



# NAVY LEAGUE

*of the United States*

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## Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – September 28

### Defense funding passed on time-first time in a decade!

We are today congratulating Congress for passing the Defense funding bill on time for the first time in ten years. With a 361-61 vote from the House of Representatives Wednesday; last week's 93-7 Senate vote, and the President's signature today, Fiscal Year 2019 will be the first year the Department of Defense is funded on time since 2009. In hearing after hearing military leadership pled for stable, predictable, and adequate funding for the Pentagon and Congress delivered. It is paramount that the practice of using continuing resolutions to fund the military be a relic of the past, as it prevents the long-term planning that keeps our armed services strong. Partial year funding causes delays in maintenance and training, prevents issuing new contracts and results in significant workforce disruptions. Navy Secretary Richard Spencer said last year CRs have cost the Navy \$4 billion since 2011. This would not have happened without your organizing and motivating others to tell your members how much this matters to the sea services. This has been one of our top priorities for years, and your hard work has paid off. The Navy League is an effective advocate for our Sea Services because of you.

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### Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus

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Retired Admiral Mark Bubzy, Administrator of the Maritime Administration (MARAD) joined the Navy League Friday morning for our quarterly Shipbuilding Caucus Breakfast. Co-chairs

Rob Wittman (R-VA) and Joe Courtney (D-CT) were joined by four of their colleagues and Admiral Mike Haycock, the top acquisition officer in the Coast Guard. Admiral Bubzy said that his Navy side was excited, but he was worried as a merchant mariner. The U.S.-flag commercial ships are absolutely essential to warfighting, and with dropping cargo loads and aging vessels investments are needed. He said he looks forward to a Maritime Strategy coming out and being able to present that publicly. This is the last breakfast of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress and we look forward to another successful year supporting one of the most effective caucuses in Congress. Thank you for your donations that made this possible.

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### Coast Guard Birthday



Your Navy League headquarters staff helped organize and sponsor the 228<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for the United States Coast Guard. Nearly a dozen members of congress spoke their

appreciation of the men and women of the service, praising their daily efforts to protect the country and save American lives. One officer also had warm words for Navy League councils in Florida for directly for sponsoring commissionings of the new Fast Response Cutters which have been active throughout the Caribbean carrying out Coast Guard missions. Again, these great opportunities for the sea services to interact with Congress would not be possible without your support.

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## **Former Navy Secretary on American Seapower**

Yesterday at the Hudson Institute, former Secretary of the Navy John Lehman gave a talk on seapower amid the launch of his book *Oceans Ventured: Winning the Cold War at Sea*. He relayed his experience competing with the Soviets under President Reagan, saying that the Navy proved they were much better than the Soviets. He criticized the ability of the Joint Force to project power, noting that because of all the Combatant Commander's demand for ships, the Navy can't deter effectively in the Pacific. He also criticized a "bloated Pentagon bureaucracy" and procurement by committee saying that it has increased acquisition costs. Secretary Lehman said that the Chinese asked him why we have unilaterally disarmed, and argued that to compete with the Chinese we need to prove we can operate in the Pacific, and make it clear we can defeat them or make the cost prohibitive.

You can watch the whole speech here:

<https://www.hudson.org/events/1604-oceans-ventured-a-discussion-with-former-navy-secretary-john-lehman92018>

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## **Coast Guard Hearing**

On Wednesday morning the House Transportation Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, under new Chairman Brian Mast (R-FL), held a hearing examining modernization. The hearing marked the first time the 26<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Karl Schultz, has appeared before the subcommittee publicly. Known to many Navy League members as a former Congressional Liaison and Atlantic Area commander Admiral Schultz presented his vision for Ready, Relevant, and Responsive Coast Guard. He thanked Congress for their work sending increased funding last year but warned that there is still \$1.6 billion in shore infrastructure backlog, and announced plans to provide a briefing on legacy infrastructure. The Commandant promised that in the Arctic the Coast Guard will "cooperate where we can compete where we must."

