

Navy Approves Service Life Extension for Four Arleigh-Burke Class Destroyers



[Release from the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations](#)

03 August 2023

WASHINGTON (August 2, 2023) –The Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Surface Warfare Division (N96) recently approved the service life extension of four Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyers.

✖ USS Ramage (DDG 61), homeported in Norfolk, VA, and USS Benfold (DDG 65), based in Yokosuka, Japan, have been extended

by five years to FY 2035 and FY 2036, respectively.

USS Mitscher (DDG 57), also homeported in Norfolk, and USS Milius (DDG 69), homeported out of Yokosuka, have been extended by four years to FY 2034 and FY 2035, respectively.

These extensions follow the March 2023 extension of USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) by five years through FY 2031. The extension puts each destroyer beyond their estimated service life of 35 years.

“These service life extensions demonstrate the Navy’s commitment to ensuring the surface fleet has the right capability and capacity,” said Rear Adm. Fred Pyle, director of Surface Warfare (N96). “Adding 23-years of service life cumulatively over the last six months is a significant investment in surface warfare. These extensions align to Secretary of the Navy Del Toro’s commitment to Congress during the FY-24 posture hearings to analyze service life on a hull-by-hull basis and extend the correct ships in order to be good stewards of resources invested in the U.S. Navy by the American people.”

Each of these ships have received Aegis baseline nine upgrades through the DDG Modernization program. The program provided a comprehensive mid-life modernization to these destroyers, ensuring they have the right systems to remain capable and reliable to the end of their service life. Based on analysis by the Navy’s technical community, these extensions were feasible because each ship properly adhered to lifecycle maintenance plans and were well maintained in good material condition by their crews.

“These DDGs bring the right capability and capacity to our operational commanders in an affordable manner maximizing the Navy’s targeted return on investment for these ships,” Pyle added. “Each of these extensions takes into account where these ships are in their lifecycle maintenance schedules.

Extending Mitscher and Milius by an additional year to five years would require each ship to spend a year of that extension in a docking availability, which would not be a prudent use of resources entrusted to the Navy.”

The surface community will continue to evaluate the service life of each surface ship based on combat relevance, reliability data, and material condition. Currently, the Navy has 73 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers in service and is continuing to modernize the class with the latest technologies and capabilities.

For more information on the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, please visit:
<https://www.navy.mil/Resources/Fact-Files/Display-FactFiles/Article/2169871/destroyers-ddg-51/>

Amentum Awarded \$818M
Contract to Modernize U.S.
Navy F-16 Adversary Fleet



[Release from Amentum](#)

CHANTILLY, Va., August 2, 2023 – Amentum was awarded an \$818 million contract for adversary aircraft sustainment and modernization of the U.S. Navy F-16 fleet. Amentum will manage all aspects of the Viper Maintenance Group Aircraft Maintenance and Contractor Logistics Support (CLS) contract by providing technical, sustainment and logistics solutions for the Navy F-16 aircraft based at Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon, Nevada.

“Amentum has been an essential partner to the Navy at Fallon on F-16 Adversary flight operations for the Navy’s premier weapons schools like TOPGUN, as well as Navy Air Wing Training, and fleet support detachments across the U.S.,” said Dr. Karl Spinnenweber, President of the Critical Missions Group. “Navy F-16 Vipers play a vital role as the aggressor in fighter combat training, and our work securing Viper modernization is key to the Navy and Marine Corps fighter

squadron's combat readiness."

Under this contract, Amentum maintains F-16/A/B/C/D aircraft and provides full system maintenance and supply chain support to support continuous flight operations, along with many detachments executed simultaneously with home station operations. During the contract period, Amentum will support the Navy in growing their F-16 Adversary fleet across all sites.

"Our F-16 Adversary CLS work combined with our similar support of the Navy and Marine Corp's F-5 Adversary program positions Amentum as the premier partner to the Department of the Navy for their organic Adversary services across the fleet," said Joe Kelly, SVP of Sustainment, Analytics and Aviation Solutions. "Amentum is committed to the mission of the Navy's top weapons schools to sustain operational combat readiness and defeat peer competitors."

This single-award indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract begins August 31, 2023, has a five-year base period and a three-year option period, and is contracted through Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) supporting the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center (NAWDC) and the Naval Air Forces Reserve, Tactical Support Wing (TSW).

