



# NAVY LEAGUE

*of the United States*

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## Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – October 5

### **Navy League Government Affairs News**

As many of you have now heard, I will be leaving the Navy League this Tuesday for a new and exciting opportunity I did not expect to receive, as I had never even thought of leaving Navy League. It was a very hard decision as I love the Navy League and its members very, very much, and have always felt supported and empowered by Navy League leadership. I would like to especially thank the committee leadership: Jim Bras, Don Giles, Jon Kaskin, and those I worked with previously: Geoff Prosch and the late Jack Ritter. They have all been great leaders who I admire and trusted for guidance. They do incredible work and inspire me every day. I strongly believe in the mission and will continue to be active as a volunteer, so this is not a goodbye and I will hopefully see you at convention! If you need anything, ever, you can contact me at my personal email of [saracuentes@gmail.com](mailto:saracuentes@gmail.com), and I am confident Ryan Simon will take excellent care of you after my departure. In the meantime, I am working with Alan and the HR team to make a smooth transition, and am helping interview my successor.

I am immeasurably proud of what we have built with this committee and all that we have accomplished---raising spending caps, securing hurricane repair funds for the Coast Guard, codifying a 355-ship Navy into law, and making readiness a priority. We've expanded the Grass Roots program with higher numbers each year, launched a successful fly-in that is the envy of other associations, and stood up the Voice to Congress site that makes it easy for passionate Navy Leaguers to make their voices heard. We are always punching above our weight in terms of the impact we have on Capitol Hill, and that's thanks to you. I have always bragged that I support the best committee in the

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entire Navy League---your passion and dedication constantly drove me to push myself to better serve you and make you proud. You are mission focused and always put the needs of the services first. You were also so much fun to work with---I enjoyed all our calls, our in-person committee meetings, and have always felt supported and valued by you. Your respect has meant so much to me. I admire all the work, time, and effort that you donate to the Navy League and the men and women of the sea services. Thank you for making my time here joyful.

- Sara Fuentes

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## Legislative Affairs - Grassroots Resources

# Legislative Agenda

Recommended  
Congressional Fiscal Priorities



This handout is an excellent resource for grassroots advocates to brief them on the Navy League's Legislative Affairs priorities for meeting with Members of

Congress, or others interested.

***Click above to access the document!***



We have updates from Headquarters! Click the video to learn about the new Voice to Congress website.

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### Fifth Annual Index of Military Strength



Yesterday morning the Heritage Foundation's Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign policy held an event marking the release of their Fifth Annual Index of Military Strength for 2019. Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, headlined the event, with an overview from the Index's editor and a panel following.

The 2019 Index assesses the Navy as "Marginal" in capability, capacity, and readiness, and the Marine

Corps as "Weak" overall. The authors foresee an improvement in the

near future for the Navy if the budget and funding situation remain steady given the funding increases delivered by the Bipartisan Budget Deal of 2018. The cite the increasing average age of Navy ship classes as a significant problem that will lead to sustainment challenges, and recommends a force of 400 ships in order to respond to two Major Regional Contingencies (two-MRCs), instead of the one-MRC they see the Navy as currently being prepared for. For the Marine Corps the Index cites sustainment challenges for legacy aircraft, inadequate amphibious platforms, and the average two-to-one deployment-to-dwell ratio as impediments to readiness and capacity improvements.

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### **CSIS Examines China's Belt and Road**

Monday morning the Center for Strategic and International Studies held a discussion on China's pivotal national strategic endeavor the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), five years after its launch. The bulk of discussion of relevance to the Sea Services was from Vice Admiral (Ret.) Andy Brown from the National Defense Transportation Association. He emphasized the need for a new National Maritime Strategy, and more ships at sea, which will lead to more mariners available to crew military sealift operations. Amy Searight, Senior Adviser and Director of the CSIS Southeast Asia Program also discussed naval matters, noting that many nations in China's neighborhood are pushing back on its great power aspirations. The United States can compete with China by being a good partner to these countries, she said, adding that walking away from the Trans Pacific Partnership was the single most damaging action the U.S. has taken in pursuit of that goal. She said that ASEAN countries want to see us supporting Freedom of Navigation (FON) operations, and are criticizing Chinese military buildup in the South China Sea. Many are also looking at the BRI as a sort of "new colonialism" and how we respond will go a long way towards determining whether we come out ahead in strategic competition with China.