Congressman Mast asked about the Hurricane Response capacity, and noted that hours on cutters were down from previous years. Adm. Schultz said he is confident in their ability to respond especially with significantly more capable new ships including powerful C5ISR capabilities, but mentioned concern about force levels, in particular the reserve force. Ranking Member John Garamendi (D-CA) asked about the reprogramming of \$32.1M of Coast Guard money for ICE and expressed his concern about degradation of capacity. In response the Commandant said some dollars were taken some from spare parts, and shore infrastructure recapitalization but that reprogramming is always part of the budget process and there is room to maneuver. He also promised to deliver a cost report on Florence response. Congressman Garamendi also asked about the Icebreaker program, especially schedule and design risks, and inland ships. Admiral Schultz said the GAO report on the program was welcome and helpful and he was keeping watch on the program, now called the Polar Security Cutter. He also highlighted the Waterways Commerce Cutter program, noting that the oldest is seven decades old, the average is five, and the acquisitions workforce is stretched. He asked Congress to provide stable funding, noting that under Continuing Resolutions (CRs) the Coast Guard loses support staff for emergency centers, and can't do scheduled maintenance.

You can watch the full hearing here:

<https://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=402825>

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



180927-N-HB863-001 SUVA, Fiji (Sept. 27, 2018) Under Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly conducts a pass in review at the Stanley Brown Naval Base during a Sept. 27, 2018 visit to Fiji.

Modly discussed improving military-to-military cooperation, shared security interests and our mutual desire for safety, security and prosperity in the region. Modly is on a multination visit to the

Oceania region focused on strengthening partnerships and cooperation. (U.S. Navy photo by

Cmdr. Scott McClay/Released)

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#### **Other stories of interest:**

### **Top Stories**

With a big cash infusion, Congress is all-in on the amphibious Navy - Defense News/Sep 23

The minibus spending bill that advanced out of the Senate and is headed to the House for its final vote funded \$350 million for accelerated acquisition of the LPD-

17 Flight II, a somewhat streamlined version of the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock. That move comes on the heels of the Navy awarding Huntington Ingalls Industries a \$165.5 million contract for purchasing long-lead time materials in August.

Rand: Navy's Shipboard Posts May Have Higher Risk of Sexual Assault - Maritime Exec/Sep 21

In 2014, the Rand Corporation launched a comprehensive survey of sexual assault and sexual harassment in the U.S. military. Over the intervening years, it has released additional details from the survey, and on Friday it disclosed command-level statistics. The new report reveals a striking pattern: almost all of the U.S. Navy commands with the highest estimated risk of sexual assault against women are aboard ship.

Editorial: Public shipyards are in dire need for a makeover - Virginian-Pilot/Sep 26  
THE U.S. Navy depends heavily on both public and private shipyards to handle maintenance and repairs for its fleet of ships, but Navy officials have expressed a preference for the public yards, saying they're less expensive.

Navy gives OTA authority to all systems commands - Federal News Radio/Sep 26

The Navy is now giving each of its system commands the authority to use other transaction authorities up to \$100 million.

The move comes as the Navy and other parts of the military and Defense Department are increasingly using the procurement method to pay for prototypes and use nontraditional defense companies to spur innovation.

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## **Seapower**

Truman is back in the saddle, again - Navy Times/Sep 19

"We are thrilled to have the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group back in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations and look forward to continuing to work with [the Truman Strike Group] team as we conduct the full spectrum of maritime operations," said 6th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti in a statement released Tuesday morning.

Diesel Submarines: The Game Changer the U.S. Navy Needs -

RealClearDefense/Sep 24

Among the more-than-ample reasons for acquiring a flotilla of diesel-electric submarines for the U.S. Navy: SSKs could help deter war by demonstrating American resiliency should war come in the Western Pacific. Deterrence comes from capability and visible resolve to use it. And from staying power. Foes blanch at starting a fight if they fear they can do little to blunt an antagonist's warmaking capability. In short, resilient contestants deter. And should war come anyway, an artfully employed diesel contingent could help the United States and its allies—principally Japan—prevail in that war.

Navy Acquisition Chief: Navy Moving to Use Block Ship Maintenance Contracts - Seapower Magazine/Sep 26

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Navy's top acquisition official said the service is moving toward block bidding of ship maintenance rather than issuing contracts for single ship availabilities. The Navy also is working to rapidly address unplanned repair needs for its ships.

