



NAVY LEAGUE

of the United States

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Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – November 9

House Flips Blue

On Tuesday night's midterm election the Democratic Party won enough seats in the House of Representatives to secure control of the chamber for the 116th Congress. The Senate, which remained Republican, will likely maintain the same leadership of its committees. Starting in the new year the ranking members of all House committees and subcommittees remaining in the chamber will likely become the chairs. Of those chairs the most attention is being paid to Congressman Adam Smith (D-WA), who is very likely to head the House Armed Services Committee. According to Politico Rep. Smith (D-WA) sent a letter to members of his caucus announcing his formal bid to chair HASC this week. At the end of October, Rep. Smith wrote an op-ed in Defense One arguing that ["The Pentagon's Getting More Secretive - and It's Hurting National Security." Along with other Democrats he has argued for increased oversight of the Pentagon.](#)

CQ reports however that while policy priorities may change, the tone of HASC will stay the same. Rep. Smith has not argued for deep defense cuts, and has a good working relationship with Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX) who has long chaired the committee to bipartisan success. Meanwhile Defense news reports that [analysts are predicting another bipartisan budget deal](#) will likely be reached to avoid the return of sequestration.

[If you haven't already, please add your voice to the hundreds of Navy League members who have already taken action to ask their members of congress to repeal the Budget Control Act that could force sequestration to return.](#)

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Coast Guard Funding in the Lame Duck

We now have a window to help get icebreaker funding.

From the Navy League's perspective, the most important legislation being considered in the lame duck session is the Department of Homeland Security funding bill that has passed the House Appropriations Committee but has not passed the full House. This bill is likely to be a political flash point as the parties argue over border funding, one of the President's top priorities. However regardless of what else is in the bill, the Navy League is focused on ensuring funding is included for Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) to procure the Coast Guard's Polar Security Cutter, the first new American heavy icebreaker in over 40 years.

While the 116th Congress will be led by Democrats, the new Congress will not be sworn in and take office until the first week of January. That leaves less than a month to complete the last spending legislation to keep the government from shutting down on December 7, or require another Continuing Resolution (CR). While chances are high that a partisan fight will result in another CR, the Coast Guard deserves full-year funding to plan long-term and remain ready, relevant, and responsive.

[Add your voice to the hundreds of Navy League members who have taken action to ask their members of congress to Fund the Polar Security Cutter in FY19.](#)

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



181108-N-TG517-019 NORFOLK (Nov. 8, 2018) Sailors from commands in the area of Hampton Roads, Va., take the oath of allegiance during a naturalization ceremony aboard USS Wisconsin (BB 64) in Norfolk, Nov. 8, 2018. The Hampton Roads Naval Museum, in proud partnership with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the City of Norfolk and Nauticus hosted the naturalization ceremony. A record number of service members from the U.S. Navy, Army and Air Force received their naturalization certificates on the fantail of the iconic battleship. Candidates for naturalization were from the Philippines, Jamaica, Ghana, Nigeria, China, Vietnam, Congo, Kenya, Federated States of Micronesia, Togo and Burkina Faso. (U.S. Navy photo by Max Lonzanida/Released)

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Other stories of interest:

Top Stories

[Pentagon rejects request for additional military resources in Persian Gulf - CNN/Nov 5](#)

The request comes at a time when there are concerns the Iranian regime could potentially lash out militarily in response to the US reimposing sanctions on the country. It also comes as Defense Secretary James Mattis and Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, are engaged in high-level classified discussions with senior commanders

around the world about how to allocate military resources for the next two years, officials say.

[Amphibious warship Ashland, Marines, toil to save Tinian - Navy Times/Nov 5](#)

Operating about 100 miles away out of Guam, Coast Guard cutters, the "Island Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 and detachment of Seabees immediately began helping thousands of Americans without electricity, water or shelter. But far more aid was needed, so the 7th Fleet in Japan took the rescue call.

[A shrinking budget can't be allowed to kill modernization - Defense News/Nov 8](#)

For decades, the Pentagon, abetted by Congress, has behaved like a parent raiding a child's college fund to pay monthly bills, rather than tightening its belt. Myopically robbing from critical long-term investments to pay for urgent needs resulted in the core problem addressed by the 2018 National Defense Strategy: America's eroding military advantage against China and Russia.

[Trident Juncture Wraps Up After Successful Amphibious Landings, Training Ashore in Norway - USNI News/Nov 7](#)

The massive exercise - which grew to include more than 50,000 personnel, 65 ships and 250 aircraft, including 14,000 American troops, a carrier strike group (CSG) and an amphibious ready group (ARG) - centered around a scenario of protecting Norway from an invasion at its borders by inserting reinforcements by air and by amphibious landing.

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Seapower

[Truman CSG: Arctic Strike Group Operations Required Focus on Logistics, Safety - USNI News/Nov 6](#)

Though the aircraft carrier was well suited to handle the heavy seas of the North Atlantic and Norwegian Sea, the cruiser and destroyers escorting USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) were limited in their ability to operate in extreme conditions, and the logistics ships that bring fuel and dry cargo were even more limited, according to strike group commander Rear Adm.

