

# SAC NEWSLETTER



2.28.2023

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)



Workforce woes are top 'strategic challenge' for Navy, admiral says



Future of defense spending a hot topic among Republicans



Armed Services committee adds 11 members, quality of life panel



Admiral Gilday sees uncrewed vessels as critical to US Navy's future



Check Out Our PSDSRA Member Features

## Workforce woes are top 'strategic challenge' for Navy, admiral says



(Institute for Advanced Learning and Research photo)

"The U.S. Navy and its suppliers have thousands of open jobs at government repair yards and in the private shipbuilding and ship repair industrial base, as hiring and retaining skilled workers has become "our No. 1 strategic challenge across the enterprise," according to the head of Naval Sea Systems Command.

Vice Adm. Bill Galinis said Monday government and industry are competing against each other for a undersized pool of talent in both trades and white-collar specialties.

Among the new challenges, Galinis said at an American Society of Naval Engineers conference here, is a shrinking wage gap between these Navy jobs and "some of the fast food restaurants, Starbucks, and Amazon and those types of companies."

Galinis told Defense News after his speech the fiscal 2023 budget included pay increases across the federal government for civilian employees who follow the general schedule pay scale, which includes the bulk of the white-collar workforce at Navy yards.

The federal budget, however, didn't affect the trades jobs, meaning the welders, electricians, pipefitters and others who do the hands-on work to repair submarines and aircraft carriers at these Navy yards did not see the same pay boost as their counterparts. Even so, the Navy redirected money in FY23 to create a pay scale structure for tradesmen and add pay increases to keep the jobs competitive.

Galinis pointed to the submarine industrial base and the Team Subs collection of government offices as an example of proactive workforce development. The Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance has partnered with General Dynamics' Electric Boat and other local vendors to train more than 1,400 shipyard and manufacturing workers in the last few years, Galinis said during his conference remarks.

Galinis told Defense News this focus on people, while necessary, is coming at a cost to the Navy.

"Everything is going up," he said, to include the cost of hiring, training and retaining a workforce, bringing in subcontractors to supplement the workforce, and buying materials for them to use."

## Future of defense spending a hot topic among Republicans



(Alex Brandon/Associated Press)

"With President Joe Biden set to release his fiscal 2024 budget in early March, Republicans in the House of Representatives may be headed for a civil war over an issue that has traditionally unified conservative lawmakers: defense spending.

As part of efforts to balance the federal budget, some Republican lawmakers would like to cap all discretionary spending – money that does not fund entitlement programs that Congress must approve every year – at fiscal 2022 levels, Fox News reported last month.

Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) told Fox News in January that he is open to cutting defense spending to balance the budget, arguing in favor of "getting rid of all the woke policies in our military" to save money.

Other Republican lawmakers, however, have voiced concerns about any plan to potential balance the budget that involves reducing funding for the U.S. military.

"We have a duty to protect taxpayer dollars to reduce our debt and deficit – but this must not come at the expense of compromising our military strength and readiness," Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Va.) told Task & Purpose. "I will work with my colleagues to find savings at the Pentagon, but we absolutely cannot shy away from robust investments needed for our national security and defense capabilities."

---

## Armed Services committee adds 11 members, quality of life panel



(Colin Demarest/C4ISRNET)

“House Republicans on Wednesday unveiled their membership and leadership plans for the House Armed Services Committee this session, including a new special panel focused on servicemember quality of life issues.

Eleven new Republican lawmakers were named to the influential panel, joining 20 returning GOP members from last session. In a statement, Chairman Mike Rogers, R-Ala., said the committee will focus on “improving our national defense at a time when our nation is faced with unprecedented threats from our adversaries — including an increasingly aggressive China.”

Rogers has also said military personnel issues will be a major focus for the committee, and announced the formation of a “servicemember quality of life” panel to be led by Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb.

Rogers on Wednesday also announced his slate of subcommittee chairmen for the 118th Congress, who will work with him to set hearing and policy priorities for the next two years:

Tactical Air and Land Forces — Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Va.;

Strategic Forces — Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colo.;

Seapower and Projection Forces — Rep. Trent Kelly, R-Miss.;

Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems — Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wisc.;

Military Personnel — Rep. Jim Banks, R-Ind.;

Intelligence and Special Operations — Rep. Jack Bergman, R-Mich.;

Readiness — Rep. Michael Waltz, R-Fla.”

---

## Admiral Gilday sees uncrewed vessels as critical to US Navy's future



(MC3 Austin Collins/U.S. Navy.)

“Uncrewed vessels with the ability to jam electronics, spy on faraway activities and even help coordinate the flow of fighting will play an increasingly important role in the service’s mission, according to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Gilday.

