

# Navy Establishes New MH-60R Helicopter Squadron



U.S. Navy Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Jonathan Shaffer, left, and Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Devante Sims remove chocks from an MH-60R Seahawk helicopter assigned to Helicopter Maritime Strike (HSM) 74, on the flight deck of the guided missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG 64) Nov. 24, 2013, in the Gulf of Oman. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Lorenzo J. Burlison/Released*

NORFOLK, Va. – The U.S. Navy establishes a new helicopter squadron, Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 50, onboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Mayport, Florida, Oct. 1, the commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic Public Affairs said in a release.

Primarily, HSM-50 "Valkyries" will be fully equipped with MH-60R Seahawks and will provide expeditionary aviation detachments in support of littoral combat ships and expeditionary independent deployers to meet global force management missions.

"I'm honored and humbled to have the opportunity to serve as HSM-50's first commanding officer," said Cmdr. Carolyn Peterson. "Every member of Valkyries will have a major impact as we establish this squadron from the ground floor and create a strong, resilient, combat-ready unit prepared to deploy MH-60R detachments to fight and win at sea. I am excited and encouraged as we move forward as a team, face challenges head-on, and continue to serve in the defense of our nation."

Peterson, a native of Nashville, Tennessee, served in a number of assignments including tours as an instructor pilot, a helicopter initial shore assignments officer, a Carrier Air Wing MH-60R operational squadron department head, and a joint

planning officer in Anchorage, Alaska. She is a graduate of Air Force Air Command and Staff College Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase One, and earned a Master's of Science in Aeronautics: Safety Systems.

The MH-60R Seahawk, a versatile multi-mission platform, is used to support a number of operations spanning: anti-submarine warfare, electronic warfare, surface warfare, command and control, non-combat operations, and fleet support for operations and logistics. It can also integrate mission systems with other ships to provide early warning indications of surface contacts and longer-range pursuit of subsurface contacts.

HSM-50 is expected to conduct a formal establishment ceremony in the summer of 2022 and the squadron will fall under Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing Atlantic.

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## **BAE Systems to Sustain U.S. Navy Critical Carrier Landing Systems**



An F-35C Lightning II, assigned to the "Raiders" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 125, performs an arrested landing on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Javier Reyes*

MCLEAN, Va. – BAE Systems Inc. will continue providing lifecycle sustainment, integration, and engineering services to support U.S. aircraft carriers after being selected for a

five-year, \$68.5 million indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contract, the company said Oct. 4.

Under the Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems Engineering Products & Technical Services contract awarded earlier this year, BAE Systems will leverage decades of program history to develop, produce, equip, test, evaluate, sustain, and update the AN/SPN-46(V) Automatic Carrier Landing System.

“With this win, BAE Systems retains a key air traffic control contract that we have held since 1973 to provide industry-leading systems integration capabilities and solutions that ensure the safety of critical carrier-based landing systems,” said Lisa Hand, vice president and general manager of BAE Systems’ Integrated Defense Solutions business.

BAE Systems’ technicians deploy around the world to support the warfighter. The company’s employees utilize established and proven methods as well as their systems engineering and software development expertise to sustain these critical landing systems. The company’s work results in improved hardware reliability, system precision, minimal downtime through onsite and remote technical assistance, and a certified landing system.

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## **USCGC Reliance Returns from 63-Day Patrol**



The crew of USCGC Reliance (WMEC 615) conducts a port assessment off the coast of Haiti following a major earthquake to allow vessels to enter the port safely and deliver aid on Aug. 19, 2021. *U.S. COAST GUARD / Petty Officer 2nd Class*

*Zachary Pumphrey*

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The crew of USCGC Reliance (WMEC 615) returned to homeport in Pensacola Sept. 29 after a 63-day Caribbean Sea patrol, the Coast Guard Atlantic Area said in an Oct. 1 release.

The Reliance crew supported the U.S. Coast Guard 7th District throughout their patrol, aiding in missions to interdict and disrupt the flow of illegal drugs and migrant trafficking while supporting national security and strengthening relationships with regional partners throughout the Caribbean.

“I am extremely proud of our crew for their adaptability and professionalism throughout the patrol. Regardless of the mission set, whether that was responding immediately to the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti by conducting critical port assessments or stopping the flow of illegal narcotics, Reliance was always ready to respond to the needs of our service and our nation,” said Cmdr. Robert Hill, commanding officer.

Significantly, the crew supported the relief efforts in response to the earthquake in Haiti in August, conducting two separate port assessments on Haitian ports to ensure the harbors were safe for vessels to deliver vital aid and assistance to the region following the disaster.

