

Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk Returns After 90-Day Eastern Pacific Patrol



Petty Officer 3rd Class Ricky Ogborn helps free an entangled sea turtle in the eastern Pacific Ocean on June 3 during the Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk's just-concluded 90-day patrol. U.S. Coast Guard

KEY WEST,

Fla. – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk (WMEC-913) returned to their

homeport in Key West following a 90-day counter-smuggling patrol in support of

Joint Interagency Task Force-South and operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean,

the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

The Mohawk

crew, along with Coast Guard crews from Tactical Law Enforcement Team-South,

Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron and multiple partner

agencies, interdicted more than 16,500 pounds of cocaine and more than 1,500

pounds of marijuana to counter and disrupt the illegal smuggling operations of

transnational criminal organizations.



Cutter Mohawk patrols the eastern Pacific Ocean in May. U.S. Coast Guard

The cutter

crew also conducted joint operations with crews from the Costa Rica Servicio

Nacional de Guardacostas, in which they assisted in the rescue

of four Costa Rican mariners. The Mohawk crew also rescued four sea turtles entangled in fishing gear.

The Coast

Guard increased U.S. and allied presence in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Basin, which are known drug transit zones off Central and South America. During at-sea interdictions in international waters, a suspect vessel is initially located and tracked by allied, military or law-enforcement personnel coordinated by JIAFT-S. The interdictions, including the actual boarding, are led and conducted by U.S. Coast Guardsmen. The law-enforcement phase of counter-smuggling operations in the Eastern Pacific is conducted under the authority of the Coast Guard 11th District headquartered in Alameda, California.

The cutter Mohawk is a 270-foot medium-endurance cutter, whose missions include search and rescue, maritime safety and security, and maritime law enforcement operations, such as illegal migrant and drug interdiction operations.

Coast Guard Cutter Dependable Returns to Homeport After 62-Day Patrol

PORTSMOUTH,

Va. – The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Dependable returned on June 22 to Little Creek, Virginia, after completing a 62-day Mid-Atlantic fisheries patrol, the Coast Guard 5th District said in a release.

From New

Jersey to South Carolina, the Dependable's boarding teams conducted 39

boardings and inspected the catch, gear and lifesaving equipment of U.S.

fishing vessels to ensure they met all required federal laws and regulations.

During the

patrol, the Dependable's boarding team members identified a variety of

lifesaving equipment concerns on board several commercial and recreational

fishing vessels. The boarding team members helped those mariners fix their

issues on the spot and educated them on the importance of maintaining their equipment.

“Living

marine resource patrols are vital to ensuring the continued stability of the

multibillion-dollar U.S. seafood industry as well as the stewardship and

sustainability of living marine resources, such as fish, turtles and marine protected species,” said Cmdr. Rula Deisher, commanding officer of Coast Guard Cutter Dependable.

“Our boarding team members ensured that the mariners’ safety and fishing gear were fully operational and that they were operating within U.S. fishing regulations. We enjoyed the opportunity to serve the public so close to our homeport.”

The Dependable is a 210-foot medium-endurance cutter homeported in Little Creek and routinely deploys in support of counter-drug and alien migrant interdiction, living marine resources and search-and-rescue missions.

Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant Crew Returns Home After Caribbean Patrol



A Coast Guard Cutter Robert Yered small boat crew gives life jackets to 50 migrants about 46 miles north of Cap Haïtien, Haiti, on May 20. The Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant crew transferred the migrants back to their country of origin. U.S. Coast Guard

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter

Vigilant returned home June 23 to Cape Canaveral after a two-month Caribbean patrol, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

The crew's patrol focused on enforcing U.S. federal laws by conducting boardings of U.S. and international vessels throughout the Caribbean basin while working with other government agencies and international partners to maintain national security.

While on patrol, the crew ensured the safe return of 50 Haitian migrants to their home country after their illegal and dangerous voyage was disrupted by the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Robert Yered, a fast-response cutter homeported in Miami. The crew was also involved in a search for a person reported to be in the water after falling overboard from his sailing vessel.

The Vigilant crew interdicted a go-fast vessel illegally smuggling 7,800 pounds of garlic from Haiti to the Dominican Republic. Garlic smuggling is a global issue on the rise and has had negative impacts on the agricultural industry in the Dominican Republic in the last few years.

Upon hearing of the interdiction, the Dominican navy sent a ship to meet the Vigilant to take over the case for the prosecution. The contraband was valued at about

\$30,000 and was the largest Coast Guard seizure of its kind.

During their 59-day patrol, the crew worked with agencies such as the Jamaican Defense Force, Royal Bahamian Defense Force, Dominican navy, U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and the U.S. Navy.

