

SAC NEWSLETTER



11.27.2020

A monthly newsletter brought to you by The Strategic Affairs Committee of the PSDSRA

Top stories in this newsletter (Helpful Hint: click the pictures to be taken to the articles/links)



Esper fired as defense secretary



Biden's Likely Defense Secretary Pick Flournoy Faces Progressive Pushback



Will the NDAA survive a lame duck Trump?



Memos to Shipyards from Navy Leadership



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Esper fired as defense secretary



Defense Secretary Mark Esper listens during a Cabinet meeting with President Donald Trump in the White House on May 19, 2020.

“WASHINGTON — U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper has been fired by President Donald Trump.

Trump announced the move in a Nov. 9 tweet, just days after the presidential election was called in favor of former Vice President Joe Biden.

Christopher Miller, director of the National Counterterrorism Center, has been appointed acting defense secretary, Trump said.”

The announcement marks a meteoric rise for Miller, who served in the Army from 1987 through 2014, over the last year.

Biden's Likely Defense Secretary Pick Flournoy Faces Progressive Pushback



Then-U.S. Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Michèle Flournoy arrives for a bilateral meeting in Beijing on Dec. 7.

“U.S. President-elect Joe Biden named a slate of experienced hands for his national security team on Monday—but stopped short of selecting a defense secretary. Now, backers of Michèle Flournoy, his likely pick for defense secretary, are trying to head off a last-minute push by some left-leaning Democrats trying to derail her selection, with many progressives seeing her nomination as a continuation of what critics refer to as America's “forever wars.”

In a letter obtained by Foreign Policy organized by No Exceptions, a mostly inactive nonprofit that previously advocated for opening more military service roles to women, expected to be signed by more than 100 former U.S. and military officials and national security experts, Flournoy is described as a consensus-builder able to heal the tensions and mistrust sown during the Trump administration.

Progressive groups led by Just Foreign Policy and Demand Progress are planning a letter asking Flournoy and Biden's already-announced top national security picks, Avril Haines and Antony Blinken, to account for perceived past foreign-policy mistakes, including U.S. policy in Yemen, Libya, Syria, and with regards to Saudi arms sales.

...Flournoy's wide experience in the Defense Department, which began nearly three decades ago in the Clinton administration as a principal deputy assistant secretary of defense and carried her through the Obama administration, where she served as the agency's Senate-confirmed undersecretary of defense for policy, is seen as likely to help her clear a possible Republican-controlled Senate. She also became known for co-founding the Center for a New American Security in 2007, a bipartisan think tank focused on defense issues.”

Will the NDAA survive a lame duck Trump?



President Donald Trump speaks during an event. | AP Photo

“The House and Senate Armed Services Committees aim to quickly negotiate and pass a compromise defense policy bill in the coming weeks. There's just one wild card: President Donald Trump.

Trump — who is refusing concede his loss to former Vice President Joe Biden and who upended the Pentagon by ousting Defense Secretary Mark Esper — has lawmakers concerned about the commander in chief's national security whims going unchecked over the next two months.

Now lawmakers must iron out their competing versions of the annual National Defense Authorization Act, which Trump has threatened to veto over provisions that would renames bases that honor Confederate leaders. Both House and Senate versions of the NDAA would do that, but over varying time frames.”

Memos to Shipyards from Navy Leadership



James F. Geurts

“SUBJECT: Thank you and Keep Them Sailing Keeping the US Navy’s ships operating non-stop around the globe has been a hallmark of the United States Navy and its shipyards since the beginning of our great nation. The onset of the COVID pandemic this year, during a period of high operational demand on our Navy, required an unprecedented level of dedication, mission focus, and resiliency from our entire shipbuilding and ship maintenance enterprise and YOU DELIVERED! ...

Thank you again for your continued support to our Navy and our Nation! And to the entire workforce who are responsible for helping us generate warfighting readiness, you have my profound thanks.”

NAVSEA: Analysis of Ship Repair Processes Led to Better On-Time Rates, More Realistic Schedules



(DoD)Lisa Ferdinando

“The membership of the House in the 117th Congress is largely set, with Democrats maintaining the majority and most key leaders of committees that oversee the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs returning.

