



NAVY LEAGUE

of the United States

Inside this issue

Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – November 16

- [Icebreaker Action Alert!](#)
- [Coast Guard Authorization](#)
- [General Coffman at Hudson](#)
- [GAO Releases Navy Arctic Report](#)

Other stories of interest:

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

Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – November 16

Icebreaker Action Alert!

This is the week to make an impact. Our staff here at Navy League headquarters is busy asking members of Congress to support a vital mission in the Arctic, but we won't succeed without you.

Congressional staff are negotiating the details of a bill to fund the Coast Guard for Fiscal Year 2019 as we write this. The administration requested \$750 million for icebreaker procurement in FY19, and the Senate included the money in its funding bill, but the House stripped it out. Take Action now and tell your representative to fund the Polar Security Cutter in 2019!



[Top](#)

Coast Guard Authorization

The Senate voted 94-6 Wednesday to approve a [two-year reauthorization of the Coast Guard](#) including the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA), one of the Navy League's key priorities. The VIDA legislation directs the Coast Guard to enforce nationwide regulations set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the discharge of ballast water from vessels traveling in U.S. waters. The bill was [supported by both shippers and a coalition of environmental groups](#), but was opposed by California lawmakers because it preempts stricter state-level standards. The authorizing legislation also directs the Commandant to present a funding plan before establishing the Coast Guard museum, but authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to use other funds for design.

- [Aviation](#)
- [Expeditionary Warfare](#)
- [Homeland](#)

Below is a summary of the authorized spending accounts for Fiscal Year 2019, including a \$10.6 billion top line:

- **\$7.9 billion - Operations and Support (\$100M over President's Budget request)**
- **\$2.6 billion - PCI (Procurement, construction, renovation, and facilities improvement)**
- **End strength of 44,500**

[Top](#)

General Coffman at Hudson

Major General David Coffman, Director Expeditionary Warfare (OPNAV N95), spoke Friday at the Hudson Institute on the Future of Expeditionary Warfare in conversation with Bryan McGrath, Deputy Director, Center for American Seapower. He told the audience that sustained land campaigns have threatened the naval character and primacy of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTAF). "Our statutory role is to seize and defend advanced naval bases," he said, "We're putting our emphasis back on naval character." The expeditionary force needs to operate at the intersection of naval integration because no one has the same capabilities in the littoral space, said General Coffman. [He outlined the force's transition to fifth generation, with an overhauled Amphibious Ship force including 12 big decks and 26 increasingly capable LPDs](#) (San Antonio-Class Amphibious Transport Docks. By integrating unmanned and autonomous assets alongside a modular Littoral Combat Ship General Coffman said "We intend to compete and deter in gray zone conflict" and put American skin in the game to ensure decision space for our political leaders.

You can watch the whole talk here:

<https://www.hudson.org/events/1620-the-future-of-navy-expeditionary-warfare112018>

[Top](#)

GAO Releases Navy Arctic Report

Last week the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report reviewing the Navy's June 2008 report to Congress on "Assessments of Arctic Threat Levels and Capabilities." In that report the Navy assessed a low risk for conflict, and the GAO agreed with that assessment. Due to receding sea ice maritime traffic has and will continue to increase, along with national sovereignty claims, the report says. The Navy's 2006 arctic strategy envisioned: "...a secure and stable region where U.S. national interests are safeguarded, the U.S. homeland is defended, and nations work cooperatively to address challenges." The GAO assessed that the Navy is able to execute that strategy. While the Navy does not have a requirement to ice-harden vessels or construct new ones, it is evaluating arctic-related capabilities and can rely on other agencies for its arctic strategy according to the report. The region contains an estimated 13 percent of the world's undiscovered oil; 30 percent of the world's undiscovered gas; and approximately \$1 trillion of minerals including gold, zinc, nickel, and platinum.

You can read the full report here: <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-19-42>

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



181111-N-CE622-0024 NORFOLK (Nov. 11, 2018) Sailors stand by as the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Bulkeley (DDG 84) pulls into Naval Station Norfolk. Bulkeley returns to Naval Station Norfolk after completing a seven-month deployment to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Katie Cox/Released)

[Top](#)

Other stories of interest:

Top Stories

[Russia jammed GPS during major NATO military exercise with US troops - CNN/Nov 14](#)

The NATO exercise, Trident Juncture, concluded Sunday and involved some 50,000 personnel. It was labeled the alliance's largest exercise since the Cold War. Non-NATO members Finland and Sweden also participated in the exercise.

