

Marinette Marine Wins Guided-Missile Frigate Contract



An artist's conception of the next-generation small surface combatant, the guided-missile frigate (FFG(X)). U.S. Navy WASHINGTON – Marinette Marine has won a coveted contract from the U.S. Navy to design and produce the next-generation small surface combatant, the guided-missile frigate (FFG(X), the public affairs office of the Navy's Program Executive Office-Unmanned and Small Combatants said in an April 30 release.

The Marinette Marine deal is good for detail design and construction (DD&C) of up to 10 guided-missile frigates, consisting of one base ship and nine option ships.

[See: Potential for 3-Month Slowdown in Defense Acquisition, DoD Official Says](#)

The FFG(X) will have multimission capability to conduct air warfare, anti-submarine warfare, surface warfare, electronic warfare and information operations.

“The Navy’s Guided-Missile Frigate (FFG(X)) will be an important part of our future fleet,” said Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Mike Gilday. “FFG(X) is the evolution of the Navy’s small surface combatant with increased lethality, survivability and improved capability to support the National Defense Strategy across the full range of military operations. It will no doubt help us conduct distributed maritime operations more effectively, and improve our ability to fight both in contested blue-water and littoral environments.”

The new ship will include an Enterprise Air Surveillance Radar (EASR) radar, Baseline Ten (BL10) AEGIS Combat System, a Mk41 Vertical Launch System (VLS), communications systems, Mk57 Gun Weapon System (GWS) countermeasures and added capability in the EW/IO area with design flexibility for future growth.

“I am very proud of the hard work from the requirements, acquisition and shipbuilder teams that participated in the full and open competition, enabling the Navy to make this important decision today,” said James Geurts, assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition.

“Throughout this process, the government team and our industry partners have all executed with a sense of urgency and discipline, delivering this contract award three months ahead of schedule. The team’s intense focus on cost, acquisition and technical rigor enabled the government to deliver the best value for our taxpayers as we deliver a highly capable next-generation frigate to our warfighters.”

The acquisition process for FFG(X) began in 2017. Since then, the Navy has worked with industry to balance cost and capability. The Navy released the FFG(X) DD&C request

for proposals to industry last June. Technical proposals were received in August and cost proposals were received the following month. A full and open competition took place with multiple offers received.

Hospital Ship Comfort Departs NYC, Prepared for Future COVID-19 Response



The Navy's Blue Angels and the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds fly over the hospital ship USNS Comfort on April 28 to honor frontline COVID-19 relief workers with formations over New York City, Newark and Trenton, New Jersey, and Philadelphia. The Comfort left New York on its return to Norfolk, Virginia,

on April 30. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kleyntia R. McKnight

NEW YORK – The hospital ship USNS Comfort departed New York City on April 30 after supporting the Pentagon's COVID-19 response assistance to New York and New Jersey residents during the novel coronavirus outbreak, according to a U.S. 2nd Fleet news release.

The Comfort has been at Pier 90 in New York City for a month, providing relief to a health care system stressed by the surge of COVID-19 patients. Even as the ship departs New York, the Comfort and its embarked medical task force remain prepared for future tasking. The U.S. Navy, along with other U.S. Northern Command-dedicated forces, remains engaged throughout the nation in support of the broader COVID-19 response.

[See: Navy Provides Medical Care to Infected Sailors of USS Kidd, Will Disinfect Ship](#)

[See: Navy Opens Deeper Inquiry Into Theodore Roosevelt; Move Delays Decision on Captain's Reinstatement](#)

"USNS Comfort arrived in New York City to provide relief to frontline health care providers, and each patient who was brought aboard ensured one more bed was available in a local hospital," said Vice Adm. Andrew Lewis, commander of the 2nd Fleet and Maritime Component Element-East. "While the ship is departing New York City, make no mistake, the fight is not over, and we stand ready to support the response to COVID-19 in whatever capacity we are needed."