During the patrol, Reliance’s crew intercepted one vessel attempting to smuggle approximately 1,132 pounds of cocaine and detained a total of four suspected smugglers. Additionally, Reliance received more than 4,291 pounds of cocaine, 10 suspected smugglers and 96 migrants from other U.S. Coast Guard cutters operating in the region.

The crew also rescued 50 Dominican nationals from an unseaworthy vessel off the coast of Puerto Rico and repatriated 158 migrants to the Dominican Republic’s navy.

The 63-day patrol was critical in allowing the cutter crew to work on shipboard training, qualifications, and proficiency to maintain operational readiness. This training enabled Reliance's team to complete a five-day major shipboard training exercise in Mayport, which tested their readiness in all aspects of damage control, seamanship, and navigational procedures.

Reliance is a 210-foot medium-endurance cutter homeported in Pensacola with a crew of 71. The cutter's primary missions are counter-drug operations, migrant interdiction, enforcing federal fishery laws, and search and rescue in support of U.S. Coast Guard operations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

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## **U.S. Navy on Track to Sell Replacement EA-18G Growler Aircraft to Australia**



An EA-18G Growler, assigned to the "Gauntlets" of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 136, recovers on the flight deck of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), Sept. 29, 2021. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Isaiah Williams*

WASHINGTON – The U.S. State Department has approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to Australia of one EA-18G Growler electronic attack aircraft to replace one lost in a mishap.

The Defense Security Cooperation Agency said in a Sept. 30 notification the transaction – which would include the aircraft plus "engineering and modification; verification and validation flight test efforts; maintenance and storage; U.S.

government and contractor engineering/technical assistance; related studies and analysis support; and other related elements of programmatic, technical and logistics support” – would cost approximately \$125 million.

The EA-18G would be from Lot 38 or later and would be modified to the configuration of the other 11 Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) EA-18Gs.

“This aircraft would replace Australia’s EA-18G A46-311 aircraft lost in an accident at Nellis Air Force Base [Nevada],” the DSCA said, noting the aircraft would come from the U.S. Navy’s existing inventory of EA-18Gs.

Boeing originally delivered 160 EA-18Gs to the U.S. Navy and 12 to the RAAF.

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## **Navy Realigns Submarine Acquisition Workforce**



NAVSEA Commander, Vice Adm. Bill Galinis, speaks at Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) May 19. *NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD / Gregory Boyd*

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Navy’s submarine acquisition community moved from a competency- to a platform-centric organization during an Oct. 1 change-of-office ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard, the Naval Sea Systems Command said in a release.

The change realigns two Program Executive Offices (PEOs) and initiates a third to better support submarine acquisition, operational capability and availability.

The Navy is committed to ensuring all decisions are aligned with and do not impact ongoing Columbia submarine construction.

“Aligning submarine acquisition and sustainment along platform lines, with cradle-to-grave ownership and accountability, is the most effective way to tackle the challenges we face and provide the nation with the most lethal undersea force possible,” said Rear Adm. Scott Pappano, PEO Strategic Submarines (formerly PEO Columbia). “I look forward to the opportunity to proactively manage the Ohio-to-Columbia transition, including strategic shore infrastructure and industrial base capacity, to ensure uninterrupted sea-based strategic deterrent coverage into the 2080s.”

Program Executive Office Attack Submarines (formerly PEO Submarines) aligns Virginia-class efforts under one flag officer.

“Consolidating attack submarine platform acquisition, development, and sustainment under a single PEO will ensure our Navy maintains America’s and our allies’ competitive edge over our rivals,” said Rear Adm. David Goggins, PEO SSN. “Specifically, aligning Virginia-class efforts under PEO SSN enables more effective planning for the lifetime of the boat and will ensure support smoother transitions from new construction to in-service for the Virginia-class.”

Program Executive Office, Undersea Warfare Systems (PEO UWS) will enable the delivery of enhanced combat capability, with improved cybersecurity and resiliency, to all submarine platforms, the Navy said. Furthermore, the creation of PEO UWS best positions Team Submarines to ensure undersea sensors and warfare systems are integrated into the Navy Operational Architecture in support of distributed maritime operations.

“The realignment of Team Submarines provides a tighter focus on our three main platforms: strategic, attack,

and warfare systems,” said Rear Adm. Edward Anderson, PEO USW. “Standing up PEO UWS is a tremendous honor and will facilitate a greater focus on modernizing our sensors, combat systems and weapons, while improving our cybersecurity and platform resiliency.”

