

SAC NEWSLETTER



8.30.2021

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)



SECDEF Memo on DoD COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate



Year-long continuing resolution would cost the Navy \$14B in spending power



Senate Dems' \$3.5T budget proposes small increases to defense spending



Navy: Large USV Will Require Small Crews for the Next Several Years



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SECDEF Memo on DoD COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate



(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

"As many of you know, President Biden asked me to consider how and when we might add the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccines to the list of those required for all Service members. So, over the last week, I have consulted closely with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretaries of the Military Departments, the Service Chiefs, and medical professionals. I appreciate greatly the advice and counsel they provided.

Based on these consultations and on additional discussions with leaders of the White House COVID Task Force, I want you to know that I will seek the President's approval to make the vaccines mandatory no later than mid-September, or immediately upon the U.S. Food and Drug Agency (FDA) licensure, whichever comes first.

By way of expectation, public reporting suggests the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine could achieve full FDA licensure early next month.

The intervening few weeks will be spent preparing for this transition. I have every confidence that Service leadership and your commanders will implement this new vaccination program with professionalism, skill, and compassion. We will have more to say about this as implementation plans are fully developed.

In the meantime, we will comply with the President's direction regarding additional restrictions and requirements for unvaccinated Federal personnel. Those requirements apply to those of you in uniform as well as our civilian and contractor personnel.

We will also be keeping a close eye on infection rates – which are on the rise now due to the Delta variant – and the impact these rates might have on our readiness. I will not hesitate to act sooner or recommend a different course to the President if I feel the need to do so. To defend this Nation, we need a healthy and ready force. I strongly encourage all DoD military and civilian personnel – as well as contractor personnel – to get vaccinated now and for military Service members to not wait for the mandate.

All FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are safe and highly effective. They will protect you and your family. They will protect your unit, your ship, and your co-workers. And they will ensure we remain the most lethal and ready force in the world.

Get the shot. Stay healthy. Stay ready."

House appropriators advance \$706 billion defense spending bill



(MC2 Dean M. Cates/U.S. Navy) (Carrier Strike Group Two (CSG-2))

"If the federal government ends up operating under a continuing resolution this fall, the U.S. Navy wouldn't be able to buy the ships and weapons it needs in fiscal 2022, wouldn't have enough money operate the fleet and might have to cut back on people, the Navy's top budget officer said.

Rear Adm. Gumbleton said that personnel and operations and maintenance costs are outpacing inflation, while the Navy's budget was already set to increase less than the rate of inflation. As a result, FY22 was already going to be a tough budget year for the Navy. With the prospect of a full-year CR, Gumbleton said the Navy is facing an O&M deficit of \$1.8 billion, while the Marine Corps is facing a loss of \$700 million. The FY21 funding levels are not sufficient to cover expected FY22 operating costs.

John Lucio, a professional staff member on the Senate Appropriations defense subcommittee, said during the panel discussion that "the signals are there" for a year-long continuing resolution. "Anything can happen, but we received the budget late, a couple months late; we don't really see a [five-year Future Years Defense Program, which is typically submitted with each budget request]; we've got a top line problem; we're dealing with some of the divestment issues," he said. "So there's lots of signals that we certainly aren't going to get this done on time, but it may be an extended period of time."

Gumbleton said the Navy in previous budget turn downs prioritized fleet size at the expense of readiness. When sequestration forced lower budgets a decade ago, "what the Department of the Navy did was maintain their ship procurement at the expense of readiness, and then what we saw was aviation readiness go through a bathtub, we saw ... ships not coming out of the yard on time."

Senate Dems' \$3.5T budget proposes small increases to defense spending



(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite) (AP)

“Senate Democrats on Monday unveiled a \$3.5 trillion budget blueprint that proposes limited increases for defense budgets through 2031.

While non-binding, the numbers are politically symbolic, and it’s unclear whether the roughly flat top-lines for national defense will repel centrist Democrats or not, especially given the other Democratic priorities in the bill. Party leaders will need all 50 of their members to stay unified to pass the budget blueprint, focused on expanding America’s social safety net, without any Republican votes.

For the national defense budget category “050,” which includes Department of Energy weapons programs and the Pentagon budget, the blueprint proposes \$765.7 billion in budget authority for fiscal 2022. The number, which includes mandatory spending, tracks with the administration’s fiscal 2022 budget request for \$753 billion in discretionary defense spending, according to a Senate aide.