Comfort, which arrived in New York City March 30, was originally tasked with providing care to non-COVID patients, bringing the first aboard on April 1. It quickly became apparent that to be of help to the city, the Comfort needed to treat all patients, regardless of their COVID status.

On April 6, after being directed to accept COVID-positive

patients and following a thorough assessment of the existing design of the ship, Military Sealift Command civil service mariners physically separated the hospital from the rest of the ship by cordoning off doors and ladder wells on the main deck, reconfiguring the ship to admit and treat all patients.

“This amazing crew of over 1,200 people treated 182 patients, of which approximately 70% were afflicted by COVID-19,” said Capt. Patrick Amersbach, commander of the Comfort’s medical treatment facility. “We were dedicated to providing the highest quality of care to each person who arrived to our hospital.”

In the Comfort’s intensive care units, critical care nurses and respiratory technicians worked together to provide constant care to many complex, high-acuity COVID-19 patients. Many of these patients suffered from rapid, multi-system organ failure that required them to be put on ventilators.



Sailors transport the last patient off the Comfort on April 28

for relocation to a local hospital for follow-up care. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Scott Bigley
“It is truly an honor and I am humbled to lead a team of world-class medical professionals,” Amersbach said. “We came together from different units across the nation and were able to quickly adapt to the rapidly changing environment.”

More than 110 surgical procedures such as appendectomies, bronchoscopies, chest tube insertions, laparoscopic procedures and tracheotomies were performed aboard. Additionally, the Comfort’s radiology technicians performed more than 540 X-rays and CT-scans, while the pharmacy department prepared more than 1,300 intravenous and oral medications for patients aboard. The ship’s supply department ensured the distribution of ample personal protective equipment (PPE) for all personnel, which were procured via a robust logistics system.

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Vice Adm. Andrew Lewis, commander of the U.S. 2nd Fleet

“The success of this mission in New York City hinged on coordination with FEMA, state and local officials and the partnership between Comfort, the Javits [convention center] and hospitals across New York and New Jersey,” said Capt. Joseph O’Brien, mission commander of Task Force New York.

“We all worked towards the common goal of ensuring that every patient who required care was able to receive it. The Comfort team is proud to help during these unprecedented times.”

The Comfort is scheduled to return to Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia, where the ship will return to a “Ready 5” status to remain ready for tasking for COVID-19 operations in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



The Comfort departs New York Harbor on April 30 after a month of treating patients in New York and New Jersey. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brendan Fitzgerald

U.S. Coast Guard, Australia to Begin Officer Exchange Program



Rear Adm. Kevin Lunday, commander, Coast Guard 14th District, and Kingsley Woodford-Smith, the assistant commissioner, Australian Border Force, virtually sign a memorandum of agreement creating a system of mutual officer exchange. U.S. Coast Guard/Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew West

HONOLULU – The U.S. Coast Guard and the Australian Department of Home Affairs on April 27 signed an agreement for a system of mutual officer exchange from their offices in Hawaii and Canberra, the Coast Guard 14th District said in a release.

Rear Adm. Kevin Lunday, commander of the 14th District, and Kingsley Woodford-Smith, assistant commissioner of Australian Border Force, signed the memorandum of agreement.

“The memorandum of agreement solidifies an already incredible relationship with our Australian partners in the Blue Pacific region,” said Cmdr. Jason Brand, chief of enforcement with the 14th District.

“The agreement enhances the interoperability between the U.S. Coast Guard and Australian Department of Home Affairs by creating a personnel exchange system designed to share experience, professional knowledge and doctrine between the partners. This exchange is another tool for our work to promote and further a free and open Indo-Pacific.”

The memorandum establishes a seagoing officer exchange program allowing one Australian Border Force marine unit officer to serve a four- to six-week assignment among the units in Honolulu. A U.S. Coast Guard officer will deploy with the Australian Border Force fleet.

Upon signing the agreement, Rear Adm. Lunday commented, “The U.S. and Australian alliance is built on over a century of mateship. This agreement reflects the importance of our combined operations to maritime governance and security across Oceania, especially as the U.S. Coast Guard is expanding its permanent presence and operations in the Pacific.”

