



NAVY LEAGUE

of the United States

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Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – December 7

FY19 Coast Guard and MARAD Funding

Thursday evening [Congress passed a Continuing Resolution \(CR\)](#) that funds the remaining quarter of the government for which Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations have not yet been passed. The Coast Guard, a part of the Department of Homeland Security, and the Maritime Administration under the Department of Transportation, are still waiting for full-year funding. The stop-gap measure lasts until December 21, and will give negotiators two weeks to discuss funding appropriations for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, State, Interior, Agriculture, Treasury, Commerce, Homeland Security and Justice departments, and other agencies.

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Commandant at the Press Club

The Navy League was invited to join a luncheon with the 26th Commandant of the Coast Guard Karl Schultz at the National Press Club Thursday afternoon. Admiral Schultz discussed the importance of an American Presence in the Arctic, and the Polar Security Cutter program that has been held up in the House negotiations over government funding. "I'm guardedly optimistic funding for that first polar security cutter is going to be there," [said Commandant Schultz](#) as reported by Reuters. Admiral Schultz also discussed the recently released 4-year strategic plan designed to maximize readiness, address complex maritime challenges, and deliver excellence anytime, anywhere. [The full plan is available to read here.](#)

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You can watch the event here: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?455354-1/us-coast-guard-commandant-national-press-club>

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Senate Commerce Hearing

The Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard held a hearing Thursday to examine Maritime Transportation in a Changing Arctic. The panel before Chairman Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Ranking Member Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) included: Willie Goodwin, Chairman of the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee, Andrew Hartsig, Director of the Arctic Program at the Ocean Conservancy, Kathy Metcalf, President and CEO of the Chamber of Shipping of America, and Captain Ed Page, Executive Director of the Marine Exchange of Alaska. Chairman Sullivan noted during the hearing that [within the next 20 years the Arctic may be ice-free in summer months](#), and expressed concern the nearest deepwater port was 1,000 miles away.

You can watch the full hearing here:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=F5A93A24-76E1-4EE7-8932-2337F5FB7F37>

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SecNav at CSIS

Thursday morning the Center for Strategic and International Studies hosted Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer for their Maritime Security Dialogue series. In conversation with CSIS President John Hamre, Secretary Spencer addressed the state of the Navy and Marine Corps along with other naval matters. Navy Times reported that [Secretary Spencer is arguing against any reduction of the defense budget](#), and has said that that would hurt ongoing readiness improvements, though did not offer any examples. In order to improve the Navy's sealift capacity he mentioned the option of buying used ships from abroad, or replacing steam-powered Ready Reserve Force ships with diesel electric powerplants. Secretary Spencer also addressed the tension between maintaining the significant number of

large capital assets, and the Navy's desire to reach Sailor 2025, their strategy for training, managing, and recruiting the modern sailor.

You can watch the full event here:

<https://www.csis.org/events/maritime-security-dialogue-conversation-hon-richard-v-spencer-secretary-navy>

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CATO Jones Act Conference

It was a busy Thursday, as with everything else going on the Cato Institute held a day-long event to promote "Jones Act reform" titled The Jones Act: Charting a New Course after a Century of Failure. The conference featured speakers from the Mercatus Center, an academic center at George Mason University, and a trade advisor from the EU delegation to the U.S., alongside Cato staff. Using the hashtag #EndTheJonesAct, they urged repeal of the entire act to "lessen the burden" on the American economy. Their speakers argued that the Act was not written to serve national security and events have shown that it still doesn't. [Get the real facts with the Transportation Institute's excellent Jones Act page.](#)

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



[A funeral service was held for the first African-American woman to serve in the U.S Coast Guard](#)

Dr. Olivia Juliette Hooker on Wednesday at White Plains Rural Cemetery, White Plains, New York. Hooker was born on February 12, 1915, in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and passed away on November 21, in White Plains, New York, at the age of 103.

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Other stories of interest:

Top Stories

[George H.W. Bush Was the Last President to Serve in Combat. America Could Use More Leaders Like Him - Time/Dec 1](#)

By Adm. JAMES STAVRIDIS (Ret)

And so passes George Herbert Walker Bush, the last American President to face combat. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor that drew the United States into World War II, he deferred admission to Yale and joined the Navy at the age of 18, just out of prep school in the June of 1942. He went to war in 1943, barely a man, saying later, "I was scared but I was willing. I was young, but I was ready. I had barely started living when I began to see men die." He saw significant combat across the Pacific as a carrier-based bomber pilot, serving with deep courage and commitment, completing 58 combat missions and surviving two crashes.

[Beijing 'steps up naval patrols' in Taiwan Strait in pushback at US warships - South China Morning Post/Dec 3](#)

Taiwan's defence ministry confirmed on Monday that naval vessels from the mainland have stepped up patrols in the western part of the Taiwan Strait this year in what analysts say is a reaction to the increased number of US warships sent into the waters to test Beijing.

[Three-star nominated to replace dead commander of 5th Fleet - Navy Times/Dec 7](#)

Congress must still sign off on Vice Adm. James Malloy becoming the next commander of 5th Fleet and Naval Forces Central Command, but the three-star has been at fleet headquarters in Bahrain since last weekend.

