

L3Harris Awarded Systems Integration Contract for Navy Frigate Program



An artist's rendering of the guided-missile frigate (FFG). The new small surface combatant will have multi-mission capability to conduct air warfare, anti-submarine warfare, surface warfare, electronic warfare, and information operations. U.S. Navy

CAMDEN, N.J. – L3Harris Technologies has been awarded a contract by Fincantieri Marinette Marine for the shipboard integration and production of major subsystems onboard the U.S. Navy's guided-missile frigate, FFG 62, the company said in a Feb. 10 release. L3Harris is prepared to support the Navy's plans to build at least 10 ships. The value of the L3Harris program could exceed \$300 million if all design, development, and production options are awarded.

L3Harris is the largest member of the Fincantieri FFG team and

will provide integrated systems that include the electric and propulsion systems, bridge and navigation systems, and aviation integration services. The diversified capabilities that L3Harris delivers on the Constellation-class frigate program will distribute the power and propulsion needed to meet the U.S. Navy's mission requirements throughout the world.

"We're excited by the opportunity to join the Fincantieri Marinette Marine team on the Frigate program and we look forward to bringing to bear industry-best speed, innovation and affordability as we deliver the advanced integrated capabilities that will ensure the Navy's ability to operate this ship with impunity upon any sea," said Sean Stackley, president, Integrated Mission Systems, L3Harris.

The Navy recently awarded a contract to Fincantieri to design and build the FFG, the Navy's first new build in more than a decade. L3Harris will support Fincantieri at its Marinette, Wisconsin, shipyard, where it will build the frigate based on the company's Italian FREMM multi-mission frigate.

Oshkosh Defense Celebrates Production of the 10,000th JLTV



A joint light tactical vehicle with Marine Wing Support Squadron 271 emerges from a fording pit at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Sept. 2, 2020. U.S. Marine Corps / Lance Cpl. Elias E. Pimentel III

OSHKOSH, Wis. – Oshkosh Defense LLC, an Oshkosh Corp. company, recently produced the 10,000th Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV), the company said in a Feb. 9 release.

This significant milestone represents over a decade of proprietary experience in designing, building, and delivering the world's most capable light tactical vehicle. Since the program was awarded to Oshkosh Defense in August 2015, the company has built a robust, dependable supply chain; optimized its manufacturing process and maximized efficiencies; and provided JLTVs at a contractual price substantially lower than the government cost estimate.

“This milestone is a true testament to the pride and dedication that our team members have in the JLTV program which has become a central piece of the U.S. military's ground

force,” said George Mansfield, vice president and general manager of Joint Programs for Oshkosh Defense. “Producing the 10,000th JLTV in under five years is further evidence of our ability to meet the demands of our domestic and international customers by providing the world’s most capable light tactical vehicle at a great price. We’re excited to continue working with our military customer to further refine and expand the platform.”

To date, Oshkosh Defense has received orders for 18,126 JLTVs for a total contract value over \$6 billion. Over 6,500 of those vehicles have been fielded with warfighters around the globe, including over 30 U.S. and international military installations. The U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps are the customers for the majority of the JLTVs ordered so far.

International interest in the Oshkosh Defense JLTV also continues to grow. Oshkosh Defense has received orders or commitments from seven NATO and non-NATO allies including United Kingdom, Belgium, Montenegro, Slovenia, Lithuania, Brazil, and North Macedonia.

Atlantic Area-based Coast Guard Cutters Offload More than \$330M Worth of Illegal Narcotics



The Coast Guard Cutter Campbell (WMEC 909) crew and crane operator offloads approximately 7,250 pounds of cocaine at Port Everglades, Florida, Feb. 4, 2021. The Campbell's crew patrolled the Eastern Pacific Ocean in support of counter-narcotics operations in the Western Hemisphere to disrupt transnational crime organizations. U.S. Coast Guard / Petty Officer 3rd Class Jose Hernandez

MIAMI – Two Coast Guard Atlantic Area-based cutters offloaded more than \$330 million worth of illegal narcotics, Feb. 4 and Feb. 8, at Port Everglades, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a Feb. 8 release.

The Coast Guard Cutter Campbell crew offloaded on Feb. 4 more than 7,200 pounds of cocaine, worth more than \$123 million, and on Feb. 8 the Coast Guard Cutter Harriet Lane crew offloaded more than 11,800 pounds of cocaine and marijuana, Monday, worth more than \$206 million.

The illegal narcotics offloaded are a direct reflection of 14 interdictions that occurred in the Eastern Pacific Ocean involving seven Coast Guard and two US Navy assets.

