

Kongsberg Awarded Contract for Air-to-Air Pylons for Joint Strike Fighter

OSLO – Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace AS has signed a contract with Marvin Engineering worth 113 kroner to supply air-to-air pylons for the F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter program. The agreement covers production lot 12 for air-to-air pylons for all variants of the fighter.

“This contract reflects the position Kongsberg has achieved by delivering high-quality components time after time to our customers on the F-35 Program. The contract also extends our relationship with Marvin Engineering and ensures continued production of these parts throughout 2020,” said Eirik Lie, president of Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace.

Coast Guard, CBP Interdict 3 Suspected Smugglers, 220 Pounds of Cocaine

SAN JUAN,

Puerto Rico – The U.S. Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection Air and

Marine Operations Branch (CBP AMIO) interdicted about 220 pounds of cocaine 41

miles southwest of Cabo Rojo, according to the Coast Guard 7th District.

A CBP AMIO

aircraft crew located a 20-foot go-fast vessel with three people and suspicious

duffle bags aboard. Coast Guard Sector San Juan watchstanders diverted the

Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Tezanos (WPC-1118) crew to the scene to interdict.

While en route to the vessel, the Tezanos crew spotted the go-fast crew

throwing nine duffle bags overboard.

The Tezanos

crew recovered six of the bags, embarked the three suspected smugglers,

destroyed the go-fast vessel as a danger to navigation and transferred the

smugglers and interdicted cocaine to Coast Guard Investigative Services agents

in Puerto Rico.

“This case highlighted

the strong partnership between Customs and Border Protection and the Coast

Guard,” said Capt. Gregory Magee, Sector San Juan deputy commander.

“This interdiction would not have been possible without our established

relationship and great work by their aircrews.”

Coast Guard, CBP Interdict Migrants, Suspected Smuggler, 67 Packages of Marijuana



Bales of marijuana interdicted on Aug. 1. The U.S. Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection also interdicted seven migrants and a suspected smuggler. U.S. Coast Guard MIAMI – The U.S.

Coast Guard and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) interdicted seven migrants, a suspected smuggler and 67 packages of marijuana on Aug. 1 about 7 miles east of Government Cut, according to the Coast Guard 7th District.

The CBP intercepted an improperly lit 27-foot cabin cruiser about 7 miles east of Government Cut and discovered five Jamaican adult male migrants, one Bahamian male migrant, one Italian male migrant and one suspected Bahamian smuggler, plus they seized 67 packages full of marijuana.

The Coast Guard Cutter Robert Yered (WPC-1104) crew arrived on scene, embarked the migrants and transferred them ashore to CBP.

“We commend our CBP partners who prevented this illegal voyage from making landfall as well as their close collaboration with the Robert Yered crew in safely removing all the migrants from a dangerous situation,” said Petty Officer

1st Class Emily

Wilhite, watchstander at Coast Guard Sector Miami.

Whether

migrants attempt to illegally enter the United States via dangerously

overloaded, unseaworthy or otherwise unsafe vessels or through human smuggling

ventures, taking to the sea illegally is a hazardous risk to one's life. The

Coast Guard will continue to work with our service's partner law enforcement

agencies to ensure U.S. immigration laws are upheld, while also maintaining its

humanitarian responsibility to prevent the loss of life at sea.

Once aboard a Coast Guard

cutter, all migrants receive food, water, shelter and basic medical attention.

Coast Guard, Partner Agencies Intercept 1,400 Pounds of Marijuana



About 1,400 pounds of marijuana seized by the Coast Guard Cutter Dorado stacked on the dock in San Diego. U.S. Coast Guard

SAN DIEGO –

Agencies from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including the Coast

Guard, detected and interdicted a suspected smuggling vessel carrying about 1,400 pounds of marijuana 40 miles southwest of San Diego on July 25, the Coast Guard 11th District said in a release.

Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Operations (CBP AMO) crews notified watchstanders at San Diego's Joint Harbor Operations Center (JHOC) of suspected smuggling activity aboard a 35-foot boat at about 7 p.m. The watchstanders diverted the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Dorado (WPB 87306) that was conducting a routine counter-smuggling patrol in the area.

Dorado arrived on scene at about 10:30 p.m. after being vectored in by CBP AMO crews. The Dorado crew launched their interceptor boat with a boarding team that discovered the marijuana aboard the suspicious vessel. Two suspected smugglers were detained.

Dorado's crew transported the marijuana and suspected smugglers to San Diego, where CBP's AMO crew seized the suspected smuggling vessel and Homeland Security Investigation's Marine Task Force took custody of the suspected smugglers and contraband.

"The crew of Dorado had a very successful mission while patrolling the waters off the coast of San Diego, and we at the district headquarters

could not be prouder of them,” said Capt. Arthur Snyder, Coast Guard 11th District’s chief of response.

