

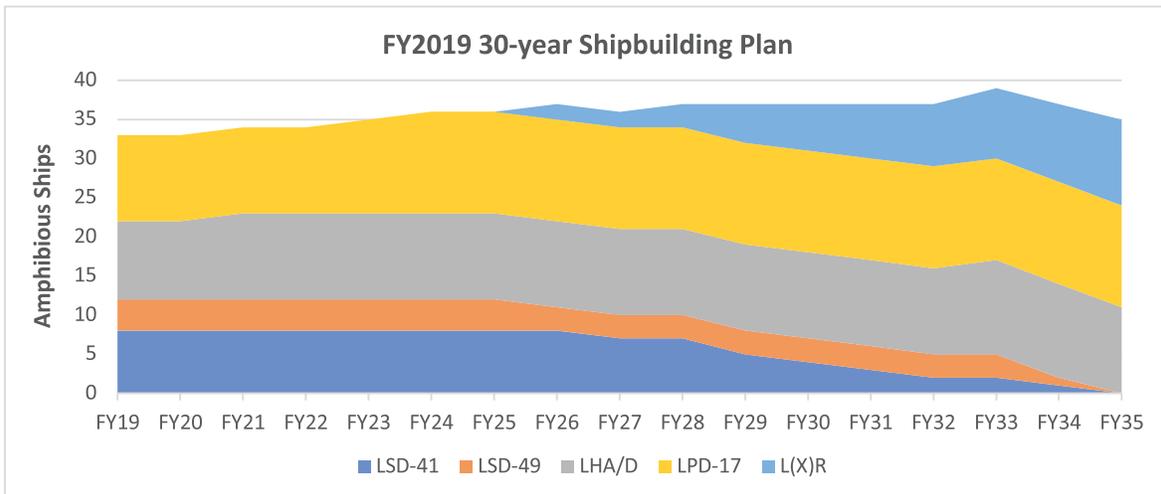
Building the U.S. Navy Amphibious Warship Fleet

KEY POINTS:

- The U.S. Navy amphibious ship requirement is 38 total amphibious ships, including 12 large amphibious assault ships (LHA/LHD), 13 LPDs, and 13 LX(R)s
- This requirement is driven by Combatant Commander needs for amphibious forces to be continuously deployed in their areas of responsibility
- The Navy’s FY2019 30-year Shipbuilding Plan does not reach this requirement until FY2033, as shown below:

RECOMMENDATION:

Procure LX(R) amphibious ships using a Block Buy of multiple ships funded incrementally over their construction period, saving 10 percent or more of cost per ship



INDUSTRIAL BASE CHALLENGES:

- The final LPD was started in FY2017 and will deliver in FY2023; construction of the first LX(R) will start in FY2020, and the second in FY2022
- The newest LHA, LHA-8, was started in FY2017 and will deliver in FY2025; LHA-9 does not start construction until FY2024, resulting in a 7-year gap between ships
- Production gaps reduce the ability of shipyards and suppliers to learn, improve efficiency, and order materials in economic quantities
- Production gaps idle workers between ships. For example, even if a ship takes 4 years to be built, hull fabricators may only work on it for the first year; if the next ship does not start for several years, they must be idled, repurposed, or laid off.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Accelerate construction of the first LX(R) to FY2019 and start the second in FY2020 to enable learning to be gained and applied by workers and reduce production gaps
- Bring LHA-9 procurement and construction forward to FY2021; establish a 3 to 4-year build interval then instead of waiting until 2024 to do so
- Procure LX(R) amphibious ships using a Block Buy of multiple ships funded incrementally over their construction period, saving 10 percent or more of cost per ship