Marine JLTV Achieves Initial Operational Capability

A JLTV is displayed at School of Infantry West (SOI-W) on Feb. 28. U.S. Marine Corps/Cpl. Juan Bustos

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. – The Marine Corps' Joint Light Tactical Vehicle is officially ready to deploy and support missions of the naval expeditionary force-in-readiness worldwide, the Marine Corps announced.

Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Combat Development and Integration declared that the JLTV program – part of the Light Tactical Vehicle portfolio at Program Executive Officer Land Systems – reached initial operational capability (IOC) on Aug. 2, nearly a year ahead of schedule.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipxyGBgmLLU

"Congratulations to the combined JLTV team for acting with a sense of urgency and reaching IOC early," said James Geurts, assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition.

"Changing the speed in which we deliver, combined with coming in under cost and meeting all performance requirements, is a fine example of increasing Marine Corps capabilities at the speed of relevance, which enables our Marines to compete

and win on the modern battlefield.”

The JLTV, a program led by the U.S. Army, will replace the Corps’ aging high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle fleet. The JLTV family of vehicles comes in different variants with multiple mission package configurations, all providing protected, sustained, networked mobility that balances payload, performance and protection across the full range of military operations.

“The warfighting capabilities the JLTV provides our Marines far exceed the capabilities offered by its predecessor,” said PEO Land Systems’ John Garner. “I’m proud of what our team, in collaboration with the Army, has accomplished. Their commitment to supporting the warfighter delivered an exceptional vehicle, ahead of schedule, that Marines will use to dominate on the battlefield now and well into the future.”

Several elements need to be met before a program can declare IOC of a system, which encompasses more than delivery of the system itself. The program office also had to ensure all the operators were fully trained and maintenance tools and spare parts packages were ready.

“IOC is more than just saying that the schoolhouses and an infantry battalion all have

their trucks," said Eugene Morin, product manager for JLTV at PEO Land Systems.
"All of the tools and parts required to support the system need to be in place,
the units must have had received sufficient training and each unit commander
needs to declare that he is combat-ready."

For the
JLTV, this means the program office had to fully field battle-ready vehicles to
the Marine Corps schoolhouses – School of Infantry East at Camp Lejeune, North
Carolina; School of Infantry West at Camp Pendleton, California; The Basic
School at Quantico, Virginia; and the Motor Transport Maintenance Instruction
Course at Camp Johnson, North Carolina – and to an infantry battalion at II
Marine Expeditionary Force. The program office started delivering vehicles to
the schoolhouses earlier this year and started delivering vehicles to the
infantry battalion last month.

On Aug. 2,
Lt. Col. Neil Berry, the commanding officer for 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines,
notified Morin and his team of the unit's combat readiness with the JLTV. On
Aug. 5, The Director, Ground Combat Element Division at CD&I notified PM
LTV of its IOC achievement. The JLTV is scheduled to start fielding to I MEF
and III MEF before the end of September.

According
to LTV Program Manager Andrew Rodgers, during the post-

acquisition Milestone C
rebaseline of the JLTV schedule in January 2016, IOC was projected to occur by
June 2020.

Rodgers
says that detailed program scheduling, planning and, most importantly, teamwork
with stakeholders across the enterprise enabled the program office to deliver
the vehicles and reach IOC ahead of schedule.

“It was
definitely a team effort, and we built up a really great team,” Rodgers said.
“In terms of leadership, our product managers’ – both Gene Morin and his
predecessor, Dave Bias – detailed focus and ability to track cost, schedule and
performance was key. Neal Justis, our deputy program manager, has significant
prior military experience working for the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition,
logistics and technology, so having him on board knowing how to work the
Pentagon network was a huge force multiplier.”

Rodgers is
quick to note that, although the team has reached IOC, this is only the
beginning of the JLTV’s future legacy.

“We are really at the
starting line right now. Our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will see
JLTVs in the DoD,” Rodgers said. “We’ll easily still have these assets
somewhere in the DOD in the year 2100. Welcome to the start of

many generations
of JLTVs.”