In attendance was Ambassador Jane Hardy, the Australian consul-general in Honolulu, who said of the agreement “this significant bilateral initiative will develop further our mutual efforts to maintain and enhance regional security. The

skill and bravery of our U.S. Coast Guard 'mates' and Australian Border Force exemplify the heart of the Australia-US Alliance."

Australian and Coast Guard personnel often find themselves working alongside one another during joint missions throughout the Pacific from search and rescue cases to the prevention of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU).

Examples of such efforts include the work of Royal Australian navy HMAS Toowoomba and a Coast Guard Station Honolulu 45-foot response boat-medium crews to respond to a de-masted sailboat off Hawaii in 2018 and joint exercises between the HMAS Choules and the Coast Guard Cutter Walnut in the South Pacific during Operation Aiga 2019.

Both countries annually contribute resources to operations of the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and Pacific Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group (P-QUAD) such as the recent FFA Operation Rai Balang.

Under Op Rai Balang, crews from Coast Guard Cutter Sequoia, an Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules aircrew, and the crew of the Australian navy's HMAS Maryborough all contributed to the surveillance operation to disrupt IUU fishing in March. The joint efforts protect the organization's member states' exclusive economic zones and ensure Pacific fish stocks remain sustainable.

Scheduled later this year, the partners will reach a new milestone when the Coast Guard sends a surface asset for the first time to serve alongside Australia's during P-QUAD's Operation Nasse.

"We plan to send crews aboard Coast Guard Cutter Kimball (WMSL 256) and an Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules airplane to support the P-QUAD operation for the first time," Brand said.

“The U.S. and Australia have been standing side-by-side for more than 100 years. This is more than a partnership, it is mateship. As we increase operations with our Australian counterparts, this new personnel exchange allows us to take the next step to integrate further for more fruitful outcomes maximizing the value of the experience and resources of our nations.”

Pacific Fleet to Host At-Sea-Only RIMPAC Exercise in August



Military members from the Royal Australian Navy, Australian army, U.S. Marines, Sri Lankan navy and marines, Royal

Malaysian Army, His Majesty's Armed Forces of Brunei, the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and the New Zealand army gather for a group photo on the flight deck of the landing helicopter dock ship HMAS Adelaide during the last RIMPAC two years ago. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kelsey J. Hockenberger

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii – The U.S. Navy will sponsor the 27th Rim of the Pacific exercise, from Aug. 17 to Aug. 31, the U.S. Pacific Fleet said in a release.

Hosted by the commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, this biennial maritime exercise will be an at-sea-only event in light of COVID-19 concerns. The theme of RIMPAC 2020 is “Capable, Adaptive, Partners.”

The at-sea-only construct for RIMPAC 2020 was developed to ensure the safety of all forces participating by minimizing shore-based contingents. Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet crafted the modified RIMPAC plan as a way to conduct a meaningful exercise with maximum training value and minimum risk to the force, allies and partners, and the people of Hawaii.

The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC is designed to foster and sustain cooperative relationships, critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

The exercise, which takes place in the waters surrounding the Hawaiian Islands, is a training platform designed to enhance interoperability and strategic maritime partnerships. In 2018, during the last RIMPAC, 26 nations participated in and around Hawaii.

“In these challenging times, it is more important than ever that our maritime forces work together to protect vital shipping lanes and ensure freedom of navigation through international waters,” said Adm. John Aquilino, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. “And we will operate safely, using prudent mitigation measures.”



Multinational special operations forces participate in a submarine insertion exercise with the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Hawaii and combat rubber raiding craft off the coast of Oahu, Hawaii, during RIMPAC 2018. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Daniel Hinton

As the U.S. Navy continues to limit the spread of COVID-19, RIMPAC 2020 is not scheduled to include social events ashore. Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will be accessible for logistics support, with a minimal footprint of staff ashore for command and control, logistics and other support functions.