“The Democrats’ reckless \$3.5 trillion tax-and-spend spree increases funding for everything but our national defense,” Senate Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., said in a statement. “That’s probably the largest — but certainly not the only — unacceptable part of this blueprint for more government, more taxes and higher prices. American families can’t afford this spending spree, especially because a lack of investment in national defense only puts us further behind China and Russia.”

Democrats are expected to approve the resolution over unanimous Republican opposition, perhaps as soon as this week. Passage of the budget resolution is crucial because it would allow a subsequent bill — actually enacting Democrats’ 10-year, \$3.5 trillion plan for spending and tax changes — to pass the Senate by a simple majority.”

Navy: Large USV Will Require Small Crews for the Next Several Years



Ghost Fleet Ship Nomad arriving at Point Loma, Calif., on May 29, 2021. Image via Twitter

“The emerging fleet of U.S. military Large Unmanned Surface Vessels (LUSV) are set to navigate the open seas, avoid other vessels and carry out complex directives from a land-based command center over a secure communications network. What they can’t do yet is pump their own gas.

For the foreseeable future, the LUSVs will require a small crew detachment aboard to carry out tasks not conducive to machines.

“We do envision accommodations for a small detachment of personnel. Those people are not intended to be driving or operating the boat directly, but we provide those accommodations as a risk manager for operations, that can’t be automated or haven’t been automated yet, like refueling,” Capt. Pete Small, Navy Program Manager for USVs, said Monday at the Sea Air Space 2021 symposium. “They could still be aboard also for force protection or other measures that are required as we continue to refine concepts of operations.”

The Navy and the Office of the Secretary of Defense’s Strategic Capabilities Office are continuing to wring out the concept through the testing of two Ghost Fleet ships that are operating off the West Coast. The converted offshore support vessels, Nomad and Ranger, will be joined by two additional purpose-built unmanned test ships for additional experimentation as part of the Navy’s Surface Development Squadron One.

As envisioned, the LUSVs are designed to carry a vertical launch system that will provide additional missile capacity for the Navy’s fleet of guided-missile cruisers, destroyers and emerging Constellation-class (FFG-62) frigates. In terms of how manning evolves for LUSV, “we’re going to flesh that out over the next several years,” Small said.

Last year, the Navy issued \$42 million in contracts for LUSV studies, with Austal USA, Huntington Ingalls Industries, Fincantieri Marinette, Bollinger Shipyards, Lockheed Martin and Gibbs & Cox each winning about \$7 million apiece.”

Quick Link Resources Included for the Benefit of the Members



Contact Monica at
mpot@sandiegoshiprepair.com to advertise open positions on the PSDSRA Website



CNRMC Domestic Workload FY21-24 (08.01.2021)



Cal/OSHA COVID-19 ETS Update



DOD Directs Employees to Start Wearing Face Masks Again



PSDSRA Golf Tournament is a go. Click the image above and email your entries and/or sponsorships.

Acting US Navy undersecretary James Geurts to retire this month



(MC1 Jacob Allison/U.S. Navy) (U.S. Navy)

“The U.S. Navy’s acting undersecretary will step down this month and retire from government service, with no replacement immediately announced.

James Geurts, who served as the assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition from December 2017 to January 2021 and has been performing the duties of undersecretary since February, announced on LinkedIn that he would step down from the acting position this month.

“It was an extremely difficult decision given my strong belief in our mission and pride in being part of the Dept. of Navy team,” he wrote in an Aug. 3 memo and posted on social media Aug. 4. “While I’ll depart with a heavy heart, I will do so with great confidence” in the Navy team and its mission.

The Navy’s civilian leadership team is still not in place after the Biden administration took office in January. The Senate is nearing a vote on prospective secretary Carlos Del Toro, who was nominated on June 11 to serve in the position. He was the last service secretary to be nominated. No other nominations have been made yet for other key Navy civilian leadership positions.

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, Dery Pence, Terry Buis, Marcel Becker, Kyle Clapp, Kelvan Hall, Michael Curtain, Michael Bice, Ed Zajonc, Morgan Miller, Lorenzo Ramirez, Patrick Mooney, Ross Shook, Desiree Waldon, David Widener, Chris Hill, and Dan Cummins.