Coast Guard, Partners Conduct Enforcement Operation Covering More Than 500 Miles of East Coast

The U.S. Coast Guard conducted a maritime law enforcement operation Aug. 9 and Aug. 10 from Carteret County, North Carolina, to Brevard County, Florida, in coordination with 104 units from several federal, state and local agencies. U.S. Coast Guard

CHARLESTON,
S.C. – The U.S. Coast Guard and partner agencies conducted a maritime law
enforcement operation Aug. 9 and Aug. 10 from Carteret County, North Carolina,
to Brevard County, Florida, that covered more than 500 miles of coastline, the
Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

Coast Guard
crews conducted the operation in coordination with 104 partner agency units
from several federal, state and local agencies. The operation focused on the
education and enforcement of boating safety and maritime security throughout
the Southeast.

“We thank each organization for the level of coordination and collaboration in planning and executing this year’s iteration of Operation Shrimp and Grits,” said Rear Adm. Eric Jones, commander of Coast Guard 7th District.

“The operational contributions to our collective missions of maritime security and marine safety, with special emphasis on enforcing compliance with passenger charter, living marine resources and recreational boating safety laws, go a long way toward achieving the objectives of each of our agencies. We trust the collaborative nature of these types of interagency operations will also contribute to our ability to respond holistically in times of crisis. Thank you all and *Semper Paratus*.”

During the operation, 62 law enforcement/fire vessels, 18 auxiliary vessels, two fixed-wing law enforcement aircraft, two auxiliary fixed-wing aircraft, five helicopters, 4 Civil Support Teams, an aircraft-mounted Mobile Detection System and a Transportation Security Administration surface inspection team were used.

Over the two-day operation, 568 vessel boardings were conducted resulting in 48 U.S. Coast Guard violations, 22 Department of Natural Resources and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission violations, 35 local police department citations, and 12 vessel terminations.

Violations were issued for various reasons, to include: BUI [boating under the influence], possession of controlled substances, fisheries violations, illegal charter enforcement

and recreational boating safety.

MARAD Seeks Comments on Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence Designation Policy

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) announced in an Aug 9 release progress in establishing Centers of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE), which would recognize and support community colleges and training institutions that prepare Americans for careers in the maritime industry. The Maritime Administration is seeking public comment on the proposed policy.

"These educational institutions benefit America's national security and economy by growing and strengthening our maritime work force," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

"America must be a strong maritime nation to continue its global leadership in the world," said Administrator Buzby, "which is why the Maritime Administration wants to spotlight institutions that excel at training Americans to serve on our domestic waters, dockside, and in related industries. The maritime industry provides rewarding, good-paying careers that also help to

support our national
and economic security goals.”

The
National Defense Authorization Act of 2018 provides the Secretary of
Transportation with discretionary authority to designate eligible and qualified
entities as CoEs. CoE designations will serve to assist the maritime industry
in obtaining and maintaining the highest quality workforce while also enhancing
diversity and inclusion within its workforce.

When the CoE program is ready to accept applications, institutions can apply to the Maritime Administration to seek designation as a CoE by highlighting their success in preparing workers for maritime careers. If designated as a CoE, institutions may enter into cooperative agreements with the Maritime Administration to advance recruitment of students and faculty, enhance facilities, award student credit for military service, and potentially receive assistance in the form of surplus equipment or temporary use of Maritime Administration vessels. The public may submit comments until Sept. 17, 2019 on the CoE policy by visiting http://www.regulations.gov, searching for “MARAD-2018-0088” and following the embedded instructions.

State Dept. Approves Possible Sale of MH-60R Helicopters to

South Korea

Boatswain’s Mate 3rd Class Nathaniel Smith directs an MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter, assigned to the “Grandmasters” of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 46, aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Bainbridge (DDG 96) Aug. 6, 2019. The State Department has approved sales of the MH-60R to South Korea. U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jason Waite

WASHINGTON –

The State Department has made a determination approving a possible foreign military sale to South Korea of MH-60R multimission helicopters with support for an estimated cost of $800 million, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said in an Aug. 7 release. The same day, DSCA delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale.

