

# THE HILL

Follow

Search TheHill.com

[Advanced Search Options »](#)

[Home/News](#) [Campaign](#) [Business & Lobbying](#) [Opinion](#) [Capital Living](#) [Jobs](#) [Video](#) [In The Know](#)

**BLOGS** [Briefing Room](#) | [RegWatch](#) | [Hillicon Valley](#) | [E2-Wire](#) | [Floor Action](#) | [On The Money](#) | [Healthwatch](#) | [Transportation](#) | [DEFCON Hill](#) | [Global Affairs](#)

## Top House Republican tells Navy to scrap its 'fantasy' shipbuilding plan

By Carlo Muñoz - 05/21/13 07:31 PM ET

31  31  2

A top House Republican is demanding that the Navy face up to fiscal realities by overhauling its shipbuilding plan.

Rep. Randy Forbes (R-Va.), the chairman of the House Armed Services seapower subcommittee, said the Navy is living in a “fantasy land” by putting forward a 30-year shipbuilding plan when the service can’t guarantee funding beyond five years.

That puts Forbes at odds with senior Navy officials who are trying to map out what their fleet will look like over the next three decades.

His rewrite of the shipbuilding plan was included in the subcommittee’s markup of the Navy’s fiscal 2014 budget plan that was issued Tuesday.

The proposal will force the Navy to make its 30-year shipbuilding plan “a little more realistic ... instead of the fictional document” it was when it was submitted in the 2014 budget request, Forbes told The Hill in an interview on Tuesday.

Both sides need to figure out “realistically, what are we doing with the Navy” for future conflicts, he said.

The Virginia Republican, however, could face strong opposition from the sea service over concerns the rewrite might result in the Navy getting fewer ships.

The Navy’s shipbuilding strategy would have the fleet top out at 300 warships over the life of the plan. Anything less than that would prevent the Navy from carrying out critical defense and national security missions across the globe, service officials say.

Asked whether his legislation would force the Navy into a worst-case scenario, Forbes replied: “I would call it a realistic scenario.”

Navy officials declined to comment on the Forbes language, saying the proposal has yet to make it into the final version of the fiscal 2014 defense spending bill.

The call for a change in strategy appears to be a shift for Forbes, who had been calling for significant increases in Navy shipbuilding that would have bumped spending to levels last seen in the mid-1980s.

But he said his legislation is not a reversal because the “realistic scenario” could be dire enough to pry loose more shipbuilding dollars from Congress in future fiscal years.

Boosting Navy spending on ships “will not happen in two weeks or two months ... [because] it has a number of components” that will take several budget cycles to make work, according to Forbes.

[GO TO THE HILL HOME »](#)

### RELATED VIDEOS

by Taboola



Gowdy alleges massive Benghazi cover-up



Collins tears into ObamaCare during Republican address



Looking back at 10 years of the 50 Most Beautiful list



Jay Z: Zimmerman verdict is 'blatant racism'

[More Videos »](#)

### MOST POPULAR STORIES

Six months later, Obama State of the Union policy goals gathering dust

Journalists respond with snark and awe to Washington Post sale

Graham: Al Qaeda 'on steroids' since Benghazi attack

RNC warns networks: Drop Clinton movies or lose 2016 GOP debates

Marco Rubio's new mission: Win back the Republican Party's base

[Home/News »](#)

[Most Viewed RSS Feed »](#)

### MORE FROM THE WEB

- [Rep. Peter King: Fears of 'Enormous' Attack](#)
- [Priebus Warns NBC, CNN: Pull Hillary Projects or Else](#)
- [Newsmax Magazine Wins Four Charlie Awards](#)
- [Is Obama Telling the Truth on IRS, Benghazi Scandals](#)
- [Obama's Budget Takes Aim at Retired Americans](#)

Enter Email

[Home](#)

[Senate](#)

[House](#)

[Administration](#)

[Campaign](#)

[Polls](#)

[Business & Lobbying](#)

[Sunday Talk Shows](#)

**BLOGS**

[Briefing Room](#)

[RegWatch](#)

[Hillicon Valley](#)

[E2-Wire](#)

[Floor Action](#)

[On The Money](#)

[Healthwatch](#)

[Transportation](#)

[DEFCON Hill](#)

[Global Affairs](#)

[Congress](#)

[Ballot Box](#)

[In The Know](#)

[Pundits](#)

[Twitter Room](#)

**OPINION**

[A.B. Stoddard](#)

[Brent Budowsky](#)

[Lanny Davis](#)

[David Hill](#)

[Cheri Jacobus](#)

[Mark Mellman](#)

[Dick Morris](#)

[Markos Moulitsas \(Kos\)](#)

[Robin Bronk](#)

[Editorials](#)

[Letters](#)

[Op-Eds](#)

[Juan Williams](#)

[Judd Gregg](#)

[Christian Heinze](#)

[Karen Finney](#)

[John Feehery](#)

[Bill Press](#)

**CAPITAL LIVING**

[Cover Stories](#)

[Food & Drink](#)

[Announcements](#)

[New Member of the Week](#)

[My 5 Min.](#)

[W/Obama](#)

[All Capital Living](#)

- VIDEO
- HillTube
- EVENTS
- Video
- CLASSIFIEDS
- Jobs
- Classifieds
- RESOURCES
- Mobile Site
- iPhone
- Android
- iPad
- Lawmaker Ratings
- White Papers
- Order Reprints
- Last 6 Issues
- Outside Links
- RSS Feeds
- CONTACT US
- Advertise
- Reach Us
- Submitting Letters
- Submitting Op-eds
- Subscriptions

But the differences between how much the Navy now expects to spend to make the plan a reality, and what it has asked Congress to provide for the plan, essentially makes the current Navy ship plan a "fantasy land," Forbes said.

