

## **PRESS RELEASE**

March 11, 2019

### **Navy League Releases Maritime Policy Statement, Detailing Sea Services' Needs for 2019-2020**

*Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine, in particular, facing  
budgetary strains that put our country and its citizens at risk*

ARLINGTON, Va. — Today, the Navy League of the United States — a nonprofit civilian, educational and advocacy organization that supports America's sea services: the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine — released its biennial legislative document, "Maritime Policy 2019-2020," detailing the legislative requirements of the sea services to remain competitive in a dynamic global maritime environment. The rollout occurred at a quarterly congressional Shipbuilding Caucus event.

"The United States is a maritime nation. Our political leaders must legislate with our oceans and waterways in mind, to ensure that our sea services have the resources they need for defense, homeland security and so cargo can freely flow around the globe," said Navy League National President Alan Kaplan. "This document, made up of recommendations from our highly experienced volunteer leadership, shows there is a path forward that enables government officials to work together in a comprehensive, bipartisan way so our sea services can carry out their vital missions."

"I applaud the Navy League of the United States on the release of their latest Maritime Policy report," said Rep. Joe Courtney. "As Chairman of the House Armed Services subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, ensuring that our Navy, Marine Corps, and maritime sector have the support they need is my top priority and one which is shared among the subcommittee's bipartisan membership. This report speaks to the many needs of our sea services team, which are critical to maintaining America's status as a maritime nation. I share many of the report's priorities, including strengthening our defense by increasing attack submarine production, training the next generation of Sailors and merchant mariners, and ensuring our nation maintains a strong U.S.-flag fleet. As we start our work in the 116th Congress with many new members, this document comes at a perfect time, and the Navy League is well-positioned, using their experienced grassroots membership, to help educate and inform elected officials on the needs and importance of strong sea services to our nation's security."

"The Navy League of the United States' new 'Maritime Policy' report recognizes that the world the United States operates in is an increasingly dangerous place faced with many threats," said Rep. Rob Wittman, ranking member of the Seapower and Projection Forces subcommittee.

"Ensuring we bring the full capabilities of our armed forces to bear in meeting these realities is a perspective I share to project power and deter our adversaries. I'm delighted this report emphasizes the importance of our readiness crisis and the need to provide adequate, reliable, on time funding for training, maintenance and modernization. The Navy League's membership across the country recognizes this, and I hope they will continue amplify that message to the new 116th Congress through this report."

Derived from the findings of the Navy League's Legislative Affairs and Maritime Policy and Resolutions Committees, the Navy League is recommending the following initiatives:

- Higher levels of funding for the Department of Navy research, development, test and evaluation budget is essential to ensure future competitiveness related to the Navy's "Great Power Competition" and the "third offset."
- Maritime superiority requires two-Marine Expeditionary Brigades (MEB) to maintain a 1-to-3 ratio of forward-deployment so non-deployed units can train and prepare.
- The 1-to-2 deploy-to-dwell ratio is optimal for keeping Marines effective: twice as much time at home training as time deployed. Exceeding this ratio hurts retention and combat effectiveness.
- Though the Coast Guard's budget has increased since 9/11, it still lags behind operational needs, losing about 10 percent in real purchasing power over the last six years. Inadequate Coast Guard funding must be increased. Lack of Operations and Support budgets have required the service incur substantial operational risks.
- Any weakening of the Jones Act for merchant mariners would negatively impact national and economic security by diminishing the seafaring and shipbuilding industrial bases.

To read the complete report, go to <https://www.navyleague.org/programs/legislative-affairs>.

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**About the Navy League of the United States**

The Navy League of the United States, founded in 1902 with the support of President Theodore Roosevelt, is a nonprofit civilian, educational and advocacy organization that supports America's sea services: the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine. Through national and local programs, the Navy League of the United States provides a powerful voice to educate the public and Congress on the importance of our sea services to our nation's defense, well-being and economic prosperity. The Navy League provides support to our sea services personnel and their families and youth programs, such as the Naval Sea Cadet Corps,

Junior ROTC and Young Marines, that expose young people to the values of our sea services.  
For more information, go to [www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org).