South Korea has requested to buy 12 MH-60R Seahawks, along with mission systems, sensors, crew-served guns and 1,000 AN/SSQ-36/53/62 sonobuoys. The purchase also would include “spare engine containers; facilities study; design and construction; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment communications equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is $800 million,”

the release said.

“The proposed sale will improve the Republic of Korea Navy’s capability to perform anti-surface and antisubmarine warfare missions, along with the ability to perform secondary missions including vertical replenishment, search and rescue, and communications relay,” the release said. “The Republic of Korea will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense. The Republic of Korea will have no difficulty absorbing these helicopters and support into its armed forces.”

The prime contractor will be Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems, Owego, New York.

Coast Guard Interdicts 6 Migrants 7 Miles East of Boca Raton

BOCA RATON, Fla. – The Coast Guard interdicted six migrants Monday 7 miles east of Boca Raton, the Coast Guard 7th District said in an Aug. 7 release.

The Coast Guard Cutter Ibis (WPB-87338) crew arrived on scene and

interdicted the six male Cuban migrants. The crew safely embarked all six migrants aboard the cutter.

Coast Guard Sector Miami watchstanders received a report from a good Samaritan of a suspicious 15-foot wooden vessel with six people aboard transiting near Boca Raton.

“People attempting to illegally enter the United States put their lives and their loved ones at risk.” said Petty Officer 1st Class Paula Verden, Coast Guard Sector Miami command center. “These unseaworthy crafts do not have navigational or safety equipment on board, exposing its occupants to a tragic scenario. The Coast Guard continues to maintain a focused and coordinated efforts with multiple agency assets to interdict any attempt to immigrate by sea to the United States, Individuals interdicted at sea attempting to illegally immigrate will be repatriated to their country in accordance with existing U.S. immigration policy.”

The six adult male migrants were transferred to Cuban authorities by Coast Guard Cutter Robert Yered (WPC-1104) for repatriation purposes.

Once aboard a Coast Guard cutter, all migrants receive food, water, shelter and basic medical

attention.

BAE Systems to Enhance Maritime Operations and Flight Safety Systems Aboard Large-Deck U.S. Navy Ships and New-Construction Aircraft Carriers

BAE Systems has won a Navy contract to enhance maritime operations and flight safety systems aboard new construction aircraft carriers and large deck amphibious ships. BAE SYSTEMS MCLEAN,
Virginia – The U.S. Navy has awarded BAE Systems a prime contractor position on
a new indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract to enhance maritime
operations and flight safety systems aboard new construction aircraft carriers
and large deck amphibious ships, to include refueling and complex overhaul
ships, the company said in an Aug. 8 release.

BAE
Systems was one of three contractors awarded the opportunity to bid on future
integration, engineering, assembly, testing and installation focused task

orders awarded throughout an eight-year ordering period. The work will be performed to enhance a variety of distributed systems that provide network capabilities, communications, command and control, intelligence, and non-tactical data management.

"As a leading systems integrator, we continuously seek to broaden our support to the U.S. Navy to advance its C5ISR [command, control, communications, computers, combat systems, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance] capabilities," said Mark Keeler, vice president and general manager of BAE Systems' Integrated Defense Solutions business. "We are working with our defense customers to innovate our approach to systems development to better meet their ever-evolving mission requirements in alignment with construction and modernization priorities."

A majority of the work awarded will take place near the U.S. Navy's Test and Integration Facility Complex, alternatively known as the C4I-System Innovation Facility, located at Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic in Charleston, South Carolina. Additional work is slated for shipyards in Pascagoula, Mississippi, Newport News, Virginia, and Norfolk, Virginia.

Coast Guard’s Newest National Security Cutter Seizes 2,100-Plus Pounds of Cocaine

A boarding team member from the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Midgett (WMSL 757) inspects contraband discovered within a suspected drug smuggling vessel interdicted in international waters of the Eastern Pacific Ocean, July 26, 2019. U.S. COAST GUARD

ALAMEDA, Calif. – Crews aboard the pre-commissioned Coast Guard Cutter Midgett (WMSL 757) seized more than 2,100 pounds of cocaine worth approximately $64 million from a low-profile go-fast vessel interdicted in international waters of the Eastern Pacific Ocean, the Coast Guard Pacific Area said in an Aug. 7 release.