“This realignment is about ensuring we’re delivering combat power to the fleet,” said Vice Adm. Bill Galinis, commander, Naval Sea Systems Command and ceremony host. “Our submarines, first and foremost, are what help ensure the freedom of the seas that is critical to long-term military and economic stability in this era of strategic competition.”

The realignment does not require any new flag officer billets.

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## **World First: Ocean Drone Captures Video from Inside a Category 4 Hurricane**



A screen shot from video footage shot by a saildrone inside Hurricane Sam. *SAILDRONE*

ATLANTIC OCEAN – Saildrone Inc. and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have released the first video footage gathered by an unmanned surface vehicle (USV) from inside a major hurricane barreling across the Atlantic Ocean, the company said Sept. 30.

□The Saildrone Explorer SD 1045 was directed into the midst of Hurricane Sam, currently on a path that fortunately will miss the U.S. East Coast. SD 1045 is battling 50-foot waves and

winds of over 120 mph to collect critical scientific data and, in the process, is giving us a completely new view of one of Earth's most destructive forces.

Equipped with a specially designed "hurricane wing" enabling it to operate in extreme wind conditions, SD 1045 is braving Hurricane Sam in the open ocean, collecting real-time observations for numerical hurricane prediction models, which are expected to yield new insights into how large and destructive tropical cyclones grow and intensify.

SD 1045 is one of a fleet of five "hurricane" saildrones that have been operating in the Atlantic Ocean during this hurricane season, gathering data around the clock to help understand the physical processes of hurricanes. This knowledge is critical to improving storm forecasting and is expected to reduce loss of human life through allowing better preparedness in coastal communities.

"Saildrone is going where no research vessel has ever ventured, sailing right into the eye of the hurricane, gathering data that will transform our understanding of these powerful storms," said Richard Jenkins, Saildrone founder and CEO. "After conquering the Arctic and the Southern Ocean, hurricanes were the last frontier for Saildrone survivability. We are proud to have engineered a vehicle capable of operating in the most extreme weather conditions on earth."

The saildrones provide data directly to NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory and Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, Saildrone's partners in this mission.

"Using data collected by saildrones, we expect to improve forecast models that predict rapid intensification of hurricanes," said Greg Foltz, a NOAA scientist. "Rapid intensification, when hurricane winds strengthen in a matter of hours, is a serious threat to coastal communities. New data

from saildrones and other uncrewed systems that NOAA is using will help us better predict the forces that drive hurricanes and be able to warn communities earlier.”

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## **ONR Observes 75th Anniversary By Looking to Past, Reimagining Naval Power for the Future**



The logo for the Office of Naval Research’s 75th anniversary.  
*ONR*

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) observed its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary Sept. 30 with a virtual event that examined “the Future of Warfare.”

The event, called “ONR at 75: Reimagine Naval Power,” featured the participation of senior naval and congressional leaders and brief remarks from Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael M. Gilday. The online event summarized some of ONR’s historical achievements and a video about its past, present and future. Chief of Naval Research Rear Adm. Lorin Selby moderated a panel with Reps. Seth Moulton (D-Massachusetts) and Mike Waltz (R-Florida) of the House Armed Services Committee and Vice Chief of Naval Research Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Benjamin Watson and Dr. Jason Stack, ONR’s director for Ocean, Atmosphere and Space Research.

During World War II, the U.S. government established very successful relationships with academia and industry to help ensure our nation’s scientific and technical dominance over the enemy forces. After the war, Congress formally

established ONR in 1946 to maintain that thriving partnership. Its stated mission was to “plan, foster and encourage scientific research for the sake of future naval power and the preservation of national security.” Today, 75 years later, ONR’s mission has not changed and continues to bring together a wide range of partners in government, the military, industry and academia in a collaborative environment.

For seven and a half decades, the Navy Marine Corps and nation have been profoundly affected by the countless innovations and discoveries nurtured by ONR, a pioneer in the fields as diverse as digital computing, directed energy, navigation, and the world’s understanding of the oceans.

A video prepared for the anniversary observance talked about how ONR has “reshaped the ocean sciences by advancing our understanding of ocean dynamics and the transmission of sound, as well as developing new technologies that help explore the deep, improve the mapping of the ocean floor, and autonomously gathered data for weather prediction. ONR supported expeditions that took humans to the deepest depths of the world ocean and to the highest balloon ascent in the early 1960s. ONR technology helped in the first detection of hydrothermal vents and a new form of life based on chemo-synthesis in the 1970s, as well as the discovery of the wreck of the RMS Titanic in the 1980s. The groundbreaking Project Whirlwind in the 1940s and 1950s created the first digital computer capable of real time computing, making it the direct ancestor of everything from the computers in our cars to the servers that monitor daily shipping traffic and air defense. Investments in directed energy resulted in the invention of the ‘maser,’ which stood for “microwave amplification by stimulated emission of radiation, an early form of directed energy in the 1950s. More than 60 years later, in 2014 ONR deployed the first operational laser weapon on a naval vessel.”

