

SAC NEWSLETTER



8.30.2022

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)



Time Is Already Running Short for Congress to Pass 2023 NDAA, Spending Bills



CNO Gilday: Industrial Capacity Largest Barrier to Growing the Fleet



Navy Wants to Decommission 39 Warships in 2023



Senate FY 2023 Appropriations Bill Adds \$4B to Navy Shipbuilding, Money for New Amphibs



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Time Is Already Running Short for Congress to Pass 2023 NDAA, Spending Bills



A photo of the U.S. Capitol building at sunrise. Official Architect of the Capitol photo

"More than seven weeks still remain until the 2023 fiscal year begins on Oct. 1, but observers of Congress are already warning that time is running out for lawmakers to pass the annual National Defense Authorization Act and appropriations bill that will fund the Pentagon before that deadline.

Should Congress fail to pass those bills on time, they'll have to pass a continuing resolution to keep the federal government open, a move that keeps spending levels frozen at the previous year's levels.

For the NDAA, the House passed its version of the bill in mid-July, increasing the top line of the Pentagon's budget request by \$37 billion. The Senate Armed Services Committee passed its version in June, with committee leadership filing it to the Senate floor in mid-July. The full chamber has yet to vote on the bill.

On the appropriations side of things, both the House and Senate have yet to approve a defense spending bill. The House Appropriations Committee did pass its markup of a spending plan for the Pentagon in June, but the full chamber has yet to debate it. The Senate Appropriations Committee, meanwhile, did not unveil its spending bills until late July.

Now, Congress is at the start of its August recess period, with both chambers slated to return in early September after Labor Day. But with Election Day looming Nov. 8, lawmakers won't stay in Washington, D.C., for long before heading back out on the campaign trail. The House is scheduled to have its last day in session before the election Sept. 30, while the Senate is tentatively set to be in session for two weeks in October, though that could change.

In order to get the NDAA signed into law by Oct. 1, the Senate would have to pass its version soon after returning in September, allowing for the conference process to start whereby lawmakers and staff members from both chambers draft a compromise bill. That process can take several weeks, before both chambers would then have to vote on the new bill, presumably before the House leaves town."

CNO Gilday: Industrial Capacity Largest Barrier to Growing the Fleet



US Navy Photo

"The biggest barrier to adding more ships to the Navy is industrial base capacity, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday said Thursday.

"We have an industrial capacity that's limited. In other words, we can only get so many ships off the production line a year. My goal would be to optimize those production lines for destroyers, for frigates, for amphibious ships, for the light amphibious ships, for supply ships," Gilday said at a Heritage Foundation event.

"We need to give a signal to industry that we need to get to three destroyers a year, instead of 1.5, that we need to maintain two submarines a year. And so part of this is on us to give them a clear set of – a clear aim point so they can plan a work force and infrastructure that's going to be able to meet the demand. But again, no industry is going to make those kinds of investments unless we give them a higher degree of confidence."

Gilday's 2022 Navigation Plan, released last month, calls for 373 manned ships and about 150 unmanned surface and underwater vehicles by 2045.

As for unmanned, Gilday said that when he assumed top job, he viewed the Navy's pursuit of those platforms the same way he viewed traditional acquisition programs, which typically span years and take significant research and development. The service's unmanned efforts have to move faster, he argued.

"We're folding in unmanned to fleet battle problems, we're doing it with deploying strike groups," he said. "We're just trying to make it more something that we're doing routinely rather than just having a separate exercise."

Navy Wants to Decommission 39 Warships in 2023



USS Vicksburg (CG-69) getting repaired at BAE Systems Norfolk Ship Repair, Va., on April 8, 2022. Christopher P. Cavas

"The Navy wants to shed 39 ships in Fiscal Year 2023, with the first ship set to depart on Halloween.

The list, which includes five guided-missile cruisers and nine Littoral Combat Ships, was released Friday as an administrative message. However, the composition of the final list is far from a done deal. Included on the inactivation list are several ships that could be saved from decommissioning by provisions in the House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization Act, as well as the House version of the Appropriations Bill.

Of the 39 ships included on the Navy's list, the House or Senate has provisions to save 16 of them. The final list of what ships will be saved will be worked out once the two chambers conference the NDAA."