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Seapower

[Coast Guard Icebreaker Completes 129-day Arctic Deployment - Marine Link/Dec 3](#)

In addition to providing presence and access in the Arctic during the 129-day summer deployment, the Healy crew completed three research missions in partnership with the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Office of Naval Research, conducting physical and biological research in the Arctic Ocean.

[China Claims Center Stage at Arctic Circle Talks - Maritime Exec/Nov 30](#)

At last month's meeting of the Arctic Circle - an association of governments, non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, and civil society groups with an interest in the Arctic - the increasing presence of China showed how geopolitical competition in the region has been renewed, and is being amplified by the accelerating impacts of climate change and the melting of the circumpolar sea ice.

[Coast Guard Launches Polar Communication Satellites - Defense News/Dec 3](#)

The launch is part of the Polar Scout project to evaluate the effectiveness of space-based sensors in support of Arctic search and rescue missions. Knowledge gained from this demonstration will be used to inform satellite technology recommendations for many potential applications within the Coast Guard and across the Department of Homeland Security, a joint Coast Guard and DHS

Science and Technology Directorate statement said.

[Flawed Bomb Elevators Leave Inhofe Leery of Buying Two Carriers - Bloomberg/Dec 5](#)

"I think the case for two right now is weaker because of the lack of success in getting everything working" on the USS Gerald R. Ford, the first vessel in the new class of carriers, Senator James Inhofe said in an interview. The Oklahoma Republican spoke after joining Navy officials in a visit Monday to the Huntington Ingalls shipyard in Newport News, Virginia.

[U.S. Destroyer Conducts FONOP Near Russian Pacific Fleet Headquarters - USNI News/Dec 5v](#)

"*McCampbell* sailed in the vicinity of Peter the Great Bay to challenge Russia's excessive maritime claims and uphold the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea enjoyed by the United States and other Nations," Lt. j.g. Rachel McMarr, a U.S. Pacific Fleet spokesperson, said in a statement to USNI News.

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Surface and Submarine Warfare

[Wrecked Frigate's Crew Thought Oncoming Tanker was Fixed Object - Maritime Exec/Nov 30](#)

The collision between the Norwegian frigate Helge Ingstad and the Aframax tanker Sola TS was caused in part by the Ingstad bridge team's impression that Sola TS was a fixed object, according to an initial report by the Accident Investigation Board Norway (AIBN). The agency's analysis is preliminary and will be updated once its investigation concludes.

[A Stealthy Anti-Ship Missile Could Help U.S. Turn The Table On Chinese Navy - Forbes/Dec 3](#)

During the two decades Washington was absorbed with fights in Southwest Asia, though, China emerged as a major economic rival to America. As Beijing gradually translated its economic strength into military might, U.S. defense planners migrated from barely worrying at all about China to concern it might deny U.S. forces regional access to fear it might break out into the vast maneuver spaces of the Pacific Ocean.

[US Navy's littoral combat ship program inches closer to fielding new capabilities -](#)

[Defense News/Dec 5](#)

With the delivery of Raytheon's Dual-mode Array Transmitter (DART) Mission System - which joins the MH-60R helicopter, the Multi-Function Towed Array and the SQQ-89 acoustic processing - the Navy now has the complete anti-submarine warfare mission package and is ready to start integrating it.

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Aviation

[Investigation blames Air Force and Navy for systemic failures in fatal Marine Corps C-130 crash that killed 16 - Military Times/Dec 5](#)

The horrific KC-130T plane crash that killed 15 Marines and a sailor last summer was caused by a deteriorating propeller blade that was corroded when it entered an Air Force maintenance depot in 2011, but workers there failed to fix it and sent it back to the fleet unrepaired.

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Homeland

[US Naval Academy board hears about handling sea-level rise - Navy Times/Dec 3](#)

Professor Gina Henderson told the academy's Board of Visitors that a road on the academy's grounds has been closed 38 times so far this year because of flooding, the most it has been closed since the academy has kept track. The board, which includes members of Congress, acts like a board of trustees at a civilian college.

[Tornado strikes Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay - Navy Times/Dec 3](#)

The twister struck around 3 p.m. Sunday in a section of the base that's mostly used by Coast Guard Maritime Force Protection Unit Kings Bay, but none of their personnel reported injuries and officials say their 87-foot small cutters escaped major damage.

[The Vessel Incidental Discharge Act \(VIDA\) - Immediate Implications of the New Law - MarineLink/Dec 7](#)

This week, on December 4, 2018, President Trump signed into law the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA): Title IX of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2018.

[Interview: Admiral Karl Schultz, Commandant, United States Coast Guard - Marine Link/Dec 4](#)

But while the job ahead is complex, Admiral Schultz sees success in fulfilling his "Three R's" to ensure that this United States Coast Guard is Ready, Relevant and Responsive.



NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO (Dec. 7, 2018) The guided-missile destroyer Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Michael Monsoor (DDG 1001) pulls along pierside in Naval Base San Diego, Dec. 7, 2018.

The future USS Michael Monsoor is the second ship in the Zumwalt-class of guided-missile destroyers and will undergo a combat availability and test period. The ship is scheduled to be commissioned into the Navy Jan. 26, 2019, in Coronado, Calif. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass

Communication Specialist 2nd Class Alex Millar/Released)

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