On April 1, U.S. Southern Command increased counter-narcotics operations in the Western Hemisphere to disrupt the flow of drugs. Numerous U.S. agencies from the Departments of Defense, Justice and Homeland Security cooperated in the effort to combat transnational organized crime. The Coast Guard, Navy, Customs and Border Protection, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, along with allied and international partner agencies, play a role in counter-drug operations.

The fight against drug cartels in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea requires unity of effort in all phases from detection, monitoring and interdictions, to criminal prosecutions for these interdictions by United States Attorney's Offices from the Middle District of Florida, the Southern District of Florida, and the Southern District of California. The law enforcement phase of counter-smuggling operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean is conducted under the authority of the 11th Coast Guard District, headquartered in Alameda. The law enforcement phase of counter-smuggling operations in the Caribbean Sea is conducted under the authority of the 7th Coast Guard District, headquartered in Miami. The interdictions, including the actual boardings, are led and conducted by members of the U.S. Coast Guard.

The medium-endurance cutter USCGC Campbell is homeported in Kittery, Maine. The medium-endurance cutter USCGC Harriet Lane is homeported in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Future USS Daniel Inouye

Completes Acceptance Trials



The future USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118) departs General Dynamics Bath Iron Works shipyard on Feb. 3 for acceptance trials. SUPSHIP Bath

BATH, Maine – The future USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118) successfully completed acceptance trials Feb. 4 after spending a day underway off the coast of Maine, the Program Executive Office (PEO) – Ships announced in a Feb. 5 release.

The Bureau of Inspection and Survey inspected the ship during a series of demonstrations while pier side and underway. Many of the ship's onboard systems, including navigation, damage control, mechanical and electrical systems, combat systems, communications, and propulsion applications, were tested to validate performance and met or exceeded Navy specifications.

“Following an outstanding Combined Alpha and Bravo trials this past December, DDG 118 performed superbly during the ship's

Acceptance Trial earlier this week,” said Capt. Seth Miller, DDG 51 class program manager, PEO-Ships. “The Navy and industry team are ready to deliver a highly capable multi-mission warship to the fleet within the next few weeks.”

Daniel Inouye is a Flight IIA destroyer, equipped with the Aegis Baseline 9 Combat System, which includes Integrated Air and Missile Defense capability and enhanced Ballistic Missile Defense capabilities. This system delivers quick reaction time, high firepower, and increased electronic countermeasures capability against a variety of threats.

Following delivery, Daniel Inouye will be the 37th Arleigh Burke (DDG 51)-class destroyer to be delivered by BIW. The shipyard is also in production on the future Arleigh Burke-class destroyers Carl M. Levin (DDG 120), John Basilone (DDG 122), Harvey C. Barnum (DDG 124), Patrick Gallagher (DDG 127), and Flight III ships, Louis H. Wilson, Jr. (DDG 126), and William Charette (DDG 130), as well as the future Zumwalt-class destroyer, Lyndon B. Johnson (DDG 1002).

State Dept. Approves Sale of SM-2 Missiles to Chile



An SM-2 telemetry surface to air missile is launched from the forward vertical launch system of the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh (CG 67) while conducting a live-fire exercise. U.S. Navy / Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ryre Arciaga

WASHINGTON – The State Department has approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to the government of Chile of Standard Missile-2 (SM-2) Block IIIA missiles and related equipment for an estimated \$85 million, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency said in a Feb. 5 release.

The government of Chile has requested to buy up to 16 Standard Missile-2 (SM-2) Block IIIA missiles, rail launched, including two missiles with manufacturer installed telemeter; two Mk89 Mod 0 Guidance Sections; and one Target Detection Device Kit (including shroud), Mk45 Mod 14, the release said.

The potential sale also includes “Intermediate Level Maintenance Facility; spare parts and associated containers; personnel training and training equipment; publications and technical data; U.S. government and contractor technical assistance and other related logistics support, including ordnance handling equipment, and other related elements of

logistics and program support.

This proposed sale would support Chile's anti-air warfare capabilities for the two recently transferred former Adelaide-class frigates to the Chilean navy.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missiles and Defense, Tucson, Arizona.

CGC Steadfast Returns Home after 45-Day Counter- Narcotics Patrol



U.S. Coast Guard members conduct drug offload in San Diego, Jan. 22. The drugs were offloaded after Coast Guard Cutter

Steadfast interdicted 1,675 pounds of cocaine, worth more than \$28 million. U.S. Coast Guard / Petty Officer 3rd Class Alex Gray

ASTORIA, Ore. – The Coast Guard Cutter Steadfast returned to its homeport of Astoria, Oregon, Jan. 30 following a 45-day counter-narcotics patrol, where the crew transited more than 10,000 miles conducting law enforcement operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, the Coast Guard 13th District said in a Feb. 4 release.

