

Military, Law, and more ...

Thank you to the Memphis Safe Task Force and National Guard!

Trump announces new class of battleships with instructions for Navy to lead way to modernize to keep America safe

By Matthew Olay

DECEMBER 22, 2025 -President Donald J. Trump announced on December 22 the Navy's intent to develop a new class of American-designed, 30,000 to 40,000-ton large surface combatants, or battleships, that will be employed to meet the realities of modern maritime conflict.

"As commander in chief, it's my great honor to announce that I have approved a plan for the Navy to begin the construction of two brand-new, very large — largest we've ever built — battleships," Trump announced from his Mar-a-Lago residence in Palm Beach, Florida. He was joined by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Navy Secretary John Phelan. The new Trump-class of ships — which the president said will contribute to a new "golden fleet" of advanced warships — are currently in the design phase, with construction of the first battleship, the USS Defiant, targeted for the early 2030s.

Phelan said that the new class of battleship is something the Navy "desperately needs." The president noted that the Navy aims to have a fleet of 20 to 25 ships



President Donald Trump announced the Navy's intent to develop a new class of American-designed battleships. At the announcement were L-R: Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Pres. Trump. (Photo/Courtesy: Department of War)

eventually. "The future Trump-class battleship, the USS Defiant, will be the largest, deadliest and most versatile and best-looking warship anywhere on the world's oceans," Phelan said, adding that he wanted to thank the president for his vision to make the future battleship a game-changing capability for the U.S. Navy.

Phelan also compared the future Trump-class battleships to the former Iowa-class battleships, which were a cornerstone of the Navy's warship fleet for much of the 21st century. "The Iowa was designed to go on the attack with the biggest guns, and that's exactly what will define the Trump-class battleships: offensive firepower from the big-

gest guns of our era," Phelan said. "This ship isn't just to swat the arrows; it is going to reach out and kill the archers," he added. During his remarks, Hegseth said that strengthening the Navy's fleet ties directly to the War Department's key goals of restoring the warrior ethos, rebuilding the military and reestablishing deter-

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rence. "American strength is back on the world stage, and the announcement of the golden fleet anchored by new battleships — the biggest and most lethal ever — accomplishes all three of those things and marks a generational commitment to American sea power across the entire department," Hegseth said. During the announcement, Trump made clear that the new battleships are intended to be constructed entirely in the U.S. by American citizens. "The construction will create thousands of American jobs. We're going to have the jobs be created," he said. Along with standard guns and

missiles, Trump said the new battleships will be equipped with hypersonic weapons, electronic rail guns and high-powered laser-based weaponry. He added that the Navy will take the lead in the ships' design, while partnering with the U.S. defense industrial base. "We're going to make battle groups great again, and this is just one piece of the president's golden fleet that we're going to build with the investments," Phelan said. The new Trump-class battleships will replace the Navy's previous plans to develop a new class of destroyer, the DDG(X). However, the sea service intends to incorporate the capabilities it had planned to employ on that platform into the new Trump-class ships. The last time the Navy used battleships in combat was in 1991 during the first Gulf War, when the now-decommissioned Iowa-class battleships USS Missouri and USS Wisconsin provided naval gunfire support against Iraqi targets along the coast of Kuwait.

The announcement of the Trump-class battleships comes on the heels of the Navy's Dec. 19 announcement of the FF(X), a new class of frigates intended to replace the Navy's recently cancelled Constellation-class frigate program.

Memphis Safe Task Force Weekend Update: 55 arrests, 16 firearms seized and one missing child recovered safely

MEMPHIS, Tenn., December 22, 2025 — Members of the Memphis Safe Task Force over the weekend executed 55 criminal arrests, seized 16 firearms, and recovered a missing juvenile.

Of note, **Christopher Moore** was arrested for aggravated kidnapping, domestic violence and evading arrest after he allegedly kidnapped a woman and held her against her will at gunpoint before fleeing to a residence in the 4100 block of Tutwiler Avenue, where officers found him hiding in a closet.

Anthony Mason and **Xavier Brown**, both Kitchen Cripps gang members and alleged witnesses to a Saturday homicide, were arrested for unlawful possession of a firearm while intoxicated at a residence in the 200 block of Grove Dale Street. MSTF officers sized nine firearms — six handguns and three ri-

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fles -- after they obtained and executed a search warrant for the residence and vehicles at the residence.

Frank Jackson was arrested for aggravated assault Sunday after he was identified as a suspect in the stabbing of a juvenile. MSTF officers located and arrested him at Southland Casino in West

Memphis, Arkansas. **Deandre Triplett** and **Marquis Triggs** were arrested late Friday night for possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute and possession of a controlled substance, respectively. Triplett was also charged with possession of a stolen firearm and evading after throwing the firearm over a fence. Officers seized one firearm, approximately four pounds of marijuana, 11 bottles of promethazine, 15 Oxycontin pills and approximately \$2,000 in currency.

