Navy League Awards Meritorious Citation to Dr. J. Phillip London

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Navy League headquarters presented Dr. J. Phillip "Jack" London, executive chairman and chairman of the board of CACI International with its Meritorious Citation, the highest honor the Navy League bestows upon an individual or an organization.

"Dr. London has shown phenomenal leadership and character throughout his military service and his successful career," said Navy League National President Alan Kaplan at the Nov. 3 presentation during an award dinner at the annual board of directors meeting. "He has left an indelible mark on the Navy League of the United States through the guidance and support he has bestowed upon me and the national presidents that have come before me."

London has been a staunch supporter of the Navy League throughout his career. His long relationship with the Navy League has included ship commissioning ceremonies, numerous Navy anniversary celebrations including the War of 1812 Bicentennial, Sea-Air-Space expositions, service on Navy League national committees, and as a supporter and adviser to Navy League national presidents – the highest-ranking position in the organization.

"Receiving the highest award and recognition bestowed by on an individual by the Navy League is an honor I will always cherish," London said to an audience of Navy League members, special guests and military service members at the Crowne Plaza Old Town. "Being recognized in this company is an honor onto itself."

"Jack has lived a life of true character, a life that has

impacted generations of Sailors and Marines and anyone who thinks that service to our country is important," said Adm. William Moran, keynote speaker for the night's event.

Moran thanked the Navy League members in attendance for the impact the organization has on service members.

"It's your impact, members of this group of patriots, that inspire the rest of us who are serving and those still to come," he said. "It's why it's so important the Navy League thrives for years to come."

Moran highlighted London's 1959 graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy. London then served active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1959 to 1971. From 1961 to 1965, he served as a Navy carrier anti-submarine warfare helicopter pilot, positioned against the Soviet submarine nuclear missile threat. He saw duty in 1962 during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

While in the Naval Reserve from 1971 to 1983, Capt. London served as an aeronautical engineering duty officer and was commanding officer of the Naval Air Systems Command Reserve engineering unit.

London has previously received the Navy League Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Award in 2007 and the New York City Navy League's council's Leadership Technology Award in 2016.

AeroVironment Awarded Puma AE UAS Contract for U.S. Indo-

Pacific Command Ally

MONROVIA, Calif. —AeroVironment Inc. has received a $3.2 million firm-fixed-price contract from the U.S. Department of Defense to provide RQ-20B Puma AE II small unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), training and support to an allied nation in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) area of responsibility, the company announced in a Nov. 6 release. Delivery is anticipated by March 30.

“The vast, diverse landscape of the INDOPACOM area of operation demands small unmanned aircraft systems that can support ground, riverine and maritime operations effectively,” said Kirk Flittie, vice president and general manager of AeroVironment’s Unmanned Aircraft Systems business. “The combat-proven Puma has demonstrated its unique effectiveness in a wide range of operating environments, from mountains to deserts, from the Arctic to Antarctica, on land and on the open ocean, delivering actionable intelligence to help customers proceed with certainty.”

AeroVironment’s family of small drones comprise the majority of all unmanned aircraft in the U.S. Department of Defense inventory and its rapidly growing international customer base numbers more than 45 allied governments.

“This contract is a good example of the additional procurement potential among our international customers,” Flittie said.

The AeroVironment Puma is designed for land-based and maritime operations. Capable of landing in water or on the ground, the all-environment Puma, with its Mantis i45 sensor suite, empowers the operator with extended flight time and a level of imaging capability never before available in the small UAS class.

Navy EP-3 Intercepted Over the Black Sea

NAPLES, Italy – A U.S. EP-3 Aries aircraft flying in international airspace over the Black Sea was intercepted by a Russian SU-27 on Nov. 5, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet Public Affairs said in a release.

“This interaction was determined to be unsafe due to the SU-27 conducting a high-speed pass directly in front of the mission aircraft, which put our pilots and crew at risk,” the release said. “The intercepting SU-27 made an additional pass, closing with the EP-3 and applying its afterburner while conducting a banking turn away. The crew of the EP-3 reported turbulence following the first interaction, and vibrations from the second. The duration of the intercept was approximately 25 minutes.

“While the Russian military is within its right to exercise within international airspace, this interaction was irresponsible. We expect them to behave within international standards set to ensure safety and to prevent incidents, including the 1972 Agreement for the Prevention of Incidents On and Over the High Seas (INCSEA). Unsafe actions increase the risk of miscalculation and potential for midair collisions.

“The U.S. aircraft was operating in accordance with international law and did not provoke this Russian activity.”

Sikorsky Awarded Contract to Sustain Navy, Marine Super Stallion, Sea Dragon Helicopters

STRATFORD, Conn. – Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin company, was awarded a performance-based logistics contract with a value of $717 million to provide supply and logistics support to the entire fleet of in-service CH-53E Super Stallions and MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopters, the company said in a Nov. 5 release.

