BAE Receives Contracts for Combat Vehicles

Additional Amphibious



An Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV) with the 3d Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division, enters the well deck of amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) during waterborne training in the Pacific Ocean. U.S. Navy | Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Kendra Helmbrecht

BAE Systems has been awarded an additional \$25 million firmfixed-price modification to a previously awarded \$181 million contract by the U.S. Marine Corps for more Amphibious Combat Vehicles (ACVs) under the Marine Corps' fourth order for fullrate production (FRP).

Total cumulative face value of the contract is \$2.7 billion. In addition to vehicle production, the award covers the procurement of ACV Personnel (ACV-P) variants, fielding and sustainment costs, and support and test equipment.

Vehicles produced under this contract will fulfill the Marine Corps' fleet requirements for ACV-Ps, providing them full operational amphibious capability to execute operations around the world.

"This contract award allows us to continue to deliver this critical capability to the Marine Corps to enable warfighters to complete ship-to-shore missions and other expeditionary requirements," said Garrett Lacaillade, vice president of amphibious vehicles for BAE Systems. "We continue to work hand-in-hand with our strategic partner Iveco Defense Vehicles and the Marine Corps to ensure that ACVs are ready for current and future deployments."

ACV-P is the first in a family of four variants to be manufactured and delivered to the Marine Corps. Additional variants include the ACV Command and Control (ACV-C) variant which is currently in production; the ACV 30mm Cannon (ACV-30) variant which production ready test vehicles were delivered for testing earlier this year; and an ACV Recovery (ACV-R) variant which recently completed the design and development phase.

The ACV 8×8 platform provides true open-ocean amphibious capability, land mobility, payload, and growth potential to accommodate future variant growth and technology integration to meet the Marine Corps' ever-evolving operational needs.

ACV production and support is taking place at BAE Systems locations in Stafford, Virginia; San Jose, California; Sterling Heights, Michigan; Aiken, South Carolina; and, York, Pennsylvania. Deliveries are anticipated to begin in late 2025.

Sea-Air-Space Show Daily Coverage



STEM Expo Brightens National Harbor with Exciting Science Demonstrations

By Brett Davis, Editor-in-Chief

The STEM Expo brought 5th through 12th grade students face to face with excitin

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024

SEA-AIR-SPACE 2024



Retention is Good but Workforce Challenges Remain, Service Chiefs Say



Atlantic Commander: Industry-Government Partnership Essential to Coast Guard Innovation



U.S. Coast Guard response boat crews enforce a safety zone, April 2, 2024, after the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland. By Erika Fitzpatrick, Contributor

Future innovation within the U.S. Coast Guard comes from listening to and partnering with the defense industry, Vice Admiral Kevin E. Lunday, U.S. Coast Guard Commander of the Atlantic Area and Defense Force East, said April 8 at Sea-Air-Space 2024. "Most of the innovation, most of the great ideas – the kernel, the incubator for those – is within the defense industrial base," he said. The Navy League's symposium, which he called the premiere industry-government event, is a "special opportunity to have a conversation and a dialogue."

In addition to supporting U.S. Combatant Commands, Lunday directs Coast Guard forces and operations involving navigable waterways east of the Rocky Mountains to the East Coast, throughout the Atlantic Ocean, and in parts of the Arctic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf.

As such, his command is involved in a range of often highprofile events and issues.

For instance, when Baltimore's Francis Scott Key bridge collapsed on March 26 within minutes of being rammed by a massive, malfunctioning container ship, Lunday directed forces there within hours for active search and rescue and follow-on recovery efforts. In cooperation with federal, state, and local partners, the USCG set up and now helps lead the Key Bridge Response Unified Command.

"While that may seem like a very unusual operation in some respects — a bridge collapse after a ship hitting it — that kind of emergency response that the Coast Guard is involved in leading is very common for what we do across the Atlantic area, across the service, every day," he said.

Other Atlantic-area USCG operations include:

 Helping prevent and prepare for maritime mass migration incidents and fighting transnational crime in the eastern Caribbean through participation in the Joint Task Force-East.

Controlling, reducing, and preventing deaths from

irregular maritime migration, particularly in stemming the flow of migrants from the economically and politically stressed countries of Haiti and Cuba, through Homeland Security Task Force-Southeast.

 Looking into the circumstances involved in the June 2023 implosion of the Titan submersible, an ongoing review conducted by the Coast Guard Marine Board of Investigation.

Lunday credited USCG's successful involvement in these and other endeavors to long-term investments in incident command response and in technological systems that shed light on maritime migration patterns and provide other mission-critical information.

Need to Think Differently

Lunday said USCG is intently focused on readiness — how to carefully balance the readiness of the force with the demand for execution.

However, he said, new solutions are needed, and the Coast Guard looks to private industry to provide many of them.