According to The Associated Press, the current count in the 100-member Senate is 50 Republicans, 46 Democrats and two Independents who caucus with the Democrats -- Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Angus King of Maine

Should the Democrats win the two races in Georgia, that would give them a total of 50, with Vice President-elect Kamala Harris empowered to break ties as president of the Senate.”

Port of San Diego Approves Microgrid Installation for Terminal



photo courtesy Port of San Diego

“The Port of San Diego Board of Port Commissioners approved the installation of a microgrid, battery storage system, and electrical infrastructure at the port’s Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal. The microgrid, which expands on the recent enhancements to the terminal, will advance the use of renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) as the Port continues to electrify the terminal.

The modernization was the first phase of a larger Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal Redevelopment Plan that envisions three distinct cargo nodes within the existing footprint of the terminal...The plan includes a variety of infrastructure improvements that will be phased over time.

About the SAC:

The Strategic Affairs Committee’s charter is to monitor current events and news relevant to the Ship Repair Industry and provide the Association’s board of directors with items of interest that may affect the industry and / or the membership. The information includes but is not limited to current events, geopolitical information, budget news, political information and upcoming legislation.



The PSDSRA's Facebook page is regularly updated with news, which is focused on, timely and relevant information of value to our members in the Maritime Industry. To view, like, and/or follow the PSDSRA’s page, click the Facebook logo.

The SAC meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

To join the Committee - Email KWilkinson@delphinus.com and you’ll be added to the committee distributions and meeting invitations.

Current Active Committee Members include: Kyle Wilkinson, Derry Pence, Terry Buis, Marcel Becker, Kyle Clapp, Kelvan Hall, Michael Curtain, Michael Bice, Ed Zajonc, Michael Gonzales, Morgan Miller, Dante Sitta, Lorenzo Ramirez, and Patrick Mooney.

Members Featured



Prepared By:

Kyle Wilkinson—SAC Committee Chair

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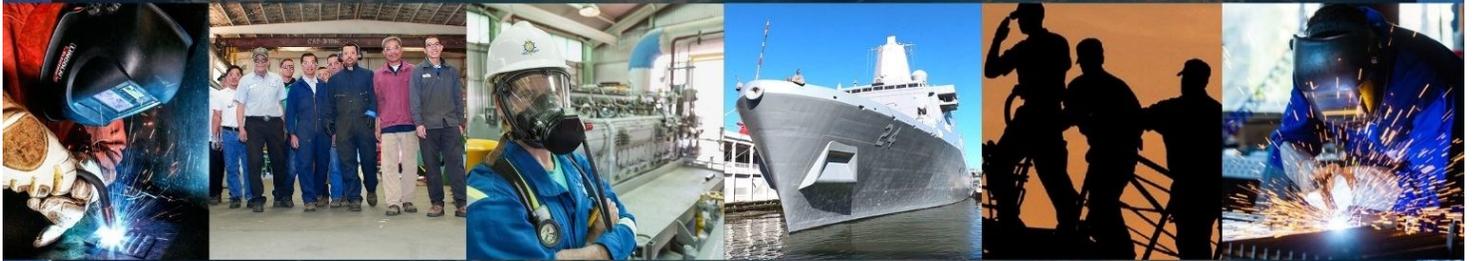
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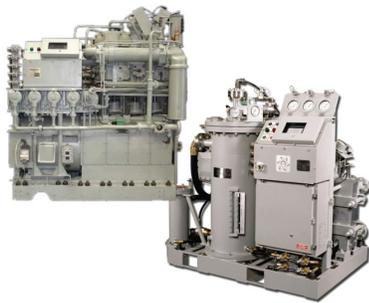
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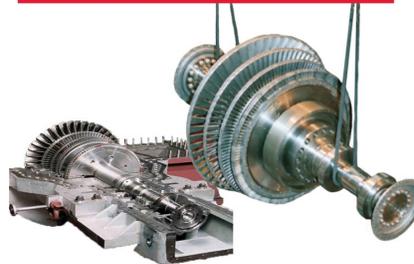
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