[Next HASC Chair Targets Nuke Funding - Breaking Defense/Nov 14](#)

Rep. Adam Smith, long a critic of the planned \$1.2 trillion effort to upgrade the nation's air, land and sea-based nuclear forces and build new low-yield nukes,

slammed the assumptions behind the Pentagon's nuclear review, saying the Pentagon needs to "totally redo" the plan it released earlier this year, because "we cannot afford what they're talking about."

[Military Sway at Pentagon Undermines Tenet of Civilian Control, Study Finds - Wall Street Journal/Nov 14](#)

The military staff at the Pentagon is dominating deliberations over strategy and the deployment of forces to such an extent that it is undermining the principle of civilian control of the armed forces, according to a congressionally mandated study by former high-ranking national-security officials.

[Senate approves Jones Act exemption for Dakota Creek - WorkBoat/Nov 15](#)

The 264' America's Finest was built at Dakota Creek Industries, Anacortes, Wash., as a state of the art factory trawler for Fishermen's Finest, Kirkland, Wash. But the use of some steel fabricated in the Netherlands ran afoul of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 - better known as the Jones Act - that sets a limit of 1.5% by weight on the use of foreign-worked material.

[Pentagon Began Clampdown on Senior Leaders' Public Speaking Months Ago, Memos Reveal - Defense One/Nov 14](#)

Pentagon leaders nine months ago ordered a sharp clampdown on public appearances by senior U.S. military leaders and senior civilian Trump administration appointees, limits that have kept them largely out of sight - and out of trouble with President Trump.

[The Pentagon failed its audit, but officials aren't surprised - Defense News/Nov 15](#)

But Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan isn't surprised at the result, saying it was widely expected the audit would find issues. The audit, concluded through the DoD's Office of Inspector General, has long been sought by lawmakers and good-government groups.

[Top](#)

Seapower

[Huntington Ingalls reducing Kennedy carrier labor costs - Virginia-Pilot/Nov 15](#)

The Navy contract for the Kennedy stipulates an 18 percent reduction in labor costs compared to its predecessor, the first-in-class Gerald R. Ford. HII is the sole builder of nuclear-powered carriers at its Newport News shipyard.

[Navy trains with Brunei in South China Sea during latest CARAT drills - Stars and Stripes/Nov 14](#)

The 24th annual CARAT - a series of bilateral exercises aimed at strengthening professional skills and relationships across South and Southeast Asia - started in June in Thailand. The Navy recently completed shore and sea drills with Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal. Past stops included Indonesia and Malaysia.

[Navy's COD switch to the Osprey has started - what you need to know - Navy Times/Nov 15](#)

The switch at carrier-based fleet logistic squadrons officially kicked off on Oct. 1 and the effort was boosted on Nov. 14 by a Navy announcement that a study found replacing 27 C2A Greyhounds with 38 CMV-22B Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft won't harm the environment.

[The Navy's Admiral-To-Ship Ratio, Then And Now - Task and Purpose/Nov 12](#)

It has been said before, but as the song says, it bears repeating: "In 1944 there were 256 flags for 6,084 ships; today there are 359 flag officers for 280 ships."

[The U.S. Navy Has Forgotten What It's Like to Fight - Foreign Policy/Nov 13](#)

The Great War's maritime battle has much to teach a U.S. Navy that has faced no peer in battle since World War II, and not even the prospect of an enemy since the Soviet Navy's demise in 1991. The U.S. Navy has fallen into some of the same vices that bedeviled the Royal Navy by the turn of the 20th century, and that were exposed at the Battle of Jutland in 1916.

[Top](#)

Surface and Submarine Warfare

[Navy Wants to Use Virginia Payload Module to Deploy New Missiles, UUVs - USNI News/Nov 14](#)

ARLINGTON, Va. - The undersea warfare community wants to boost attack sub lethality by providing new payloads for the Virginia-class SSNs, especially ones that can be leveraged through the Virginia Payload Module missile tubes that will be added to new-construction boats beginning this year.