The H-53E is a battle-proven heavy-lift helicopter continuing to support the U.S. Marine Corps and Navy in missions at home and around the world.

The scope of the contract includes repairs, overhauls, spares, obsolescence mitigation and asset management services over four years. Contract performance is based on material availability metrics with additional incentives added for demand reductions, maintainability enhancements and aircraft readiness contributions.

The expanded comprehensive arrangement will cover additional readiness-critical components, including main and tail rotor blades, main gearbox, main rotor head and flight control components, as well as accessories such as refueling probe and cargo system components.

“We expect the expanded performance-based logistics to measurably improve material availability and reduce support cost while increasing overall aircraft readiness,” said Pierre Garant, Sikorsky senior program manager, Marine Corps In-Service Programs. “Our support infrastructure and past performance-based logistics successes will result in Sikorsky continuing to reliably provide mission support critical to the

warfighter.”

As the Marine Corps’ heavy lift-helicopter designed for the transportation of heavy material and supplies, the CH-53E Super Stallion is compatible with most amphibious class ships. With four-and-one-half hours’ endurance, the helicopter can move heavy equipment over rugged terrain in bad weather and at night. The MH-53E Sea Dragon fills the Navy’s need for long-range minesweeping missions, in addition to heavy-lift duties. The H-53E has consistently proven its worth to the fleet commanders with its versatility and range.

The contract will provide the vital and affordable support to the entire fleet – expanding a reliable base of long-term sustainment as the aircraft continue to fully operate until the introduction of the replacement aircraft, the Sikorsky CH-53K King Stallion.

Vigilant Returns Home Following 63-Day Caribbean Patrol

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant returned home Nov. 6 to Cape Canaveral following a 63-day patrol in the Caribbean Sea, the 7th Coast Guard District said in a release.

Vigilant concluded the patrol in which the crew conducted numerous at-sea vessel boardings to ensure the safety of life at sea and enforce U.S. federal laws. The crew also worked with partner nations to enhance national security and stability throughout the Caribbean basin.

During the crew’s two months at sea, they detected and interdicted two drug trafficking vessels, detained seven smugglers, and seized over $700,000 worth of narcotics. The Vigilant crew worked closely with representatives from the Bahamas and Haiti to effect prosecution of the suspected criminals.

The Vigilant crew also saved the lives of three men who had been lost at sea for over six days. The men’s sailboat was caught in a gale, blown over 100 miles from shore, and then becalmed. The survivors had been without water for two days when they were found by the Vigilant crew. After giving them necessary medical attention, the crew returned the survivors safely to their home country.

The Vigilant is a multimission 210-foot medium-endurance cutter. Missions include illegal drug and migrant interdiction, as well as search and rescue. The Vigilant patrols throughout the Caribbean basin to ensure safety of life at sea and to enforce international and domestic laws.

Huntington Ingalls Receives Contract Modification for First Columbia-Class Sub

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – Huntington Ingalls Industries announced Nov. 6 that its Newport News Shipbuilding division has been awarded a $197 million modification to a previously awarded contract from General Dynamics Electric Boat to provide long-lead-time material and advance construction activities for the first Columbia-class ballistic-missile submarine.

The advance procurement funds will be used to purchase major components and commodity material and to begin advance construction on Columbia (SSBN 826). Newport News is a major subcontractor for the construction of the new class of ballistic-missile submarines, which are being designed to replace the Ohio-class submarines.

“This contract modification is critical in engaging the submarine industrial base as we continue our efforts to support starting full construction in fiscal year 2021,” said Jason Ward, Newport News’ vice president for Columbia-class construction.

Construction of the 12-submarine Columbia class is expected to begin in fiscal 2021, with the first delivery to the Navy in 2028.

Leonardo to Equip the New German K130 Corvettes with OTO 76/62 Gun

ROME — Leonardo, a Finmeccanica company, was selected to provide the OTO 76 mm/62-caliber gun for the German Navy’s new K130 corvettes, the company said in a Nov. 1 release

The OTO 76/62 SR (Super Rapid) system is a best in class in its segment, in use with almost 60 navies worldwide. It has recently successfully completed an extensive vulnerability assessment campaign ensuring its resilience to cyberattacks. Managed by a state-of-the-art control console maximizing its performances, the system can be integrated on any type and class of ship, including smaller units

Leonardo signed a contract with the Bundesamt für Ausrüstung, Informationstechnik und Nutzung der Bundeswehr, the German Federal Office in charge of defense acquisitions, to provide seven OTO 76/62 SR systems that will equip the new K130 corvettes of the German Navy. The contract also includes training and spare parts supply.
With this new acquisition, Leonardo's naval gun becomes the reference defense system for the German Navy, which has already tested the capabilities of the compact version of the system, integrated on the first batch of corvettes following a previous contract.

