

# SAC NEWSLETTER



12.24.2021

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)



Mayor Gloria signs new Barrio Logan Community Plan Update, replacing 43-year-old blueprint



Congress passes defense policy bill with budget boost, military justice reforms



Pacific Deterrence Initiative: A look at funding in the new defense bill, and



Pentagon stops implementing vaccine mandate for defense contractors



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## Mayor Gloria signs new Barrio Logan Community Plan Update, replacing 43-year-old blueprint



(KUSI Newsroom)

"Mayor Todd Gloria signed the Barrio Logan Community Plan Update into law Tuesday, replacing a 43-year old blueprint with one intended to end what some city council members called environmental racism in the San Diego neighborhood plagued with long-simmering tensions between residents and heavy industry.

"The updated Barrio Logan Community Plan represents decades of hard work and community advocacy for an appropriate and consistent vision for this historic San Diego neighborhood," Gloria said. "This important update was made possible through unprecedented collaboration of the Barrio Logan community and the maritime industry to address longstanding environmental justice issues and create a brighter future for Barrio Logan while maintaining its unique culture and character."

"The signing of the Barrio Logan Community Plan is the culmination of years of hard work and compromise by residents and industry," said Derry Pence, president of the Port of San Diego Ship Repair Association. "The creation of a transition zone not only protects the residents from the impacts of heavy industrial work, but it also ensures that the industries outside the buffer zone continue to do their work and provide good, high-paying jobs."

## Congress passes defense policy bill with budget boost, military justice reforms



(MC3 Gray Gibson/U.S. Navy)

"After months of debate and weeks of angst, the Senate on Wednesday voted 88-11 to finalize plans for a \$740 billion authorization bill for the Department of Defense, sending the sweeping military policy measure to the White House for the 61st consecutive year.

The move codifies the annual 2.7% pay raise for troops in 2022, backs \$25 billion more in military spending for fiscal 2022 than the White House requested and overhauls how certain sexual misconduct crimes are prosecuted under military rules.

But what the bill doesn't include has gotten more attention than what it does.

To speed up passage, congressional leaders dropped language to add women to the Selective Service System for potential future conscription, scaled back plans for even more dramatic military justice changes and dumped several other provisions.

But both Republican and Democratic leaders praised the final product as providing key support for the military in an uncertain global environment.

Lawmakers' biggest addition to the defense bill in recent months was arguably the \$25 billion in additional military spending.

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But the extra funding found bipartisan backing in both chambers, with supporters pointing to military build-ups by Russia and China. Moderate Democrats said the money was needed to boost research and development spending, and future budget plans from Biden should follow suit."

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## Pacific Deterrence Initiative: A look at funding in the new defense bill, and what must happen now



(MC Shannon Renfro/U.S. Navy via AP)

“The Pentagon’s first draft of the Pacific Deterrence Initiative has been dead on arrival since its submission to Congress in May. But with the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2022 headed to the president’s desk, Congress has rewritten the PDI and established a new baseline against which future Pentagon efforts to deter China will be measured.

Congress established the PDI last year for two basic reasons: to better understand what the Pentagon was spending in the Indo-Pacific region, and to change the composition of that spending.

But in its first attempt to craft PDI, the Pentagon floundered — doubling down on platform investments at the expense of joint and enabling capabilities. Funding for one destroyer, one fleet oiler and F-35 upgrades accounted for nearly three quarters of the initiative. Meanwhile, paltry sums were left for other key lines of effort, such as a pitiful \$500,000 for “strengthening alliances and partnerships.” The request also puzzlingly omitted Indo-Pacific investments that would have better aligned to PDI’s objectives.

Congress’ rewritten version of the PDI represents a major improvement. It removed spending that does not belong in the PDI. It refocused funding on joint and enabling capabilities primarily west of the international dateline. Congress also effectively targeted new spending on high-priority needs such as the Guam Defense System, the Pacific Multi-Domain Training and Experimentation Capability, and “planning and design” activities that will be used to develop shovel-ready military construction projects to advance a distributed and resilient theater force posture.

