

## REP. TAYLOR ANNOUNCES SUBCOMMITTEE PASSAGE OF BILL VITAL TO NAVY SHIPBUILDING

Legislation provides roadmap for 313-ship Navy.

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NAVY SHIPBUILDING Legislation provides roadmap for 313-ship Navy WASHINGTON, D.C. &ndash; U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor, chairman of the House Seapower and Expeditionary Forces Subcommittee, today announced the passage of the subcommittee's portion of the National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2009. &ldquo;The current size of the Navy fleet is 278 ships &ndash; well below their stated requirement of 313 ships,&rdquo; said Rep. Gene Taylor, chairman of the subcommittee. &ldquo;With passage of this legislation, my colleagues and I will provide the Navy with a roadmap to achieve their goal of a 313-ship fleet.&rdquo; The mark builds upon the Navy's request for eight ships by authorizing funding for up to four additional ships&mdash;bringing the Fiscal Year 2009 total to as many as 12 ships. With ships having an average 30-year service life, the Navy must build at a rate of 10 ships per year to achieve and maintain a 300-ship fleet. Highlights of the mark are as follows: I. Ship Procurement &ndash; the mark authorizes the construction of 1 Virginia Class Submarine, 2 Littoral Combat Ships, 1 LPD-17 Class Amphibious Ship, 2 Joint High Speed Vessels, and 4 T-AKE Dry Cargo/Ammunition Ships. The mark also pauses the DDG-1000 program, authorizes \$400 million in surface combatant advance procurement, and allows the Navy to use the advanced funds toward construction of 2 DDG 51 Aegis-Class Destroyers or a DDG 1000. II. Aircraft Procurement &ndash; the mark authorizes the same number of planes requested by the Navy and Marine Corps in the services's FY09 budget request. In addition, the mark authorizes \$448 million to accomplish emergent repairs to the wing struts of the P3C Orion Anti-Submarine/Reconnaissance aircraft. III. Other Procurement- Along with the Subcommittee on Air and Land Forces, the mark authorizes an additional \$2.6 billion to field Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles (MRAP) for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. IV. Research, Development, Technology & Evaluation- the mark authorizes \$247 million for development of the Alternate Engine program for the Joint Strike Fighter. V. Maritime Provisions &ndash; the mark includes authorization of funds for the operation and activities of the U.S. Maritime Administration, \$178 million for the Maritime Security Fleet Program, \$25 million in assistance to small shipyards, and \$30 million for the Title XI Maritime Loan Guarantee Program. The House Armed Services Committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday to consider the FY09 NDAA.