

SAC NEWSLETTER



11.23.2022

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

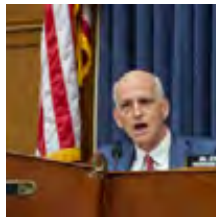
Top stories in this newsletter (Helpful Hint: click the pictures to be taken to the articles/links)



Elaine Luria, Out Of Congress, May Have New Start As Navy Secretary



Senate to vote on Pentagon contract adjustments amid inflation



You are damaging the United States military: Smith rips McCarthy call to delay defense bill



Navy 'scoping study' to examine shipyard capacity, potential for a new yard



Check Out Our PSDSRA Member Features

Elaine Luria, Out Of Congress, May Have New Start As Navy Secretary



ASSOCIATED PRESS.

"With the midterm elections almost over, Pentagon observers believe outgoing Virginia Congressional Representative Elaine Luria is likely to be nominated as America's 79th Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV). A new Navy chief would be particularly helpful as President Joe Biden, ensnared by events in Europe, seeks a way to signal the U.S. is focusing more attention on China and the Indo-Pacific.

The Biden Administration's current Navy Secretary, the low-profile Carlos Del Toro, certainly hasn't done anything bad. While there's no scandal or outward sign that he is preparing to leave, Del Toro has had a hard time finding his feet at Pentagon and, now, even Congress is losing confidence in his leadership, blasting him for a missing amphibious ship requirements study. Though reporters have yet to catch the Navy Secretary shuttling out boxes of personal effects, Del Toro's departure seems almost inevitable.

It is also clear that Del Toro was not Biden's first pick. Two years ago, the White House undoubtedly evaluated Elaine Luria, a Navy-focused House Armed Services Committee veteran for Secretary of the Navy, but needed her in the House, where the Democratic-led Congress required every Democratic Representative it could muster.

Luria, who lost her race to represent Virginia's recently-redistricted Second Congressional District on November 8, is a well-regarded democratic voice in defense affairs. Given her continuous and often under-appreciated efforts to improve congressional oversight of the U.S. Navy, Luria would be perfect for any maritime-oriented post. Respected throughout Washington, Navy Secretary Luria makes an exciting addition to the Biden Administration's bipartisan-oriented national security team.

Luria, true to form, refused comment while preparing to join Wisconsin Representative Mike Gallagher, an emerging Republican voice in national security, in a discussion about the future of the Navy. Before redirecting the conversation away from a her career options, she offered, "While I'd love an opportunity to support the Navy in the future, I am focused on finishing out my congressional tenure."

Outside of a newly generated Cabinet-level post for Maritime Affairs, Luria's elevation to Navy Secretary is a logical "next step" for an Administration pivoting to the Pacific. By quickly seizing this unparalleled opportunity to address China's worst impulses at sea, America, the U.S. Navy, and the Biden Administration all stand to gain. But time is short, and the Administration must move quickly if this rising democratic voice in national security is to get a well-deserved opportunity to serve as America's 79th Secretary of the Navy."

Senate to vote on Pentagon contract adjustments amid inflation



(Colin Demarest/Staff)

"The Senate is expected to vote on legislation that would authorize the Pentagon to modify fixed-price defense contracts when lawmakers return to Washington next week after the midterm elections.

The legislation marks a significant potential victory for defense industry groups that had pushed Congress to authorize economic price adjustments for Pentagon contracts, arguing that doing so is necessary to help companies cope with the impact of inflation and persistent supply chain issues.

The fiscal 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, which the Senate Armed Services Committee advanced in June, authorizes \$847 billion in defense spending — an 8% increase over the fiscal 2022 budget, in large part to cope with inflation. That amount includes \$817 billion in Pentagon top-line funding. The amendment authorizing Pentagon contract adjustments, introduced by Sen. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., is included as part of a package of 75 amendments to the FY23 NDAA.

The House NDAA, which passed 329-101 in July, does not authorize fixed-price contract adjustments. So if the Cramer amendment passes, it will still have to survive Senate and House negotiations in the NDAA conference committee later this year."

You are damaging the United States military': Smith rips McCarthy call to delay defense bill



"House Armed Services Chair Adam Smith slammed Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy on Wednesday after the GOP chief called for delaying passage of the defense policy bill until next year.

Speaking at POLITICO's Defense Summit, Smith warned that deferring an agreement on the already-late National Defense Authorization Act, which outlines a major boost to the Pentagon budget and prescribes military policy, would undercut national security.

