

Building a City



The Exhibit Hall under construction.

Armchair experts and motivational speakers the world over are fond of saying that Rome wasn't built in a day. Less an historical account of Roman expediency, the saying is meant to convey the idea that great things take time. Civilizations don't happen overnight. And certainly, building a city represents a commitment to an idea.

The sprawling city you see before you here at Sea-Air-Space 2023 also wasn't built in a day. But close. It took three.

Last Thursday, these exhibit halls were empty shells. Footsteps rang across football-field expanses, voices echoed, and dust motes – not bands – played in ballrooms. We got to work. Everyone, from Navy League staff to contractors and vendors, to exhibit builders, to operations and logistics experts rolled up their sleeves and began the process of turning nothing into something. And not just any something, but something amazing.

The exhibition booths themselves are an incredible feat on their own. They showcase possibilities, and in many cases, fantastic realities of technology and innovation that will bulwark our sea services and support their missions in the years to come. The panel discussions and other events are built as well, and not only with the physical infrastructure of microphones, lights, speakers, and chairs. Our Navy League team built these events with dedication, with people, and with a commitment to an idea.

Our idea is this: What if we amass the best and brightest together for three days once a year, put our collective heads together, and create real solutions that affect the viability of our seapower. What if we change our world. What if.

Welcome to our city.