



NAVY LEAGUE

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Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – January 11

Shutdown update

On day 21 of the partial government shutdown there is no sign of a deal to fund the agencies for which appropriations have lapsed. In good news however, Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) introduced a House bill ([HR 367](#)) Wednesday with three co-sponsors to pay the Coast Guard while the Department of Homeland Security is shutdown. The legislation is nearly identical to a Senate bill [introduced last week by Senator John Thune \(R-SD\)](#) with 14 co-sponsors.

Coastie families have been drastically affected by the uncertainty that comes with the partial shutdown. 23rd Commandant of the Coast Guard Thad Allen wrote an essay in the January issue of Proceedings Magazine titled "[This Senseless Government Shutdown Is Harming Coast Guard Families.](#)" A Cape May newspaper reported that [ethics rules have been changed to allow direct goods donations from neighbors](#), and the Washington Post reported that the [Coast Guard released, then withdrew, a widely criticized tips sheet](#) encouraging turning "your hobby into income" and garage sales. Your Navy League headquarters staff is hard at work doing what we can to support our sea services during this trying time.



TELL CONGRESS:
Don't make Coast Guard and MARAD work without pay!

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SECNAV at CSIS

Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer spoke Tuesday at the Center for New American Security think-tank in Washington, D.C. In a wide-

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ranging talk he addressed the Ford-class carrier program, operations in the arctic, and innovation in sustainment. USNI News reported that Secretary Spencer guaranteed that the first in its class [USS Gerald R. Ford \(CVN-78\) would have its weapons elevators working](#) by the end of its post-shakedown availability this summer, or the President could fire him. The Secretary also reported that he and the Chief of Naval Operations have discussed the possibility of [sending surface warships to the arctic](#) as shipping lanes open up this summer. While the Navy has been in the arctic previously it usually sends aircraft or submarines. As part of his drive to boost efficiency in the service [he wants the workforce to take more risks](#), and manage instead of avoiding it. By delivering more authority at the unit level Secretary Spencer hopes to squeeze more value out of scarce dollars to sustain Navy assets better.

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New Member Letters Delivered

Wednesday afternoon your Navy League headquarters team finished the last deliveries of our letters to newly sworn in freshman members of the 116th Congress. In all, 93 new members of the House and 9 members of the Senate received letters detailing who we are, our accomplishments last congress, the issues we're tracking this session, and an invitation to work together for our sea services. Our goal is to build a relationship with these new members, ask them to join the caucuses we work with, and encourage them to be valuable advocates for our maritime forces.

If you have a new member of the House or Senate representing you we highly encourage you to deliver a letter to their local office! Check out this list to see if your member is on it and feel free to contact us for the letter <https://www.opensecrets.org/members-of-congress/new-members-list?cycle=2018>

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



MEDITERRANEAN SEA (Dec. 31, 2018) MV-22 Ospreys assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 264 (Reinforced) launch from the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD-3) during night flight operations. Kearsarge is deployed as part of the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group in support of maritime security operations, crisis response and theater security cooperation, while also providing a forward naval presence. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Mike DiMestico/Released)

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Other stories of interest:

Top Stories

[DoD has its top-line budget figure - Defense News/Jan 9](#)

The Pentagon's budget figure has seesawed dramatically over the last three months. The department had been planning for most of the year to a \$733 billion defense top-line figure, until the moment at an October Cabinet meeting when President Donald Trump announced the figure would be \$700 billion.

That number, delivered close to the planned budget finalization date of Dec. 1, sent planners into a frenzy as they attempted to develop a pair of budget offerings matched to both levels. The situation changed again when, following a meeting with

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and congressional defense leaders, Trump reportedly boosted the budget to \$750 billion.

[Pentagon Approves Two-Carrier Buy As Fixes Continue to Navy's Priciest Ship - Breaking Defense/Jan 4](#)

WASHINGTON: The Navy's coming request for the 2020 fiscal year is still under wraps, but one important piece of the Navy's future plans appears increasingly certain: the service will commit billions to buy two new Ford-class aircraft carriers under the same contract. While most of that money won't be spent in '20, it's still a tremendous long-term commitment that, advocates say, should save 5 to 10 percent over buying each carrier separately.