McCarthy, who is set to be speaker when Republicans take over the House in January, told reporters on Capitol Hill on Tuesday that the defense bill should be put on hold until the new year. He accused President Joe Biden and Democrats of prioritizing "wokeism" and issues such as climate change at the expense of U.S. national security.

Republicans have criticized the Pentagon's personnel policies under the Biden administration, including an emphasis on climate change, rooting out extremism in the ranks and pledging to cover travel costs of service members seeking to obtain abortions.

House and Senate negotiators are charging ahead with talks to iron out a compromise bill. Smith and top House Armed Services Republican Mike Rogers said Tuesday that a final bill should be ready for a vote by the first week of December.

A final defense bill will likely endorse an increase of tens of billions of dollars above Biden's budget request, though it would need to be followed by a separate funding bill. House Democrats and Republicans approved a \$37 billion increase to Biden's budget, while the Senate coalesced around a \$45 billion increase to the administration's original request of \$802 billion.

The political dynamics of both parties, as well as the requirement for 60 votes in the Senate, mean any defense bill will need bipartisan support to make it to Biden's desk.

Navy 'scoping study' to examine shipyard capacity, potential for a new yard



(U.S. Navy photo by James Cleveland)

"Within the next year the US Navy wants to initiate a "scoping study" aimed at determining if the service needs to establish a fifth public shipyard to support future submarine maintenance, according to a senior officer involved in the task, a notion that previously met with some resistance from lawmakers.

Rear Adm. Jonathan Rucker, program executive officer for attack submarines, told reporters here at the Naval Submarine League symposium that industry frequently asks the Navy about considerations for a new public shipyard. He also stressed that the scoping study was preliminary and there is no clear consensus in the service yet about whether another shipyard is even necessary, let alone whether it will be built.

"Right now, we're in a stage to say: 'Let's go scope how capable our shipyards could be?'" he said. Once the service completes its Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program, "how efficient will we be?" he continued, referring to the Navy's 20-year plan to overhaul the four existing public shipyards.

"What is our true capability and capacity?" he said. "If we make the assumption that we're never going to get better, the answer is we don't have enough. But we're doing a lot of stuff" to improve the service's infrastructure in the meantime.

A recurring theme from the admirals speaking during the symposium this year has been the need for every aspect of the Navy's submarine community — uniformed and civilian, operational and administrative, service and industry — to take a cue from Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Gilday's book: "Get real, get better" — and do it fast.

In parallel with studying the possibility of a new shipyard, the Navy is also considering service life extensions on a boat-by-boat basis for both Ohio-class ballistic missiles and Los Angeles-class attack submarines.

The purpose of those life extensions would be to make sure the service has a sufficient number of nuclear submarines operational and available for deployment in the early 2030s when the new Columbia-class submarines are expected to be delivered."



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VIDEO: How will the
midterms affect the
military?

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

WRITTEN BY: DERRY PENCE



We concluded our business year with our Annual Business Meeting in October. Your Association Board of Directors is set for 2023. The Board will be meeting in early December to establish plans and goals for 2023, you are encouraged to reach out to your Board representative if you have any suggestions for the Association in 2023 so that they can be addressed.

As reported by Marcel Becker at the annual Business Meeting, we are still operating under a Continuing Resolution as we begin FY 23. While the mid-term elections are still being finalized, we are hoping that Congress will pass the FY 23 Defense Appropriations and Authorization Bills before the end of year recess.

The Navy remains focused on-time delivery of their ships from availabilities. They are focusing on improving the planning process and better identification and purchasing of long lead time material. Another initiative is to establish availability duration to match the authorized work package. To that end the Navy is considering increasing the duration of CMAVs to 6 weeks.

Fire safety remains a focus area for the Navy. They are finalizing the 8010 Manual and once that is done, the task will to develop a NAVSEA Standard Item to make the new requirements contractually invoked. CNRMC has issued a letter entitled "DAILY HOT WORK LIMIT AND HOT WORK LOG IMPLEMENTATION". Your company should have received a copy, you are encouraged to familiarize yourself with the policy changes invoked by this letter. The Safety Committee is following all of the changes being proposed for fire safety.