During the panel discussion, Moulton said the U.S. has a strong Navy in large part because the nation has always had a technological edge over its competitors. But, he said, the U.S. does not have the luxury of a comfortable lead today when it comes to global competition with global peer competitors, citing the need for more basic government-led research and technology development in the private sector.

Waltz said in today warfighting environment, the first shot will be fired in space and the cyber domain by autonomous systems. "The next evolution is when we pair those systems with artificial intelligence."

Stack talked about how ONR often takes a long-term view and invests in science and technologies for years and sometimes decades, and not just in things, but in people, partnerships and enablers.

Watson, who is not only Selby's deputy but also the commander of the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory, talked about reexamining long-held assumptions about maritime superiority, and about the changing nature of warfare, and the need to adapt to gray zone and hybrid threats.

"This virtual celebration presents a great opportunity to commemorate ONR's legacy of innovation and forward-thinking, while looking ahead to whole new worlds of innovation for the Navy and Marine Corps," Selby said. "Today, the Office of Naval Research is making possible a safe and secure future for our Navy, Marine Corps and nation.

"We know that the Navy and Marine Corps today look very different than it did back in 1946, when ONR was founded, and we also know that the fleet and force of tomorrow will look very different yet again than it does today," Selby said. "The one thing we know for sure, though, is that ONR will continue to lead the way."

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# Navy Reorganizes Some Program Executive Offices, Assigns PEOs



Rear Adm. Troy M. McClelland, left, will be assigned as program executive officer for a new PEO overseeing the Navy's Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Plan. He is shown here in 2018 during a tour of Commander, Task Force 75. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Danny Ray Nuñez Jr.*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The secretary of the Navy and chief of naval operations announced on Sept. 29 several flag officer assignments based on the reorganization of some program executive offices.

The program executive officer (PEO) for submarines (PEO Subs) has been renamed PEO Attack Submarines (PEO SSN). Rear Adm. David A. Goggins has been assigned as PEO SSN, essentially retaining the same position.

Rear Adm. Scott W. Pappano will be assigned as program executive officer, Strategic Submarines (PEO SSBN), renamed from PEO Columbia. Pappano currently is PEO Columbia.

Rear Adm. (lower half) Edward L. Anderson will be assigned as program executive officer, Undersea Warfare Systems (PEO UWS), which is being converted from a code in the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA 07). Anderson is currently serving as commander, Undersea Warfare (NAVSEA 07).

A new PEO has been established to oversee the Navy's Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Plan. Rear Adm. Troy M. McClelland will be assigned as program executive officer, Shipyard

Infrastructure Optimization (PEO SIOP). McClelland is currently serving as deputy commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command.

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## **Austal USA Establishes Austal West Ship Repair in Alabama**



A commercial ship exiting the Austal West Campus repair facility. *AUSTAL USA*

MOBILE, Ala. – Following the acquisition of additional waterfront along the Mobile River in September 2020, Austal USA quickly established a ship repair facility that has had a booming response, the company said in a Sept. 29 release.

“Almost immediately after word got out Austal USA had purchased the additional waterfront property, we were inundated with calls from commercial captains looking to return to Mobile to have their ships serviced,” said Mike Bell, Austal USA’s senior vice president of operations. “We are pleased with all of the positive feedback we have received from our ship repair customers thus far.”

Austal’s acquisition included 15 acres of waterfront property spanning almost 3,000 linear feet of waterfront pier space, a 20,000-ton certified Panamax-class floating dry dock, a 300,000-square-foot outside fabrication area, and 100,000 square feet of covered fabrication facilities all just 30 miles from the Gulf of Mexico.

While most of the shipbuilding industry associates Austal USA with advanced manufacturing of high-tech Navy ships, many more are now realizing the company has a highly-capable ship repair

operation.

The Austal West Campus repair facility is conveniently located across the river from Austal USA's 165-acre corporate headquarters providing access to deep water berthing for vessels up to 1,000 feet, advanced manufacturing capabilities including a friction stir welder, CNC machines, CNC cutting tables, and a carpenter shop, machine shop and electrical and pipe shops. The repair facility also boasts heavy-lifting capability with mobile cranes, overhead cranes and wing wall cranes that travel the length of the 668-foot dry dock.