During the deployment, the Steadfast's crew interdicted four vessels suspected of smuggling illicit narcotics. Steadfast boarding teams discovered and seized 1,675 pounds of cocaine, worth more than \$28 million, and detained seven suspected narco-traffickers.

Steadfast also completed biennial Aviation Standardization Training, certifying the cutter for Aerial Use of Force, and served as a training platform for tactical law enforcement units from Maritime Security Response Team-West.

The Steadfast crew celebrated Christmas and rang in the New Year while on patrol. The Steadfast's ombudsman coordinated gifts and a compilation video with holiday wishes from crewmembers' families. Crewmembers were surprised on Christmas morning when Santa visited and shared the personalized messages and gifts.

"The Steadfast crew, families, and friends really came together to keep spirits high while deployed over the holidays," said Cmdr. Craig Allen, Jr., commanding officer of the Steadfast. "During the patrol, the crew displayed superb skill and professionalism in achieving a perfect detection-to-interdiction record, thus ensuring the holidays were considerably less jolly for narco-traffickers."

To ensure the safety of Steadfast's crew during the COVID-19 global pandemic, the crew conducted pre-deployment COVID-19 testing, followed by a 14-day monitoring period.

Throughout their patrol, Steadfast's crew maintained strict health precautions during all interactions with the public, including wearing face coverings at all times and undergoing intensive health screenings prior to each boarding.

The Steadfast is a 210-foot medium-endurance cutter homeported in Astoria.

New PTD0 Under Secretary of the Navy Designated



James F. "Hondo" Geurts. U.S. Navy
ARLINGTON, Va. – Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Harker has designated James F. "Hondo" Geurts as PTDO (performing the duties of) under secretary of the Navy, the Navy announced in a Feb. 4 release.

Prior to this selection, Geurts served as the eighth assistant secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN RD&A), from December 2017 to January 2021. As ASN RD&A, he served as the Navy's acquisition executive, with oversight of an annual budget in excess of \$100 billion and responsible for equipping Sailors and Marines with platforms, systems and technologies around the globe in defense of the nation.

"I've worked with Hondo for a number of years and know he will bring a wealth of insight and leadership derived from 34 years of DoD experience to this position," said Harker. "His stellar knowledge of acquisition efforts, experience driving positive change, and commitment to naval innovation will be a strong asset in this position, where he will continue to reinforce a clear understanding of the needs, requirements and capabilities of our Navy and Marine Corps."

In performing the duties of the under secretary of the Navy, in addition to serving as the deputy and principal assistant to the SECNAV, Geurts will serve as the chief operating officer and chief management officer for the Department of the Navy. Additionally, he will oversee intelligence activities, intelligence-related activities, special access programs, critical infrastructure, and sensitive activities within the department.

"Having supported the military, both in and out of uniform, for the majority of my life, I know that when we are empowered and focused on the mission we can accomplish amazing things," said Geurts. "I look forward to continuing to work with a great team of professionals as we spearhead efforts in support of the finest Navy and Marine Corps in the world."

Geurts previously served as the acquisition executive, U.S. Special Operations Command, at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, where he was responsible for all special operations forces acquisition, technology and logistics. Prior to being

selected for Senior Executive Service, Geurts began his career as an Air Force officer. He served as an acquisition program manager with engineering and program management leadership positions in numerous weapon systems, including intercontinental ballistic missiles, surveillance platforms, tactical fighter aircraft, advanced avionics systems, stealth cruise missiles, training systems and manned and unmanned special operations aircraft.

He has over 30 years of joint acquisition experience and served in all levels of acquisition leadership positions including acquisition executive, program executive officer and program manager of major defense acquisition programs.

Geurts is a distinguished 1987 Reserve Officers' Training Corps graduate from Lehigh University where he received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He holds a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB and in National Security Resourcing from Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, Washington, D.C. Geurts also attended executive leadership and international studies programs at Harvard Kennedy School and George Washington Elliot School.

Nimitz Carrier Group Sails into Indo-Pacific Command



The aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) transits alongside the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Pinckney (DDG 91) after a replenishment-at-sea in this 2017 photo. U.S. Navy / Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Craig Z. Rodarte

ARLINGTON, Va. – The USS Nimitz Carrier Strike Group is departing the Central Command area of responsibility and moving into the U.S. Indo-Pacific region, Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby announced Feb. 4.

“We want to thank all the men and women aboard the ships in that strike crew and the squadrons who supported Central Command now for more than 270 days, ensuring our national security and deterring conflict in a very critical region of the world,” Kirby said.

The carrier is homeported in Bremerton, Washington. It is now in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility and can be called upon for operations, training or humanitarian exercises there.

The Nimitz's departure means there is no U.S. carrier operating in the Central Command area of operations. Kirby said Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III believes America has "a robust presence in the Middle East." U.S. service members are based in many nations in the Persian Gulf and there is more than enough airpower to counter any adversary.