You can watch the full event here: <https://www.csis.org/events/chinas-belt-and-road-five-0>

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



181003-N-KC438-0129 BALTIMORE, Md. (Oct. 3, 2018) Seaman Jason Heder Petitfrere, from Carrefour, Haiti, assigned to USS Constitution, leads in retiring the colors at the Maryland Fleet Week and Airshow welcoming ceremony. Maryland Fleet Week and Air Show Baltimore is Baltimore's celebration of the sea services and provides an opportunity for the citizens of Baltimore to meet Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsman, as well as see firsthand the latest capabilities of today's maritime services. (U.S. Navy photo by Airman Olivia Manley/Released)

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

### **Top Stories**

#### **[Pentagon to Start FY 2019 with Defense Spending Bill Signed Into Law - USNI News/Sep 28](#)**

"When I became Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, too many of our senior commanders and DOD officials had become resigned to the notion that inadequate budgets and inefficient continuing resolutions were going to be facts of life far into the future," Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said in a statement. "These same officials had begun to view degraded readiness and lost agility as risk factors they would have to accept when facing increasingly sophisticated adversaries. Today, President Trump's signature begins to turn that situation around. It is a monumental achievement. By funding our military in full and on time, we can begin to restore its strength, agility, and effectiveness."

#### **[Destroyer USS Decatur Has Close Encounter With Chinese Warship - USNI News/Oct 1](#)**

Arleigh Burke guided-missile destroyer USS Decatur (DDG-73) was approached Sunday morning in the South China Sea by a Chinese warship in what Navy officials are calling an unsafe and unprofessional maneuver.

#### **[New Force Structure Assessment to Be Delivered to Navy Leadership Soon - National Defense/Oct 4](#)**

The effort - which is being led by the OPNAV staff - is meant to signal how many vessels and the force mix the service will need as it faces increasing threats around the globe. The last report, which called for a 355-ship Navy, was released in 2016.

### US Navy proposing major show of force to warn China - CNN/Oct 4

(CNN)The US Navy's Pacific Fleet has drawn up a classified proposal to carry out a global show of force as a warning to China and to demonstrate the US is prepared to deter and counter their military actions, according to several US defense officials.

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## **Seapower**

### China's Atypical Response To US Navy FONOPS May Be a Message to Trump Administration - USNI News/Oct 3

No Chinese captain of a vessel would risk this type of confrontation - coming within 45 yards of Decatur - without being told to do so. And there is little chance this event occurred without the approval of China's President Xi Jinping, China expert Bonnie Glaser told USNI News. Glaser is the senior advisor for Asia and director of the China Power Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

### First F-35Bs Operate off of HMS Queen Elizabeth as U.K. Works Toward a Native Carrier Strike Group - USNI News/Sep 28

ABOARD HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH, OFF THE COAST OF NEW JERSEY - The Royal Navy took the next step to reestablishing its own carrier force this week when two F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters landed on the deck of its new carrier for the first time.

### Navy Air Warfare Director: C-2 Aircraft Retirement Moved Up to 2024 - Seapower Magazine

WASHINGTON - The replacement of the Navy's C-2A Greyhound carrier on-board delivery (COD) aircraft with the CMV-22B Osprey tiltrotor transport aircraft has been moved up three years because of accelerated procurement of the needed Ospreys, a Navy admiral said.

### Navy hospital ship to deploy Oct. 11 on humanitarian mission - Virginian-Pilot/Oct 1

The Navy's East Coast-based hospital ship will leave Naval Station Norfolk Oct. 11 for an 11-week deployment intended to help ease the strain on medical workers across Central and South America caused by millions of Venezuelans

fleeing their country under the oppressive regime of President Nicolas Maduro.

[Declining Commercial Nuclear Industry Creates Risk for Navy Carriers, Subs - USNI News/Oct 2](#)

Today, the Navy operates more nuclear reactors than the entire U.S. commercial reactor industry. The Navy's 101 reactor-powered carriers and submarines provide an unmatched advantage to operate around the world continuously. Building these reactors, though, relies on a shrinking pool of vendors, Adm. James Caldwell, the director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, said at the Nuclear Energy, Naval Propulsion, and National Security Symposium at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

[Truman Carrier Strike Group Leveraging Unusual Deployment to Work on Undersea Warfare, Strengthen Northern NATO Partnerships - USNI News/Oct 2](#)

The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group is in the midst of an unusual deployment - currently operating in the North Sea, in Act II of its deployment that had a working port visit intermission - but the strike group commander said the deployment has allowed his sailors to focus on high-end warfare and train in ranges not usually available to them.