The Vigilant is a multimission 210-foot medium-endurance cutter whose missions include illegal drug and migrant interdiction as well as search and rescue. The Vigilant patrols throughout the Caribbean basin and Atlantic seaboard to ensure safety of life at sea and enforce international and domestic laws.

Marine Corps Awards Lightweight Body Armor Insert Contract to Point Blank Enterprises

POMPANO

BEACH, Fla. – Point Blank Enterprises Inc. has been awarded a \$215.9 million body armor contract by the Marine Corps Systems Command, the company announced in a June 24 release.

The Marine

Corps Low Intensity Threat Environment (LITE) body armor insert is a new small-arms protective insert that is designed to improve the survivability and mobility of Marines by maximizing ballistic protection at a reduced weight.

“Reducing

Marine burden by providing innovative and lightweight armor solutions along

with our high-quality manufacturing capabilities is our expertise,” said Brian

Kopan, Point Blank’s senior vice president of engineering and technology. “Whether

we are designing armor systems for vehicles or individual protection equipment,

our mission is always focused on saving the life of those that protect us.”

For more than 43 years,

Point Blank Enterprises has provided products and designs engineered to

maximize ballistic protection. Point Blank has shipped body armor solutions to U.S.

servicemen and women, law enforcement, corrections officers, federal agents and

other national and international customers.

Navy Secretary Names Newest

Towing, Salvage and Rescue Ship Cherokee Nation



An artist rendering of the future USNS Cherokee Nation (T-ATS 7). U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Paul L. Archer

WASHINGTON

– Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer has announced the newest towing, salvage and rescue ship will be named Cherokee Nation in honor of the service and contributions the Cherokee people have made to the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, the secretary's public affairs office said in a June 21 release.

“It is my privilege to announce that the many Cherokee Nation citizens who've served throughout the years will be remembered with the highest honor a secretary of the Navy can bestow, the naming of a ship,” Spencer said.

This is the fifth U.S. ship to be named in honor of the Cherokee people.

“The Cherokee Nation is extremely honored that the U.S. Navy is recognizing our tribal nation and the generations of Cherokee men and women who have bravely and humbly sacrificed for our freedom today,” Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker said.

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“Our

Cherokee people have contributed in every major battle and war ever fought in this country and continue to serve in the armed forces in some of the highest rates per ethnicity. Cherokees are a strong, resilient people, and we are privileged to have a U.S. ship at sea that reflects both our country and tribe’s history and values.”

Gulf

Island Shipyards was awarded a \$64.8 million contract option for the detail design and construction of the new Ship, which will be based on existing commercial towing offshore vessel designs and will replace the current T-ATF 166 and T-ARS 50 class ships in service with the U.S. Military Sealift Command. The Cherokee Nation is the second ship in the new class of towing, salvage and rescue ships and will be designated T-ATS 7.

The contract

includes options for potentially six additional vessels, and each additional ship will be named in honor of prominent Native Americans or Native American tribes.

The T-ATS

will serve as open ocean towing vessels and will additionally support salvage operations and submarine rescue missions. The

ship will be built at the company's shipyard in Houma, Louisiana, and is expected to be completed in July 2021.

JLTV Approved for Full-Rate Production for Marine Corps, Army



A Joint Light Tactical Vehicle during a live demonstration at School of Infantry-West, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, in February. U.S. Marine Corps/Sgt. Timothy Smithers

WASHINGTON

– Bruce Jette, assistant secretary of the U.S. Army for acquisition, logistics

and technology, on June 20 approved the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV)

program's transition into full-rate production, the Army Program Executive

Office for Combat Support and Combat Service Support announced in a release.

The

approval follows an Army decision in December to begin fielding the new

platform with the Army's 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart,

Georgia, in April. The 1-3 ID became the Army's first unit equipped with JLTVs

in April after receiving more than 300 vehicles.

Fieldings

to the Ordnance School, Fort Lee, Virginia, the 84th Training Command, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, the Marine Corps' School of Infantry-West at Camp Pendleton, California, as well as the Marine School of Infantry-East, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, have also been completed.

"Thanks

to tremendous teamwork across two services on requirements, resources, program management, testing and other areas, this is a great modernization success story.

JLTV shows how teams focused on stable requirements, mature technologies and the right incentives can deliver meaningful capability advancements in a cost-conscious way," said Jeffrey White, Jette's principal deputy.

The JLTV

family of vehicles is designed to restore payload and performance that were traded from light tactical vehicles to add protection in recent conflict, giving commanders an improved protected mobility solution and the first vehicle purpose-built for modern battlefield networks.

