Monday. **Concerned about our icebreaker presence? Take action [here](#).**

[One of Russia's New Nuclear Icebreakers Facing Delays - Maritime Exec/Sep 11](#)

The hull of the Arktika, one of Russia's three LK-60 nuclear icebreakers, was

floated in 2016 at the Baltic Shipyard in St. Petersburg. It was due to be commissioned in May of 2019, but that deadline has been pushed back to April of 2020 thanks to a delay in manufacturing its steam turbine.

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Surface and Submarine Warfare

[Navy Pursues New Stealthy Heavyweight Attack Torpedo - Warrior Maven/Sep 7](#)

Navy weapons developers are seeking a high-tech, longer range and more lethal submarine-launched heavyweight Mk 48 that can better destroy enemy ships, submarines and small boats, service officials said.

[Navy Seeks To Retain Senior Submarine Officers with New Bonus Program - USNI News/Sep 11](#)

Starting Oct. 1, the Navy will offer bonuses of \$45,000 per year for senior submarine officers who sign two to four-year contracts. Signing a single-year contract will qualify for a bonus of \$35,000, according to a policy released by Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Robert Burke.

[The Chinese Navy's Growing Anti-Submarine Warfare Capabilities - The Diplomat/Sep 12](#)

Media reports surrounding Chinese Navy (or the People's Liberation Army Navy, PLAN) developments over recent years have predominantly focused on advancements in anti-surface and anti-ship capabilities, with some more recent coverage acknowledging gains made in anti-air warfare albeit in a much delayed fashion. However, PLAN anti submarine warfare (ASW) has continued to be portrayed as a significant deficiency, with only some articles in the last few years taking note of new platforms, weapons, and sensors that have been introduced. This piece is part one of a two part series that will consider the transformation of PLAN ASW capabilities in recent years. Part one will examine the rapid advancement of organic ASW capabilities seen aboard PLAN surface combatants.

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Expeditionary Warfare

[Marine Corps Active-Duty Non-Combat Deaths On The Rise Again - Task and Purpose/Sep 10](#)

The Marine Corps has suffered the highest number of non-combat related active-duty deaths in three years, branch officials told Task & Purpose on Monday.

[Marines Deploy First F-35Bs to the Middle East; 13th MEU, Essex ARG Test Battle Readiness - USNI News/Sep 10](#)

The F-35Bs are assigned to the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 211 "Wake Island Avengers" and part of the air combat element deployed with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The 13th MEU and San Diego, Calif.-based Essex Amphibious Ready Group has arrived U.S. 5th Fleet and launched F-35Bs from the deck of amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD-2).

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Aviation

[Air Boss Responds: We Value Your Input! - Proceedings Magazine/September 2018](#)

Vice Admiral DeWolfe Miller, Commander, Naval Air Forces

Naval Aviation is at a key point in our storied history. Over the past 17 years, deployed Naval Aviation forces have excelled in the air and made a difference in the world. The tempo and pace of these operations, however, have taken a toll on our aircraft and people. Maintainers have struggled with limited parts to keep aircraft flying, and aircrews haven't been able to execute fully the flight hours needed through all phases of the OFRP to build individual readiness, experience, tactical proficiency and lethality.

[The inside story of how a US Navy pilot shot down a Syrian jet - Navy Times/Sep 11](#)

"Defending guys on the ground is what I've done my whole career," the F/A-18E Super Hornet pilot told Navy Times last week at the Tailhook Association's annual convention, where he received the Distinguished Flying Cross for becoming the first American pilot to shoot down an enemy plane since 1999.

[Watchdog report sounds alarm over military aviation readiness - Navy Times/Sep](#)

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"The Air Force and Navy are operating many of their fixed-wing aircraft well beyond their original designed service lives and therefore are confronted with sustainment challenges," the GAO reports.

[Navy, Air Force team up to get to bottom of oxygen deprivation among pilots - Stars and Stripes/Sep 13](#)

Pilots flying the Navy's F/A-18 Super Hornets and the Air Force's F-22 Raptors have both reported in recent years experiencing hypoxia-like symptoms while flying, and solving the issue has proved problematic for both branches. Hampton Roads is home to both aircraft, with Super Hornets based at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach and Raptors at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton.

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Jones Act discussion

The following is for discussion purposes only and does not represent the position of the Navy League

[The Jones Act And Duncan Hunter - A Rebuttal - gCaptain/Sep 9](#)

by Salvatore R. Mercogliano (Editorial) Opponents of the American Maritime Industry and the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, known as the Jones Act, have new ammunition in their assault against this sector and legislation and it is Congressman Duncan Hunter. There is absolutely no defense for the actions taken by Congressman Hunter and he should be made accountable. However, his actions are not the responsibility of the American merchant marine or maritime sector.

[The Jones Act...Just the Facts - Maritime TV/Sep 14](#)

In this 4th program edition in the series, Jimmy Hart, President of the Metal Trades Department (MTD) of the AFL-CIO discusses the importance of getting the word out on the vital importance of Jones Act to preserving and creating jobs in a full spectrum of American industries.



GULF OF ADEN (Sept. 7, 2018) Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class Francis Centeno launches an F-35B Lightning II attached to the "Avengers" of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 211 from the flight deck of Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2). Essex is on a scheduled deployment of the Essex Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). The Essex ARG and 13th MEU is the first U.S. Navy/Marine Corps team to deploy to U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations with the transformational warfighting capabilities of the F-35B Lightning II, making it a more lethal, flexible and persistent force, leading to a more stable region for our partner nations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Sabyn L. Marrs/Released)

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