

# THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



## Wicker proposal for a stronger navy bolsters Trump's national security strategy

Navy plays key role in President's foreign policy agenda

During his first year in office, President Trump has focused on strengthening the economy and America's standing in the world. At home, that has meant working with Congress on pro-growth policies, including tax reform and the rollback of harmful regulations. Globally, the President has continually reinforced U.S. interests, speaking frankly at the United Nations about the threat of a nuclear North Korea and supporting free and fair trade deals during his five-country tour of Asia. In a speech on December 18, in which he outlined his national security strategy for the coming years, he firmly stated, "America is coming back, and America is coming back strong."

### Congress, Administration Approve Navy Buildup

This message came just days after the President signed the "National Defense Authorization Act" into law - one of the most important pieces of legislation that Congress passes each year to ensure our troops are prepared for their missions. I worked directly on this bill as a member of the Armed Services Committee and as chairman of the Seapower Subcommittee, sponsoring a major proposal for the United States to achieve a 355-ship Navy. The Navy has set a minimum force requirement of 355 ships but currently operates a fleet with only 279 ships. The defense bill makes it the national policy of the United States to meet this minimum requirement.

Naval power goes hand in hand with the President's bold national security vision. In his speech, President Trump focused on four key areas: protecting the homeland, promoting economic security, supporting 'peace through strength,' and expanding America's international influence. Our Navy helps fulfill all of these objectives by deterring aggressive behavior

by rogue nations, projecting force, and maintaining an open flow of commerce and trade.

Declines in naval capability can have far-reaching consequences. It is alarming that our naval commanders around the world are already experiencing coverage gaps, and adversaries like China and Russia are actively building up their fleets in an effort to exploit our vulnerabilities.

The challenges of military preparedness are not isolated to the Navy. Our national security interests are best served when all branches of the armed services - Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard - are ready and capable.

### Resolve to Deter Aggression, Defeat Terrorism

Efforts to deter Russian aggression reach beyond the sea. As a longtime critic of Russia's siege of Crimea and its clear disregard for Ukraine's sovereignty, I am encouraged by the Trump Administration's recent decision to authorize commercial sales of lethal arms to Ukraine. The Ukrainian people should be able to defend themselves from Russia's illegal invasion. This arms sale reaffirms that the United States will not tolerate Russia's flouting of international law.

I am also encouraged by the Trump Administration's relentless pursuit of jihadist terrorists. Our military has taken resolute steps to defeat the Islamic State, with U.S. special operations forces part of the coalition that liberated the terrorist group's stronghold of Raqqa in October. Our troops also helped Iraqi forces achieve victory over Islamic State forces in early December.

These strategic steps are encouraging. So is the support by Congress and the Administration for a stronger military, reaffirming that America's standing in the world will again be on solid ground.

## Heating safety vital during extreme cold

With below freezing temperatures forecast for coming days in Mississippi, State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney reminds Mississippians that properly using heating sources to stay warm during cold weather and having working smoke alarms in your home is literally the difference between life and death.

"Everyone must use extra precaution when using space heaters. Space heating poses a much higher risk of fire, death and injury than central heating. And, it cannot be stressed enough that you should never use a stove or oven to heat a home," Chaney said. "Every home should have working smoke alarms. Working smoke alarms can cut the risk of people dying in home fires in half."

The State Fire Marshal's Office offers these heating safety tips:

- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Supervise children when a fireplace, fire pit, or other space heater is being used. Use a sturdy, metal screen to prevent contact burns, which are even more common than flame burns.
- All heaters need space. Keep things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Use heating equipment that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Never use your oven for heating.
- Install stationary space heating equipment, water

heaters or central heating equipment, according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.

- Have a qualified professional install the equipment.
- Make sure all fuel-burning vented equipment is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. CO is created when fuels burn incompletely. CO poisoning can cause illness and even death. Make sure the venting for exhaust is kept clear and unobstructed.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms to avoid the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

### Portable electric space heaters

- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Use and purchase portable space heaters with an automatic shut off so if they're tipped over they will shut off.
- Place space heater on solid, flat surface.
- Plug power cords directly into outlets and never into an extension cord.
- Inspect for cracked or damaged, broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using fuel burning space heaters
- Always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer.
- When refueling, allow the appliance to cool and refuel outside or in a well-ventilated area.
- When using the heater, open a window to ensure proper ventilation.
- In portable kerosene or other liquid-fueled space

heaters always use the proper grade of the proper fuel.

- All new unvented gas-fired space heaters have an oxygen depletion sensor that detects a reduced level of oxygen in the area where the heater is operating and shuts off the heater before a hazardous level of carbon monoxide accumulates. If you have an older heater without this feature, replace it.

- If the pilot light of your gas heater goes out, allow 5 minutes or more for the gas to go away before trying again, do not allow gas to accumulate, and light the match before you turn on the gas to the pilot to avoid the risk of flashback.

- If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not attempt to light the appliance. Turn off all the controls and open doors and window. Call a gas service person.

### Wood burning stoves

- Install the stove, chimney connectors, and chimneys following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation.
- Wood stoves should bear the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- In wood stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.

- Start the fire with newspaper or kindling, never with a flammable liquid, such as lighter fluid, kerosene or gasoline.

- Keep the doors of your wood stove closed unless loading or stoking the live fire.

- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep the ash container at least 10 feet away from the home and any other nearby buildings. Douse and saturate with water.

Should a fire break out in the home, have an emergency evacuation plan for the family to follow and have a designated meeting place for all family members. Once everyone is outside the burning home, call 911 and DO NOT RE-ENTER THE HOUSE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!!!

To create a plan for your family, use this Escape Plan Grid (<https://tinyurl.com/yac6q42b>) from the National Safety Council.

For more fire safety information follow the Mississippi Insurance Department (@MSInsuranceDept) and Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office (@msfiresafe) on Twitter and Facebook.

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Wheat	Jul 18	2018 July	4.53	-0.32	4.21	-0.01
Corn	Mar 18	2018 Jan	3.51	0.03	3.54	-0.01
Corn	Sep 18	2018 Aug	3.75	-0.11	3.64	-0.02
Soybeans Sidon	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Sep	9.76	-0.30	9.46	0.03
Soybeans G'wood	Mar 18	2018 Jan	9.62	-0.15	9.47	0.06
Soybeans G'wood	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Sep	9.76	-0.12	9.64	0.03
Soybeans Minter City	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Sep	9.76	-0.20	9.56	0.03
Rice	Jan 18		11.680			0.025
Rice	Sep 18		11.725			0.030
Cotton	Mar 18		78.63			-0.170
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