"Getting

an improved capability into the hands of Soldiers and Marines has been our team's driving focus throughout this program," said Michael Sprang, project manager, Joint Program Office, Joint Light Tactical Vehicles.

"We

are also grateful for Soldier feedback on new features and enhancements,” Sprang continued. “The Soldiers of the 1st ABCT, 3rd Infantry Division provided valuable input on enhancements such as increased situational awareness, reduction of system noise, a troop seat kit, and a companion JLTV trailer. Their assessments helped bring us all to a successful Full-Rate Production decision.”

The JLTV program remains on schedule and on budget to replace a significant portion of the Army’s High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle fleet. The JLTV comes in two variants and four mission package configurations: general purpose, close combat weapons carrier, heavy guns carrier and a utility vehicle. The U.S. Navy and Air Force also plan to field JLTVs in much smaller quantities.

“The full-rate production decision is a key milestone for the JLTV program, closing out the low-rate initial production (LRIP) phase, which began in 2015, George Mansfield, vice president and general manager of joint programs for Oshkosh Defense, said in a June 21 statement. “Important insights from manufacturing and rigorous developmental and operational test during LRIP contributed to shaping the vehicle’s current configuration. The program remains on schedule and on budget and ensures our troops have the protection, connection and extreme off-road mobility they need today for

current and future battlefields. The JLTV is the only light tactical vehicle being fielded today that can maneuver within combat formations.”

Coast Guard Repatriates 11 Migrants to Dominican Republic



The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Donald Horsley (WPC-1117) repatriated 11 Dominican migrants to a Dominican navy vessel on June 19 in waters just off Samana, Dominican Republic. U.S. Coast Guard

SAN JUAN,

Puerto Rico – The Coast Guard Cutter Donald Horsley (WPC-1117) repatriated 11

Dominican migrants to a Dominican navy patrol vessel June 19 in waters just off

Samana, Dominican Republic, following the interdiction of an illegal migrant

voyage in the Mona Passage, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

The

interdiction is the result of ongoing efforts in support of Operation Unified

Resolve, Operation Caribbean Guard and the Caribbean Border Interagency Group

(CBIG). Since October 2018, the Coast Guard and CBIG partner federal and state

agencies have interdicted over 1,523 migrants at sea near

Puerto Rico and the
U.S. Islands.

During a
routine patrol June 17, the crew of patrolling Coast Guard
HC-144 Ocean Sentry
maritime patrol aircraft detected a 20-foot fiberglass migrant
boat transiting
towards Puerto Rico, about 20 nautical miles north northeast
of Punta Cana,
Dominican Republic.

Coast Guard
watchstanders in Sector San Juan diverted the cutter Donald
Horsley to interdict
the suspect vessel. Upon arriving on scene, the Donald Horsley
crew stopped the
blue and white makeshift boat with 11 migrants onboard, nine
men and two women,
who claimed Dominican nationality. Horsley crew members
proceeded to embark all
the migrants from the makeshift boat that was taking on water
and in danger of
sinking.

"I am proud
of my crew for saving 11 people from a small, grossly
overloaded boat traveling
in very dangerous sea conditions," said Lt. Christopher
Martin, commanding
officer of the Donald Horsley. "Crossing the Mona Passage is
an extremely
dangerous journey, especially in the case of illegal voyages,
in which migrants
risk their lives by trusting smugglers who transport them in
inhumane
conditions on boats that are not safe to navigate and do not
have any safety

equipment on board.”

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

The cutter Donald Horsley is a 154-foot fast-response cutter homeported in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Navy to Christen Guided-Missile Destroyer Daniel Inouye



Irene Hirano Inouye (left) and Frank Wood, a Bath Iron Works welder, authenticate the keel of the future guided-missile destroyer USS Daniel Inouye last May. Inouye is the ship's sponsor and widow of the ship's namesake, Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye. The USS Daniel Inouye is set to be christened on June 22. U.S. Navy via General Dynamics

ARLINGTON,

Va. – The U.S. Navy will christen its newest Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, the future USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118), during a 10 a.m. ceremony June 22, in Bath, Maine, the Defense Department announced.

The future USS Daniel Inouye is named in honor of Daniel Inouye, who served as a United

States senator for Hawaii from 1963 until his death in 2012.

Inouye

received the Medal of Honor June 21, 2000, for his extraordinary heroism in action while serving with the 442nd Infantry Regiment Combat Team in Italy during World War II. During an assault on April 21, 1945, an exploding grenade shattered his right arm; despite the intense pain, he refused evacuation. He remained at the head of his platoon until they broke the enemy resistance and his men deployed in defensive positions, continuing to fight until the regiment's position was secured.

