The Navy’s Amphibious Warfare Force: Change Under Fiscal Constraints

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Outline

- The fiscal environment
- The Navy’s 2020 shipbuilding plan
- Planning guidance from the Commandant of the Marine Corps
- Alternatives for the future
Total Deficits and Surpluses

Percentage of Gross Domestic Product

- Average Deficit, 1969 to 2018 (-2.9%)
- Average Deficit, 2020 to 2029 (-4.7%)
Federal Debt Held by the Public

Percentage of Gross Domestic Product

Actual
Projected
Funding for the Department of Defense, 1980 to 2034

Billions of 2020 Dollars

The projection shown is the Congressional Budget Office’s.

DoD = Department of Defense; FYDP = Future Years Defense Program.
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Ship Purchases Under the Navy’s 2020 Plan
SSBNs = ballistic missile submarines; SSGNs = guided missile submarines.

a. Includes littoral combat ships, Oliver Hazard Perry FFG-7 guided missile frigates, new frigates, new small surface combatants, and Avenger class mine countermeasures ships.
SSBNs = ballistic missile submarines; SSNs = attack submarines.

a. Includes ship conversions, ships that are not part of the Navy’s battle force and training ships, outfitting and postdelivery activities, and smaller items.

b. The costs of the mission packages for littoral combat ships, which are not funded in the Navy’s shipbuilding accounts, are not included.
Requested and Appropriated Shipbuilding Budgets, 2012 to 2020

Billions of Dollars

President’s Request  Appropriated Funds


HAC-D = House Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee; HASC = House Armed Services Committee; SAC-D = Senate Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee; SASC = Senate Armed Services Committee.
Operation and Support Costs for a 355-Ship Fleet, 2019 to 2049

Billions of 2019 Dollars
Amphibious Ship Purchases and Inventory Under the Navy’s 2020 Plan

Amphibious Warfare Ships

Actual | Under the Navy’s Plan

0  2  4

2014  2019  2024  2029  2034  2039  2044  2049

38-Ship Inventory Goal

Amphibious Warfare Ships

San Antonio Class LPD-17 Flight II
America Class LHA-6
San Antonio Class LPD-17 Flight I
Wasp Class LHD-1
Whidbey Island Class LSD-41 and Harpers Ferry Class LSD-49

0  20  40

2019  2024  2029  2034  2039  2044  2049
Operating Costs for the Amphibious Fleet Under the 2020 Plan, 2019 to 2049

Billions of 2019 Dollars

Overhead Costs
Indirect Costs
Direct Costs
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Commandant’s Planning Guidance

▪ “Force design is my number one priority.”

▪ “If provided the opportunity to secure additional modernization dollars in exchange for force structure, I am prepared to do so.”

▪ “We must continue to seek the affordable and plentiful at the expense of the exquisite and few when conceiving of the future amphibious portion of the fleet.”
Amphibious Warfare Ships, Average Cost by Class

Millions of 2019 Dollars

LHA-1  LHD-1  LHA-6  LPD-4  LPD-17  LSD-41/49  LPD-17 Flight II
Amphibious Warfare Ships, Cost per Thousand Tons by Class Average

Millions of 2019 Dollars
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Illustrative Alternatives to Current Amphibious Ship Programs

- Variant of the Navy’s expeditionary fast transport
- New scaled-down design for a tank-landing ship
- Commercial design

What can be bought for $600 to $700 million apiece? How many?