Members Featured



Prepared By:

Kyle Wilkinson—SAC Committee Chair

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Marine, Commercial & Industrial Services

Our Mission

ECR is dedicated to creating quality products for our clients with a level of reliability and customer service that consistently exceeds expectations. We continuously shape and leverage our core competencies to produce dependable quality results. Our experienced project management teams minimize project risks, our skilled craftspeople deliver a superior and timely product, and our agility translates to flexible solutions for our customers. Because we care about our people and we are stewards of the environment, we approach our work responsibly and continuously meet or exceed industry standards and regulations. This is all accomplished within a strong safety culture environment that promotes smart decision making that safeguards against known and unknown hazards. Every ECR employee and Supplier Partner is a responsible stakeholder in our mission.



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Jacksonville, FL 32206

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Locations with ongoing ECR presence

Naval Station Mayport
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BAE San Diego Ship Repair
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Our Services

Full service repair, maintenance, and alteration work for the maritime and other industrial sectors.

- Custom Fabrication
- Heavy and Light Fabrication
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- Equipment Fabrication / Erection
- Module Fabrication
- HVAC Fabrication
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- Piping Repairs
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ECR's certifications, infrastructure, and skillsets allow the company to pursue stand-alone prime contracts with the US Navy, the Military Sealift Command, and MARAD, as well as with other commercial vessel operators, such as Maersk, Crowley and TOTE. ECR also works as a subcontractor to various companies such as BAE, Lockheed Martin, and Fincantieri Marinette Marine at their shipyards in Norfolk, Jacksonville, San Diego, and Marinette, WI. We have various Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts with various Navy Regional Maintenance Centers for maintenance and repair of various class of vessels in their fleet. The Company has a Master Ship Repair Agreement (MSRA), an Agreement for Boat Repair (ABR), a NAVSEA approved Quality Management System, as well as facilities and resources that allow the company to be of service to the Nation's important diverse maritime sectors.

www.ecrfab.com





ABOUT

Inspec Testing, Inc. is a nondestructive testing service company founded in 1996 in San Diego, California. Our main specialty is nondestructive testing and inspection in the construction, fabrication, manufacturing and maritime industries. We pride ourselves on our service and responsiveness to your inspection needs.

Inspec Testing retains a staff of the industry's top technicians making it one of the West Coast's largest certified professional staff available for your inspection needs. We have assembled a professional staff with over 100 years of inspection services experience. The staff includes ASNT Level I, II & III Inspectors and AWS Certified Welding Inspectors (CWI).

Our ability to travel and relocate staff and mobile equipment to your inspection site on short notice is our service advantage that we extend to you. This diversification provides the range of services that our customers can depend on for their nondestructive testing and inspection services from a single company.

GOVERNMENT

For over 20 years, Inspec Testing has provided reliable NDT support on numerous US Department of Defense contracts at various locations across the US and overseas.

Our team of experienced technicians are NDT Level II and III qualified in accordance with T9074-AS-GIB-010/271, Revision 1 and ASNT SNT-TC-1A.

Inspec testing currently holds approvals for the following methods in accordance with T9074-AS-GIB-010/271 Revision 1.



- ✓ Visual Inspection
- ✓ Liquid Penetrant Inspection
- ✓ Magnetic Particle Inspection
- ✓ Ultrasonic Inspection
- ✓ Radiographic Inspection
- ✓ Destructive Testing



COMMERICAL

Inspec Testing proudly offers the following commercial services and support:

CONSTRUCTION/FABRICATION

Our nondestructive testing services can be performed in compliance with a number of commercial codes. Additionally, our staff includes technicians with the following commercial certifications:

- ✓ American Welding Society - Certified Welding Inspectors
- ✓ ICC Structural Steel and Bolting and Welding Inspection
- ✓ San Diego Approved Special Inspectors for Structural Steel and Welding

COMMERCIAL MARITIME

Inspec Testing maintains a recognized specialist designation for hull gauging with the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS). As of 2019, Inspec Testing is authorized to perform hull gauging for all ABS classed vessels, including those in the Enhanced Survey Program (ESP).



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- Mid-Temp, Fiberglass
- High-temp, Calcium Silicate
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- Shannon Tile
- PRC/Flake Decks
- Broadcast
- Electrical Grade Matting
- Ceramic and Quarry Tile
- Marine Carpet

SPECIALTY

- PCMS Tile Removal / Installation
- Sound Dampening Removal / Installation
- Painting Services

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