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## Surface and Submarine Warfare

Navy dissolves combat camera units that have documented sailors for decades - Virginian-Pilot/Sep 21

Bivera had been assigned to photograph a live-fire beach landing exercise between U.S. Marines and their South American counterparts. After it was over, children and spectators ran out to a berm to grab shell casings as souvenirs. Then there was an explosion that injured at least two children and killed one, Bivera said.

The U.S. was being blamed. Bivera was ordered to document the scene. When he was done shooting, he developed his film in a darkroom set up in a tiny bathroom on the destroyer USS O'Bannon. As the sun rose, he laid out his prints before an admiral.

New Tech Will Take the Navy beyond Mines - Proceedings Magazine/September 2018

The discussion of the "other mine warfare" begun by Admiral James Winnefeld and Captain Nadeem Syed Ahmad in the July Proceedings, and advanced by Captain Hans Lynch with a comment and discussion in the August issue, offers good insight. That said, it may be helpful to provide some amplifying information,

explaining how offensive mine warfare is beginning to transform into multidomain offensive and defensive capabilities from the seabed.

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## **Expeditionary Warfare**

[Wasp ESG Completes Typhoon Assistance to Northern Marianas, Guam - USNI News/Sep 14](#)

Marines and sailors from Wasp and Ashland flew 63 sorties in a variety of aircraft, including MV-22B Ospreys, CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters, and MH-60S Seahawk helicopters. The sailors and Marines delivered roughly 29,500 pounds of supplies such as drinking water to Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Also, on Rota, nearly 100 sailors and Marines deployed to clear debris from roadways and provided logistical help according to 7th Fleet.

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## **Aviation**

[From boneyard to brand new: Outside contractor gives new life to H-53 helos - Defense News/Sep 23](#)

WASHINGTON - After sitting in the Arizona desert since 2004, a pair of MH-53 Sea Dragon heavy-lift helicopters were rescued by the Navy and Marine Corps in 2015 as candidates for refurbishment and re-entry into the fleet. But instead of going the typical depot route, the services chose an outside contractor to whip the aircraft back into flying shape.

[Navy Stand-Down of Triton Drones Will Continue Until Crash Investigation Concludes - USNI News/Sep 21](#)

A Triton conducting operational testing ahead of a deployment to Guam later this year crashed near Naval Base Ventura County on Sept. 12. In the aftermath of the crash, USNI News reported the Triton community was temporarily ceasing operations.

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## Homeland

[Photos: Coast Guard Intercepts Smugglers off Puerto Rico - Maritime Exec/Sep 21](#)

The mission started Saturday night when an HC-144 patrol aircraft spotted a go-fast vessel moving towards Puerto Rico without any lights on. The Tezanos diverted to intercept the boat and deployed its small boat to chase down the craft. During the chase, the HC-144 aircrew saw the occupants of the go-fast throwing bales of suspected contraband over the side.

[Do what's right for our Blue Water Vietnam veterans - Navy Times/Sep 21](#)

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017 (H.R. 299) is currently languishing in the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and as a result, vital funding of benefits that impacts the lives and livelihoods of veterans now hangs in the balance.

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## Personnel

[Navy warns sailors who can't deploy that they will be reviewed for involuntary separation - Navy Times/Sep 26](#)

"If you go 12 consecutive months, not qualified for sea duty - which is our rough metric for deployability in the Navy because we're a seagoing service - then you are subject to processing for administrative separation, " Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. Bob Burke announced during an online all hands call Sept. 25.



180925-N-UY653-109 MEDITERRANEAN SEA (Sept. 25, 2018) Spanish sailors assigned to the Spanish navy frigate Mendez Nunez (F104) conduct a personnel transfer with Sailors assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64) as the ships participate in SMARTEX-181, Sept. 25, 2018. SMARTEX-181 is a multilateral exercise aimed at enhancing interoperability and training between participating countries. Carney, forward-deployed to Rota, Spain, is on its fifth patrol in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of regional allies and partners as well as U.S. national security interests in Europe and Africa. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Ryan U. Kledzik/Released)

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