

Tricia Fisher

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**From:** Craig Beitinger  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 05, 2018 10:23 AM  
**To:** Pat Bright; Richard Dorn; Tricia Fisher  
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Tricia,

For: Resources / AMI in the News; US / General.

Tony

## UDT 2018: US Navy 'guttled' by sequestration

4th July 2018 - 12:19 GMT | by [Richard Thomas](#) in Glasgow

[RSS](#)

The US Navy has been 'guttled' by a sequestration process that has left it unable to properly plan for the future as it tries to build up to a [355-ship](#) fleet, according to one of the keynote speakers attending the recent UDT 2018 in Glasgow.

Guy Stitt, president at AMI International, told *Shephard* that he was highly critical of the process of which began under former US president Barack Obama in 2013 and has left a lasting legacy today.

As a result, successive military budgets have seen delays in approval processes Stitt argued, resulting in concurrent delays in [initiating much-needed procurement programmes](#).

'[The US Navy] can't plan for the future, it's a real mess... they've been gutted,' he said, adding that of all of the US military services the navy 'is probably' at the highest operational tempo.

Recent naval procurement and build programmes have included the [controversial LCS](#), which has been curtailed by the [FFG\(X\) project](#), and big-ticket items like the [Zumwalt class DDGs](#).

Elsewhere the navy's submarine service is struggling to maintain its current fleet, with some boats having served for upwards of 37 years.

'It's tough. We have submarines [operating] well beyond their expected service life,' Stitt warned.

Stitt added that joint projects with the UK to develop the next-generation [Common Missile Compartment](#) for the future nuclear deterrent programmes have been highly valued by Washington, enabling vital savings to be made.

Stitt was attending UDT to participate in a keynote panel discussion on the third day of the show to discuss the use of and procurement proliferation of submarines in areas such as Asia-Pacific and Europe.

Describing diesel-electric (SSK) models as a 'defensive solution' for navies, Stitt said that 'it doesn't really matter' about the reduced endurance of these boats compared to nuclear-powered counterparts, just that they 'were stealthy'.

Regarding ways to counter a perceived threat from a re-emergent Russia, Stitt said that it was 'a struggle', with the country showcasing 'islands of productivity' in some military programmes with subsurface capabilities and missile technologies listed as among them. SSKs platforms were also perfect for the Baltics and the Black Sea, he said, adding that the expectation was that growth will be seen beyond the current operator to include countries such as Romania and potentially Bulgaria.

Stitt also contended that demand has increased to a point whereby the amount spend on counter-submarine capabilities has outstripped that spent on the boats themselves. This includes legacy countermeasures as well as new technologies such as unmanned systems.