Gene Black, who spoke to USNI News today from aboard Truman.

[The chief of naval research on AI: 'If we don't all dogpile on this thing, we're going to find ourselves behind' - C4ISRNET/Nov 6](#)

Most of us are comfortable with Siri, or Alexa, or "Hey, Google." But many will tell you artificial intelligence and autonomy in the context of military operations is a whole a different animal.

That said, if you ask Rear Admiral David Hahn, one factor remains the same: the need for trust. Understand the algorithm and the consequences, he argues, but then relinquish (some) control.

[Russia Turns Up Uninvited to NATO's Trident Juncture War Games - Military.com/Nov 3](#)

Marines on board the USS Mount Whitney off the Norwegian coast had gathered for a group photo on deck, when the Tupolev TU-142 soared overhead.

[US Navy has had 18 unsafe or unprofessional encounters with China since 2016 - CNN/Nov 3](#)

"We have found records of 19 unsafe and/or unprofessional interactions with China and Russia since 2016 (18 with China and one with Russia)," Cmdr. Nate Christensen, a spokesman for the US Pacific Fleet, told CNN.

[U.S. carrier leads warships in biggest ever Japan defense war game - Reuters/Nov 3](#)

ABOARD USS RONALD REAGAN (Reuters) - U.S. fighter jets darted over the Western Pacific on Saturday as the nuclear powered USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier joined Japanese destroyers and a Canadian warship for the biggest combat readiness war game ever staged in and around Japan.

[Russia Revises Northern Sea Route Ice Class Requirements - Maritime Exec/Nov 6](#)

More zones will be added to the seven already defined so that areas of rare ice and clear water are removed from larger zones typically characterized by more ice. The current zoning prevents vessels with weak ice fortifications from entering areas with favorable ice conditions increases cargo delivery time,, reduces the time for geological exploration

on the NSR shelf, and violates the rhythm of work of transport vessels in sea ports with year-round navigation such as Sabetta, says the Ministry.

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Surface and Submarine Warfare

[Navy Thinking Beyond Littoral Combat Ship for Future Mine Warfare - USNI News/Nov 2](#)

The service already moved away from legacy equipment, which paired mine-hunting and mine-neutralizing gear with dedicated Avenger-class mine countermeasure ships and MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopters. The Littoral Combat Ship created a new dynamic, where a prepackaged kit of MCM tools could be installed on the ship, or it could be taken off and swapped wholesale for a mission package for a different warfare area.

[VIDEO: Norwegian Frigate Intentionally Grounded After Collision with Tanker - USNI News/Nov 8](#)

Royal Norwegian Navy frigate HNoMS Helge Ingstad (F313) collided with the Malta-flagged oil tanker Sola TS at around 4 a.m. local time on Thursday (10 p.m. EST Wednesday) near the Equinor's Sture oil terminal. The collision resulted in eight minor injuries on the warship.

[Submarine Contractors Investing in Infrastructure to Land Future Contracts - USNI News/Nov 8](#)

A panel of industry executives representing both the largest Navy shipbuilders and smaller suppliers all detailed during the annual Naval Submarine League symposium some of the investments their making in their yards and plants to keep their capabilities, efficiencies, and costs competitive for contracts.

[Strategy Drives Undersea Warfare Programs - Seapower Magazine/Nov 8](#)

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Navy is working on greater integration of all aspects of undersea warfare, including strategic deterrence, attack submarines, unmanned undersea vehicles, seabed infrastructure and the surface and air anti-submarine assets, to ensure its investments and tactics all will contribute to a possible fight, the director of Undersea Warfare said Nov. 8.

[Columbia-class Program Upping Oversight of Vendors, Components to Stave Off Further Delays - USNI News/Nov 8](#)

To stay on top of the major milestones - start of construction, delivery of the first boat, maiden deployment, all of which have no margin left for error or delays - the program office is tracking 101 components and 329 critical vendors and keeping a watchful eye on those, so any issues are caught early and at a lower level before they put at risk the submarine program as a whole, Columbia-class Program Manager Capt. Jon Rucker said this week at the Naval Submarine League annual conference.

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Personnel

[Navy sees recruiting challenges on the horizon - Navy Times/Nov 3](#)

"We are clearly in a war for talent," Vice Adm. Robert Burke, the Navy's top personnel official, told Congress earlier this year. "Current forecasts based on leading economic indicators suggest difficult times ahead."

[Air Boss: Spouses Critical to Aviation Readiness in Era of Dynamic Force Employment - Navy Blog/Nov 8](#)

"You have a profound impact on our Sailors and their families." Miller said. "We are in a great power competition. The habit patterns that you teach your Sailors, and the resilience you provide for our families will kick in when we go into a high-end fight. And I just want to say, 'Thank you.'"



181108-N-UY653-029 SOUDA BAY, Greece (Nov. 8, 2018) Sailors assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64) pose for a command photo during the ship's port visit to Naval Station Souda Bay, Greece, Nov. 8, 2018. 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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**Navy League of the United States
2300 Wilson Blvd, Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22201
703-312-1571**