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Seapower

[USS Fort McHenry Visits Romania While Russian Frigate Watches - USNI News/Jan 7](#)

In November, Russian forces seized three Ukrainian ships operating near the Crimean Peninsula, in a strait that is shared by both Ukraine and Russia under international law, according to media reports. By sending Whidbey Island-class docking landing ship Fort McHenry with embarked forces from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) into the Black Sea now, the U.S. Navy is signaling to all nations in the area a U.S. commitment to upholding international law in the region, a top Navy leader in the region said.

[3 ways the Navy wants to protect its weapons from cyberattacks - Fifth Domain/Jan 6](#)

The Navy is looking to support research in 36 areas that can help protect weapons systems from cyberattacks, Naval Air Systems Command said in a Jan. 7 update to a broad agency announcement.

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Surface and Submarine Warfare

[USS McCampbell FONOP Past Paracel Islands Irks China - USNI News/Jan 7](#)

Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS McCampbell (DDG-85) steamed past the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea on Monday in a freedom of navigation operation that drew the ire of Chinese government officials.

[Has the United States Lost Command of the Sea? - Proceedings Magazine/January 2019](#)

The ability to move merchants and armies through the sea at will-and to prevent an opponent from moving theirs-typically is referred to as "command of the sea." The United States' decades-long command of the sea has enabled both rapid response to threats that arise in any part of the world and secure commerce that has grown the global economy. Even competitor nations have benefited from the relatively peaceful waters guaranteed by U.S. sea power.

[Navy prepares for battles of tomorrow - ABC13/Jan 9](#)

What "Top Gun" did for the Naval aviation community five decades ago, the Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center, established in 2015 in San Diego, is said to be a similar decisive development for the Navy's surface force.

[Navy Quietly Fires 20 Hyper Velocity Projectiles Through Destroyer's Deckgun - USNI News/Jan 8](#)

The test, conducted by the Navy and the Pentagon's Strategic Capabilities Office as part of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2018 international exercise, was part of a series of studies to prove the Navy could turn the more than 40-year-old deck gun design into an effective and low-cost weapon against cruise missiles and larger unmanned aerial vehicles.

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Aviation

[Navy's F-35C on Track to Be Combat Ready Next Month - Military.com/Jan 4](#)

There have been no reported delays in the service's F-35C reaching initial operating capability (IOC) next month, Navy spokeswoman Lt. Lauren Chatmas told Military.com on Friday.

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Homeland

[MCPON, SMMC: Military Childcare is a Critical Readiness Issue - USNI News/Jan 10](#)

Readiness and lethality are the Navy's and Marine Corps' primary concerns, but when sailors and Marines worry about finding safe and affordable childcare options, the distraction can become critical, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Russell Smith said on Thursday.

[House lawmakers launch new effort to pass 'Blue Water Navy' bill - Stars and Stripes/Jan 8](#)

Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., and Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., introduced bills at the start of the 116th Congress to extend benefits to "Blue Water" Navy veterans. Last year, identical legislation unanimously passed the House but stalled in the Senate because of cost concerns.

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Jones Act

[LNG, Energy, and the Jones Act - Maritime Logistics Pro/Jan 6](#)

Last week's announcement that a New Jersey law firm representing the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico had assisted in preparing and filing an application for a limited Jones Act waiver isn't necessarily earthshaking news. Attacks on the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 - the Jones Act - have come regularly, and in increasing volumes in the past two years. On the other hand, the plea for the waiver predictably preys upon base emotions and little else in substance. In that way, it is perfectly aligned with virtually every other request that comes before it.



U.S. FIFTH FLEET AREA OF OPERATIONS (Dec. 17, 2018) Marines assigned to the Command Element, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), prepare to fire on their targets during a pistol qualification aboard the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2). Essex is the flagship for the Essex Amphibious Ready Group and, with the embarked 13th MEU, is deployed to the U.S. Fifth Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime

stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Jackson/Released)

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