The services provided by Austal's Mobile ship repair operation range from conversions and upgrades to advanced ship repair. The machine shop and fabrication areas are fully equipped with overhead cranes, lathes, and CNC plasma cutters. Other technical services offered to the company's service clients include full-service detail design capability, 3-D modeling, field engineering support and dimensional accuracy control.

"At Austal USA we have always taken great pride in the quality and value of the new ships we build," Bell said. "We are now applying that same pride in the quality and value we provide our ship repair clients at our dry dock and repair yard."

Austal USA has earned a proven reputation as one of the safest shipyards in the industry, a characteristic that is proudly shared with the new service operation. The ISO 9001:2015-certified Austal West Campus is operated by a highly qualified, experienced ship repair and construction management team, focused on safety and customer satisfaction, maintaining a strong professional relationship with all applicable regulatory agencies.

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# Canadian Technology Companies Create Holographic Sonar Display for Hunting Submarines



Kongsberg Geospatial and Avalon Holographics have partnered to develop a new holographic sonar display for submarines. *AVALON HOLOGRAPHICS*

OTTAWA, Ontario – Kongsberg Geospatial has partnered with Avalon Holographics to develop a revolutionary holographic sonar display for submarine warfare, in a project funded by the Canadian Department of National Defense IDEaS (Innovation for Defence Excellence and Security) program, Kongsberg said Sept. 29.

The system has been developed to reduce the cognitive load on passive sonar analysts by visualizing complex undersea environments on a revolutionary new holographic display.

What are sometimes thought of as 3-D displays are actually two-dimensional projections of three-dimensional scenes on a flat monitor. The geometry in the scene is necessarily distorted to create the illusion of looking at a three-dimensional object. To understand what they are looking at, an operator has to manipulate the view to look around the environment.

This is also limiting for situations in which multiple people are looking at the same display. A holographic display would provide a better solution for sharing 3-D information because the view on the data can be individualized, while the image itself remains static.

Avalon Holographics has created just that: a display that uses a complex array of millions of holographic elements or "hogels," to create a true, three-dimensional image that can be clearly seen from different angles without requiring the use of headsets or goggles. This new display will combine passive sonar data with three-dimensional bathymetric data to create an accurate sensor picture that can be used to locate and identify possible undersea threats.

Passive sonars are used by naval ships to locate targets around the platform on which the primary sensor is located, when active sonar is not viable or tactically desirable.

The new holographic sonar display created by Kongsberg Geospatial and Avalon Holographics is designed to increase underwater situational awareness with respect to target detection, supporting faster and more confident decision making when using passive sonar systems. The system will consist of three components: a sonar sensor system, a sonar map rendering system and the holographic display.

The sonar sensor system is located on board a surface vessel which could include a towed array, hull mounted sonar, or sonobuoy receiver. Data from the system is fed to the sonar map rendering system containing the information required to create the operational images to populate the 3-D holographic display.

Kongsberg Geospatial is contributing the sonar map rendering system, a software system that leverages the company's ISR applications, real-time situational awareness capabilities and real-time sensor integration technology. Avalon Holographics will be contributing the holographic display used to visualize the processed data.

"We're excited to be delivering a new and unique user experience on a ground-breaking new display technology for

situational awareness,” said Ranald McGillis, president, Kongsberg Geospatial. “Our battlespace visualization systems draw on our technical legacy with defense system display projects to create a world leading capability to exploit sonar data and will help users to more effectively exploit complex sensor data.”

“Our ground-breaking holographic display technology applies to a wide range of applications, but the battlespace has always been a primary user focus,” said Russ Baker, cofounder, Avalon Holographics. “Together, Kongsberg’s TerraLens and Avalon’s Raydiance Engine are pioneering a new class of holographic situational awareness applications to transform 3-D battlespace visualization, GIS and underwater warfare. These bold steps are just one way we’re transforming the science-fiction of holographic visual experiences into science fact.”

The initial phase of the IDEaS project will run until November, during which time Avalon Holographics will be refining the performance of the display device, improving the software tools, and working with Kongsberg on software integration. Kongsberg Geospatial will be developing trials of different use cases for the systems including multi-sensor operations and target motion analysis. The goal is to proceed to the next phase of the project, which would involve enhancement of Kongsberg’s software, a more comprehensive integration with the display and porting to Avalon’s next-generation display technology.