Buono Named New U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Superintendent

WASHINGTON – Maritime Administrator Mark Buzby announced Jack Buono as the new superintendent for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Nov. 2. Buono will take command at the academy on Nov. 9. He most recently served as president and CEO of ExxonMobil's shipping subsidiary, SeaRiver Maritime Inc.

"As a Kings Point graduate who spent his entire career in maritime leadership roles, Mr. Buono will help educate and inspire the next generation of maritime cadets," Buzby said.

Following his graduation from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Buono worked his way up from a U.S. Coast Guard-licensed third mate to an unlimited master mariner with ExxonMobil Corp. In 1991, he transferred ashore and, after rising through several management positions, was elected to president and CEO of SeaRiver, where he served until his retirement in 2016 after 38 years with ExxonMobil and

SeaRiver.

“Jack Buono is the ideal candidate to take the Academy to the next level,” Buzby said. “He has impeccable credentials on the waterfront and, as an alumnus, fully understands the academy’s mission to provide its students with the highest caliber of training and education needed to lead afloat and ashore.”

Buono received a Bachelor of Science in marine transportation with a minor in management from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1978 and was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve, where he served for 11 years.

The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York is one of the five federal service academies. This year, it celebrates its 75th anniversary, having been dedicated in September 1943 to provide the nation with a steady source of highly trained merchant marine officers and naval reserve officers. Today, graduates serve not only in the commercial merchant marine, but also on active duty in all branches of the armed forces.

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Maritime Administration is responsible for overseeing the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, including the hiring of key academy positions. As part of the selection process, Buono met with a number of midshipmen, faculty and staff from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, in addition to alumni and industry leaders.

Elbit Selected to Provide

Maritime UAS to the European Maritime Safety Agency

HAIFA, Israel – Elbit Systems Ltd. has been awarded a framework contract for maritime unmanned aircraft system (UAS) patrol services to be provided by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) to countries in the European Union, the company said in a Nov. 1 release. The contract is for a two-year base period and two single-year option periods. If fully ordered, the total contract value is approximately $68 million.

Under the contract, and in cooperation with CEiiA, a leading engineering company in Portugal, Elbit Systems will lease and operate its Hermes 900 maritime patrol UAS and its ground control station. A persistent long-range unmanned maritime surveillance system tailored for littoral and blue water operations, the Hermes 900 will feature maritime radar, an electro-optic payload, satellite communication and an automatic identification system receiver. Thus configured, the Hermes 900 will enable persistent monitoring of vast swathes of sea and long coastlines and effective identification of suspicious activities and potential hazards.

“Having been selected by the European Union authorities is yet another vote of confidence in the Hermes 900 by following additional contract awards for this UAS in Europe, Asia Pacific, Latin America and Israel,” said Elad Aharonson, general manager of Elbit Systems ISTAR Division. “Extensively deployed, the Hermes 900 family of UAS continuously expands its capabilities introducing the capability to operate in civilian airspace and integrating self-protection suites and stronger payloads.”

UTC Aerospace Systems Develops World's Highest-Resolution SWIR Camera for ONR

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Under a contract with the Office of Naval Research (ONR), UTC Aerospace Systems' Sensors Unlimited business has developed the world's highest-resolution indium gallium arsenide Near Infrared/Shortwave Infrared (NIR/SWIR) imaging sensor, the company announced Oct. 31.

The new sensor includes a 16-megapixel photo-detector array on a 5-micron pitch, providing roughly 16 times more detail than the company's existing high-definition sensor, released in 2012, which has a resolution of 1.3 megapixels. UTC Aerospace Systems is a unit of United Technologies Corp.

The first-of-its-kind sensor is hybridized to a matching silicon Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor read-out integrated circuit and packaged into a hermetically sealed focal plane array. Imaging electronics were also designed and developed to integrate the focal plane array into a complete imaging camera.

Per ONR's requirement, the sensor is compatible with the RQ-21A payload SWAP (size, weight and power) envelope and offers the following capabilities:

■ High coverage rate spectral sensing in the SWIR band.
■ Ability to continuously monitor a wide area activity at a resolution (temporal and spatial) consistent with dismount detection/tracking.
■ High fidelity inspection sensing in both of the above collection modes.
■ Autonomous identification of objects, behaviors and

materials of interest with accuracy rates high enough to enable a useful real-time dissemination of information directly to warfighters.

UTC Aerospace Systems developed the sensor for the U.S. Navy's Spectral and Reconnaissance Imagery for Tactical Exploitation (SPRITE) program and has delivered four prototypes to the service as part of a three-year, $9.7 million award.

"Our newest SWIR camera uses groundbreaking technology to provide operators with a higher resolution and greater level of detail than ever before," said Michael Daugherty, program manager, UTC Aerospace Systems. "For the warfighter, this means an improved ISR [intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance] situational awareness capability. We're honored to support the U.S. Navy and look forward to continuing to support the SPRITE program in the years ahead."