This year's exercise will include multinational anti-submarine warfare, maritime intercept operations and live-fire training events, among other cooperative training opportunities. Continued planning will remain flexible as Navy leaders monitor and assess evolving circumstances.

"We remain committed to and capable of safeguarding allies and partners throughout the Indo-Pacific region," Aquilino said. "The flexible approach to RIMPAC 2020 strikes the right

balance between combatting future adversaries and the COVID-19 threat.”

RIMPAC 2020 will be led by the commander of the U.S. 3rd Fleet, Vice Adm. Scott D. Conn.



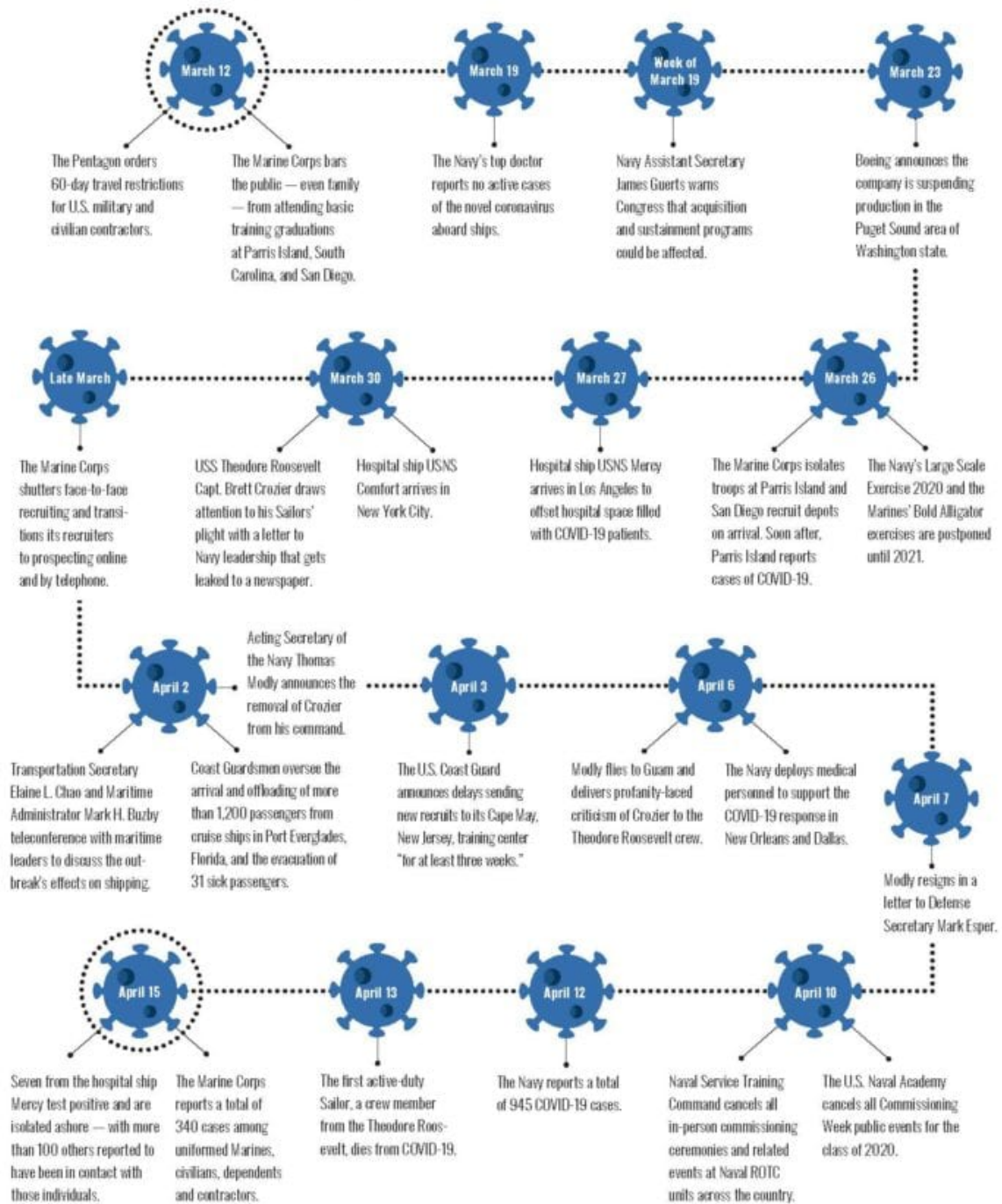
The Chilean navy frigate CNS Almirante Lynch and the Indian navy stealth multi-role frigate INS Sahyadri perform a replenishment-at-sea with the Royal Canadian Navy supply ship MV Asterix off the coast of Hawaii during RIMPAC 2018. Twenty-five nations, 46 ships, five submarines and about 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel participated. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Arthurgwain L. Marquez

