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Aircraft Carrier Suppliers Hit Capitol Hill

(March 26, 2024) Washington, DC — On the heels of the FY25 budget release, hundreds of members of the [Aircraft Carrier Industrial Base Coalition](#) (ACIBC) traveled to Washington, D.C. this week to advocate for predictability and stability in the aircraft carrier shipbuilding plan and highlight the detrimental impact to the industrial base if there is a delay to CVN 82, as the President’s FY25 budget request proposes.

Stable, executable acquisition profiles are vital to promoting the development and retention of highly-skilled workforces and investment in world-class manufacturing and shipbuilding facilities.

“ACIBC suppliers are optimistic about the future of Navy shipbuilding. They are hardworking, innovative and proud of the ships they build that keep our country safe,” said Lisa Papini, ACIBC Chair and President and CEO of Dante Valve. *“However, this shift to the shipbuilding plan is causing uncertainty and risk among the industrial base. If CVN 82 is further delayed, negative impacts like layoffs, increased costs in material and the deprioritization of Navy shipbuilding will occur – and that is not something our country can afford from a budget or national security perspective right now.”*

Suppliers have long stated that the optimal way to purchase aircraft carriers is a two-carrier buy with at least three years of advanced procurement funding on four-year intervals. A proposed delay in CVN 82 procurement would put the ship at nearly an eight-year gap since the last carrier purchase, which is double the length of time the industrial base recommends.

According to the Navy, the optimal strategy for the procurement and construction of Ford-class aircraft carriers is expected to save more than \$5 billion for CVN 82/83.

Coalition members represent a supply-chain industrial base of 2,000 companies across the nation that supply parts and services to the aircraft carrier program. These members spoke with over 150 representatives and staffers and urged Congress to continue to support steady and predictable funding for the carrier program at the optimal level for the warfighter, taxpayer, and supplier.

ACIBC members and other industry leaders convened for a day full of workshops, briefings, meetings and a keynote address from Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ) during the dinner reception. The Senator shared his experiences as a Navy pilot, NASA astronaut and Armed Services committee member with the audience. Navy leaders Rear Admiral Doug Verissimo and Rear Admiral Casey Moton also presented the status of CVN programs and Fleet operations.

Attendees then gathered the next day on Capitol Hill for breakfast and heard remarks from Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA), Representative Rob Wittman (R-VA-01), Representative Trent Kelly (R-MS-01),

Representative Joe Courtney (D-CT-02), Representative Jenn McClellan (D-VA-04), Representative Andrew Garbarino (R-NY-02) and Representative Chris Deluzio (D-PA-17) before heading to their congressional meetings.

Key legislative priorities for ACIBC this year are:

- Augment the President’s FY25 Budget request by authorizing and appropriating \$175M of advance-procurement funding to procure long lead time material and commodities for CVN 82/83 to ensure stability and continuity in the nuclear shipbuilding industrial base (Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy (SCN) Line 5).
- Support legislative language expressing concern about timing of the next procurement of *Ford*-class aircraft carriers and encouraging the Pentagon to restore procurement of CVN 82 no later than fiscal year 2029
- Support the President’s FY25 Budget request by authorizing and appropriating funding for aircraft carrier programs currently under contract, specifically:
 - Carrier Replacement Program funding for John F. Kennedy (CVN 79), Enterprise (CVN 80) and Doris Miller (CVN 81)
 - Refueling and Complex Overhaul (RCOH) Program funding for USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) and USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75)

To learn more about ACIBC and aircraft carriers, please visit: www.ACIBC.org. Check out the highlights from Action Days by following @ACIBC on Twitter and LinkedIn, or by checking out the hashtag #ActionDays2024.

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ABOUT THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER INDUSTRIAL BASE COALITION (ACIBC)

The Aircraft Carrier Industrial Base Coalition (ACIBC) represents businesses that supply parts, equipment and services for the construction and maintenance of U.S. Navy aircraft carriers. Established in 2004, ACIBC seeks to preserve the strength of the aircraft carrier force and promote the value of the aircraft carrier industrial base as a vital part of the nation’s overall defense structure.