Work to realize such a concept, he said Feb. 16 at the West 2023 conference in San Diego, is already underway.

The Navy is investing in uncrewed systems — in the air, on the water and beneath the surface — to augment existing and near-future military might. A recent update to Gilday’s “Navigation Plan,” a strategic-vision-style document, included an outline of a fleet comprising about 373 manned ships and 150 uncrewed vessels, Defense News reported.

By dispatching uncrewed vessels into areas previously neglected, understaffed or thought too dangerous, the Navy can broaden its field of view and stay engaged for longer periods of time, Gilday told conference attendees.

A renewed era of great power competition, with the the U.S. and China butting heads, is training the spotlight on naval supremacy, especially in the Indo-Pacific. The shift to the watery region comes after decades spent in the Middle East, where U.S. and likeminded forces waged counterinsurgency campaigns.

The Navy’s pursuit of uncrewed viability is highlighted by Task Force 59, led by Capt. Michael Brasseur. The group at the end of last year wrapped Digital Horizon, a three-week experiment in Bahrain that focused on artificial intelligence and related tech.

The event included 15 so-called advanced systems, 10 of which operated in the Middle East for the first time, and a handful of private industry players. Brasseur, the commodore, told Defense News “uncrewed assets” are a means “to get a bunch of eyes out on the water, collect the data” and then more precisely “deploy our manned assets.”

Earlier in the year, at the Rim of the Pacific exercise, more than two-dozen uncrewed systems were put to the test.

“We began taking unmanned and we began taking AI capabilities, and we began putting them against a real-world problem,” Gilday said. “And that real world problem was a maritime domain awareness: How do we understand what’s moving on the surface of the ocean?”



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



Information on  
CMMC 2.0



Slides from CMMC  
Seminar provided  
on 1/31/23



Cal Chamber Job  
Killers



Register for the Na-  
tional Ship Repair  
Industrial Confer-  
ence (3/20—3/23)

---

## Lone Star Buys Shipyards Group Titan from Carlyle, Stellex Capital



(Photo: Vigor Industrial LLC)

“Lone Star Funds has reached a deal to buy U.S. shipbuilding and repair group Titan Acquisition Holdings from peer investment firms Carlyle and Stellex Capital Management. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Titan is comprised of Vigor Industrial LLC, an infrastructure, defense, and maritime services company based in Portland, Ore.; MHI Holdings LLC, a ship repair, maintenance, and other ship husbandry services company based in Norfolk, Va.; and Continental Maritime of San Diego (CMSD). Key Titan customers include the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, Military Sealift Command, Boeing, cruise lines, fishing fleets, barges, ferry services for local and state governments, and other key commercial U.S. government customers.

The transaction is expected to close in 2023 upon satisfaction of customary closing conditions, including certain governmental approvals.

Jim Marcotuli will continue in his current role as Titan CEO, and other company leadership is expected to remain intact.

David Waxman, managing director, Stellex, said, “From the moment Stellex acquired MHI in 2015, we have partnered with management to capitalize on changing market dynamics to build a stronger company to further serve customers with quality and reliability. The result of our investment focus was the combination of MHI with Vigor and the formation in 2019 of Titan, now a bi-coastal leader in critical ship repair services, and commercial and defense-related fabrication services. It was an incredible experience working closely with the talented Titan team, and we look forward to seeing the company continue to prosper.”

---

### 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, Dan Cummins, Michael Gonzales, Dante Sitta, and Charnel Kirkpatrick.

---

# Members Featured



---

#### Prepared By:

Kyle Wilkinson — SAC Committee Chair

Disclaimer: The images, articles, and quotes used within this newsletter are the property of their respective creators. Credit for images is provided above, if applicable. Any and all request to remove images, articles, and quotes will be complied with and should be submitted to [KWilkinson@delphinus.com](mailto:KWilkinson@delphinus.com).



# RW LITTLE Co.

# Sand Blasting & Specialty Coating

In Business Since 1946



NACE



3135 Commercial St. San Diego, CA 92113  
37,000 Square Feet

3923 Pacific Highway, San Diego Ca 92110  
25,000 Square Feet

## Marine Coating

Surface Preparation and Coating application for all surface ships and Submarines for new construction, repair and maintenance.