At War With the Virus – A

Timeline

AT WAR WITH THE VIRUS | A TIMELINE

Seapower went to press on April 17, but for continuing coverage of the pandemic's impact on the U.S. sea services, visit Seapower online at www.seapowermagazine.org. And look for more coverage in the June print edition of the magazine.



CACI to Support U.S. Navy Satellite Systems, Networks for Special Operations

ARLINGTON, Va. – CACI International has been awarded contract to provide communications systems, satellite communications and network-support services to the Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Atlantic in support of U.S. Special Operations Command, the company said in a release.

The award is a five-year and six-month (if all options are exercised), single-award indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract, with a ceiling value of \$199 million.

Under the contract, CACI engineers and technicians will provide mission expertise, including fielding and training for operational systems, maintenance, logistics and 24/7 technical support for personnel working with the satellite and network systems. CACI will support about 2,000 satellite communications systems worldwide, as well as wide-area network infrastructure services for nearly 90 sites.

CACI has a modern facility designed to support and enhance NIWC's mission. CACI experts can maintain, assemble and test satellite communications systems at the Fayetteville, North Carolina, facility.

"This re-compete award results from the long-standing professional and productive relationship between our dedicated team and NIWC, focused on providing service members with the critical communications support they need to execute their mission," said John Mengucci, CACI's president and CEO.

CACI Executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board J.P. (Jack) London said, "As our country continues to face evolving national security threats, CACI remains focused on providing the support our customers rely on to safeguard our nation."

Leonardo DRS to Provide U.S. Navy Advanced Combat Networking Hardware

ARLINGTON, Va. – Leonardo DRS has received a contract from the U.S. Navy to produce advanced consoles and display systems to support the Navy's future surface ship combat system, the company said in a release. The contract is worth more than \$62 million with options that could be worth up to \$462 million.

The Leonardo DRS Naval Electronics business unit will provide a suite of Common Display System (CDS) consoles, thin client displays, multimission displays, and support equipment. The CDS consoles are a set of open-architecture watch station display consoles made up of two different console variants: water-cooled and air-cooled. The common display hardware provides the interface between the Sailor and the ship's combat systems.

"Building these advanced systems gives U.S. Navy sailors the latest in combat networking hardware and provides mission-critical fleet modernization and readiness requirements today and into the future," said Tracy Howard, senior vice president and general manager of the Leonardo Naval Electronics unit.

The Common Display System consoles are the next generation of hardware infrastructure representing the latest technology

available on the market. Leonardo DRS has a history of producing advanced hardware for all Navy surface and subsurface platforms for use in combat systems, tactical networks, processing and machinery control.

Work will be performed at the Leonardo DRS Naval Electronics facility in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Navy Provides Medical Care to Infected Sailors of USS Kidd, Will Disinfect Ship



Operations Specialist 2nd Class Yves Permelona (left) and Operations Specialist 2nd Class June Canuel practice plotting

courses during training aboard the USS Kidd, which is headed to San Diego for medical care for crew members and cleaning and disinfecting of the ship. Several Sailors there have tested positive for COVID-19. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brandie Nuzzi

SAN DIEGO – As part of the U.S. Navy’s response to the COVID-19 outbreak on board the guided-missile destroyer USS Kidd, the ship was to arrive at Naval Base San Diego on April 28 for medical care for its Sailors and for cleaning and disinfecting of the ship, according to Naval Surface Forces public affairs.

