



NAVY LEAGUE

of the United States

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Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – January 4

Pay the Sea Services Campaign

Happy New Years to all! The new year begins but the shutdown continues, so the Navy League launched a new campaign at the start of the 116th Congress Thursday, January 3, to attack the partial government shutdown from multiple vectors. The shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has led to 42,000 Coast Guard service members, and 340 employees of the Maritime Administration (MARAD), working without pay. Additionally, thousands of civilian Coast Guard employees, and 419 MARAD staff have been sent home without pay, or furloughed. According to a Pentagon survey 31% of Active Duty Coast Guard members do not have enough emergency savings to cover one month's worth of expenses. Our campaign has received [brief coverage in the Washington Examiner](#).

The Navy League campaign consists of a [letter from national leadership to Congressional leadership](#) asking them to "quickly reach a compromise to end the government shutdown and restore pay retroactively to our Coast Guard service men and women and employees of the Maritime Administration." Copies of the letter were also sent directly to 488 congressional staffers.

Additionally, we launched a [Voice to Congress](#) campaign yesterday afternoon asking Congress to Pay our Sea Services and End the Government Shutdown that has so far resulted in 113 people taking action to reach 144 members of congress. Thankfully Senator John Thune (R-SD) has introduced [Pay Our Coast Guard \(S.21\)](#) and Rep. DeFazio (D-OR) is introducing a House companion bill that would ensure service members are paid during the shutdown, the next paycheck would be January 15 and many are struggling to pay bills.

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Our campaign asks Congress to pass this bill without delay.



The Associated Press also reported that [many Coast Guard academy staff have been furloughed](#), which is negatively affecting cadets.

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Shutdown update

The Democratic party-led new [House of Representatives passed two pieces of legislation](#) to end the shutdown late Thursday. HJ Res 1 would fund the Department of Homeland Security through February 8, and HR 21 is an omnibus appropriations package excluding DHS that would fund the rest of the government through September 30, the end of fiscal year 2019. The votes were mainly along party lines, but a handful of Republican members crossed party lines and voted for both. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has indicated the legislation will not be considered by the Senate because the President has threatened to veto them. The White House invited congressional leaders for more negotiations Friday.

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Newsletter Refresh

A reminder to please take the Newsletter Survey to give us feedback so we can make the newsletter the best resource possible for our excellent Legislative Affairs focused members! To access the survey, click here:
<https://goo.gl/forms/suvvRvLmbpMgm5Ar2>

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SASC Shakeup

[Significant turnover](#) took place between the 115th and 116th Congresses on the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee, long chaired by the recently passed John

McCain (R-AZ). Now chaired by Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK), the majority side will have incoming Sens. Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Martha McSally (R-AZ), Rick Scott (R-FL), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), and Josh Hawley (R-MO) are joining SASC, replacing Sens. Ted Cruz (R-TX), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Ben Sasse (R-NE), Tim Scott (R-SC), and Jon Kyl (R-AZ). For the Democratic minority Sens. Tammy Duckworth, a combat-wounded Army veteran from Illinois; Joe Manchin, of West Virginia, and Doug Jones, of aerospace powerhouse Alabama, will replace three departing Democratic lawmakers.

On the House side, Politico reports that Rep. Ken Calvert of California will serve as the top Republican on House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in the new Congress, the full committee's incoming ranking Republican, Rep. Kay Granger (R-Texas), said Thursday.

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

[Navy Could Award 2-Carrier Contract by End of January, With Expected \\$4B in Savings - USNI News/Jan 2](#)

The Navy has been actively pursuing the contracting strategy for the past nine months, saying it had the potential to save as much as \$2.5 billion in the deal and more recently stating the deal would save even more than that. Newport News Shipbuilding too said it wanted the deal, but the Pentagon didn't sign off on it until the Dec. 31 letter to lawmakers.

[Meet the New \(Acting\) US Defense Secretary - Defense One/Jan 1](#)

But the man who is now the president's principal adviser on the nation's defense, tasked with leading the largest employer in the world and managing the fallout from Trump's military retrenchment, has less experience in government (a year and a half) or the military (none) than any defense secretary since an oil magnate served as the acting head of the Pentagon for several weeks during Watergate 45 years ago.