## Commercial Sandblasting

Dry Abrasive  
Mechanical Cleaning  
Mineral & Steel Grit  
Interior & Exterior Decking  
HVLP and Spray-painting  
Abatement  
Equipment Surface Prep.  
Environmental Monitoring  
Lead Ballast Handling

## Blast and Paint

Underwater Hull  
Freeboard  
Superstructures  
Well Decks  
Chain Lockers  
Anchor Chains  
Plenum  
Voids  
CHT Tanks  
Potable Water Tanks  
Non Skid  
Elevator  
Pump Rooms  
Cargo Holds  
and more

## Powdercoating Sandblasting

Stanchions  
Hatches  
SLQ 32 Surveillance System  
Weapon Artillery  
and more

## Specialty Coatings

Polyurea  
High solid  
Polysiloxane  
Galvanize  
Anticorrosive Primers  
Top Coats

**Juan H. Loza Sr.**  
juan@rwlittle.com

**Lorenzo Ortiz, Jr.**  
production8@rwlittle.com

[www.rwlittle.com](http://www.rwlittle.com) | 619-297-3705





# PIRTEK

## HYDRAULIC AND INDUSTRIAL HOSE SERVICE

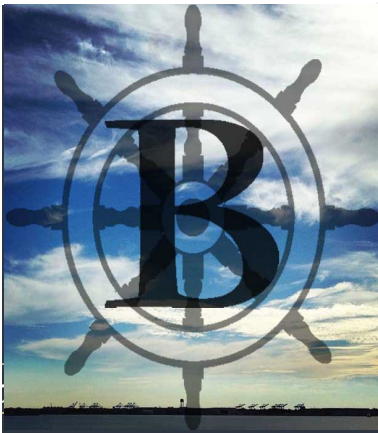
### Marine Project Management Capabilities

We provide turn-key solutions to your hose projects, custom-tailored to your requirements.

- Hydraulic, Cloth Braided, High Temp, Stainless Steel Braided hoses
- Hose removal and re-installation
- Experienced working on cranes, main diesel engines, generators, davits, HPU, steering gear hoses and more
- Pressure testing and tagging
- USCG and ABS approved hose
- Conduct on-site detailed hose survey and convert hoses to orderable parts
- ISO-9001 Certified
- USL&H Insured
- DFARS 7012/NIST SP 800-171 Compliant
- Military critical data agreement certificate 0085315 valid until 3/2026



# WE'LL KEEP YOU OPERATING®



# D.W. Boyd Corporation Capability Statement

## Contact:

**Dennis Boyd**

**757-423-2268**

[Sales@dwboyd.com](mailto:Sales@dwboyd.com)

[dennis.boyd@dwboyd.com](mailto:dennis.boyd@dwboyd.com)

**4003 Colley Ave  
Norfolk, VA 23508**

**CAGE CODE:  
0FAL3**

**FEIN: 54-1482505**

**Duns No. 196594212**

## Corporate Overview:

D.W. Boyd Corporation, established in 1989, is a small business located within 15 minutes of Norfolk Naval Base and local shipyards. We specialize in the service, repair, sales, and installation of maritime galley, laundry, and dry-cleaning equipment. We provide parts and service support as well as related refrigeration parts support and services. We provide these services Worldwide and travel throughout the Continental United States and OCONUS.

## Differentiators:

- We offer repair, installation, overhaul, and maintenance contract services.
- We utilize factory trained technicians with over 40 years combined experience for our top-of-the-line repair and installation services.
- We have a large inventory with an excellent success rate for locating hard-to-find parts and materials.
- We are an authorized distributor and provide warranty services for many major manufacturers.

## Certifications:

- Cospolich
- Edro
- Forenta
- Gaylord Industries
- Gaylord Marine
- Hobart
- Hoyt
- Insinger Machine
- RTF
- Speed Queen
- Unimac

## Clients:

Our clients are long-term or lifetime partners. A partial list is below:

- BAE Systems
- Boston Ship Repair
- Cabras Marine
- Colonnas Shipyard
- Delphinus Engineering
- Electric Boat
- Epsilon Systems
- General Dynamics
- Guam Shipyard
- Huntington Ingalls
- Integrated Marine Services
- Lyon Shipyard
- Marine Hydraulics Int'l
- NASSCO
- Newport News Shipbuilding
- Pacific Ship Repair
- Propulsion Controls Engineering
- QED Systems
- Tecnico Corporation
- Southcoast Welding & Fabrication
- US Air Force
- US Army
- US Coast Guard
- US Navy
- Vigor Marine

## NAICS Codes:

- 423440
- 423450
- 423620
- 423740
- 423830
- 423840
- 423850
- 423990
- 424990
- 811310
- 811412
- 811490
- 812320

## Member of the following:

- Commercial Food Equipment Service Association
- Jacksonville Area Ship Repair Association
- San Diego Ship Repair Association
- Virginia Ship Repair Association