“Sailors have called San Diego home for many years, and we’re especially thankful for that relationship now,” said Vice Adm. Richard Brown, commander of Naval Surface Forces. “Taking care of our Sailors and cleaning this ship is a team effort, and we’re fortunate that the partnership between the Navy and the city of San Diego is allowing us to focus on that mission.”

[See: Decision on Crozier’s Fate Next in the Hands of Pentagon Officials](#)

[See: Military Consumers React to Life During Pandemic](#)

USS Kidd was at sea participating in counter-narcotics operations in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility when several of its Sailors began exhibiting flu-like symptoms.

One Sailor was evacuated to the U.S. on April 22 after experiencing shortness of breath. The commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet redirected the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island – with its medical facility, including an intensive care unit, ventilators and additional testing capability – to rendezvous with the Kidd.

“Taking care of our Sailors and cleaning this ship is a team effort, and we’re fortunate that the partnership between the Navy and the city of San Diego is allowing us to focus on

that mission.”

Vice Adm. Richard Brown, commander of Naval Surface Forces

On April 23, eight medical personnel arrived on board the Kidd with equipment to begin testing the crew for COVID-19. As of April 25, 33 Sailors there had tested positive for the virus, the Navy reported.

The Kidd's executive officer, Cmdr. Matt Noland, released a letter via social media to friends and family on April 24. In it, Noland wrote, "The Navy pulled out all the stops – specialist doctors have already arrived from the United States to test and help care for our shipmates."

As Navy leadership solidified plans to return the ship to port, Sailors who warranted closer observation were transported from the Kidd to the Makin Island out of caution. An additional Sailor was medically evacuated to the United States. Meanwhile, the ship's crew began intensive cleaning efforts while still underway.



The amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island and its medical facilities and testing capabilities were diverted from routine operations in the eastern Pacific to rendezvous with the USS Kidd. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jacob D. Bergh

All Sailors will be isolated off the ship with twice-daily medical screenings. Crew members who have tested negative will quarantine for a period of observation, to include daily visits from military health professionals.

A small contingent of Sailors who have tested negative will remain on the ship for essential services and deep cleaning. These Sailors will be outfitted with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and will maintain social distancing, in accordance with U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance.

“San Diego may not be USS Kidd’s home port, but we are definitely being made to feel at home,” said Cmdr. Nathan Wemett, commanding officer of the Naval Station Everett, Washington-based ship. “I am personally grateful to

know that we have such a strong bond with our Navy communities. It's the strength of those bonds that helps us work together in challenging situations."

While in San Diego, the Kidd will undergo a deep cleaning that balances decontamination with preventing damage to the ship's systems. The cleaning process begins with spaces being vacated for seven days – four days longer than the minimum recommended by the CDC. The ship will be cleansed room-by-room, with access to each space restricted. The process is expected to take about two weeks, at which time Sailors who are confirmed to be healthy will return to the Kidd and Sailors moving off the ship will go into isolation.

The Navy is providing a resiliency counselor, team of chaplains and psychologist for Sailors in isolation and quarantine. The Navy has also established a 24-hour roving patrol to ensure that Sailors who are sequestered off the ship are adhering to all public health and safety policies, the Navy said.

USS Kidd Sailors have been told to immediately report any flu-like symptoms – a lesson learned from the USS Theodore Roosevelt and its Sailors, all of whom are now housed in Guam.

As of April 25, the entire crew of the Roosevelt had been tested for the virus, with 833 total positive and 4,105 negative results, the Navy reported. A small number of results were pending. Of the total cases, 112 Sailors have recovered and 4,273 Sailors have moved ashore, the Navy said.