**U.S. 4TH FLEET ANNOUNCES
CONTINUING PROMISE 2023**

DEPLOYMENT



CARTAGENA, Colombia (July 2, 2023) Colombian Navy Sailors observe as the expeditionary fast transport USNS Burlington (T-EFP 10) arrives at Colombian Base Naval Logistica ARC "Bolivar", Colombia in preparation for UNITAS LXIV, July 2, 2023.

[Release from U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. Fourth Fleet Public Affairs Office](#)

By U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. Fourth Fleet Public Affairs Office

02 August 2023

CARTAGENA, Colombia – The U.S. Navy expeditionary fast transport USNS Burlington (T-EFP 10) will deploy to the U.S. Southern Command area of operations over the next two months as part of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet's

Continuing Promise 2023 mission.

Detailed planning has wrapped up for the Burlington to visit Panama, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Grenada. During these mission stops, Continuing Promise medical teams will focus on working alongside partner nation medical personnel to provide care in community clinics to increase medical readiness, strengthen partnerships, and enhance the combined capabilities of the U.S. Navy and partner nations to respond to public health disasters and humanitarian crises.

“The Continuing Promise mission reflects our enduring commitment to the region as we work collaboratively with our friends to ensure a secure, free, and prosperous hemisphere,” said Rear Adm. Jim Aiken, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet. “Continuing Promise 2023 allows us to work together with our friends in partner nations to improve lives.”

The Burlington will bring a medical engagement team to each mission stop to provide some direct patient care in community clinics and through host nation medical facilities. The team includes veterinarians who will work with animals in the host nation, biomedical technicians, Navy Seabees who will conduct small engineering projects, and the U.S. Fleet Forces Navy Band Detachment, which will entertain people through school visits and concerts.

Cmdr. Charles Castevens will serve as the Continuing Promise 2023 Mission Commander. “This is an ideal opportunity for us to make a difference in four partner nations,” said Castevens. “Continuing Promise 2023 will strengthen partnerships and positively impact the people we come into contact with,” he said.

Continuing Promise 2023 will also include training and subject matter expert exchanges on various medical and humanitarian

assistance/disaster relief topics, and leading seminars on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS).

WPS is a United Nations initiative that started with UNSCR 1325 signed in 2000. It was a public acknowledgment that women are more adversely impacted by conflict and crisis, and that including women in security planning will lead to a more peaceful world. The Department of Defense (DoD) signed the WPS Implementation Plan in 2020. It outlines defense objectives and goals that the DoD will strive to achieve in order to move the bar toward full WPS implementation. U.S. Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet are dedicated to WPS and the promotion of gendered perspectives.

Continuing Promise 2023 marks the 13th mission to the region since 2007 and the first involving USNS Burlington. The mission will also foster goodwill, strengthen existing partnerships with partner nations, and encourage the establishment of new partnerships among countries, non-government organizations, and international organizations.

The USNS Burlington is an Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF), a shallow draft, all aluminum, commercial-based catamaran capable of regional transport of personnel and cargo lift, providing combatant commanders high-speed sealift mobility with inherent cargo handling capability and agility to achieve positional advantage over operational distances. The Burlington will bring the personnel, equipment and supplies necessary to conduct the Continuing Promise mission.

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet supports U.S. Southern Command's joint and combined military operations by employing maritime forces in cooperative maritime security operations to maintain access, enhance interoperability, and build enduring partnerships in order to enhance regional security and promote peace, stability and prosperity in the Caribbean, Central and South American region. Learn more about

USNAVSOUTH/4th Fleet at <https://www.fourthfleet.navy.mil>,
<https://www.facebook.com/NAVS0US4THFLT> and @NAVS0US4THFLT.

Navy Awards DDG 51 FY23-27 Multiyear Procurement Contracts



[Release from Naval Sea Systems Command](#)

Aug. 1, 2023

From Team Ships Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – The Navy awarded contracts to Huntington Ingalls Industries, Ingalls Shipbuilding Division (HII Ingalls) and General Dynamics Bath Iron Works (GD BIW) for the fiscal years (FY) 2023 – 2027 multiyear procurement (MYP) of DDG 51 Arleigh Burke class destroyers, August 1.

“Arleigh Burke class destroyers are the backbone of the surface fleet and one of the most successful shipbuilding programs in the history of the Navy,” said Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the Navy. “These awards provide a long term stable demand signal to the shipbuilder and industrial supply base, encouraging industry investment in the workforce. With our industry partners, we are going to continue to build them; and they will continue to secure the seas for decades to come!”

