

NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL RELEASED BY
THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES

STATEMENT OF
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BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES OF THE
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

AND

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ON

REVITALIZING SHIPBUILDING AND THE MARITIME INDUSTRIAL BASE

April 22, 2026

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES

Chairman Kelly, Ranking Member Courtney, Chairman Ezell, Ranking Member Carbajal and distinguished members of the Committees, good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to report on the state of our Nation's shipbuilding enterprise. It is an honor to represent the Department of the Navy and the hundreds of thousands of dedicated Service members, civilians, and industry partners who constitute our Nation's maritime strength.

The United States Navy remains the world's preeminent naval force. The skill and dedication of our Sailors and Marines are unmatched, and the capabilities of our warships are second to none. However, we must be candid about the challenges we face. We are operating in the most complex security environment in generations — an era of persistent competition where threats evolve rapidly and rivals test our resolve daily.

Our adversaries are subsidizing shipbuilding and delivering hulls at an ever-increasing pace. Meanwhile, America's shipbuilding industrial base has shrank through a lack of strategic focus and investment. It has been strangled by both poor corporate management and problematic Government acquisition processes.

The Administration's Golden Fleet initiative is the strategic approach to deliver more combat capability and capacity to our warfighters than ever before. The three pillars of the mandate are clear:

Pillars for the Administration's Golden Fleet Initiative

First, Maintain and Enhance Maritime Dominance: We are expanding the ways the Naval Service will ensure victory over any enemy, any time, in any place. The Navy is preparing to meet any foe throughout the spectrum of competition and conflict with a high-low mix of capabilities. That requires us to invest in current and new classes of combat ships at both the high and low ends, and in new capabilities such as unmanned systems that multiply the effects of the joint force.

Second, Revitalize the Industrial Base: We are revitalizing shipyards across America with tens of billions of dollars in stable, predictable, long-term investments to get more ships in the water, bolstering high-skill, high-wage American jobs. We are improving production of our established ship classes through expanded distributed shipbuilding efforts. By prioritizing

auxiliary ships, we will meet both the needs of the fleet and regenerate capacity for commercially viable shipbuilding.

Third, Change How We Do Business: We are moving Navy shipbuilding acquisition from a compliance-based bureaucracy to an outcome-focused warfighting enterprise — restoring accountability, rewarding performance, and embracing advanced technology to deliver capability at speed by enforcing discipline, leveraging distributed production, and enabling stable, repeatable workloads.

Navy Shipbuilding in the President’s Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2027

The Budget requests \$65.8 billion in shipbuilding funding for 18 battle force ships and 16 non-battle force ships. As waters around the world become increasingly contested, it is imperative that the United States be able to efficiently deliver the various naval platforms it requires to ensure maritime domain awareness and deterrence. The 2027 Budget, enables the Golden Fleet initiative, including initial funding for the Trump-class battleship and next generation frigates, as well as increasing the capacity of public shipyards and improving overall ship production.

The Budget will maintain or increase the procurement of existing battle force platforms, including amphibious vessels, and Columbia-class and Virginia-class submarines. The Budget also supports strategic sealift vessels, hospital vessels, Consolidated Cargo Replenishment at Sea tankers, submarine tenders and other vessels vital for logistics.

Conclusion

This Administration is committed to building a more lethal and ready naval force, and the Secretary of the Navy is taking decisive action. We are supporting distributed shipbuilding efforts around the country and deploying innovative contract structures to better balance downside risk and upside opportunity. We are holding ourselves and our contractors accountable – cancelling or restructuring programs that were not delivering, were too expensive, or too slow. We are initiating programs that will better meet warfighting and operational requirements. We have implemented Portfolio Acquisition Executives, specifically Maritime and Robotic Autonomous Systems, to streamline acquisition and more rapidly deliver capability to the fleet.

The challenges ahead are real, but so are the opportunities. Rebuilding our industrial capacity is a long-term effort that requires a sustained, whole-of-nation commitment. The Department of the Navy is fully committed to this mission. The men and women in our shipyards are ready to do their part. We ask for your continued support in providing the stable and predictable authorities and funding that will allow us to execute our plan, provide certainty to our industrial partners, and deliver the fleet our Nation needs. Thank you. I look forward to your questions.