



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Madeline Skahill | 757-784-4355

Amphibious Warship Suppliers Return to Capitol Hill to Advocate for Amphibious Warships (March 9, 2023) Washington, DC — Today, more than 140 amphibious warship industry members, including suppliers from across the United States, U.S. Navy and Marine Corps leadership, Members of Congress and staff, as well as the media attended the [Amphibious Warship Industrial Base Coalition's](#) (AWIBC) annual Congressional Forum to advocate for the value and importance of the U.S. Navy's amphibious warship fleet to the Navy-Marine Corps team and nation. Notably, the Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, General David H. Berger, delivered the keynote address.

The amphibious warship industry gathered to discuss the importance of the U.S. Navy's amphibious warships and their critical role of enabling the Navy-Marine Corps team to deploy swiftly and aggressively from sea and in air in times of crisis. The forum was also an opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges facing the industrial base when it comes to inconsistent defense contracts, the impact of the supply chain, and the importance of maintaining a steady production line for job security.

"Stability in shipbuilding facilitates efficiencies, which translates to cost savings. When the budgets are stable, investment decisions in new more efficient equipment are easy to justify, said AWIBC Chairman, Dave Forster. "Aggressive material procurement strategies or hedge strategies can be brokered in confidence knowing the budgets will be approved. Instability precludes aggressive investment with risk."

In addition, General Berger highlighted the importance of amphibious warships to national security. "Amphibious ships are a unique capability in that they provide numerous options for a combatant commander during peacetime campaigning and in conflict. Nothing effects a would-be adversary's decision space more than a warship filled with infantry Marines, backed by their own organic aircraft and logistics, and a complement of state-of-the-art technology—all hidden inside a well-deck or within the skin of the ship. Amphibious warships are critical to deterrence."

At the event, coalition members heard from speakers such as: Sen. Wicker (MS), Sen. Baldwin (WI), Rep. Wittman (VA-01), Rep. Courtney (CT-02), Rep. Trent Kelly (MI-01) and Rep. Gallagher (WI-08). These elected officials spoke about the value of the amphibious warships to our nation and the importance of building amphibious warships cost-effectively to construct the full 31 amphibious warships required by the U.S. Marine Corps.

"The Amphibious Warship Industrial Base Coalition has been a valuable partner in congressional efforts to increase the readiness and future capabilities of our fleet," Senator Roger Wicker (MS) said. "I look forward to working together to build deterrence at sea and industrial strength at home."

"As demonstrated in Virginia, a strong military – particularly, a strong Navy – is not only crucial for our national security, but also strengthens our nation's job security and economic security, said Congressman Rob Wittman (VA-01). As we face growing threats from aggressive adversaries like the Chinese Communist Party, we must signal clear intent to strengthen our Navy and grow our fleet. Our

amphibious warships enable the Navy and Marine Corps team to deploy ARG/MEUs that are the nation's premier stand-in force to complicate the CCP's decision calculus in the South China Sea. I will continue to reject the harmful 'divest to invest' strategy and instead push to strengthen both capacity and capability. Thank you to the Amphibious Warship Industrial Base Coalition for hosting this event and for their important work in strengthening our national security."

To learn more about AWIBC and amphibious warships, please visit: <https://amphibiouswarship.org>. Check out the highlights from The Congressional Forum by following @amphibiouswarships on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#), or by checking out the hashtag [#AWIBCCongForum2023](#).

###

ABOUT THE AMPHIBIOUS WARSHIP COALITION (AWIBC)

The Amphibious Warship Industrial Base Coalition (AWIBC) is a coalition of 614 companies in 38 states and 226 Congressional districts nationwide that provide parts worth over \$1.78 billion to build and maintain amphibious warships for the United States Navy. AWIBC advocates for Congress to provide funding for the sustained and stable construction of amphibious warships vital to the mission of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps.