



THE ANNUAL MEETING

DOCA's 68th Annual Meeting: Newport, Rhode Island October 20-23, 2019

Registration Now Open

Conference Focus

The 68th Annual Meeting of the Defense Orientation Conference Association will take place in the midst of significant defense challenges facing the United States. Modernization of the armed forces, emerging technologies on the battlefield, the re-emergence of Great Power competition, the continuing threat of nuclear proliferation, on-going negotiations that will affect U.S. commitments in Afghanistan all are important issues that will shape the future.

Nowhere are the emerging challenges to the Nation more critical than those on the world's oceans where the competing national interests of various countries, a rebalancing global military posture, and new technologies on potential battlefield all collide. A sustained period of American maritime dominance that serves as the foundation for international peace and security is clearly under pressure. Naval competition with Russia has increased in the North Atlantic. China's aggressive posture in the South China Sea risks freedom of navigation and poses a security worry for U.S. allies and partners. Other nations, such as North Korea and Iran, present their own set of threats to U.S. interests in the maritime domain.

At the same time, the civilian and military leadership of the Department of Defense is in the process of significant change. Within the past two months, a new Secretary of Defense was confirmed, a new Chief of Naval Operations has taken the helm, and a new Commandant of the Marine Corps has made closer maritime cooperation with the Navy a priority.

The Annual Meeting will provide members with an opportunity to take stock of where we stand in addressing a number of critical questions.

How will a new Secretary of Defense, as well as news uniformed leadership of the Navy and the Marine Corps, affect the priorities of American defense?

What are the critical components of American maritime power?

The Navy sails today with 301 ships. Can the Navy sustain a shipbuilding plan to achieve a 355-ship fleet by 2034?

How important is nuclear modernization, particularly the sea-based leg of the triad, to the defense of the United States?

How will the changing environment of the Arctic affect American security and what are the implications of an expanded role for the Coast Guard in the Arctic?

What are the emerging technology and other trends that pose risks to, or help preserve, American naval superiority?

Admiral James Stavridis, USN (ret.), the keynote speaker during the 67th Annual Meeting last October, concluded his most recent book, *Sea Power: The History and Geopolitics of the World's Oceans*, with this observation:

The United States continues on a voyage that is both personal to the mariners who sail it and of vital geographic importance. In the end, we are an island nation, bounded by oceans and nurtured on the global commerce, international markets, fishing expeditions, hydrocarbon off-shore rigs, and strategic waterways of the world's oceans. Without the oceans and our ability to sail them, we would be enormously diminished as a nation. Our ability to navigate, both literally and figuratively, through the oceans will be a determinative part of the voyage of our nation in this century.

During the Annual Meeting, we will have an opportunity to engage the mariners sailing that voyage, the educators and advisors who train them and shape their strategy, and the innovators who produce the weapons systems they utilize to protect themselves and the nation. Please join us for a timely, informative, and important Annual Meeting.

Agenda

A detailed agenda for the Annual Meeting is in coordination and will be available prior to the event. The Annual Meeting will begin Sunday evening, October 20th, and will conclude with the annual banquet on Wednesday, October 23rd. Listed below are some of the invited speakers and the highlights planned for the conference agenda. Members are advised that the agenda may change due to operational considerations.

Members of the Board of Directors should refer to the appropriate section below concerning governance meetings scheduled during the Annual Meeting.

Sunday, October 20th - The conference will kickoff with the traditional "icebreaker" reception for all attendees on Sunday evening, October 20th, at 6:30pm. DOCA has invited military and civilian personnel and their spouses from the Naval War College, the United States Coast Guard Academy, and Naval Submarine Base New London to join DOCA members for the reception.

Monday, October 21st - To kickoff the Annual Meeting, **U.S. Representative James Langevin** of Rhode Island, Chairman of the House Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee is invited to address the conference on issues ranging from the future of the Navy to counter-proliferation and cyber security. Members will also engage the leadership and faculty at the **Naval War College** on a number of defense and national security matters. In addition, members will receive a briefing on the latest techniques in wargaming at the Naval War College and the role wargaming exercises play in the development of individual leadership and naval strategy. In the evening, members will briefly tour Fort Adams, a coastal fortification established in 1799. At Fort Adams, DOCA will host a traditional Rhode Island clambake after the tour.

Tuesday, October 22nd - The second day of the Annual Meeting will open with the annual DOCA business meeting at which members will elect directors for the coming year and receive briefings on the future program and direction of the association. Following the annual business meeting, participants will travel to **Naval Submarine Base New London** for engagements with **Commander, Submarine Group 2**, to explore the role of the submarine force in national security, the **Naval Submarine School**, to understand how a submariner is trained, and the **Naval Submarine and Medical Research Laboratory**, to learn about the medical challenges involved with the demands of extended subsurface exposure. DOCA also plans to engage **General Dynamics Electric Boat** to gain insight into the industrial base required to support the subsurface mission of the Navy.

Wednesday, October 23rd - Participants will engage the leadership and faculty at the **United States Coast Guard Academy** on the role of the Coast Guard in national security. For a focused discussion on the expanded role of the Coast Guard in the Arctic, DOCA will also engage the **Center for Arctic Study & Policy** which was established as an operationally-focused research center at the Academy. The Annual Meeting will conclude with the annual banquet. **Rear Admiral Shoshana Chatfield, USN**, President of the Naval War College, is invited to provide the banquet keynote address.

Important program announcements and updates will be provided via email when available.

[Notes for Members of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors](#)

The Executive Committee will meet on Sunday, October 20th, from 1:00pm until 2:00pm. The Board of Directors will conduct its meeting for the fourth quarter on Sunday, October 20th from 2:30pm until 5:30pm. New Directors will be elected by the membership at the business meeting on Tuesday, October 22nd. The incoming Board of Directors will hold an organizational meeting on Wednesday, October 23rd at 7:00am.

[Conference Hotel](#)

The Hotel Viking in Newport, Rhode Island, will serve as the headquarters hotel for the Annual Meeting. Members traveling by air to the Annual Meeting can utilize Boston (Logan International Airport) or Providence (T.F. Green Airport) as their major aviation hub. The Hotel Viking is approximately a 40-minute drive from T.F. Green Airport (PVD). Uber service from PVD to Newport ranges between \$33 and \$71 depending on the type of service selected from the two classes

available. The Hotel Viking is approximately a 90-minute drive from Logan International Airport (BOS). Uber service from BOS to Newport ranges between \$49 and \$230 depending on the type of service selected from the four classes available. Rental cars and other modes of transportation may be accessed from both airports.

Members providing their flight information to Kathy Carter will receive advice on fellow members arriving at a similar time if members are interested in coordinating transportation to Newport.

Please note that all hotel reservations must be made by rooming list through DOCA. Please consult the registration form for additional information.

Registration

Please complete and send the enclosed registration form to DOCA before Thursday, September 19th. After September 19th, please contact Kathy Carter to ensure the availability of hotel rooms and conference rates.



NORWEGIAN SEA (Nov. 7, 2018) Multiple ships in the Norwegian Sea during exercise Trident Juncture 2018. Trident Juncture is a NATO-led exercise designed to certify NATO response forces and develop interoperability among participating NATO allied and partner nations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Lyle Wilkie)