Our leadership challenges us is to "think differently about how we conduct operations," Lunday said, "because the increased demands for services and readiness challenges are forcing us to think differently."

For instance, the Coast Guard needs effective technologies with government and mission application. These include artificial intelligence and data tools to better analyze, understand, model, and predict patterns of human behavior.

Because industry is thinking about where we need to be going, Lunday said, we should "open our mind and our ears and listen to what they're saying about how we move forward." Ursa Major Signs Contract with US Navy for Next Gen Solid Rocket Motors for Standard Missile



PHILIPPINE SEA (April 5, 2024) The Arleigh Burke-class guidedmissile destroyer USS Higgins (DDG 76) launches a Standard Missile (SM) 2 from a forward launcher while operating in the Philippine Sea, April 5, 2024. (USN photo by MC1 Hannah Fry) DENVER, April 8, 2024 – Ursa Major, America's leading privately funded company focused solely on propulsion, announced a contract today with the Naval Energetics Systems and Technologies (NEST) Program to develop and hot fire test a prototype solid rocket motor (SRM) for the U.S. Navy's Standard Missile (SM) program. Under this contract, Ursa Major will develop a new design and apply the company's revolutionary manufacturing process to the Navy's workhorse Mk 104 dual-thrust rocket motor in coordination with the Navy's Program Executive Office Integrated Warfare Systems 3.0, Naval Air Warfare Center – Weapons Division at China Lake, and the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Indian Head.

The Mk 104 SRM powers the Navy's SM arsenal, including the SM-2, used for surface-to-air defense; the SM-3, used for ballistic missile defense; and the SM-6, an anti-air, land, and sea missile. In 2022, the Missile Defense Agency stated that the SM-6 is the only missile capable of intercepting maneuverable hypersonic missiles. While the Mk 104 is a high-performance motor, legacy models are challenging to manufacture. Using the company's cutting-edge Lynx production process for SRMs, Ursa Major will leverage additive manufacturing to design a high-performing motor built for manufacturability and reliability.

"We are proud of the Navy's support and recognition of Ursa Major as a trusted partner to develop the next generation of Mk 104 solid rocket motors," said Ursa Major founder and CEO Joe Laurienti. "Our new approach to manufacturing SRMs allows Ursa Major to quickly develop high-performing motors at scale, driving volume and cost efficiencies to address this critical national need."

"PEO IWS is excited to work with Ursa Major on this effort to bolster a critical component of the Nation's industrial base," said Captain Thomas Seigenthaler, the director of PEO IWS 3.0. "The production of solid rocket motors is a top priority, and we are impressed with Ursa Major's innovative approach to address manufacturing challenges."

Lynx, Ursa Major's innovative new approach to designing and manufacturing SRMs, was introduced in November 2023. The manufacturing process uses additive manufacturing and a product-agnostic tooling system to rapidly produce scalable SRM systems without expensive or time-consuming re-tooling or re-training. Learn more <u>here</u>.

April 8 Red Sea Update



U.S. Central Command, April 8, 2024

12:15 p.m. and 2:40 p.m. (Sanaa time) on April 8, U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) forces successfully engaged and destroyed an air defense system with two missiles ready to launch, a ground control station in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, and one unmanned aerial system launched by Iranian-backed Houthi terrorists from Yemen over the Red Sea. There were no injuries or damage reported by U.S., coalition, or commercial ships.

Separately, at approximately 8:00 a.m. (Sanaa time) on April 7, an anti-ship ballistic missile was launched from a Houthi-

controlled area of Yemen toward the Gulf of Aden where a coalition ship was escorting M/V Hope Island, a Marshall Islands flagged, U.K. owned, Italian operated cargo ship. There were no injuries or damage reported by U.S., coalition, or commercial ships.

This was the fifth observed missile launch against this coalition ship and M/V Hope Island.

USCENTCOM is dedicated to protecting the freedom of navigation and making international waters safer and more secure for coalition and merchant vessels.

USS Antietam Shifts Homeport to Hawaii



By Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet Public Affairs, April 8, 2024

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii -

The Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Antietam (CG 54) arrived to its new homeport of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, April 5, as part of a planned rotation of forces in the Pacific.

Antietam is now assigned to Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific and U.S. 3rd Fleet.

Antietam departed Yokosuka, Japan, Jan. 26 to transit to Hawaii and assist in enforcing international fisheries law during their Oceania Maritime Security Initiative (OMSI) mission. OMSI is a Secretary of Defense program leveraging Department of Defense assets transiting the region to increase the Coast Guard's maritime domain awareness, ultimately supporting its maritime law enforcement operations in Oceania.

"I'm proud of the Antietam crew for their execution of the Oceanic Maritime Security Initiative during our homeport shift from Yokosuka, Japan to Hawaii," said Capt. Victor Garza, commanding officer of Antietam. "I thank the families for the support they give their Sailors. It is their strength that enables us to go to sea."

