



# NAVY LEAGUE of the United States

## Navy League Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – February 9

### Budget Update

Another budget crisis ended early Friday morning when the Senate, and then the House, voted to approve a combined two-year budget deal, Continuing Resolution (CR), and disaster aid package, along with some other legislation. The entire package was signed by the President today.

Navy Leaguers around the country have been sending letters to urge an increase in the Coast Guard portion of the supplemental funding for hurricane response and to increase the Budget Control Act (BCA) budget caps—both of which were included in the passed bill. Many thanks to all of you that took action on these important issues!

**Coast Guard Hurricane Supplemental Update:** The Commandant has been very open that Coast Guard needed to between \$900 million and \$1 billion to get back to whole after an unprecedented hurricane season, but the Administration only requested about \$424M. This budget deal is a significant improvement, supporting the Coast Guard at \$835.1M in funds (\$112.136 in operating expenses like salaries, fuel, etc., \$4.038M for environmental compliance, and \$718.919M in ACI to rebuild damaged Coast Guard facilities and equipment). The Navy League has had an aggressive campaign on this issue, with a letter-writing campaign complemented with HQ visits to Capitol Hill. Today we achieved a great victory! Thanks to the efforts of Navy League members across the country, Congress increased Coast Guard hurricane funding relief over the Administration proposal by \$411.1M, nearly doubling it. We are the only organization focused on this issue, so this is thanks primarily to your efforts. Great job carrying out the Navy League mission!

**Budget Deal, explained:** After a five-hour shutdown while you were sleeping, Congress passed a budget deal, but that doesn't mean we're quite out of the woods yet (though there is a lot to like in this deal—including raising the BCA caps for the next two years). Congress passed an agreement that raised defense- and non-defense budget caps from their BCA levels while extending the BCA for additional years. Non-defense discretionary spending, which includes USCG and MARAD funding, went up by \$131B in FY18 and FY19 for a total of \$597B. Defense caps go up by \$165B (plus \$140B for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) or war funds) for FY18 and FY19. The defense funding breaks down to a total \$629B in FY18 and \$647B in FY19 (\$700B in FY18 and \$716B in FY19 when OCO funds are included). The bill also includes the hurricane supplemental funding. However-the deal also lowers caps in FY2020, down to \$576B and non-defense goes down to \$542B. This deal adds two more years onto the caps through FY2027, so we'll be fighting this battle for a while until the caps are finally gone for good.

For reference, the House-passed version of the defense bill funded defense programs at about \$670B, and the Senate proposed about \$661B. This means we will likely only see programs in these bills go up—nothing to cut to get to a compromise.

**Next Steps:** The bill includes a CR through March 23rd, to provide time to pass appropriations bills now that the funding levels have been set. As all the appropriations committees have finished their work, this should be easy on the defense side, but for non-defense, no \$302B allocations were made, which means there may be some fighting over agency levels.

We should see the FY19 request on Monday, as expected.

### SecDef on the Hill

Tuesday morning Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis travelled to Capitol Hill Tuesday to answer questions from lawmakers in both chambers on the Armed Services Committees, joined by Vice Chair of the Joint Chiefs General Paul Selva. This

follows the release of the [National Defense Strategy \(NDS\)](#) last month, and the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) last week. The dominant theme of the morning House hearing was a return to great power competition with Russia and China central to these major policy documents, along with the Pentagon's funding and budgetary stability. An afternoon Senate hearing was held in closed session in order to provide classified material to lawmakers from the upper chamber.

The headline quote highlighted by Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-TX) was Mattis' imploring members not to "hold funding the troops hostage to domestic political priorities." The people are the military and defense department's most valuable resource, he said, noting that the Budget Control Act (BCA) and Continuing Resolutions (CRs) have damaged the services extensively. The core of the new NDS is to increase the lethality, the strength of alliances, and reform the business practices of the military said Mattis. One way the Pentagon is addressing the last issue is with its first ever audit, which he promised would come by the end of the year. Ranking Member Adam Smith (D-WA) expressed his agreement with both the Secretary and Chairman Thornberry, but "bristled" at Mattis' characterization of hostage holding. He argued that the proposed budget shortchanges the Departments of State, Justice, and Homeland Security which he said are integral to avoiding conflict and preventing terrorism. Rep. Smith also noted that all the countries the NDS highlighted as challenges promoted autocracy, and sought to undermine the democratic world, encouraging the Administration to highlight values. He also highlighted his opposition to the Republican tax plan, arguing that it took money from the treasury at the same time the Administration was trying to rebuild the military. [Watch the hearing here.](#)