U.S. Sen.

Mazie Hirono of Hawaii will deliver the christening ceremony's principal address. Irene Hirano Inouye, the late senator's wife, will serve as the ship's sponsor. In a time-honored Navy tradition, Irene Inouye will christen the ship by breaking a bottle of sparkling wine across her bow.

"The

future USS Daniel Inouye will serve for decades as a reminder of Senator Inouye's service to our nation and his unwavering support of a strong Navy and Marine Corps team," Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer said. "This ship honors not only his service but the service of our shipbuilders who help make ours the greatest Navy and Marine Corps team in the world."

The future
USS Daniel Inouye will be the 68th Arleigh Burke-class
destroyer and is one of
21 ships under contract for the DDG 51 program. The ship is
configured as a
Flight IIA destroyer, which enables power projection and
delivers quick
reaction time, high firepower, and increased electronic
countermeasures
capability for anti-air warfare. The USS Daniel Inouye will be
509.5 feet long
and 59 feet wide, with a displacement of 9,496 tons. She will
be homeported in
Pearl Harbor.

Norfolk Naval Shipyard Dedicates Submarine Maintenance Facility

PORTSMOUTH,
Va. – Norfolk Naval Shipyard dedicated its new submarine
maintenance facility
on June 14.

The
dedication marked the next crucial step in the NNSY's
realization of a shipyard
infrastructure optimization plan that will enhance the ability
of the four
public shipyards to meet the mission of delivering ships back
to the fleet on

time and within budget.

The new facility consolidates submarine maintenance, production and support shops into a single facility adjacent to NNSY's submarine drydocks. This two-story structure features shops, storage and support spaces on the ground level, with office spaces and conference rooms on the second floor.

"NAVSEA Cmdr. Vice Adm. Tom Moore has challenged us to build an environment that promotes increased levels of innovation, collaboration and knowledge sharing," the shipyard's commander, Capt. Kai Torkelson, said at the dedication.

"This will give our people the space and tools they need to forge high-performing teams and complete our mission of returning submarines to the fleet with superior quality and reliable delivery."

More than three years in the making, the \$10 million project is designed to withstand the impact of a 500-year flood, and the 24,000-square-foot building should also hold up against a Category 4 hurricane. The building also follows antiterrorism protection requirements, featuring blast-proof windows and 18-inch thick concrete walls. It also features amenities such as a kitchen, break room, nursing mothers room and showers.

NNSY's

current submarine projects include conversions of USS La Jolla and USS San

Francisco into moored training ships and the refueling and upgrading of USS

Wyoming for return to the nation's active submarine fleet.

NNSY submarine

program manager Pat Ensley said the building supports work on Los Angeles-class

submarines and will support work on the future Virginia and Columbia classes of

subs.

"It

improves our abilities by having a permanent facility and place to perform

production work as close to the boat as possible," he said.

Adding that the

building is segmented by mechanical, electrical, nuclear and nonnuclear work

areas, he said: "We're going to have capability for every shop, with

ergonomically designed work areas as well as giving individuals all the

amenities they would want from starting to ending their work days."

**Raytheon Wins \$234 Million
U.S. Navy Contract for 23**

JPALS Landing Systems

PARIS – Raytheon

won a four-year \$234 million contract from the U.S. Navy to outfit all of its nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and amphibious assault ships with 23 Joint Precision Approach and Landing Systems (JPALS), the company announced in a release.

JPALS is a GPS-based precision landing system that guides aircraft to precision landings in all weather and surface conditions.

“The U.S. Navy understands how JPALS contributes to their mission success and safety of its people,” said Matt Gilligan, vice president of Raytheon’s intelligence, information and services business. “Other military services could also benefit from the system’s ability to safely land both fixed and rotary-wing aircraft in almost any low-visibility environment.”

Since 2018, U.S. Marine Corps F-35B Lightning II fighter pilots have used JPALS to guide them onto the USS Wasp amphibious assault ship during deployed operations in what Navy Capt. B. Joseph Hornbuckle III, program manager, Naval Air Traffic Management Systems Program Office, called “the most difficult conditions on Earth.”

Earlier this year, F-35B pilots participated in two demonstrations of a new expeditionary version of the JPALS system that brings the same precision capability from sea to shore. The proof-of-concept events showed how the GPS-based system could be reconfigured into a mobile version to support landings in a traditional airport setting.

Expeditionary JPALS fits in five transit cases and could be repackaged for a variety of small transit vehicles transportable by C-130. Once on the ground, the system can be fully operational in under 90 minutes.