We continue to monitor the activities of the AB 617 Portside Steering Committee. Updates are provided at the Environmental Committee meetings. The Steering Committee developed a Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) and it is now a guiding document for the Portside Communities. It is important for all of us to cognizant of the contents of the CERP. The Port of San Diego has developed the Maritime Clean Air Strategy (MCAS) in response to and in support of the CERP.

SWRMC has been working to develop more standardization within the welding requirements. Members of the QA Committee are working with SWRMC. We are going to make a concerted effort to get SWRMC engaged in our efforts to identify and improve in areas which are impacting our ability to complete availabilities.

Have you been reading the monthly newsletter published by the Strategic Affairs Committee? The newsletter has been bringing to you news and articles that are pertinent to our industry. With the National Ship Repair Conference scheduled for March, the Committee will be making preparations for the Hill Crawl.

The Security Committee has been working with Naval Base San Diego and SWRMC to make improvements in the DBIDS process. We believe that our efforts have resulted in a more stream lined system. We are looking forward to the activation of the turnstiles in the enclave so that you can gain access with your DBIDS credential in early January. An announcement was sent out earlier on how to get your employees a PIN for their credential, you are encouraged to complete the form and submit it to NBSD VCC. CMMC 2.0 is scheduled for incorporation in all contracts in the May 2023 timeframe, are you ready? Have you entered your assessment data into SPRS? If you need assistance please let us know, we want to ensure that each and every member is ready when the requirements are contractually invoked.

Workforce development continues to be a point of emphasis. Our Workforce Development Committee has worked with the East County Adult Education Center to create and deliver an introductory course for the maritime industry. We are looking to deliver additional courses and to expand our number of training partners that will deliver the course. This effort will extend beyond the various trades, extending to areas like Safety, Environmental, and Quality Assurance. If you would like to become a member of the committee, you can contact myself or Brandon Haley at PCE.

Once again, this is your Association and we need your input to make sure we are meeting your expectations. Let me know if you have any comments or suggestions so that we can make sure your needs are being met.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, SEE YOU IN '23.

Top Republican on House defense appropriations panel wins re-election



(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

"The top Republican on the House defense spending panel narrowly won re-election on Monday, ending nearly a week of speculation as to whether he would return to Congress.

Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Calif., is the ranking member on the House Appropriations Committee's defense panel and is in line to chair the powerful military spending subcommittee if Republicans win control of the House.

He faced a difficult re-election fight from Democratic challenger Will Rollins, a former federal prosecutor who focused on counterterrorism and counterintelligence cases in southern California.

Redistricting by state officials for California's 41st congressional district left Calvert with a less favorable election map than in past years. Calvert, the longest-serving Republican member of California's congressional delegation, had won each of his campaigns over the last decade by comfortable margins.

Despite the narrow victory, Calvert's win provides stability for the House Appropriations Committee. Along with House Armed Services Committee ranking member Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Ala., Calvert will serve as the point person for debates next year over the size of the Defense Department's budget and military spending priorities.

As the Republican leader on the panel, Calvert's campaign received considerable financial support from the defense industry. Calvert received at least \$70,000 from the top five defense contractors – Lockheed Martin, Raytheon Technologies, Boeing, Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics – for the 2022 election cycle.

The defense contractors paused political donations after the violent attempt to overturn the 2020 presidential election on January 6, but quickly resumed contributions to lawmakers across the aisle, including Republicans such as Calvert who voted against certifying the election results."

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 Hill, Dan Cummins, Michael Gonzales, Dante Sitta, Charnel Kirkpatrick, and Michelle Walker.

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Prepared By:

Kyle Wilkinson — SAC Committee Chair

With Contributions from Derry Pence — PSDSRA President

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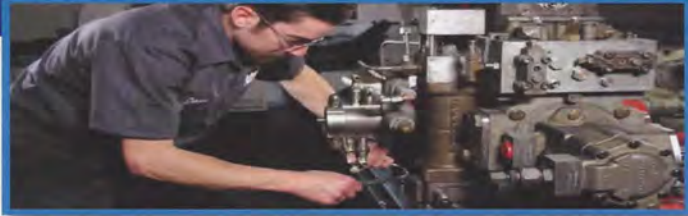
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- PHNSY (Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard)
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- SRF Yokosuka/Sasebo
- SRF Sasebo
- Ship Support Bahrain (5th Fleet)
- MSC (Military Sealift Command)

RMH is Headquartered in Brighton Co. Additionally, there are 2 field offices located in Norfolk, Va and San Diego, Ca respectively.

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