[USS Blue Ridge sets sail for the first time after two years of maintenance - Stars and Stripes/Oct 3](#)

"We have invested a lot of money into keeping that ship relevant for what that ship is made for, which is a command ship for the 7th Fleet commander," he said. "It's an old ship, but she's got all the modern capabilities and then some, which says a lot about our commitment."

[Modly: Unmanned Systems 'Huge Priority' in Building a Bigger Fleet - Seapower Magazine/Oct 4](#)

WASHINGTON - When talking about the future fleet size, the Navy's No. 2 civilian leader says he calls it "355-plus," with the "plus" meaning a lot of unmanned systems and other innovative things not normally considered part of the fleet.

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## **Surface and Submarine Warfare**

[Adm. Foggo Warns of Russian Submarines Challenging U.S. Defenses - USNI News/Oct 4](#)

Adm. James Foggo said in the second episode of his "On the Horizon" podcast that Russia's national security policy seems to be to challenge the U.S. and its

allies, and the U.S. must do all it can to ensure a rules-based international order remains in the waters in and around Europe.

[How 10 New High-Tech Destroyers Will Change US Navy Ocean Warfare - Warrior Maven/Sep 30](#)

Adding large numbers of new next-generation destroyers will substantially change the Navy's ability to conduct major maritime warfare operations by enabling surface forces to detect enemy attacks at much farther distances, launch long-range strikes with greater precision and destructive force and disperse offensive forces across much wider swaths of ocean.

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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**

[F-35 crashes for the first time in the jet's 17-year history, pilot ejects safely - Washington Post/Sep 28](#)

The U.S. military suffered its first crash of an F-35 aircraft in the 17 year history of the high-profile fighter jet program, the same day the Pentagon announced it had struck a deal with defense contractor Lockheed Martin to drive down costs for the next batch of planes to a historical low.

[Navy Air Warfare Director: C-130 Fleet Will be Full Up in Fiscal 2019 - Seapower Magazine/Oct 1](#)

WASHINGTON - The Navy expects to have all of its C-130 Hercules transport aircraft back flying this fiscal year after grounding many for problems with their propellers.

[Much More Than a Show: Surface Fleet's Top Tacticians join Blue Angels for a Behind the Scenes Look to Increase Warfighting Readiness - Navy Blog/Oct 4](#)

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- A few of the Surface Fleet's top tacticians from Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center (SMWDC) met with the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron - the Blue Angels - before, during, and after the team's pre-show practice here, Sept. 28.

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## Homeland

[Sailors Who Rescued Plane Passengers Saw Aircraft Making Low Approach - Military.com/Oct 1](#)

Navy divers with an underwater construction team had been operating around a tiny Pacific Micronesian island for about a month when they saw a Boeing 737 coming in way too low.

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## Personnel

[Isakson vows 'Blue Water' relief; Trump inflates Choice reform - Stars and Stripes/Oct 4](#)

Veterans have reason to be uncertain over what Congress and the Trump administration plan both for "Blue Water Navy" Vietnam War veterans who have Agent Orange-related ailments, and for veterans seeking smoother access to more convenient and timely health care from private-sector physicians and hospitals.

[Go to sea or go home! - Navy Times/Oct 4](#)

The brainchild of Defense Secretary James Mattis, a retired four-star Marine general, the plan calls for sending home all troops who have been ineligible to deploy overseas for more than 12 consecutive months.

[More than 7,000 Marines could get the boot — and maybe sooner than they expect - Marine Times/Oct 4](#)

Only about 4 percent of the Corps, or 7,458 active-duty Marines, excluding trainees and transient personnel, were considered non-deployable as of Aug. 31, 2018, according to Maj. Craig Thomas, a spokesman for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. The figures include temporary and permanent non-deployable Marines.



180929-N-QR145-090 MEDITERRANEAN SEA (Sept. 29, 2018) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ross (DDG 71) transits the Mediterranean Sea, Sept. 29, 2018. Ross, forward-deployed to Rota, Spain, is on its seventh patrol in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests Europe and Africa. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Krystina Coffey/Released)

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