Navy leaders plan to spend roughly \$16 billion per year over the next five years to build up to the 300-ship force, according to service estimates.

That spending number falls in line with Navy spending levels for shipbuilding from previous fiscal years.

But recent analysis by the Navy and Congressional Budget Office claims the sea service will actually need between \$19 billion and \$22 billion annually to hit a 300-ship fleet over the next three decades.

The Navy cannot "place a lot of fidelity in the long term" on the success of the shipbuilding plan, service acquisition chief Sean Stackley told the House Appropriations Defense subcommittee in April.

Forbes said forcing the Navy to bring its ship plan in line with its \$16 billion per year spending estimates will provide a more accurate picture of where the force is and where it needs to go.

"We cannot run the U.S. Navy on fantasy [numbers]."

The Navy will field a total of 66 submarines, 11 aircraft carriers and 32 amphibious landing ships as part of the shipbuilding plan.

Those vessels would be supported by 145 large and small multimission warships, including the littoral combat ship.

The submarine force will include a mix of ballistic and cruise missile subs, including the new nuclear-powered Virginia-class boat and the Ohio-class replacement submarine, dubbed the SSBN-X.

Tweet 31 Like 31 Send 2

FROM AROUND THE WEB



Healthy Business Partner Putting Tanning Salons Out



3 Ways For Guys To Drop 20lbs Quickly



Surprisingly Simple Solution To Help Your Joints



The Most Brilliant Simple Golf Swings EVER



Top 10 Athletes Turned Actors of All Time



Truth About Annuities\*

YOU MAY LIKE



Senator: Liz Cheney picked 'the wrong race at the wrong time'



Stranded F-16 pilot rescued at sea after collision



Lawmaker: Al Qaeda threat is reason for US embassy closures

RECOMMENDED STORIES

ALSO ON THE WEB

- [Trump: Rangel Should Resign Over 'White Crackers'](#)
- [Healing Powers of Vinegar Help Many Diseases](#)
- [Alex Rodriguez, 13 Other Players, Suspended](#)

What's This?

**TPMLIVEWIRE**

**[Anthony Weiner's Sexting Partner Sydney Leathers Releases Porn Video](#)**

[Read More →](#)

**[Report: Tamerlan Tsarnaev Was In](#)**

**MORE BUSINESS & LOBBYING HEADLINES**

- [Senate measure renews fight over reparations for Holocaust survivors](#)
- [Under Contract](#)
- [Immigration lobby prepares to camp out in Republican districts over recess](#)

[More Business & Lobbying Headlines »](#)  
[Business & Lobbying News RSS feed »](#)



**BRIEFING ROOM**

- [Former Gov. Paterson: Rangel comments on Tea Party 'out of line'](#)
- [Chelsea Clinton still not ruling anything out](#)
- [Report: Tamerlan Tsarnaev possessed extremist literature](#)

[More Briefing Room »](#)

**CONGRESS BLOG**

- [Making democracy work](#)
- [Obama's climate plan for power plants won't significantly lower emissions](#)
- [Salmon fishermen need equal dedication from fish agencies](#)

[More Congress Blog »](#)

**PUNDITS BLOG**

- [Making democracy work](#)
- [Israel rising: A briefing for Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Mike Lee, Nancy Mace and the coming-of-age conservative generation](#)
- [Ron Paul, Elizabeth Warren, John McCain can agree about Fabrice \('Fabulous Fab'\) Tourre](#)

[More Pundits Blog »](#)

**TWITTER ROOM**

- [Journalists respond with snark and awe to Washington Post sale](#)

Lobbying World  
 Pandora taps tech policy warrior  
 Senate measure renews fight over reparations for Holocaust survivors  
 Akin Gump adds Holder advisor to 'crown jewel' practice  
 Immigration lobby prepares to camp out in Republican districts over recess  
 PhRMA comes out on top in trade group rankings

The Gun Lobby is About to Face a Gun-Control Organization as Tough and Well-Funded as the NRA. Here's What the Fight Will Look Like. (New Republic)  
 10 Cheapest Places to Live in America (Kiplinger)  
 10 Insanely Overpaid Public Employees (The Fiscal Times)  
 10 Reasons Why Obama Won't Touch Your 529 (Savingforcollege.com)  
 6 Fabulous Foods to Fight High Blood Pressure (AARP)  
 A Republican Who Could Actually Win the Presidency (The Fiscal Times)

Recommended by



The Hill Newspaper

Like 33,147

73 Comments

73 comments



Leave a message...