Ships	Decommission Date	Disposition	Ships	Decommission Date	Disposition
USNS Bob Hope (T-AKR-300)	10/31/2022	Transfer to MARAD	USS Billings (LCS-15)	06/30/2023	Legislative Consideration
USNS Fisher (T-AKR-301)	10/31/2022	Transfer to MARAD	USS Indianapolis (LCS-17)	09/30/2023	Legislative Consideration
USNS Walter S. Diehl (T-AO-193)	10/31/2022	Dismantle	USS St. Louis (LCS-19)	09/30/2023	Legislative Consideration
USNS Shugart (T-AKR-193)	01/31/2023	Transfer to MARAD	USS Germantown (LSD-42)	03/31/2023	Legislative Consideration
USNS Yano (T-AKR-295)	01/31/2023	Transfer to MARAD	USS Gunston Hall (LSD-44)	09/29/2023	Legislative Consideration
USNS Brittin (T-AKR-297)	01/31/2023	Transfer to MARAD	USS Tortuga (LSD-46)	03/27/2023	Legislative Consideration
USS Chicago (SSN-721)	02/08/2023	Recycle	USS Ashland (LSD-48)	03/31/2023	Legislative Consideration
USS Key West (SSN-722)	2/28/2023	Recycle	USNS Montford Point (T-ESD-1)	03/31/2023	Legislative Consideration
USS San Jacinto (CG-56)	01/30/2023	Legislative Consideration	USNS John Glenn (T-ESD-2)	03/31/2023	Legislative Consideration
USS Lake Champlain (CG-57)	03/31/2023	Legislative Consideration	USS Hurricane (PC-3)	02/28/2023	Foreign Military Sale
USS Bunker Hill (CG-52)	03/31/2023	Legislative Consideration	USS Monsoon (PC-4)	03/21/2023	Foreign Military Sale
USS Mobile Bay (CG-53)	03/31/2023	Legislative Consideration	USS Sirocco (PC-6)	03/07/2023	Foreign Military Sale
USS Vicksburg (CG-69)	06/30/2023	Legislative Consideration	USS Chinhook (PC-9)	03/14/2023	Foreign Military Sale
USS Fort Worth (LCS-3)	03/31/2023	Legislative Consideration	USS Thunderbolt (PC-12)	02/21/2023	Foreign Military Sale
USS Milwaukee (LCS-5)	03/31/2023	Legislative Consideration	USNS Gordon (T-AKR-296)	03/31/2023	Transfer to MARAD
USS Detroit (LCS-7)	03/31/2023	Legislative Consideration	USNS Gilliland (T-AKR-298)	03/31/2023	Transfer to MARAD
USS Little Rock (LCS-9)	03/31/2023	Legislative Consideration	USNS Sgt. Matej Kocak (T-AK-3005)	04/30/2023	Transfer to MARAD
USS Sioux City (LCS-11)	06/30/2023	Legislative Consideration	USNS Maj. Stephen W. Pless (T-AK-3007)	04/30/2023	Transfer to MARAD
USS Wichita (LCS-13)	06/30/2023	Legislative Consideration	USNS John Lenthall (T-AO-189)	07/31/2023	OSIR
			USNS PFC Eugene A. Obregon (T-AK-3006)	07/31/2023	Transfer to MARAD

Quick Link Resources Included for the Benefit of the Members



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Information on
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Senate FY 2023 Appropriations Bill Adds \$4B to Navy Shipbuilding, Money for New Amphibs



US Navy Photo

"The Senate Appropriations Committee included advanced procurement dollars for two new amphibious warships as part of a \$32 billion shipbuilding budget, according to the defense subcommittee's Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations bill released on Thursday.

In line with the Senate and House authorization bills released, the bill puts \$6.9 billion toward the purchase of three Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers (DDG-51), \$4.5 billion for two Virginia-class nuclear attack boats (SSN-774), \$1.13 billion for a Constellation-class frigate (FFG-62) and \$1.6 billion for a San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock. The bill also added \$645 million for two ambulance variants of the Spearhead-class Expeditionary Fast Transport ship and funds for three additional Ship-to-Shore Connectors over the Navy's request for one, for a total of \$264 million.

The topline for the total bill was \$792.1 billion – a \$32 billion increase in the topline as part of the FY 2023 request."

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, Morgan Miller, Lorenzo Ramirez, Patrick Mooney, Ross Shook, Desiree Waldon, David Widener, Chris Hil, and Dan Cummins.

Members Featured



Prepared By:

Kyle Wilkinson—SAC Committee Chair

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