“These contract awards will allow the Navy to continue delivery of lethal capacity in an affordable and effective manner,” said Frederick J. Stefany, acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. “The Navy saved \$830 million for these nine ships through multiyear procurement contracts and also has options for additional ships to accelerate delivery of the critical DDG 51 Flight III capabilities to our naval force.”

HII Ingalls is being awarded a fixed-price-incentive firm target (FPIF) contract for the design and construction of six DDG 51 class ships, six in FY 2023-2027.

GD BIW is being awarded a FPIF contract for the design and construction of three DDG 51 class ships, three in FY 2023-2026.

These multiyear procurement awards are for nine MYP ships. Additionally, each shipbuilder’s contract contains options for additional ships over the next five years, providing the Navy and Congress flexibility to increase DDG 51 build rates, if authorized and appropriated.

“These contracts will provide next-generation Integrated Air and Missile Defense capability for our future fleet while ensuring a stable shipbuilding and defense industrial base for the foreseeable future,” said Capt. Seth Miller, DDG 51 class program manager, Program Executive Office (PEO) Ships. “The Navy is proud to be teaming with the dedicated shipbuilders at HII Ingalls and GD BIW to construct and deliver these warships to the fleet.”

The destroyers are being procured in a Flight III configuration, relying on a stable and mature design while delivering critical Integrated Air and Missile Defense capability with the AN/SPY6(V)(1) Air and Missile Defense Radar. The Navy’s first Flight III destroyer, Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125), was delivered by HII Ingalls in June 2023.

As one of the Defense Department’s largest acquisition organizations, PEO Ships is responsible for executing the development and procurement of all destroyers, amphibious ships, special mission and support ships, boats, and craft.

USS Zumwalt (DDG 1000)
Homeport Shift



[Release from Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet](#)

02 August 2023

From Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

SAN DIEGO- USS Zumwalt (DDG 1000) departed San Diego, Aug 1, and will shift its homeport from San Diego to Pascagoula, Mississippi.

USS Zumwalt (DDG 1000) departed San Diego, Aug 1, and will shift its homeport from San Diego to Pascagoula, Mississippi to enter a modernization period and receive technology upgrades including the integration of the Conventional Prompt Strike weapons system.

The upgrades will ensure Zumwalt remains one of the most technologically advanced and lethal ships in the U.S. Navy.

Coast Guard 2003 Cyber Protection Team establishes new command

[Release from U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters](#)

ALAMEDA, Calif. – The 2003 Cyber Protection Team (CPT) was established, Tuesday, at Coast Guard Island as the third CPT command and unit in a ceremony held by Coast Guard Cyber Command (CGCYBER).

Vice Adm. Peter W. Gautier, Deputy Commandant for Operations presided over the ceremony. 2003 CPT's mission is to provide assess, threat hunting, and incident response capabilities to the Marine Transportation System (MTS).

2003 CPT is the first CPT geographically detached unit from CGCYBER and is continuing to staff its team to receive full operational capability certification by United States Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM) in Spring 2024.

"The Coast Guard continues to have ever-growing threats in cyber space," said Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth Miltenberger, CPT 2003 commanding officer. "Events like the Colonial Pipeline cyber-attack have demonstrated the ever-growing threats we face in cyber space – 2003 CPT stands ready to prevent, reduce, and respond to those threats in our critical marine infrastructure."

The MTS is part of the Transportation Systems Critical Infrastructure sector as declared by the Cybersecurity and

Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Notably, the MTS overlaps with several other critical infrastructure sectors that have a maritime nexus, which makes CPTs an invaluable asset for defending public infrastructure throughout the United States and its territories. The MTS consists of over 3,500 maritime facilities, and to date, USCG CPTs have assisted over 50 partners in the MTS. The CPTs also routinely participate in joint operations with federal agencies to include CISA and the FBI, as well as the Department of Defense.

Miltenberger is the first commanding officer for CPT 2003. His previous tours include branch chief of the CGCYBER Cyber Operational Assessments Branch where he established the Coast Guard's Cyber Red Team, an elite team that performs cyber threat emulation on Coast Guard networks to proactively discover vulnerabilities and evaluate network defenses. He has also served at Coast Guard Headquarters where he managed enterprise technologies, and as a deck watch officer aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Kukui (WLB 203).

HII Authenticates Keel of Virginia-Class Attack Submarine Oklahoma (SSN 802)



[Release from HII](#)

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Aug. 02, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – HII’s (NYSE: HII) Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS) division authenticated the keel today for *Virginia*-class attack submarine *Oklahoma* (SSN 802).