The Regional Coordinating Mechanism (ReCoM) is another example of the evolution of joint operations among interagency partners. Located in San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco, the ReCoM partnerships include the U.S. Coast Guard, CBP’s Office of Air and Marine, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Border Patrol and ICE’s Homeland Security Investigations in cooperation with state and local law enforcement partners operating along the California coast.

Dorado is an 87-foot patrol boat homeported in Crescent City.

Littoral Combat Ship USS Billings Commissioned in Key West



USS Billings dressed for her Aug. 3 commissioning in Key West, Florida. Lockheed Martin

KEY WEST,

Fla. – The U.S. Navy commissioned USS Billings (LCS 15), the eighth

Freedom-variant littoral combat ship, here Aug. 3. This

milestone places the ship, built by the Lockheed Martin-led team, into active service.

“Billings was designed to operate and adapt to a rapidly changing environment,” Joe DePietro, vice president of small combatants and ship systems at Lockheed Martin, said in a company release. “She is equipped and ready for today’s threats and easily modifiable to meet the threats we may not even be aware of yet. Our team is confident Billings will be what the Navy needs when the fleet needs it.”

The LCS is designed to complete close-to-shore missions. The ship is capable of speeds in excess of 40 knots. It is also standard-equipped with Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) and a Mark 110 gun, capable of firing 220 rounds per minute, and 40 percent of the hull of an LCS is reconfigurable, integrating capabilities like Longbow Hellfire Missiles, 30 mm guns and manned and unmanned vehicles.

“Having now commanded two freedom-class LCS variants, I would like to report that these ships are truly impressive and will fit well in the niche they have been designed for,” said LCS 15’s commanding officer, Cmdr. Nathan Rowan. “They are fast, maneuverable, and their weapon systems are some of the most accurate I’ve

witnessed on any platform of which I've previously served."



U.S. Sen. John Tester (D-Mont.) at the ceremony Aug. 3 for USS Billings, which is named for the city in Montana. Lockheed Martin

There are

seven ships in various stages of production and test at Fincantieri Marinette

Marine in Wisconsin, where the Freedom-variant LCS is built.

The next

Freedom-variant in the class is LCS 17, the future USS Indianapolis, which was delivered in late July.

"On behalf of the proud

2,000 men and women who transform flat steel into a fast, agile surface

combatant," said Jan Allman, chief executive officer of Fincantieri Marinette

Marine, "we are honored to support the U.S. Navy, and we congratulate the

outstanding crew of the USS Billings."

FRC Demonstrates Long-Range Transit to American Samoa



The Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Gerczak moored in the Port of Pago Pago, American Samoa, on Aug. 3. The crew is participating in Operation Aiga to conduct fisheries law enforcement and strengthen partnerships in American Samoa and Samoa throughout August. U.S. Coast Guard/Chief Petty Officer Sara Muir

PAGO PAGO,

American Samoa – The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Gerczak (WPC 1126) arrived in the Port of Pago Pago on Aug. 3, completing a nine-day transit from Hawaii that demonstrated the long-range capabilities of the fast-response cutter.

The crew is participating in Operation Aiga to conduct fisheries law enforcement and strengthen partnerships in American Samoa and Samoa throughout August.

“It was a good transit, the longest we’ve conducted yet, nine days at sea, and we’re proving the capabilities of these new cutters to operate over the horizon throughout the remote Pacific,” said Lt. James Provost, commanding officer of Joseph Gerczak. “This is the first time a fast-response cutter has come to Pago Pago. We’re looking forward to hosting our partners and the public during tours [Aug. 5] from 1 to 3 p.m. here at the port.”

The Coast

Guard is positioned to enforce U.S. federal laws and regulations in the territorial waters of American Samoa. Worldwide, tuna is a \$7 billion-dollar annual industry, and roughly 70 percent of that tuna comes from the western and central Pacific Ocean. These pelagic fish migrate and it is essential the U.S. and its partners protect the resource from illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. Estimates place the value of IUU fishing around \$616 million annually.

“It was a good transit, the longest we’ve conducted yet, nine

days at sea, and we're proving the capabilities of these new cutters to operate over the horizon throughout the remote Pacific."

Lt. James Provost, commanding officer of Joseph Gerczak

"After

this port call, we will be working with NOAA fisheries and the American Samoa

Marine Police to enforce fisheries regulations in the region while on patrol.

Oceania countries adhering to the rule of law deserve and even playing field.

Presence, partnerships, and regular enforcement can deter IUU fishing and

safeguard these critical fish stocks," Provost said.

