



# NAVY LEAGUE

*of the United States*

## Inside this issue

**Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – November 2**

- [Annual Board Meeting](#)
- [SecDef at USIP](#)

## Other stories of interest:

- [Top Stories](#)
- [Seapower and Submarine Warfare](#)
- [Expeditionary Warfare](#)
- [Personnel](#)
- [Homeland](#)
- [Jones Act Discussion](#)

## Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – November 2

### Annual Board Meeting

This weekend nearly 100 Navy League members will gather in Alexandria to elect a new National President, manage our biennial Maritime Policy statement, and discuss a Legislative Affairs strategy for the new year. It's an exciting time for the Navy League after a number of victories in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, and a perfect time to seize the day and carry momentum into the new year with the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

[Top](#)

### SecDef at USIP

In a wide-ranging discussion Wednesday Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis spoke with former National Security Advisor Stephen J. Hadley at the U.S. Institute of Peace. He opened by repeating something he has said before: "today is the most complex security environment in recent memory." Secretary Mattis addressed competition with China, said Russia was our most pressing security challenge, and called out Iran's malign behavior in Syria and Yemen, where he called for a peaceful settlement. He reiterated his support for democracy and American values, emphasizing what the 2018 National Defense Strategy affirms: a nation needs allies and cannot be great without them. He praised our European allies for raising their defense spending, remarking that defending enlightenment values is worth two-percent of GDP. America first does not mean America alone, he said.

You can watch the whole discussion here:

<https://www.usip.org/events/conversation-secretary-defense-james-n-mattis>

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



181101-N-VI515-0148 PHILIPPINE SEA (Nov. 1, 2018) Sailors assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit (EODMU) 5 fast rope from an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat (HSC) 12, embarked aboard the forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) during Keen Sword 19. Keen Sword 19 is a joint, bilateral field-training exercise involving U.S. military and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel, designed to increase combat readiness and interoperability of the Japan-U.S. alliance. ((U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Erwin Jacob V. Miciano/Released)

[Top](#)

**Other stories of interest:**

## **Top Stories**

[US to press patrols in disputed sea, China warns 'meddlers' - AP/Oct 29](#)

DAVAO, Philippines (AP) - The U.S. Navy will continue patrolling the disputed South China Sea, a top Navy official said Monday, after a Chinese destroyer

came dangerously close to an American Navy ship during a "freedom of navigation" sail-by near a Chinese-occupied reef.

[Inhofe Wants 355 Ship Navy, But Headwinds Remain - Breaking Defense/Nov 1](#)

WASHINGTON: President Trump has just issued orders to cut the defense budget, and hasn't tweeted for a while about his campaign pledge to build a bigger Navy, but the top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee wants to get a 355-ship fleet back on the agenda. Jim Inhofe - who's likely to retain the SASC chairmanship if the Republicans maintain their majority in the Senate in next week's election - said he's ready to hold hearings to keep the Navy's feet to the flame.

[Q&A with Under Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly, Department of the Navy CIO and CMO - CHIPS/Oct-Dec 2018](#)

From increasing warfighting lethality to business reform, Mr. Modly is focused on expanding innovation and driving a culture of agility, accountability and learning for the workforce, he explained in a keynote address at the Sea Air Space Expo in April.

[Ro Khanna and progressive Democrats hope 'Blue Wave' shakes up American defense policy - Defense News/Oct 31](#)

WASHINGTON - When California Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna and other freshman lawmakers visited with President Donald Trump at the Oval Office in April, Khanna did something some might consider surprising, especially for a progressive Democrat: He encouraged Trump.

[Top](#)

## Seapower

[What Chance Do Carriers Have in Asia in a Post-INF Treaty World? - The Diplomat/Oct 31](#)

How much of a future do aircraft carriers have in the Indo-Pacific? A recent panel at the Maritime Security Challenges Conference revisited this question, which in some ways we've talked to death. Critics and proponents of the aircraft carrier have argued about the form's merits since at least 1945. The navies of the Indo-Pacific seem to have largely answered this question in the affirmative, as India and China continue to build up their fleets, and the United States invests in a new generation of supercarriers. Jeffrey Hornung of RAND discussed the ups and

downs of Japan rejoining the carrier club in a recent article. Long story short, carriers offer a real capability, but their expense crowds out other options.

#### [China Expects U.S. Navy To Transit Taiwan Strait Again Soon - USNI/Oct 30](#)

According to media reports, China expects U.S. Navy ships to soon sail through the narrow body of water separating mainland China from Taiwan, Senior Col. Wu Qian, the director general of the Information Office of China's Ministry of National Defense, said according to a state-issued English translation of his monthly press briefing.

#### [Surface Team 1 Maintenance Summit Focuses on Removing Barriers, Driving Excellence - Navy Blog/Oct 26](#)

Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific (CNSP), hosted the annual Surface Team One (ST1) Maintenance and Modernization Summit, Oct. 23 and 24. The two-day event, which brought together senior Navy and Marine Corps officers, government civilians, and representatives from industry, sought to address the challenges of ship repair, modernization, and material readiness, and to develop solutions aimed at delivering more materially ready, and therefore more lethal, warships.