[The Biggest Difference Between Inhofe and Smith? How Much Danger They Think the US Faces - Defense One/Dec 18](#)

The incoming chairmen of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees have sparred publicly over the size of the budget, the need to upgrade the U.S. nuclear arsenal and the Trump administration's ban on transgender troops, trading barbs in a series of competing interviews that have served as early markers for the next Congress.

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Seapower

[Fill the Cracks in NATO's Maritime Strategy - Defense One/Jan 3](#)

What if Russia decides to deal with internal political and economic problems by attacking NATO's Baltic member states? Most of NATO's

efforts to ensure the security of its most vulnerable Eastern European territories center on direct defense. However, given the manner in which a conflict is likely to unfold, addressing the maritime dimension is vital.

[China Celebrates Growing Naval Capabilities - Maritime Exec/Jan 1](#)

China has highlighted its anti-piracy efforts over the past 10 years, noting its naval fleets have escorted 3,400 foreign ships, around 51 percent of the total escorted over that time.

['Sink two aircraft carriers': Chinese Admiral's chilling recipe to dominate the South China Sea - News Corp Aus/Jan 2](#)

Rear Admiral Lou Yuan has told an audience in Shenzhen that the ongoing disputes over the ownership of the East and South China Seas could be resolved by sinking two US super carriers.

[China closer to equipping warships with electromagnetic railguns, state media reports - CNN/Jan 4](#)

Citing CCTV, the state-run Global Times on Thursday reported the underlying railgun technology -- which utilizes electrical power rather than explosives to launch projectiles -- was based on "fully independent intellectual property," rather than copied from other countries.

[Military-industrial complex finds a growth market in hypersonic weaponry - Washington Post/Dec 21](#)

America is racing Russia and China to develop a worldwide hypersonic strike weapon that can reach anywhere in the world within hours, they said, and it's time for American defense contractors to move from science and research to full-scale production of those systems.

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Surface and Submarine Warfare

[Rep. Courtney: Looming Costs Will Force Decision on How to Pay for SSBNs - USNI News/Jan 1](#)

In 2013, HASC pushed the new account through the House and Senate despite some at-times fierce opposition. The National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund (NSBDF) noted that the SSBN program would be a national security asset more than a Navy-only program and therefore ought to be paid for by the Pentagon rather than draining the Navy's shipbuilding

budget account.

[Navy Tests 'Littoral Combat Group' Concept That Pairs DDG, LPD in South America Deployment - USNI News/Jan 3](#)

USS Somerset (LPD-25), USS Wayne E. Meyer (DDG-108) and Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force (SP-MAGTF)-Peru deployed together as Littoral Combat Group 1 in November and December.

[Mark VI patrol boats make longest transit ever in Pacific - Stars and Stripes/Jan 4](#)

The completed journey of about 575 statute miles showcased the patrol boats' range and reliability. The 85-foot-long vessels averaged a speed of 25 knots, just under 30 mph.

[U.S. Navy Will Build Robot Warships To Maintain Naval Supremacy - Business Times/Dec 28](#)

The Navy has not a single unmanned major warship in its current surface fleet. The only warship that fits this bill is "Sea Hunter," a small trimaran autonomous unmanned surface vehicle (USV) launched in 2016.

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Expeditionary Warfare

[NEW IN 2019: New Sea Dragon experiments, with information focus - Marine Times/Dec 31](#)

This past year saw the completion of the second phase of a three-part experimentation aimed to modernize the Marine Corps.

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Homeland

[Former Marine charged with espionage in Russia has an unlikely background for a spy - Stars and Stripes/Jan 3](#)

To hear the Russians tell it, American security executive Paul Whelan was a patient spy. They claim he spent years cultivating confidential sources via social media until he was arrested last week at his room in the Metropol hotel in Moscow, allegedly having just received a flash drive containing a list of employees for a secret Russian agency.



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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