Kirby said Austin has constant discussions with U.S. Central Command commander Marine Corps Gen. Frank McKenzie, as well as other combatant commanders. Austin must balance requirements from various parts of the world, and the United States doesn't have an unlimited number of aircraft carriers.

These decisions are carefully weighed, the press secretary said. "Every decision that we make with military forces – air, ground or naval – and certainly, decisions that you make with respect to a capital asset, like an aircraft carrier and its associated, supporting Strike Group is a decision driven by a frank assessment of the threats in the area, and also a frank consideration of the capabilities themselves," Kirby said. "So, absolutely, the secretary was mindful of the larger geostrategic picture when he approved the movement of the Carrier Strike Group from the Central Command area responsibility."

Also playing into the decision is the length of the deployment for the Nimitz sailors and their families. The Nimitz and supporting ships have been deployed longer than is typically required. Austin and CentCom and Navy officials must consider the wear and tear on the sailors, the ships and the aircraft.

DLA Awards Crowley Fuel Delivery Contract to Remote Aleutian Air Station



Crowley will provide transformational improvements and cost efficiencies through the utilization of the company's new, purpose-built articulated tug-barge. Crowley ANCHORAGE, Alaska – [Crowley Solutions](#) has been awarded the five-year contract to deliver military specification fuel to the Eareckson Air Station located on the remote Aleutian Island of Shemya, Alaska, the company said in a Feb. 1 release.

Under the U.S. Defense Logistics Agency-Energy contract, beginning in 2021, Crowley will provide lightering and transportation of 4 million gallons of fuel annually for the radar and aircraft refueling station and its 180 military, contractors and civilians who operate it.

Crowley has consistently transported and delivered the fuel since 1956 to the base 1,200 miles from Anchorage in the

remote western reaches of the Aleutian Island archipelago. The U.S. government has counted on the company's experience and innovative logistics capabilities in remote and austere environments, including a unique over-the-shore evolution successfully developed and executed by Crowley in 2020 [as featured in this video](#). However, under the new contract term, Crowley will provide transformational improvements and cost efficiencies through the utilization of the company's new, purpose-built articulated tug-barge (ATB) in a joint service by Solutions and Crowley Fuels, the company's Alaska-based fuel transportation and distribution business unit.

The 55,000-barrel capacity (2.3 million-gallon) ATB Aurora/Qamun will serve the air station and Crowley's customers throughout western Alaska and the Arctic. The 410-foot ATB is specifically designed to meet Ice Class and Polar Code requirements in order to safely and effectively operate in Western Alaska year-round.

"Crowley's record of dependability and high performance will add a new chapter under this contract when Aurora/Qamun enters service to the government and military," said Sean Thomas, vice president for Crowley Solutions. "It is an honor to continue serving our warfighters by safely providing value through a resilient and dependable supply chain whenever and wherever they need fuel."

"We appreciate the confidence the government continues to show in Crowley," said Rick Meidel, vice president and general manager, Crowley Fuels. "The new contract award reflects the proficiency and skill of the dedicated men and women of Crowley Fuels, and the strong collaboration by the Fuels and Solutions teams."

The ATB, which was designed by Crowley Engineering Services powered by subsidiary Jensen Maritime, is undergoing its final outfitting prior to entering service this year. The tug is being constructed by Master Boat Builders of Bayou La Batre,

Alabama. The barge is being built by Gunderson Marine LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Greenbrier Companies Inc., in Portland, Oregon.

USS Philippine Sea Interdicts Over \$2.8 Million of Heroin in North Arabian Sea



Sailors assigned to the visit, board, search and seizure Sailors team of the guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) board a dhow suspected of carrying narcotics in the international waters of the north Arabian Sea, Jan. 31, 2021. U.S. Navy

BAHRAIN – The guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea (CG 58), deployed to U.S. Fifth Fleet and operating in support of

the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), interdicted a shipment of more than 600 pounds (275 kilograms) of suspected narcotics from a dhow in the international waters of the North Arabian Sea, Jan. 30, the CMF said in a Feb. 2 release.

Seven bags of suspected narcotics were seized and tested, resulting in a seizure of approximately 600 pounds (275 kilograms) of suspected heroin, worth \$2.89 million wholesale. This seizure, conducted in direct support of CMF's Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, marks the seventh CMF drug seizure since October 2020.

To mitigate the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19, the boarding team undertook carefully executed precautionary measures during and after the boarding, to include decontamination of all seized contraband.

CTF-150 conducts maritime security operations outside the Arabian Gulf to disrupt criminal and terrorist organizations, ensuring legitimate commercial shipping can transit the region, free from non-state threats. CTF-150 is currently commanded by the Royal Canadian Navy, now leading the task force for a fifth time.