[Top](#)

## **Surface and Submarine Warfare**

#### [Navy Crafting Master Plan for New Era of Mine Warfare - USNI News/Oct 31](#)

The early-1980s Avenger-class MCM ships and the mid-1980s MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopters will be on their way out next decade, and a mix-and-match system of sensors, offboard vehicles and platforms will take over the mission. Though Navy leaders knew the transition was coming - and though it's been pushed back due to delays in developing capabilities within the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) program - decisions related to retiring the legacy systems have now come into the near-term planning window for the service, requiring a coordinated path forward on the transition.

#### [CNO: U.S. Still Committed to Littoral Combat Ship Deployments in Southeast Asia - USNI News/Nov 1](#)

The U.S. and Singapore had agreed in 2011 to rotational deployments of up to four Littoral Combat Ships to Singapore. It was envisaged that by 2018 up to four Littoral Combat Ships would be operating from there; however, issues with the

LCS program have led to only three single-ship deployments being carried out so far in the program's history. The Navy planned for two LCSs to be deployed in Singapore in 2018, but a readjustment of the LCS program led to shifting deployment schedules.

[Five notable things that happen underwater on a real 'Hunter Killer' submarine - Stars and Stripes/Oct 30](#)

SAN DIEGO (Tribune News Service) - You notice the stillness, most of all, once the nuclear-powered submarine USS Annapolis drops beneath the choppy surface offshore. The unwieldy-looking vessel cuts through the water like a cruising Cadillac.

[Top](#)

## **Expeditionary Warfare**

[Marines in Norway for NATO war games encounter freezing rain, 'heavenly' hot dog sauce - Stars and Stripes/Oct 31](#)

More than 11,000 Marines are in Norway to participate in NATO's massive Exercise Trident Juncture, where they are preparing to battle a fictional adversary who has invaded the country.

[Top](#)

## **Personnel**

[Grad degrees to be required for officers taking major command - Navy Times/Oct 30](#)

Designed to ensure the best and brightest in the officer corps develop those abilities before taking on command responsibilities, the policy shift was announced in NavAdmin message 263/18 released last week.

[Racial bias probed at Coast Guard Academy - AP/Nov 1](#)

HARTFORD, Conn. - The Department of Homeland Security's inspector general is investigating allegations of racial discrimination at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and inadequate follow-up by the school's leadership, the agency said Thursday.

[Top](#)

## Homeland

[Navy Issues Final Study Seeking Continued Use of Training Ranges Hawaii, California Ranges - USNI News/Oct 29](#)

The next five years of fleet training and testing in the Pacific waters off Hawaii and Southern California might affect marine life but shouldn't have permanent, lasting harm to marine mammals, sea turtles and other sea life, the Navy concludes in a voluminous environmental document released last week.

[Navy to limit sonar, explosions in more areas off East Coast to protect endangered whales - Virginia Pilot/Oct 31](#)

While the biggest modern day threats to the whales are entanglement in fishing gear and direct strikes from vessels, underwater noise pollution can interfere with their communication and affect their behavior, the fisheries service said.

[California road to honor Marine icon R. Lee Ermey, play 'The Marines' Hymn' - Marine Times/Oct 1](#)

A seven-mile stretch of road in Palmdale, California, known as Avenue N will be renamed R. Lee Ermey Avenue, in honor of the acclaimed actor and Marine veteran, according to a fundraising page associated with Ermey's supporters.

[The Arizona Memorial won't reopen until March - here's why - Navy Times/Oct 31](#)

That makes it impossible for officials to use the hallowed memorial to host this year's annual commemoration of the Dec. 7, 1941, attacks on Pearl Harbor that launched the United States into World War II.

[Navy Expects Major Role in New Space Force - National Defense/Oct 30](#)

LOS ANGELES - Much attention has been paid to the bureaucratic battle between the Air Force, the White House and Defense Department leadership over the composition of a new space force that President Donald Trump has proposed. But the Navy is also looking to play a major role in a revamped space enterprise, a top service official said Oct. 30.

[Top](#)

## Jones Act Discussion

[Below is a sample of significant discussion on the Jones Act over the past week, and is not intended as an endorsement from the Navy League.](#)

[Is it time for the US to set the Jones Act adrift? - Ship Technology/Oct 29](#)

The Jones Act makes it illegal for ships to transport goods between American ports unless they are owned, built, crewed and registered in the US. Critics argue that the law unfairly protects the US shipping industry, leading to higher costs, lower efficiency and environmental damage.



181031-N-ZK016-0138 NORWEGIAN SEA (Oct. 31, 2018) The Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) transits the Alvund Fjord, Oct. 31, 2018. Iwo Jima is currently underway participating in Trident Juncture 2018, which is a NATO-led exercise designed to certify NATO response forces and develop interoperability among participating NATO Allied and partner nations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joe J. Cardona Gonzalez/Released)

[Top](#)

**Navy League of the United States  
2300 Wilson Blvd, Suite 200  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703-312-1571**