“We enjoy participating in Navy traditions like this one because they remind us of the important role we play in our nation’s defense,” NNS President Jennifer Boykin said. “The nuclear submarines we build help ensure our peace and freedoms, and we take great pride in being a nuclear shipyard.”

The ship’s sponsor is Mary “Molly” Slavonic, an Oklahoma native. Slavonic has long supported both the state of Oklahoma and the Navy. She worked alongside her husband, former acting Under Secretary of the Navy Greg Slavonic, in building the USS *Oklahoma* (BB 37) Memorial in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to honor the 429 sailors and Marines who died aboard the battleship during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

During Wednesday's authentication, NNS welder Alex VanCampen etched Slavonic's initials onto a metal plate, signifying the keel of SSN 802 as being "truly and fairly laid." The metal plate will remain affixed to the submarine throughout its life.

Photos accompanying this release are available at: <https://hii.com/news/hii-authenticates-keel-virginia-class-attack-submarine-oklahoma-ssn-802>.

"I am deeply honored to be the sponsor for *Oklahoma*, named in honor of my beloved home state," Slavonic said. "This milestone marks the beginning of what will be a lifelong bond between my family and *Oklahoma*, including the incredible shipbuilders constructing her and the brave sailors who will serve aboard this mighty submarine."

Oklahoma is the 29th *Virginia*-class fast attack submarine, the first of Block V and the 14th to be delivered by NNS.

"This time-honored tradition celebrates the hard work of thousands of shipbuilders from HII who have been working on *Oklahoma*, the first Block V *Virginia*-class submarine," said Cmdr. Aaron Stutzman, commanding officer of the pre-commissioning unit. "This important step brings to life Congress' charge in our constitution to maintain a Navy. I am very grateful for the opportunity to be *Oklahoma*'s first commanding officer, training our sailors to work alongside the shipyard community building *Oklahoma* and to be ready to take the world's most technologically-advanced submarine to sea."

NNS is one of only two shipyards capable of designing and building nuclear-powered submarines for the U.S. Navy. The advanced capabilities of *Virginia*-class submarines increase firepower, maneuverability and stealth.

ACV Transition Training Unit Certifies First Marines

[Release from Communications Directorate, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps](#)

CAMP Pendleton, Calif. – A Marine Corps-established Amphibious Combat Vehicle Transition Training Unit at the Assault Amphibian School graduated 29 Marines Tuesday, July 25, after completing the new Operational Certification (OPCERT) course at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California. This course brought the total of trained and certified Marine Amphibious Combat Vehicle operators to 59 with the inclusion of graduates from a successful pilot course last month.

Additionally, a total of 19 Marines has since graduated from the TTU's new Maintainers Certification (MAINTCERT) course between the pilot and first official course.

The OPCERT and MAINTCERT courses, piloted in May and June 2023 respectively, were approved as rigorous and standardized programs that ensure Marines possess the technical knowledge, skills, and proficiency required to safely operate, maintain, and employ the ACV. The proficiency evaluation and validation standards developed by the TTU will be sustained on an enduring basis through entry-level ACV operator, maintainer, and unit leader training and advanced training for Marines as they progress through their career.

"This is an important milestone in the development of our assault amphibian Marines and the transition to this key platform," said Brig. Gen. Farrell Sullivan, commanding

general, Training Command. “U.S. Marines are the nation’s premier naval expeditionary force, and retaining this forcible entry capability is a key component of providing options to our nation’s leaders. I’m proud to see Amphib Assault Marines successfully contributing to our combat capability and leading their community through this milestone.”

Marine Corps visits Potential Site of Future Medium Range Intercept Capability Missile Facility



U.S. Marines at the White Sands facility in New Mexico test a new prototype system for Medium Range Intercept Capability

using TAMIR IRON DOME interceptors. *Spokesperson Department at the Israeli Ministry of Defense*

Release from Program Executive Office Land Systems

July 26, 2023

By PEO Land Systems

Camden, Arkansas – The Program Executive Officer Land Systems, Ground Based Air Defense Program Manager recently visited Camden, Arkansas, to discuss the possibility of producing the Iron Dome Tamir missile and future Americanized version known as Sky Hunter for the Medium Range Intercept Capability program. The discussions, held July 19, included representation from Raytheon, Rafael and Raytheon Rafael Systems better known as R2S. During the discussions, R2S detailed the concept of the production facility and provided a tour of the potential site.

