

Press Release  
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## Navy League Urges Congress to Boost Navy Funding in 2021 Budget Request

*Additional Funding Essential to Navy's Ability to Address Near-Peer Competitors,  
Reach 355-Ship Mandate*

ARLINGTON, Va. – 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 – is strongly urging Congress to provide topline relief for the Department of the Navy in the fiscal year (FY) 2021 presidential budget request, which currently stands as a decrease of \$2.9 billion from FY 2020.

The FY 2021 request only allows the Navy to fund eight additional ships, placing it off track to meet the 355-ship Navy by 2034 that Congress mandated. And the Future Years Defense Plan also forecasts that the Navy will have to accelerate retirements or reductions in some ships and aircraft.

“The reality of this proposed budget is that it limits the United States’ ability to effectively maintain peace and address our near-peer competitors in Russia and China,” said Navy League National Executive Director Mike Stevens, retired 13<sup>th</sup> Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. “The National Defense Strategy, and the Great Power Competition it describes, necessitates a leading role for the Navy in the maritime theaters of the Atlantic and Pacific. By allowing a slimmed-down Navy budget request to persist, Congress would place America on its heels in our ability to deter this threat by risking the Navy’s future capabilities.”

The Navy League is urging Congress to increase the Department of Navy budget. A change in the budget would allow the Navy to:

- Reach and maintain a 355-ship Navy, preventing a hollow fleet.
- Move toward a force that is a more distributed, agile, larger fleet with new ship classes.
- Account for the fleet costs in line with its size, operation and support.

For more information on this campaign and to ask Congress to provide topline relief in the Department of the Navy’s FY 2021 budget request, go to <https://www.votervoice.net/NavyLeague/campaigns/71516/respond>.

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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).