The Coast

Guard Cutter Walnut (WLB 205) crew will also be conducting a fisheries mission

with shipriders from Samoa aboard to enforce sovereign laws in their EEZ and

deter IUU fishing. This effort is being undertaken in coordination with

Australia and New Zealand as Samoa transitions their organic patrol assets,

upgrading their fleet. Both cutter crews will also respond to any emergent

search-and-rescue needs in the area and seek out opportunities to work with

partner nation assets.

The Coast

Guard exercises 11 bilateral shiprider agreements with Pacific Island Forum

nations to help ensure regional security and maritime sovereignty.

“The U.S. is committed to supporting our allies and neighbors in the Pacific, which is essential to a free and open Indo-Pacific.”

The Joseph Gerczak is a 154-foot Sentinel-Class fast-response cutter homeported in Honolulu. It is one of the newest patrol boats in the fleet. Three fast-response cutters will be homeported in Honolulu, the third arriving in August. Three will also be stationed in Guam and are to begin arriving there next year.

Coast Guard Interdicts 27 Cuban Migrants 5 Miles South of Key West



A Coast Guard Station Key West 45-foot response boat-medium boat crew interdicts an 18-foot migrant chug with 27 Cuban migrants aboard on July 27 onto the Coast Guard small boat. U.S. Coast Guard/Petty Officer 3rd Class Daniel McCravy

MIAMI –

The U.S. Coast Guard interdicted 27 Cuban migrants on July 27 about 5 miles south of Key West, the Coast Guard’s 7th District said in a release.

A Coast

Guard Station Key West 45-foot response boat crew interdicted

an 18-foot migrant chug with 27 Cuban migrants – 22 males, four females and one child – aboard. The crew safely embarked all 27 migrants aboard the station boat.

“These illegal ventures attempting to immigrate to the United States are extremely dangerous, especially during the hurricane season, when weather and sea conditions can dramatically and rapidly change in minutes, putting migrants in danger of being lost at sea,” said Capt. Jason Ryan, chief of the enforcement branch of the Coast Guard 7th District.

“The Coast Guard and our partner agencies’ priority is safety of life at sea and these voyages in ill-equipped vessels aren’t safe. The Coast Guard and our partner agencies maintain their focused and coordinated efforts to interdict and stop these unlawful migration attempts into the United States.”

The watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Key West were notified by a good Samaritan vessel of a possible migrant vessel. The watchstanders directed the launch of a Station Key West RB-M boat crew and diverted the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Kathleen Moore (WPC-1109) to assist.

The station crew rendezvoused with the cutter Kathleen Moore and safely transferred

the migrants to the cutter.

A total of 438 Cuban migrants have attempted to illegally enter the U.S. by sea in fiscal year 2019 compared to 384 Cuban migrants in fiscal year 2018. These numbers represent the total number of at-sea interdictions, landings and disruptions in the Florida Straits, the Caribbean and the Atlantic.

HII Continues Planning for Midlife Refueling, Overhaul of USS John C. Stennis



USS John C. Stennis departs Hampton Roads, Virginia, in February 1998. Huntington Ingalls Industries
NEWPORT NEWS,
Va. – Huntington Ingalls Industries' Newport News Shipbuilding division has received a \$290 million contract modification from the U.S. Navy to continue planning for the refueling and complex overhaul of the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis, the company announced Aug. 1.

The contract funds the second and third years of planning, long-lead-time material procurement, shop fabrication, shipboard inspections and facilities readiness

for the overhaul. As part of the planning contract, Newport News also will perform some shipboard work, which will take place in Norfolk. The initial year of planning was funded at a base value of \$187.5 million.

“The second and third year of planning is important to the overall success of a project of the magnitude of [the overhaul],” said Chris Miner, Newport News’ vice president of in-service aircraft carriers.

“This contract allows us to continue our critical planning for each step of the process so we’re ready to begin execution when the ship arrives in the first quarter of 2021.”

Stennis will be the seventh Nimitz-class carrier to undergo a major life-cycle overhaul at Newport News, representing 35% of all maintenance and modernization completed during its service life.

The overhaul, a RCOH, is an extremely complex engineering and construction project that involves more than 680 suppliers from 40 states providing material and services critical to the overhaul process.

Once completed, a recapitalized carrier can support current and future warfare doctrine and continuing to operate as the centerpiece of the Navy’s fleet and national defense for another 25 years.

Alion Completes Sale of Naval Systems Business Unit to Serco

WASHINGTON –

Alion Science and Technology Corp., which designs and delivers complex engineering solutions for defense and intelligence agencies, has completed the sale of its naval systems business unit, including its Canadian business and a small number of related contract operations, to Serco Inc., Alion announced.

“We are pleased to complete the previously announced transaction to sell Alion’s NSBU business to Serco and look forward to continuing to provide best-in-class engineering and technology solutions to our national security customers, including U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy as well as Intelligence customers,” said Steve Schorer, chairman and CEO of Alion.