Daniel L. Marshall-Roan and **William Davis** were arrested for possession of controlled substances with intent to distribute during the execution of a search warrant at an apartment in the 200 block of Lucy Avenue. Officers seized approximately 9.5 grams of cocaine, approximately 4.3 grams of crack cocaine, and approximately 6.8 grams of mar-

ijuana. "It was a busy weekend," said U.S. Marshals Service Chief Inspector Chad Hunt, Commander of the Memphis Safe Task Force. "But Memphians should know we have officers from 31 different agencies working weekends and who are relentless in their commitment to arresting law breakers and getting illegal firearms and dangerous drugs off the streets." Since the launch of the Memphis Safe Task Force initiative, of-

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icers have made 4,357 arrests and seized 683 illegal firearms, as well as substantial quantities of narcotics, and related contraband. These enforcement actions

reflect a sustained commitment to reducing violent crime and removing dangerous weapons from Memphis neighborhoods. Launched in September 2025, the Memphis Safe Task Force is a multi-agency initiative to combat violent crime in Memphis. Composed of federal, state, and local law enforcement, as well as the Tennessee National Guard, the task force is focused on arresting violent criminals, clearing warrants, seizing firearms, and locating missing children. This operation reflects the Memphis Safe Task Force's commitment to coordinated enforcement efforts and its mission to identify, apprehend, and hold accountable those who pose a threat to public safety. Anyone with information about wanted fugitives is encouraged to submit it via the USMS Tips app.

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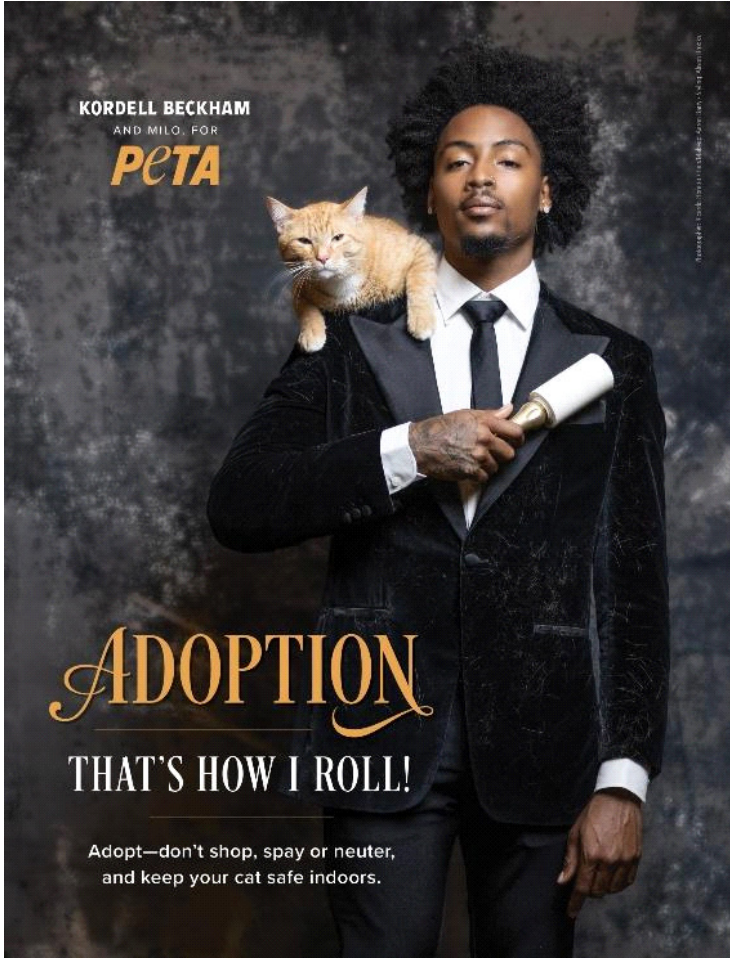
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The 'E' in DEI is for Equity, a Marxist Term. Research before you believe.
-A commentary from The Mid-South Tribune-

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune's 31st Annual Black History Month Special Edition **250** in Celebration of America's Freedom.

Coming in February 2026.



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TDOT halts highway construction for holiday travel

No Lane Closures on Interstates and State Routes

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Road construction won't delay travelers during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is once again halting all lane closure activity on interstates and state highways in anticipation of higher traffic volumes across the state. No temporary lane closures will be allowed for construction on Tennessee roadways beginning at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 23, 2025, through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, January 2, 2026.

AAA expects an estimated 2.8 million Tennesseans to travel between December 20 and January

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