

# Improving Lethality of our Armed Forces

## BACKGROUND

The continued modernization of the U.S. Armed Forces is essential for maintaining military superiority and ensuring national security in an increasingly complex and dynamic global environment.

As adversaries adopt new technologies and strategies, the United States must stay ahead by embracing cutting-edge solutions and modernizing its defense capabilities.

This includes investing in next-generation weaponry, cybersecurity measures and artificial intelligence, all critical to maintaining strategic advantage.

America no longer has the world's largest navy and China's shipbuilding capacity is 232 times greater than that of the United States.

The modernization process also involves updating military infrastructure, improving logistics and enhancing the training and operational readiness of personnel to address evolving threats.

## KEY POINTS

- The U.S. Navy trails behind China's navy in number of battle force ships. As of 2025, China's navy has over 370 ships, whereas the U.S. Navy has 296 ships.
- The defense industrial base is not equipped to meet the rising shipbuilding demand to meet the U.S. Navy's projected force-level goals over the next 30 years. Increasing the domestic shipbuilding capacity requires expanding shipyard infrastructure and developing a skilled shipbuilding workforce.
- Unmanned systems are growing in demand for aerial, ground, and maritime warfighting applications. Specialized components are commonly sourced worldwide for the domestic production of unmanned systems, posing a supply chain risk for the defense industrial base's manufacturing capacity for unmanned systems.

## WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

- **Pass H.R. 3151/S.1541 – Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) for America Act**
- **Pass S. 5618 – Fostering Reform and Government Efficiency in Defense (FoRGED) Act**
- National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027



## THE AMERICAN LEGION'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

*Scan the QR code to read the full list of legislative priorities of The American Legion.*