During Antietam's transit to Hawaii, the ship made port calls in major naval ports including Suva, Fiji and Apra Harbor, Guam.

Aloha to Antietam and welcome to Hawaii!

The mission of Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific is to manage the overall warfighting capability of the Surface Combatant Force homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii; to coordinate through the Fleet Response Plan cycle the manning, operations, combat systems, engineering, maintenance, training, logistics, administration, and support of assigned units to achieve the highest levels of combat readiness.

An integral part of U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. 3rd Fleet operates naval forces in the Indo-Pacific and provides the realistic, relevant training necessary to execute our Navy's role across the full spectrum of military operations – from combat operations to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. U.S. 3rd Fleet works together with our allies and partners to advance freedom of navigation, the rule of law, and other principles that underpin security for the Indo-Pacific region.

HII Awarded \$74 Million Contract to Support U.S. Navy Vertical Launch Systems



Research and development will enhance fleet defensive capabilities

MCLEAN, Va., April 09, 2024 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – HII (NYSE: HII) announced today that its Mission Technologies division was awarded a \$74 million contract to research, analyze and develop enhanced capabilities for the Mk 41 and Mk 57 vertical launching systems (VLS) onboard U.S. Navy surface ships.

The task order, administered by the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Port Hueneme Division, also applies to associated naval surface weapon systems, combat systems and sensors employed within the Navy.

HII's statement of work includes outfitting the first Zumwaltclass destroyer (DDG 1001) with the latest Mk 57 vertical launch system universal canister electronics unit. The unit, developed by HII, ensures warfighters can fire any missile from any VLS cell on Zumwalt-class ships.

"We are extremely pleased to continue our support to the U.S. Navy, providing critical research, development, test and evaluation in support of vertical launch systems for NSWC Port Hueneme," said Todd Gentry, president of Mission Technologies' C5ISR business group. "Facilitating the insertion of technology into naval weapon and combat systems maximizes defensive capabilities for our warfighters, giving them a distinct advantage over adversaries."

A photo accompanying this release is available at: https://hii.com/news/hii-award-support-us-navy-vertical-launch
-systems-2024/.

HII will also leverage industry capabilities to support rapid design prototyping, technological improvements and engineering requirements associated with obsolescence issues.

HII was awarded the recompeted task order under the Department of Defense's Information Analysis Center Multiple Award Contract vehicle (IAC MAC). These IAC MAC task orders are awarded by the U.S. Air Force's 774th Enterprise Sourcing Squadron to develop and create new knowledge for the enhancement of the Defense Technical Information Center repository and the research and development and science and technology community.

The task order has a five-year term. Most of the work will be performed in Syracuse, New York, and Arlington, Virginia. HII's support to NSWC Port Hueneme is an extension of work performed under a previous contract awarded in 2021.

Northrop Grumman Completes Assembly of Manta Ray UUV



A full-size prototype of Manta Ray, a new class of uncrewed underwater vehicle, is assembled in Northrop Grumman's Annapolis facility. (Photo Credit: Northrop Grumman) ANNAPOLIS, Md. – April 8, 2024 – (PHOTO RELEASE) Northrop Grumman Corporation (NYSE: NOC) completed assembly of a fullsize uncrewed underwater vehicle (UUV) prototype known as Manta Ray. A new class of UUV, it is an extra-large glider that will operate long-duration, long-range and payloadcapable undersea missions without need for on-site human logistics.

Manta Ray was built through a <u>Defense Advanced Research</u> <u>Projects Agency (DARPA) program</u> aimed at advancing key technologies to benefit future UUV designs, including techniques to manage energy, increased payload capacity, lowpower propulsion and more.

First East-Coast-Assigned Navy CMV-22B OSPREY Arrives in Norfolk



By Commander, Naval Air Force Public Affairs, April 5, 2024

NORFOLK, Va. – The first East Coast-assigned Navy tiltrotor vertical/short takeoff and landing (V/STOL) CMV-22B Osprey aircraft, assigned to Fleet Logistics Multi-Mission Squadron (VRM) 40, arrived to Naval Station Norfolk on April 5.

"Naval Aviation is ecstatic to welcome the first CMV-22B Osprey to Norfolk," said Rear Adm. Doug Verissimo, commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic (CNAL). "This first aircraft's arrival symbolizes an evolution and change in Naval Aviation as we look toward the future. The event represents the hard work and stamina of our aviators, aircrewmen, maintainers and sustainment personnel in the VRM community." The CMV-22B will provide the fleet's medium-lift and longrange aerial logistics capability, eventually replacing the C-2A Greyhounds of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 40 over the next several years. The squadron's relocation to Naval Station Norfolk is part of their permanent duty station change from Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island in preparation to provide fleet logistic aviation assets to the Atlantic Fleet beginning in 2025.

