



NAVY LEAGUE

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Inside this issue

Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – September 7

- [Defense Funding](#)
- [McCain's Successors in the Senate](#)
- [HASC Chairman at CSIS](#)

Other stories of interest:

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

Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – September 7

Defense Funding

The [House and Senate announced their conferees](#) for Fiscal Year 2019 Defense Appropriations legislation on Tuesday, and Politico reported that House Defense Appropriations Chairwoman Kay Granger said the bill "could be largely wrapped up this week."

[Top](#)

McCain's Successors in the Senate

[Former U.S. Senator Jon Kyl was sworn in Wednesday](#) to replace late Armed Services Chairman John McCain. He will take John McCain's seat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and will assume a seat on the Seapower subcommittee. [Senator James Inhofe \(R-OK\) was named the Chairman](#) of the full committee after shepherding the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act through the Senate in McCain's absence.

[Top](#)

HASC Chairman at CSIS

Wednesday Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee Mac Thornberry (R-TX) was [awarded the Sam Nunn 2018 Prize](#) by the Center for Strategic and International Studies. His extremely powerful remarks focused on the liberal international order that the United States and its allies have built since World War II, praising the long period of peace and stability that has led the world to prosperity. Rep. Thornberry said that in a time where information is so accessible it's difficult to determine what is important, and advised attendees to "bite our tongues and restrain our fingers." He urged policy professionals, and all

[discussion](#)
[n](#)

Americans, to share their knowledge of the extensive work that has been done over decades to create a rules-based system that is now being challenged by revisionist powers.

You can watch Congressman Thornberry's fantastic remarks here:
<https://www.csis.org/events/chairman-mac-thornberry-national-security-and-politics-turbulent-times>

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



PEARL HARBOR (Sept. 5, 2018) Hawaii Gov. David Ige, Hawaii-based service members from every branch of service, Department of Defense (DoD) personnel and military and DoD families form a human chain in the shape of a yellow suicide awareness ribbon in support of National Suicide Awareness Month during the Joint Services Suicide Prevention Proclamation signing at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Ige, military leadership and Military and Family Support Center came together as a community to pledge to help prevent suicide-related deaths. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Corwin Colbert/Released)

[Top](#)

Other stories of interest:

Top Stories

[U.S. National Security Requires a Viable and Reliable U.S.-Flagged Commercial Fleet - Sep 5](#)

The Trump Administration's commitment to restoring U.S. military preeminence extends beyond improving readiness and energizing modernization efforts. It also focuses on reinvigorating a defense industrial base that has been allowed to erode over the past quarter-century. Deterring but, if necessary fighting future great power conflicts will depend on the capacity of private U.S. companies to simultaneously expand production, repair damaged platforms and equipment and supply U.S. and allied forces fighting on distant continents.

Take action to [support our Merchant Mariners](#) at our [Voice to Congress website!](#)

[As lawmakers return to work, shutdown fears loom - Defense News/Sep 4](#)

WASHINGTON - In four weeks, lawmakers could be heading into the midterm elections with a newly adopted federal budget and a sense of pride for finishing their work on time.

Or they could be heading home with a short-term budget extension and a lot of angry voicemails from Pentagon leaders complaining about their long-term budget plans.

Take action to support adequate [funding for a 355-ship Navy](#) at our [Voice to Congress website!](#)

[Adam Smith expects future defense budgets to dip below \\$716 billion - Defense News/Sep 5](#)

WASHINGTON - When Congress delivered a \$716 billion defense budget to the Pentagon, defense leaders made it clear it was a welcome boost - but some questioned if the number would be enough to do everything the department foresees as necessary.

[With McCain gone, who will watch the Pentagon? - Defense News/Aug 31](#)

WASHINGTON - The death of Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain will leave the Senate without a unique voice, one that conducted oversight of the Pentagon with forceful personality, charm and a wire-brush style of questioning.

[NAVSEA Looking for Early Wins as it Kicks Off 20-Year Yard Modernization - USNI News/Sep 5](#)

WASHINGTON NAVY YARD - The Navy plans to build momentum for its 20-year, \$21-billion ship repair yard modernization plan through key early wins: proving that a redesign of the yard in Maine translates to a substantial increase in productivity, and renovating drydocks to accommodate the Navy's newest nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers.