### [National Defense Strategy and Nuclear Posture Review](#)

Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, speaking at the West 2018 conference, [told attendees that the recently released National Defense Strategy](#) would be driving their FY19 budget request. He mentioned cyber-security and force deployments as two main areas they would focus on. As Secretary Mattis highlighted, the NDS concludes that instead of terrorism, a great power competition with Russia and China is our most important military challenge. Former Defense budgeter Marc Cancian, now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) [looks at the document](#) with a familiar and knowledgeable eye. Captain William Bray (Ret) of the USNI [criticizes the 2018 NDS](#) for downplaying democratic values, noting the two countries we face in a great power competition oppose liberal democracy.

Last Friday the Trump Administration also released its [2018 Nuclear Posture Review](#), the first such document since the Obama Administration's 2010 report. Though there is much continuity with the last review, the 2018 document does call for a new Sea Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM) to replace the old nuclear-armed Tomahawk. The [Pentagon argues that this weapon](#) is designed to counter an INF-treaty violating Russian weapon and will be a bargaining chip to force Russia back into compliance. The [Arms Control Wonk](#) has more of an in depth review of the policy differences [while a think tank in Australia](#), one of our closest allies, argues that it's mostly the same. The Washington Post editorial board on the other hand [called](#) it "overkill" while an MIT security studies professor calls it "[dangerous.](#)"

### [West 2018](#)

A lot of news is coming out of the [West 2018 Conference](#), held from Tuesday to Thursday this week in San Diego, and co-sponsored by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) and the U.S. Naval Institute (USNI). The conference was attended by Sea Service chiefs including Chief of Naval Operations Admiral John Richardson, Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Paul Zinkoff, and Marine Corps Commandant General Robert Neller. At a town-hall event featuring all three leaders Adm. [Richardson discussed](#) the 355 ship Navy goal and reiterated that the 30-year shipbuilding plan will accompany the 2019 Budget Request. Gen. [Neller described](#) the Marines' force modernization effort and the ways the Corps may change as they get ready to fight the wars of the future. USCG and Navy commanders also discussed the current situation sailors face where a "[grey zone](#)" persists between war and peace. The [Navy also announced](#) its final request for proposal (RFP) to build the Flight III Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, and Adm. Richardson told the conference that the next generation [heavy icebreaker RFP](#) would be released by the end of the month.



MAYPORT, Fla. (Feb. 7, 2018) Sailors and Marines man the rails on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) as it departs Naval Station Mayport for a deployment in support of maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in Europe and the Middle East. The Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group embarks the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and includes Iwo Jima, the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21), the dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51), Fleet Surgical Team 8, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 28, Tactical Air Control Squadron 22, components of Naval Beach Group 2 and the embarked staff of Amphibious Squadron 4. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Dary M. Patten/Released)

### **Other stories of interest:**

#### **[Terror in the Water: Maritime Terrorism, Mines, and Our Imperiled Harbors – USNI Blog/Jan 30](#)**

Editor's note: This essay won Second Place Mine Warfare Essay Contest, sponsored by the U.S. Naval Institute with the Mine Warfare Association.

In the early hours of 6 July 1984, a small merchant vessel glided out of her Libyan homeport bound for the crux of Eurasian trade: the Suez Canal. Her crew was gone, replaced by sailors hand-selected by Muammar Gaddafi. A few days later, the sailors quietly lowered their cargo into the Red Sea: deadly Soviet mines. In the coming weeks, panic rippled throughout the region as 19 vessels reported striking mines near the Suez Canal. Global trade shuddered, its agents more self-conscious than ever of the system's fragility. The world's powers raced to sweep the region free of mines and terror, but the United States, the West's naval hegemon, was forced to take a backseat due to a lack of ready, deployable mine countermeasure forces. A few dozen Soviet mines laid by a third-rate power in an act of state-sponsored terrorism had rendered the world's greatest naval power impotent.

#### **[Engine Trouble, Flooding Plague Polar Star – Maritime Exec/Feb 6](#)**

Despite incidents involving engine failure and flooding, the crew of U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Polar Star completed their mission on Tuesday, cutting a resupply channel through 15 miles of Antarctic ice in the Ross Sea and escorting supply vessels to the continent.

#### **[Nuclear Posture Review: Recognizing the return to great power competition – Defense News/Feb 4](#)**

By: Rep. Mac Thornberry

The United States' nuclear deterrent has been the cornerstone of our national defense and of international stability since World War II. Today, operating, sustaining, and recapitalizing our nuclear deterrent accounts for only about 4 percent of our overall defense budget, yet its value to America's security is incalculable.