The VRM-40 "Mighty Bison" were established aside their existing sister squadron, VRM-30, and the training squadron, VRM-50, aboard NAS North Island in March 2022.

All squadron personnel have been officially stationed in Norfolk since Feb. 1, 2024. The remaining VRM-40 aircraft will begin to arrive to Hampton Roads in the summer of 2024.

VRM-40's leadership consists of Cmdr. Matthew Boyce, commanding officer; Cmdr. Mason Fox, executive officer, and Command Master Chief Bradley Wissinger.

"We are proud to join the Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic team and eager to lean forward into our next phase of standup," Boyce said.

Fox discussed the importance of standing up a new squadron on the East Coast.

"We're excited to be in our permanent home at Naval Station Norfolk and focused on continuing to build the squadron to execute our mission – delivering high priority people and parts to carrier strike groups at sea," Fox said. "The Osprey is an extremely capable aircraft and will be critically important to the way the Navy fights for many years to come."

In addition to VRM-40, a type wing detachment was established onboard Naval Station Norfolk earlier in 2023 to provide local representation of Commander, Fleet Logistics Multi-Mission Wing (CVRMW), based at NAS North Island. CVRMW's mission is to provide Pacific and Atlantic Fleet VRM squadrons the ability to sustain lethality for carrier strike groups of the future through the timely, persistent air logistics missions our nation demands any place in the world. The CMV-22B is the Navy's long-range/medium-lift element of the intra-theater aerial logistics capability responsible for transporting personnel, mail and priority cargo from shore logistics sites to ships at sea.

Naval Air Force Atlantic is responsible for sven nuclearpowered aircraft carriers, 55 aircraft squadrons, 1,200 aircraft and 52,000 officers, enlisted and civilian personnel with priorities focused on warfighting, people, and readiness by providing combat ready, sustainable naval air forces with the right personnel, properly trained and equipped, with a focus on readiness, operational excellence, interoperability, safety, and efficient resourcing.

USS Leyte Gulf Takes Down Semi-Submersible Vessel



ATLANTIC OCEAN (March 22, 2024) — The Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), embarked U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) and Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 50 work together to intercept a self-propelled semi-submersible drug smuggling vessel (SPSS), in the Atlantic Ocean, March 22, 2024 (U.S. Coast Guard Courtesy Photo)

By USNAVSOUTH/4TH FLEET PUBLIC AFFAIRS, April 8, 2024

ATLANTIC OCEAN – The Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), with an embarked U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET), has made multiple drug interdictions in the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) area of operations (AOR).

In March, while on patrol in the Atlantic Ocean, the crew detected a self-propelled semi-submersible drug smuggling vessel (SPSS). With assistance from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 50, the crew acquired the location of the SPSS and LEDET members launched a rigid-hull inflatable boat (RHIB) to intercept the vessel. The LEDET detained the individuals aboard the SPSS and seized approximately 2,370 kilograms of cocaine. Then the crew conducted a sinking exercise (SINKEX) on the SPSS.

"Spotting this vessel was like finding a needle in the haystack," said Lt. Commander Travis Lee, Leyte Gulf's senior aviator. "I've been doing this for seven years and not once been able to find and acquire such an asset until now."

Taking down the SPSS was only the latest success for USS Leyte Gulf on this deployment.

In February, while on patrol in the Caribbean Sea, the ship intercepted three different vessels using coordinated air and surface operations involving both U.S. and partner nation forces.

During the interdictions, the LEDET boarded and took positive control of each vessel. On Feb. 6, the ship recovered 520 kilograms of cocaine worth an estimated \$12.8 million. On Feb. 15, they recovered 600 kilograms of cocaine worth an estimated \$15.25 million. Then on Feb. 28, the crew recovered another 600 kilograms of cocaine worth an estimated \$15 million.

"Our Leyte Gulf team was ready when called upon to execute all three interdictions," said Commanding Officer Capt. Nathan Diaz. "The successful seizure of more than \$42 million in illicit drugs is a testament to the interoperability of our partner nations, the Coast Guard and the Leyte Gulf team."

"It was an exciting day to be the Officer of the Deck running the bridge for one of our interdiction operations," said Lt. j.g. Jayden Hodgson, an officer of the deck and public affairs officer aboard the ship. "Leyte Gulf prevented the illicit importation of drugs that day and we are only getting started."

USS Leyte Gulf is currently deployed in the USSOUTHCOM AOR to support bilateral and multinational maritime operations with partners in the region, conduct Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) port visits, and to support JIATF-South in countering illicit-drug trafficking.

LEDETs are deployable specialized forces of the U.S. Coast Guard that enforce U.S. laws and treaties in the maritime domain.

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/NAVSOUS4THFLT and @NAVSOUS4THFLT.