“This divestiture allows us to focus on advancing technologies and systems in the areas of C5 systems, ISR solutions, artificial intelligence, cyber solutions, electronic warfare technology and live virtual constructive training systems, which are all critical to the mission of our customers.”

Universities Step In to Fuel Australian Shipbuilding Boom

ADELAIDE,

Australia – Flinders University has partnered with the Naval Shipbuilding

College, which is also in Adelaide, to ensure graduates are ready to seize

future cutting-edge jobs in the National Naval Shipbuilding Enterprise, the

Lead, a south Australian newspaper, said in an Aug. 1 article.

This week

the University of Adelaide announced that its rejuvenated master's of marine engineering

program had grown in popularity more than five-fold since 2015, thanks in part

to a partnership with Australian submarine company ASC.

Flinders

University is the first Australian university to be endorsed for delivering a

course aligned with the future employment needs of the naval shipbuilding

industry. Its bachelor's of engineering (mechanical) (honours) has been

endorsed by the Naval Shipbuilding College with five other engineering programs

expected to follow.

The

Australian government is investing \$90 billion into the continuous shipbuilding

program, which is expected to create 5,200 shipbuilding jobs within 10 years,

to build Australia's new fleet of 12 offshore patrol vessels,

nine Hunter-class anti-submarine frigates, 12 submarines and 21 Pacific patrol boats.

Based in Osborne, South Australia, the Naval Shipbuilding College is a hub that links prospective workers with suitable and accredited training at universities, TAFEs and training institutions in all states and territories.

It is operated by the Naval Shipbuilding Institute, an Australian joint venture between Kellogg Brown & Root and America's largest military shipbuilding company Huntington Ingalls Industries.

A TAFE SA welding course became the first training program endorsed by the college last September, but the Flinders program is the first university course to be approved. Five courses at Tasmania's Australian Maritime College were also endorsed the last week of July, a few days after the Flinders University announcement.

Flinders Learning and Teaching Innovation Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Deborah West said the university was committed to the partnership with the Naval Shipbuilding College, which would provide high-quality education pathways into shipbuilding careers for students.

"The

endorsement of our degrees will ensure our graduates are well positioned for the large number of job opportunities that are being created as a result of the growth in the shipbuilding industry," she said.

Naval

Shipbuilding College sits alongside the Osborne Naval Shipyard near Port

Adelaide. The shipyard has been at the heart of Australia's defence shipbuilding

program since the late 1980s and has delivered six Collins-class submarines and

three Hobart-class air warfare destroyers. It is also expected to play a key

ongoing role in the \$90 billion continuous build program.

The

University of Adelaide's rejuvenated master's of marine engineering program is

backed by the expertise and resources of ASC.

This year

49 students are undertaking master's degrees by course work in submarine design

(naval architecture and maritime engineering), sustainment, supply chain,

project management and related subjects, within the University's School of

Mechanical Engineering.

The

program, offered every two years, has grown from 27 students in 2017 and nine

students in 2015. It is among only a few postgraduate courses available in

Australia in marine engineering and is the only one in submarine design.

The students are drawn from industry, defense and recent graduates as well as French exchange students from the prestigious French Grande Ecole d'Ingénieurs ENSTA Bretagne, which last year signed a collaboration agreement with the University of Adelaide.

In the program each student completes an individual project developing a submarine concept design using professional tools. Enrolled students are being offered free membership with the prestigious Royal Institution of Naval Architects and the best projects are presented to the Submarine Institute of Australia Technical Conference, SubsTec.

Newly appointed course director Associate Professor Eric Fusil said the ramp-up in enrolments for the course reflected the place Adelaide will occupy at the center of submarine and major warship design and construction in coming decades.

"We are at the start of a historical and challenging build-up in the submarine sector in Australia," said Associate Professor Fusil, a former submarine designer with both Naval Group of France and ASC in Adelaide.

"The students are drawing on an incredible wealth of real-life experience in terms

of submarine engineering at ASC – Australia’s only established submarine company.”

Naval

Shipbuilding College program director Bill Docalovich said the unprecedented upgrade of the Royal Australian Navy’s fleet was taking a national approach.

“Through collaboration with education and training providers in every state and territory we are strengthening student pathways into rewarding, long-term, sustainable shipbuilding careers,” he said.

“It demonstrates our commitment to ensuring our students are skilled and capable of meeting the changing needs of the workforce and future industries in Australia.”

The

Australian government established the Naval Shipbuilding College in 2018 to help secure a sovereign workforce to implement its \$90 billion continuous naval shipbuilding program.

A national naval

shipbuilding workforce register has been established for students and workers interested in working on some of the world’s most technologically advanced projects.