### [Future USS Michael Monsoor Completes Acceptance Trials – Seapower/Feb 2](#)

BATH, Maine — The Navy's next-generation destroyer, the future USS Michael Monsoor (DDG 1001), successfully completed acceptance trials on Feb. 1, Naval Sea Systems Command announced in a Feb. 2 release.

### [USS America Returns From First Deployment – USNI/Feb 4](#)

Amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA-6) returned home to San Diego Friday morning, marking the completion of its first overseas operational deployment to the Western Pacific and the Middle East.

### [First female student at JU to earn submarine officer post – Navy Times/Feb 4](#)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Misha Chalkley doesn't think about the fact that when she graduates from Jacksonville University in April she will be the first woman from the school's Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps to earn a post as a submarine warfare officer.

### [Warren Buffett on hand as Navy commissions newest warship – Navy Times/Feb 4](#)

SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Navy on Saturday commissioned its newest warship, the USS Omaha, a futuristic, \$440 million vessel named for the Nebraska hometown of billionaire Warren Buffett, who was on hand for the ceremony.

### [Navy's massive training overhaul faces long-term threat – Navy Times/Feb 6](#)

Buried inside the Navy's recent strategic review was an ominous warning: The Navy's plans to transform the way sailors are trained is at risk of failure because the Pentagon is already forcing budget cuts on the ambitious multi-year effort.

### [Too Busy To Train? The Navy's Cyber Dilemma – Breaking Defense/Feb 7](#)

SAN DIEGO: The Navy's overworked IT teams need new "virtual training tools" and more time to train, especially for all-out cyber/electronic warfare against a high-end adversary, the commander of Naval Information Forces said here Tuesday.

### [LET'S TALK PROCESS: THE USS FITZGERALD AND USS JOHN S MCCAIN COLLISIONS – War on the Rocks/Feb 6](#)

We are all well aware of the tragic collisions last year involving USS Fitzgerald and USS John S McCain. Seventeen sailors died, both ships were severely damaged, and the lives of the surviving crewmembers were forever changed. What's left to say? Well, a lot, especially about an aspect of the aftermath now unfolding but less well understood — the military justice process.

### [Senior Leaders Taking First Steps in Long Road to Reform Surface Navy – USNI/Feb 5](#)

THE PENTAGON — Senior leaders in the Navy still have more questions than answers as they move to methodically and deliberately alter the way the surface forces do business in what could be a years-long process of evaluations and reforms.

### [Why the military wants \\$716 billion from Congress – The Hill/Feb 4](#)

The Trump administration is poised to ask Congress for \$716 billion for defense for fiscal 2019, a major hike that budget analysts say aligns with administration's stated goals of bulking up the military and preparing it to potentially fight near-peer rivals after years of focusing on terrorism.

### [Commandant Challenges Marines to Get More Lethal Ahead of Next Fight – Military.com/Feb 3](#)

MANAMA, Bahrain -- Gen. Robert Neller faced the second roomful of folding chairs in as many days as he offered a terse Christmas greeting to the 50 or so Marines assembled in the room. In the space of a week, he would give roughly a dozen town hall speeches in nine different countries, sometimes addressing three different units in as many locations in a single day.

### [Women prove they're up to the challenge of Marine Corps rigorous boot camp – USA Today/Feb 7](#)

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. — Drill instructors dashed between the ranks, shouting orders as recruits repeatedly pressed 30-pound ammunition cans over their heads or slung their buddies over their shoulder and took off running against the clock.

#### [Why Some Marines Fear Afghan Allies More Than the Taliban – Daily Beast/Feb 6](#)

For the first time, Marines from one of the worst ‘insider attacks’ speak—and they have a warning for Americans going to fight the same war.

#### [Want to Understand the Future of War? Talk to Chuck Krulak – Defense One/Feb 3](#)

As Marine commandant, Krulak bucked Pentagon wisdom and rebuilt the Corps for small, messy conflicts. Now his ideas run through the National Defense Strategy, urban-ops doctrine, and Jim Mattis' head.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Three days before the Pentagon will publish its new National Defense Strategy, Chuck Krulak opens a 20-year-old PowerPoint deck on a big iMac screen and walks me through its prescient description of the world to come.