On July 25 a U.S. Navy MH-60R Seahawk aircrew embarked aboard the USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) sighted a low-profile go-fast vessel. As the helicopter approached, a hatch opened on the top of the vessel and three passengers were seen jettisoning objects.

The Michael Murphy remained with the suspected smuggling vessel until the Midgett arrived on scene to conduct a law enforcement boarding. Midgett’s boarding team seized approximately 2,100 pounds of cocaine from the interdiction and

apprehended three suspected smugglers.

“Even
though the cutter is still in a pre-commission status, this interdiction
showcases how ready our crew is and how capable the national security cutters
are,” said Capt. Alan McCabe, Midgett’s commanding officer. “It also
demonstrates the importance of our partnership with the U.S. Navy, whose
contributions are vital in stemming the flow of drugs into the United States.”

Nearly 80%
of all known illegal narcotics coming into North America are smuggled by
international cartels through the Eastern Pacific corridor. As these cartels become more advanced in
their methods at sea, the Coast Guard is recapitalizing its fleet with modern
assets equipped to detect, interdict and disrupt the growing flow of illegal
drugs, weapons and people in the Eastern Pacific.

Midgett,
the Coast Guard’s eighth national security cutter, was accepted by the Coast Guard
in April. The cutter passed through the Panama Canal in July and is sailing to
Midgett’s future homeport in Honolulu, where it will be commissioned Aug. 24,
along with its sister-ship, the Coast Guard Cutter Kimball (WMSL 756).

While
national security cutters like the Midgett possess advanced operational

capabilities, more than 70% of the Coast Guard's offshore presence is the service's aging fleet of medium-endurance cutters, many of which are over 50 years old and approaching the end of their service life.

Replacing the fleet with new offshore patrol cutters is one of the Coast Guard's top priorities.

The offshore patrol cutter will provide a critical capability bridge between national security cutters like the Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755), which offloaded 39,000 pounds of cocaine last month, and fast-response cutters like the Robert Ward, which recently seized more than 3,000 pounds of the cocaine in the first cocaine seizure made by a fast-response cutter in the Eastern Pacific.

Bollinger Delivers 35th FRC to Coast Guard

The newest FRC is named after Coast Guard hero Master Chief Petty Officer Angela McShan. MCPO McShan was a pioneer for women and African Americans. She was the first African American woman to be promoted to Master Chief Petty Officer. BOLLINGER SHIPYARD.

LOCKPORT, La. – Bollinger Shipyards has delivered the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Angela McShan, the 35th fast-response cutter (FRC) to the U.S. Coast Guard, the company said in an Aug 2 release. The Coast Guard took delivery on Aug. 1 in Key West, Florida.

"We are very pleased to announce the latest FRC delivery, the USCGC Angela McShan," said Ben Bordelon, Bollinger president and CEO. "Previous cutters have been stationed around the nation including Alaska and Hawaii. The Angela McShan, the third of three fast-response cutters to be home-ported in Cape May, New Jersey, will join the cutters Rollin Fitch and Lawrence Lawson. The vessel's commissioning is scheduled for October 2019 in Cape May.

"FRCs already in commission have protected our country by seizing multiple tons of narcotics, interdicted thousands of illegal aliens and saved hundreds of lives," Bordelon said. "The FRC program is a model program for government acquisition and has surpassed all historical quality benchmarks for vessels of this type and complexity. The results are the delivery of truly extraordinary Coast Guard cutters that will serve our nation for decades to come. We are extremely proud that the delivery of the FRC-35 marks the 175th patrol boat built by Bollinger

Shipyards. This includes the USCG Island class, USCG Marine Protector class,
USN Cyclone class and USCG Sentinel Class fast-response cutters.”