Also, as of April 25, two assigned to the Roosevelt were in U.S. Naval Hospital Guam under treatment for COVID-19 symptoms. One Sailor from the Roosevelt died there earlier this month from complications of the infection, the Navy reported.

Coast Guard Cutter Harriet Lane Returns Home After Caribbean Patrol



The crew of the cutter Harriet Lane conducts a vertical replenishment evolution with an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter aircrew during their patrol in the Caribbean. U.S. Coast Guard/Ensign Camisha Moore

PORTSMOUTH, Va. – The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Harriet Lane returned to its homeport of Portsmouth, Virginia, on April 26 following a 71-day patrol of the central Caribbean, the Coast Guard 5th District said in a release.

The cutter's multimission patrol resulted in the interdiction of 1,306 pounds of marijuana, with a street value of over \$2.3 million. Harriet Lane conducted its patrol in support of the Coast Guard's 7th District and the United States Southern Command's Joint Interagency Task Force South.

The Harriet Lane crew started their patrol with flight operations off the coast of Miami for a biannual aviation assessment. Working with a helicopter from Air Station Miami, the Harriet Lane completed a series of day and night flight operations, including vertical replenishment, in-flight refueling and landing evolutions.

Soon after, Harriet Lane joined forces with the Honduran Navy Special Forces to conduct a joint law enforcement patrol off the coast of Honduras. This engagement provided the opportunity for law enforcement subject matter expert exchanges and improved interoperability between the two nations for future counter-narcotic operations.

The Harriet Lane continued into to the central Caribbean to combat the smuggling of illegal narcotics across the region. During their time there, the cutter's crew worked with a maritime patrol aircraft to interdict a go-fast style vessel off the coast of Jamaica. The Harriet Lane arrived on scene, with the crew seizing 1,306 pounds of marijuana from the vessel and its jettison field and detaining four suspected drug traffickers.

Navy Accepts Delivery of

Destroyer USS Delbert D. Black



Donny Dorsey (right), Ingalls' DDG 119 ship program manager, Cmdr. Matthew McKenna (center), the Delbert D. Black's prospective commanding officer, and Peter T. Christman III, DDG 51 Project Office, SUPSHIP Gulf Coast, practice social distancing while signing the transfer of custody of the ship to the Navy on April 24 at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Huntington Ingalls Industries PASCAGOULA, Miss. – The U.S. Navy accepted delivery of the guided missile destroyer Delbert D. Black from Huntington Ingalls Industries' Ingalls shipbuilding division on April 24, the Navy's Program Executive Office (PEO)–Ships said in a release.

Accepting delivery of the Delbert D. Black represents the official transfer of the ship from the shipbuilder to the Navy. Prior to delivery, the ship successfully conducted a series of at-sea and pier-side trials to demonstrate its

material and operational readiness.

The 68th Arleigh Burke-class destroyer honors Delbert D. Black, the first master chief petty officer of the Navy, and will be the first naval ship to bear his name. Black is known for guiding the Navy through the Vietnam War and ensuring enlisted leadership was properly represented Navy-wide by initiating the master chief program.

“The DDG 51 shipbuilding program and Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Gulf Coast are proud to accept delivery of Delbert D. Black on behalf of the Navy and look forward to her commissioning later this year,” said Capt. Seth Miller, DDG 51 class program manager for PE0-Ships. “Ingalls has delivered another highly capable platform that will sail from our shores and help protect the nation for decades to come.”

The DDG 51 class ships currently being constructed are Aegis Baseline 9 Integrated Air and Missile Defense destroyers with increased computing power and radar upgrades that improve detection and reaction capabilities against modern air warfare and ballistic missile defense threats.

In addition to Delbert D. Black, HII’s Pascagoula shipyard also is in production on the future destroyers Frank E. Peterson Jr. and Lenah H. Sutcliffe Higbee as well as the Flight III ships, Jack H. Lucas and Ted Stevens.