In other words, fiscal 2022 is just the beginning. Congress expects PDI to grow in future years above the baseline established in the NDAA.”

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## Pentagon stops implementing vaccine mandate for defense contractors



(Getty Images/Drew Angerer)

“The race to vaccinate defense workers is now at a standstill, after a US district court judge blocked the implementation of the vaccine mandate for federal contractors last week.

The Defense Department issued a Dec. 9 memo instructing its contracting officers to stop enforcing President Joe Biden’s Sept. 9 executive order, which required workers for federal contractors to be vaccinated for COVID-19 by Jan. 18. The memo was first reported by Politico.

The memo was released after a judge for the US District Court for the Southern District of Georgia issued a nationwide injunction on Dec. 7, which prevents the vaccine mandate from being carried out.

Pentagon spokeswoman Jessica Maxwell acknowledged that the department has “provided guidance to contracting officers to ensure compliance with the court order and instructed contracting officers not to enforce the vaccination mandate at this time,” she said in a statement.

In October, several companies, including Northrop Grumman and Raytheon, indicated they had begun hiring workers under the expectation that companies would be forced to lay off employees who did not conform with the mandate.”

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## Biden To Nominate Senate Staffer Erik Raven for Navy Under Secretary



(U.S. Marine Corps Photo)

“President Joe Biden on Monday disclosed plans to nominate a Senate staffer to serve as the new under secretary of the Navy. Erik Raven, who is currently the majority clerk for the Senate Appropriations defense subcommittee, is Biden’s pick to serve as the Navy’s second highest-ranking civilian.

In his role as the majority clerk, Raven “oversees more than \$700 billion of annual spending by the Department of Defense and the intelligence community,” the White House said in an announcement.

“Prior to joining the Appropriations Committee in 2007, he served as national security adviser and legislative director to Senator Robert C. Byrd, fellow to Senator Ted Kennedy, in several positions for Senator Dianne Feinstein, and as an English teacher in China.

James Geurts, who was the Navy’s acquisition executive during the Trump administration, was performing the duties of the under secretary from February to August.”

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## Quick Link Resources Included for the Benefit of the Members



Contact Monica at [mpot@sandiegoshiprepair.com](mailto:mpot@sandiegoshiprepair.com) to advertise open positions on the PSDSRA Website



Information on CMMC 2.0



Naval Base San Diego Parking - Updated Contractor parking Lot Map



CalChamber 2021 Job Killer Legislation List



SCA Alert | Stay Lifted on OSHA COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing ETS

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## Inflation and budget gridlock take a toll on the Pentagon



(Carolyn Kaster/AP)

“Inflation is now a national security issue.

The prospect of increased weapons costs and rising wages are already causing significant problems for Pentagon planners as they craft President Joe Biden’s upcoming budget proposal for fiscal 2023, defense experts say.

Complicating matters, the White House Office of Management and Budget, or OMB, has not given the Pentagon a top line for fiscal 2023, with the budget submission deadline just weeks away.

Federal agencies typically submit budget requests to OMB in early September, and OMB decides on that request in November — the “pass-back” phase. Though the process is often delayed, the target is for the president’s budget to be decided in December, drafted in January and submitted in early February.

The prospect of inflation-related cost increases are stoking fears in the defense sector the Pentagon will make up the difference by delaying some big-ticket modernization programs or by cutting quantities.

Experts predict rising inflation will drive up programmatic costs, especially in cases where the Pentagon signed a cost-sharing contract. Bank of America Merrill Lynch analyst Ronald Epstein said he could see defense contractors seeking to renegotiate with the government as their costs rise due to higher prices for parts, materials and labor. ”

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### 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](mailto: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, Morgan Miller, Lorenzo Ramirez, Patrick Mooney, Ross Shook, Desiree Waldon, David Widener, Chris Hill, and Dan Cummins.

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# Members Featured



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#### Prepared By:

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- General Labor
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- Assembly

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