“This will be a great thing for the Medium Range Intercept Capability program and for the USMC, if this occurs,” said PM GBAD Don Kelley. The production of the Tamir/Sky Hunter within the United States not only will provide American built Sky Hunters, but a possible second source of Tamir missiles for the Israeli Missile Defense Organization.

Since 2018, the Marine Corps GBAD Program Office has been developing MRIC to counter cruise missile threats. The system includes the Common Aviation Command-and-Control System and a mini-Battle Management Control system for the Tamir missile, along with the AN/TPS-80 Ground/Air Task Oriented Radar.

MRIC completed a series of successful live-fire tests in September 2022. The Milestone Decision Authority met in December 2022 and provided authorization to conduct the certification process, with the first platoon made ready to deploy in fiscal year 2025.

A follow on decision by the Marine Corps would potentially procure up to three batteries between fiscal 2025 – 2027.

Naval Reactors Celebrates 75 Years



UA 475.05.02 Launching of USS Nautilus (SSN-571)

[Release from Naval Reactors Public Affairs](#)

31 July 2023

From Naval Reactors Public Affairs

WASHINGTON - August 4 marks the birthday of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, a joint Department of Navy and Department of Energy organization responsible for all aspects of the Navy's nuclear propulsion, including research, design, construction, testing, operation, maintenance, and ultimate disposition of naval nuclear propulsion plants.

In 1946, shortly after the end of World War II, Congress passed the Atomic Energy Act, which established the Atomic Energy Commission to succeed the wartime Manhattan Project and gave it sole responsibility for developing atomic energy. At this time, Capt. Hyman G. Rickover was assigned to the Navy Bureau of Ships, the organization responsible for ship design.

Rickover recognized the military implications of successfully harnessing atomic power for submarine propulsion and knew it would be necessary for the Navy to work with the AEC to develop such a program. He and several officers and civilians were sent to the AEC laboratory at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for a year to learn the fundamentals of nuclear reactor technology.

Although theories of nuclear power were understood, the technology to build and operate a shipboard nuclear propulsion plant did not exist. There were several reactor concepts; the real challenge was to develop this technology and transform the theoretical into the practical. New materials had to be developed, components designed, and fabrication techniques worked out. Furthermore, installing and operating a steam propulsion plant inside the confines of a submarine and under the unique deep-sea pressure conditions raised a number of technical difficulties. Faced with these obstacles, the team at Oak Ridge knew that to build a naval nuclear propulsion plant would require a substantial commitment of resources and a new level of Government and Industry commitment.

Rickover returned to Washington and used every opportunity from his post at Navy Bureau of Ships to argue the need to establish a Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. On August 4, 1948, the Navy created the new Nuclear Power Branch (Code 390) with Rickover as its head within the Bureau's Research Division.

Just seven years later, Rickover and his team put the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, USS Nautilus (SSN 571) to sea. Three years later, on Aug. 3, 1958, Nautilus accomplished the impossible when the ship reached the geographic North Pole, 90 degrees North. Cmdr. William Anderson was in command and had a crew of 116 Sailors aboard.

"Such a journey was previously unthinkable," said Adm. Frank Caldwell, Director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. "But this single event demonstrated the awesome, asymmetric advantage that nuclear power afforded our submarines and America's national defense. The Nautilus could go to any ocean in the world, anytime, and remain there virtually as long as desired."

Ten years after the program started, the Navy was sailing four fully-operational nuclear-powered submarines and building the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, USS Enterprise (CVN 65), with eight reactor plants. In the next two years, the first strategic ballistic missile submarine, USS George Washington (SSBN 598) went on its first strategic deterrent patrol.

Over the last 75 years, Naval Reactors has operated 273 reactors plants, taken 562 reactor cores critical including 33 different designs, and steamed more than 171 million miles with over 7,500 reactor years of safe operations. The Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program and the Navy's nuclear-powered warships have demonstrated clear superiority in defending the United States – from the Cold War to today's unconventional threats and strategic competition – Naval Reactors ensures the

American Sailor and the nuclear-fleet are ready to fight and win the nation's wars.

There is no substitute for presence and nuclear-powered aircraft carriers remain the most survivable and versatile airfields in the world, while nuclear-powered fast attack and large payload submarines hold adversaries at risk in both contested seas and open oceans. Today, the Navy operates 99 reactors and 79 nuclear-powered warships – including the largest, most capable warship ever built, USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) which is on its maiden deployment in European waters, underway on nuclear power.

“It’s an exciting time in the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program; we are fully embracing our responsibility to continue powering maritime dominance for the next 75 years,” said Caldwell.