Best

Share



**BubbaLama** · 3 months ago

Millions wasted on "green fuel experiments in the past 2 years. This green bunkering fouled engines and reduced performance. Plus the ultra costly biocrap was pumped ashore once the press left.

Scrap the entire LCS program. There is a reason Naval professionals call this toys "Little Crappy Ships". Fine any shipyard that factors cost overruns as profit.

12



**NathanNV**

Every Surface ship in World that squaks or talks or looks US Navy could be destroyed in about 4 seconds by either Missile, or torpedo. Their are no counter measures for a first strike in surface warfare.

4



**Dr. Billy Kidd** · 2 months ago

Actually, there are flak guns on ships surrounding aircraft carriers. They blast shrapnel at incoming missiles. It works if the crew is awake, had their coffee, and are on stand by. They probably have to lose a ship before that happens.



**TE** · 3 months ago

The Navy's role is not to protect the American people, but rather to protect the sea lanes so that multinational corporations can continue to outsource US jobs and engage in labor & regulation arbitrage.

Why can't the Navy get the money they need from companies like Apple - instead of shaking down financially stressed people?

14

- GOP state chairmen endorse Priebus call for networks to drop Clinton projects
- Samantha Power joins Twitter

More Twitter Room »

HILLICON VALLEY

- 'Traitor' edit on Snowden's Wikipedia page linked to Senate IP address
- Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos buys the Washington Post
- Time Warner proposal would let customers drop CBS

More Hillicon Valley »

E<sup>2</sup>-WIRE (ENERGY)

- OVERNIGHT ENERGY: See you in September!
- 'Social cost of carbon' draws coal, oil industry lobbying
- K Street powerhouse lobbies for green energy tax bill

More E<sup>2</sup>-Wire (Energy) »

BALLOT BOX

- Ex-Rep. Jeb Bradley: 'Rumors are true' on Senate run
- DCCC hits House Republicans for going on recess
- Another Democrat passes on Montana Senate race, deepening party's dilemma

More Ballot Box »

ON THE MONEY

- Obama pivots to housing market in Phoenix visit
- GOP congressman: Tanning tax racist
- Fewer teens working this summer compared to 2012

More On The Money »

HEALTHWATCH

- Sebelius pans ObamaCare 'rate shock' predictions
- Sebelius: Conservative group efforts to fight ObamaCare enrollment 'dismal'
- Employers urge more clarity on ObamaCare mandate delay

More Healthwatch »

FLOOR ACTION

- Senate bill penalizes transporting horses in double-decker trailers
- Rep. Gohmert: Closing embassies made US look 'like a bunch of cowards'
- House resolution says no action on immigration until border is secured

More Floor Action »

TRANSPORTATION

- House GOP readies bill to boost waterways for September
- Democrat: Transportation bill unraveled in House because of Amtrak cut
- Obama reappoints NTSB chief

More Transportation »

DEFCON HILL

- Resurgent al Qaeda casts doubt on Obama's national security record
- Taliban, Afghanistan look to kick start peace talks
- Report: US special forces on alert to strike al Qaeda targets

More DEFCON Hill »

Search TheHill.com [GO»](#)

**The Hill Archives:** [Senate](#) | [House](#) | [Administration](#) | [Campaign](#) | [Business & Lobbying](#) | [Capital Living](#) | [Opinion](#)

**View News by Subject:**

[Defense & Homeland Security](#) | [Energy & Environment](#) | [Healthcare](#) | [Finance & Economy](#) | [Technology](#) | [Foreign Policy](#) | [Labor](#) | [Transportation & Infrastructure](#)

**GLOBAL AFFAIRS**

- Terror threat leads State to extend 19 embassy closings
- McCain and Graham to push for democracy during Egypt trip
- White House spokesman: US willing to work with new Iranian government

[More Global Affairs »](#)

**IN THE KNOW**

- Roby reveals 4-year-old behind Wreck-it-Ralph tweet
- Rep. Doyle enters his 60s 25 lbs. lighter
- Favorite political target among late-night comedians: Obama

[More In The Know »](#)

**REGWATCH**

- Oil industry huddled with administration to protest renewable fuel standard
- Court ruling on trucking regs roils safety advocates
- EPA relaxes deadline for gas storage tank standards

[More RegWatch »](#)

 [Blogs News Feed](#)

**COLUMNISTS**

**Juan Williams**



[GOP dead end](#)

**A.B. Stoddard**



[A divided GOP will fall](#)

[More Columnists »](#)



Get latest news from The Hill direct to your inbox, RSS reader and mobile devices.

Enter Email Address

[SIGN UP »](#)

[Home/News](#) [News by Subject](#) [Blogs](#) [Business & Lobbying](#) [Opinion](#) [Capital Living](#) [Special Reports](#) [Jobs](#) [Video](#)



[Home](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Contact](#) | [Advertise](#) | [RSS](#) | [Subscriptions](#)  
The Hill 1625 K Street, NW Suite 900 Washington DC 20006 | 202-628-8500 tel | 202-628-8503 fax  
The contents of this site are © 2013 Capitol Hill Publishing Corp., a subsidiary of News Communications, Inc.