[Norwegian frigate sinks after it was rammed by a tanker - AP/Nov 14](#)

Built in Spain in 2009, the frigate was part of a NATO fleet in the Atlantic, and had recently taken part in the vast Trident Juncture NATO military drill in Norway.

[Master of None: The Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer Career Path Must Change - Proceedings Today/November 2018](#)

The current career path for nuclear-trained surface warfare officers-or SWO(N)s-provides insufficient experience to produce the highest level of technical competency for reactor officers and for surface combatant commanding officers. The careers for reactor officers and SWOs must be independent of each other and tailored toward relevant experience. Officers already are more generalists than the enlisted sailors we lead, and mixing these two largely disassociated careers unnecessarily introduces more generalization when specialization and superior technical competency is required.

[Build a Corvette with a Hornet's Sting - Proceedings Today/November 2018](#)

The Mk-57 VLS is normally associated with capital ships. But keep in mind, a Tomahawk is about the same size as a torpedo, and a four-cell module is relatively small (roughly 7'x14'x26') though fairly heavy (20 tons loaded). But it need not be installed vertically. The VLS is far too large for a Mark VI boat, but it is within reason to imagine four cells on board a 350-ton Cyclone- or Sentinel-sized boat.

[Navy Creating Attack Sub Aggressor Unit to Train to Fight Against Russia, China - USNI News/Nov 8](#)

ARLINGTON, Va. - The U.S. Navy submarine force is creating an aggressor squadron as one initiative to ensure all subs are combat-ready as the service trains to take on China and Russia, the commander of Naval Submarine Forces said on Wednesday.

[Top](#)

Aviation

[Military Times Crash Database - Military Times/April 6](#)

Through multiple Freedom of Information requests, Military Times obtained data for every Class A through Class C aviation mishap that has occurred since fiscal year 2011. More than 7,500 records were obtained. An analysis of the data shows manned warplane accidents have spiked nearly 40 percent since 2013, the year

the mandated budget cuts known as sequestration took effect. The records can be searched by aircraft type, base, fiscal year and location.

[Top](#)

Expeditionary Warfare

[Marines looking for 38,500 new recruits to fill gap in ranks - Stars and Stripes/Nov 8](#)

The Corps has the youngest population but highest turnover of all the services, Neller said. Retention of experienced Marines is a key issue because nearly two-thirds of Marines are E-5 or below.

[The Corps already is looking for a new light tactical vehicle - Marine Times/Nov 14](#)

The Corps wants a highly mobile all-terrain light tactical vehicle capable of whisking wounded Marines off the battlefield, easily configurable to support a host of missions like electronic warfare, and internally transportable by CH-53 and MV-22.

[Top](#)

Homeland

[Navy will help save right whales - Navy Times/Nov 15](#)

Starting in mid-November, the Navy will expand areas off the East Coast where it limits the use of sonar and explosives. It also will broadcast more information on sightings to prevent military and commercial ships from striking right whales.

[ROSIE THE CNC MACHINIST: AMERICAN MANUFACTURING AS A WARFARE DOMAIN - War on the Rocks/Nov 14](#)

What would happen if demand for Alcoa's 50,000-ton press were to double overnight? Since 1955, the United States has owned exactly one machine with that capacity, and as recently as 2012, it was necessary to produce every single manned aircraft used by the U.S. military or manufactured by Boeing. It weighs 16 million pounds. Making a second or third just to have for excess capacity, is not feasible. There are many examples like this throughout the U.S. defense industry, presenting a chilling fact: Production capacity cannot rapidly adapt to the giant production demand increases associated with great power wars.



181114-N-RQ450-0004 LISBON, Portugal (Nov. 14, 2018) The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman prepares to get underway, Nov. 14, 2018 following a scheduled port visit in Lisbon, Portugal. Currently operating in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations, Harry S. Truman will continue to foster cooperation with regional allies and partners, strengthen regional stability, and remain vigilant, agile and dynamic. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Victoria Sutton/Released)

[Top](#)