#### [Now Russia Is Demanding US Stop Spying Near Its Borders After Buzzing Navy Spy Plane – The Drive/Feb 1](#)

The Russian Ministry of Defense has mocked the crews of American spy planes as overly cautious and suggested the United States either stop such missions near its borders or agree to a set of rules governing those flight. The official statement comes after the U.S. Navy released half a dozen videos showing one of Russia's Su-27 Flanker series fighter jets flying dangerously close to an EP-3E Aries II intelligence aircraft in international air space over the Black Sea.

#### [More Punishments Issued for Fatal Western Pacific Destroyer Collisions; Dates Set for Initial D.C. Criminal Hearings – USNI/Feb 2](#)

THE PENTAGON – Navy leadership has issued more punishments to sailors involved in the two fatal collisions in the Western Pacific, senior service officials told USNI News on Thursday.

#### [Waterways Council to Honor Sen. McConnell – MarineLink/Feb 5](#)

U.S. Senator and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) will receive the 17th Annual Waterways Council, Inc. Leadership Service Award on Wednesday evening, February 14, 2018 at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C.

#### [Navy admiral: New measures in place to thwart another ‘Fat Leonard’ corruption scandal – Stars and Stripes/Feb 7](#)

WASHINGTON — Adm. Bill Moran, vice chief of naval operations, said Wednesday that the Navy is addressing new policy reforms in the wake of the “Fat Leonard” fraud and corruption scandal.

#### [Boeing Views Navy's MQ-25 Carrier-Based Drone Contract As A Must Win – Forbes/Feb 2](#)

You wouldn't think a company that just told Wall Street it will deliver over 800 jetliners this year would assign top priority to winning a Navy program aimed at buying a mere 76 unmanned aircraft, but that's what Boeing has done. The world's biggest aerospace company has decided the carrier-based MQ-25 drone is the beginning of a revolution in naval aviation, and it is determined to be on board.

#### [The True Story Of How The Coast Guard And Navy Took Down The Head Of The Cuban Mafia – Task and Purpose/Feb 5](#)

The USS Thomas S. Gates, a U.S. Navy cruiser, steamed along the western Caribbean Sea on March 19, 2004, in the middle of conducting counter-narcotic operations when orders came down from the U.S. Southern Command's Joint Interagency Task Force.

#### [Coast Guard Offloads Nearly 2 Tons of Cocaine in St. Petersburg – Seapower/Feb 2](#)

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Tampa offloaded nearly 2 tons of cocaine Feb. 2 in St. Petersburg that was seized in the Caribbean Sea, the Coast Guard reported in a release.

### [U.S. Navy Gets Two New High-Tech Vessels – Maritime Exec/ Feb 5](#)

The U.S. Navy is taking delivery of two new high-tech additions to its fleet: the Medium Displacement Unmanned Surface Vehicle (MDUSV, ex names Sea Hunter, ACTUV) and the USS Michael Monsoor, the second of three Zumwalt-class destroyers.

### [Navy doing away with combat camera – Navy Times/Feb 6](#)

The Navy will eliminate its two combat camera units by Oct. 1 in an effort to cut costs and eliminate billets, Navy Times has learned.

*Dueling Jones Act articles:*

### [A convenient scapegoat for Puerto Rico's woes – Washington Times/Feb 5](#)

Debate regarding the relevance and necessity of maritime cabotage laws, specifically the Jones Act, has been ignited in the months following the worst Caribbean Hurricane season in decades. Much of the debate in favor of repealing the law has been built on the false premise that the Jones Act has somehow acted as an impediment to the speed of recovery on a culturally corrupt island suffering from underlying infrastructure problems decades in the making.

### [The Jones Act, a century-old maritime law, proves tough to sink – Washington Examiner/Feb 6](#)

Lawmakers and leaders of the maritime industry are rallying support for the Jones Act, a law intended to protect American shipping and maritime interests, as critics try to repeal or provide exemptions to the rule.

### [Repealing antiquated Jones Act would be a boon to all Americans – The Hill/Feb 7](#)

At a time when more and more policymakers are asking whether it's time to modernize the Jones Act — and Puerto Rico is hoping to be exempted from it entirely — Jones Act supporters in Congress have decided to flex their might. But in doing so, they've proven that they aren't really interested in economic realities.



Bath, Maine (Feb. 1, 2018) The Navy's next generation destroyer, the future USS Michael Monsoor (DDG 1001), successfully completed acceptance. The U.S. Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey reviewed the ship and its crew during a series of demonstrations both pier side and underway, evaluating the ship's construction and compliance with Navy specifications. (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of Bath Iron Works/Released)