The 154-foot
Sentinel-class fast-response cutter has a flank speed of 28 knots; state-of-the-art
command, control, communications and computer technology; and a stern launch
system for the vessel’s 26-foot cutter boat. The FRC has been described as an
operational “game-changer” by senior Coast Guard officials. Recently, the Coast
Guard deployed the FRC 1124 Oliver Berry from Hawaii across the Pacific to the
Republic of the Marshall Islands. The 4,400 nautical mile trip marked the
furthest deployment of an FRC to date. This trip showcases the hugely expanded
operational reach and capability that the FRC provides.

Each FRC is named for an enlisted Coast Guard hero who distinguished him or herself in the line of duty. This vessel is named after Coast Guard hero Master Chief Petty Officer Angela McShan. MCPO McShan was a pioneer for women and African Americans. She was the first African American woman to be promoted to Master Chief Petty Officer. She served over two decades with great devotion and is remembered as an exemplary leader and professional. She inspired the many she trained, and has been described as a positive, kind and motivational person. MCPO McShan was a stellar performer, mentor teacher and inspirational leader. The Master Chief Angela M. McShan Inspirational Leadership Award was established in her memory.

Orange Flag Demonstrates F-35, Army Missile Defense Integration

FORT
BLISS, Texas – Lockheed Martin, the Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense
(AIAMD) Project Office and the U.S. Air Force successfully integrated F-35
track data with the IAMD Battle Command System (IBCS) during Orange Flag
Evaluation (OFE) 19-2 here and at Palmdale, California.

This was
the first-time live F-35 track data has been sent to IBCS via the F-35 ground
station and F-35-IBCS adaptation kit, both developed by Lockheed Martin. This
allowed IBCS to receive and develop fire control quality composite tracks during
the exercise, leveraging the F-35 as an elevated sensor. This capability
enables multidomain operations and the detection of threats that could
challenge ground-based sensors.

“This
demonstration represents a significant growth in capability for the Army IAMD
program and Army for multidomain operations. The capability creates additional
battlespace awareness, and the ability to track incoming

targets and take
action, if necessary," said Scott Arnold, vice president and deputy of
Integrated Air and Missile Defense at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire
Control.

"The F-35, with its advanced sensors and connectivity, is able to gather and seamlessly share critical information, enabling greater joint force protection and a higher level of lethality of Army IAMD forces."

This capability further demonstrates the Army IAMD program's ability to gather sensor data from multiple platforms and is another building block for the future Army IAMD force.

In 2016, the F-35 and Aegis Combat System successfully demonstrated the integration of the F-35 in support Naval Integrated Fire Control-Counter Air (NIFC-CA). The F-35 ground station has been relocated to White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, to support follow on F-35 integration testing during AIAMD developmental testing.

Raytheon Delivers First Next-Generation Jammer Mid-Band Pod for Navy Testing

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. – Raytheon Co. delivered the first Next-Generation Jammer Mid-Band (NGJ-MB) Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD) pod to the U.S. Navy to begin ground and aircraft integration testing, the company said in an Aug. 5 release. Raytheon will deliver 15 EMD pods for

mission systems testing and qualification as well as 14 aeromechanical pods for airworthiness certification.

Because of the NGJ-MB's increased jamming capabilities, the EA-18G Growler electronic attack aircraft can operate in more optimum locations to support both strike aircraft and weapons.

NGJ-MB is a high-capacity and power airborne electronic attack weapon system for the EA-18G. It will protect air forces by denying, degrading and disrupting threat radars and communication devices.

"The first NGJ-MB pod is out the door," said Stefan Baur, vice president of Raytheon Electronic Warfare Systems. "We are one step closer to extending the Navy's jamming range and capability. Delivery of this pod will allow for the initial verification of ground procedures, mass properties, aircraft installation and built-in-test checks in preparation for future chamber and flight test."

Additionally, in the third quarter of 2019, Raytheon will utilize a Prime Power Generation Capability pod installed on a commercial Gulfstream aircraft to conduct power generation flight testing and risk reduction efforts in support of the initial flight clearance process.

Raytheon’s NGJ-MB
architecture and design include the ability to operate at a significantly
enhanced range, attack multiple targets simultaneously and advanced jamming
techniques. The technology can also be scaled to other missions and platforms.