[Defense Secretary James Mattis visits San Diego Monday - CBS8/Sep 3](#)

Mattis observed training exercises for a carrier strike group, although Navy and Defense Department officials did not disclose details about the training or the strike group involved.

[The White House is discussing potential replacements for Jim Mattis - Washington Post/Sept 5](#)

Well before this week's revelations about President Trump's interactions with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis in Bob Woodward's new book, officials inside the White House have been actively discussing who will replace Mattis at the Pentagon - whenever he might step down.

[Top](#)

Seapower

[355-Ship Navy Will Mean Extending Vessels Past Planned Lifespans: Admiral - Military.com/Sep 5](#)

Some of the Navy's ships could stay in service well beyond their scheduled lifespan as leaders look for ways to modernize existing vessels as part of a decades-long fleet buildup.

[US Navy to launch force structure assessment - Defense News/Sep 6](#)

The force structure assessment, or FSA, will involve gauging the perception of threat by regional combatant commanders and running that through war games for "a Navy answer," likely for analysis by independent study groups, Merz said.

[CNO: New Maritime Design Set to Deliver in the Fall - USNI News/Sep 5](#)

ARLINGTON, Va.- Great power competition with China and Russia is more protracted than ever and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson said the Navy must continue to adapt to the challenge.

[US Navy must be able to compete in 'gray zone' conflict, says top service officer - Defense News/Sept 5](#)

China and Russia have employed tactics to harass neighbors and challenge the U.S. Navy, from the former's island building projects in the South China Sea to the latter's harassment of U.S. forces at sea, which it has used to score political points with its population.

[Top](#)

Surface and Submarine Warfare

[CNO Richardson: Columbia SSBN Program on Track, Help on Margin Needed - Seapower Magazine/Sept 5](#)

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Navy's top officer said the program schedule to build the Navy's next-generation ballistic-missile submarine (SSBN) is very tight and some more margin in the program would help.

[Navy accidents boost interest in US Naval Academy training - Stars and Stripes/Sep 1](#)

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - Lt. Devan Gurecki remembers feeling uneasy the first time she set foot on the bridge of a Navy ship. All she knew about warships she had learned in officer candidate school classrooms. Suddenly, she was a lookout on the bridge and giving directions.

[The Navy's next stealthy destroyer slated to leave for San Diego in November - Navy Times/Sep 3](#)

BATH, Maine - Shipbuilder Bath Iron Works has replaced one of the massive turbines on the future guided-missile destroyer Michael Monsoor, and the stealthy warship is scheduled to depart for San Diego in November.

[The Navy thinks Russian subs are a growing threat to Europe, and it's mounting a full-court press to counter them - Business Insider/Sep 4](#)

US and European officials have warned repeatedly in recent years that more sophisticated and more active Russian submarines pose a growing threat, and NATO countries are taking steps to counter that perceived challenge.

[Top](#)

Aviation

[F-35C, Super Hornet Damaged During At-Sea Aerial Refueling - USNI News/Sep 4](#)

The engine of an F-35C from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 125 was damaged while receiving fuel from an F/A-18F Super Hornet from VFA-103 on Aug. 22, Navy officials confirmed to USNI News. Debris from an aerial refueling basket was ingested into the F-35C's engine intake, resulting in the damage, Naval Air Forces Atlantic spokesman Cmdr. Dave Hecht said on Tuesday.

[Boat Captain To US Fighter Pilot: 'Buzz Us Like Tom Cruise Did The Tower In 'Top Gun' - Business Insider/Aug 30](#)

A U.S. warship was asking for a radio check, and then asked the 28-foot charter boat named "Killing Time" if it would like a flyby, Wirt said Thursday in an interview with The News & Observer.

[Top](#)

Jones Act discussion

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

[Duncan Hunter's Real Crime Is the Jones Act - Bloomberg Opinion/Sep 4](#)

Hunter, who has been stripped of his chairmanship of the House Subcommittee on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation and other positions, will yet have his day in court. But as an ardent champion of a rather obscure law involving U.S. commercial shipping called the Jones Act, he's already guilty of fleecing U.S. taxpayers and consumers.



U.S. 5TH FLEET AREA OF OPERATIONS (Sept. 1, 2018) Sailors stand night watch on the forecastle of the guided-missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109). 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 Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jonathan Clay/Released)

[Top](#)

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