



November 3, 2023

For Those Who Serve

Perhaps it was due to the lull that follows Halloween festivities, but this was a relatively calm week in Washington with some positive developments. The Senate confirmed Adm. Lisa Franchetti as CNO and also confirmed Lt. Gen. Christopher Mahoney as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, an important development as USMC Commandant Gen. Eric Smith remains absent due to a medical emergency.

The House passed a \$14.3 billion Israel aid package along mostly partisan lines. The bill's proposed means of paying for the aid came from cuts to the IRS, which is not supported by House Democrats. The bill has been described as "not serious" by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and President Biden has also voiced his disapproval. The future of the Israeli aid package will depend on negotiations between the House and Senate.

Israel's ground operations in Gaza ramped up this week with Israeli forces claiming to have encircled Gaza City. Meanwhile, fighting with Hezbollah along Israel's northern border continues to stoke fears of a second front opening in the war.

And to our readers in Mississippi, New Jersey, Virginia, Ohio, and Louisiana, don't forget to vote!

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The State of the Sea Services

[USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Now in Eastern Med, En Route to Middle East - USNI News / Nov 2](#)

Dwight D. Eisenhower, the flagship of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group, is expected to sail through the Suez Canal this weekend and chop into U.S. Fifth Fleet, a defense official told USNI News. As of Thursday, the carrier was operating south of Crete according to publicly available satellite photos shared on social media.

Ukraine

[The US sanctions more foreign firms in a bid to choke off Russia's supplies for its war in Ukraine - AP News / Nov 2](#)

The United States on Thursday imposed a [new round of sanctions](#) on 130 firms and people from Turkey, China and the United Arab Emirates in an effort to choke off Russia's access to tools and equipment that support [its invasion of Ukraine](#).

Great Power Competition

[U.S., Canadian Warships Sail Through Taiwan Strait, China Says U.S. 'Hyped Up' Transit - USNI News / Nov 2](#)

A U.S. guided-missile destroyer and a Canadian frigate sailed through the Taiwan Strait Thursday, U.S. 7th Fleet announced. Japan-based USS *Rafael Peralta* (DDG-115) and Royal Canadian Navy Halifax-class frigate HMCS *Ottawa* (FFH-341) made the transit while tailed by Chinese warships and aircraft.

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