

HII Delivers Eighth National Security Cutter Midgett to U.S. Coast Guard



With the signing of ceremonial documents, custody of the National Security Cutter Midgett is officially transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard. Left to right: Cmdr. Brian Smicklas, Midgett's executive officer; Capt. Travis Carter, commanding officer, Project Resident Office Gulf Coast; and Derek Murphy, HII's NSC program manager, perform the ceremony. Derek Fountain/Huntington Ingalls Industries

PASCAGOULA, Mississippi – Huntington Ingalls Industries' Ingalls Shipbuilding division delivered the National Security Cutter Midgett (WMSL 757) to the U.S. Coast Guard on May 1, the company said in a release. Midgett is scheduled to sail away in June and will be commissioned later this year.

"We have a mission statement in the NSC program that says during the construction of each NSC we will provide the men and women of the United States Coast Guard with the finest ship in their fleet," said Derek Murphy, NSC program manager. "This excellence will be provided by our shipbuilders through working safely, attention to detail and ownership of work. Since the beginning of construction on NSC 8, we've seen an amazing transformation, made possible by the thousands of people who poured their heart and soul into this ship."

"From a homeland security and defense perspective, this ship provides unmatched command and control."

Cmdr. Brian Smicklas, Midgett's executive officer, acting commanding officer

Ingalls has now delivered eight Legend-class NSCs and has one more under construction and two more under contract. Stone (WMSL 758) is scheduled for delivery in 2020. In December of 2018, Ingalls received two fixed-price incentive contracts with a combined value of \$931 million to build NSCs 10 and 11.

"From a homeland security and defense perspective, this ship provides unmatched command and control," said Cmdr. Brian Smicklas, Midgett's executive officer and acting commanding officer.

Midgett navigates the Gulf of Mexico during her builder's trials on Jan. 22. Video by Derek Fountain/Huntington Ingalls Industries

"We've reached a number of accomplishments and milestones up to this point. However, there's more work to do on the water. We have record drug flows in the eastern Pacific, and there are traditional Western Hemisphere missions that our Coast Guard brothers and sisters are conducting on the water every day. We also see a large increase in demand for the geographic combatant commanders for this specific National Security Cutter capability, and we're excited to fill that and be a part of the national fleet."

NSC 8 is named to honor the hundreds of members of the Midgett family who have served in the U.S. Coast Guard and its predecessor services. At least 10 members of the family earned high honors from the Coast Guard for their heroic lifesaving deeds. Seven Midgett family members were awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal, the Coast Guard's highest award for saving a life, and three were awarded the Silver Lifesaving Medal.

HII Wins LCS Planning Yard Contract Worth a Possible \$931.7 Million



HII's Ingalls Shipbuilding division in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Lance Davis/Huntington Ingalls PASCAGOULA, Mississippi – Huntington Ingalls Industries' Ingalls

Shipbuilding division has been awarded a cost-plus-award-fee contract with a

potential total value of \$931.7 million for planning yard services in support

of in-service littoral combat ships (LCS), the company said in a May 1 release.

The contract, which includes options over a six-year period, also provides work

packages for HII's Technical Solutions division.

"Ingalls Shipbuilding will build on 35 years of planning yard experience to join our Technical Solutions division in fully supporting

this life-cycle work on the LCS program," Ingalls Shipbuilding President Brian

Cuccias said. "Our talented shipbuilding team has the resources and program

management experience necessary to ensure the post-delivery work on the LCS

program meets the requirements and missions of our U.S. Navy customers."

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The planning yard design services contract will provide the LCS program with post-delivery life-cycle support, which includes fleet modernization program planning, design engineering and modeling, logistics support, long-lead-time material support, and preventative and planned maintenance system item development and scheduling. Unique to this planning yard effort is the requirement to manage the scheduling of all planned, continuous and emergent maintenance and associated availabilities.

Most of the work will be accomplished in Pascagoula and Hampton, Virginia, by designers, engineers, logisticians, planners, program managers and a variety of additional subject matter experts. Ingalls and Technical Solutions will also provide waterfront support in the LCS homeports.

ATAC Selected as Provider of

Training for Navy's TACT Program

WASHINGTON – Textron Airborne Solutions, a business unit of Textron Inc., announced on May 1 that its Airborne Tactical Advantage Company subsidiary (ATAC) has been selected as a provider of contracted air services under the U.S. Navy's Terminal Attack Controller Trainer (TACT) program.

Training provided under the IDIQ contract will be led by ATAC and includes a team made up of Textron Aviation Defense and the Valkyrie Defense family of companies. They will deliver contracted live-air training to forward air controllers, joint terminal attack controllers (JTACs) and forward air controllers (Airborne) on ATAC's L-39 Albatros, Textron Aviation Defense's Beechcraft AT-6 Wolverine light attack and armed reconnaissance aircraft and Valkyrie's A-27 Tucanos.

"TACT is a marked increase in both the quality and quantity of JTAC training services demanded by the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. ATAC's world-class team is pleased to provide the most mission-representative JTAC training solutions available," said Russ Bartlett, CEO of Textron Airborne Solutions.

"Textron Aviation Defense is proud to be on this air services contract to equip the TACT community with

the Beechcraft AT-6

Wolverine's cost-effective, high-performance close air support capability,"

said Brett Pierson, vice president of Light Attack Aircraft and Scorpion. "The

Navy and Marine Corps flew the AT-6 during the U.S. Air Force Light Attack

experiments and are well-acquainted with its unparalleled mission capability

and optimized battlespace networking capability."

"Everyone at Valkyrie Defense's family of

companies is excited to be working with ATAC in providing the best contracted

close air support and JTAC training available. We look forward to fulfilling

the needs of the U.S. warfighter for years to come with our fleet of aircraft,"

said Charlie Keebaugh, CEO of Valkyrie Aero.

ATAC has a fleet of more than 90 aircraft,

having pioneered much of what are now contracted air services industry

standards with 20 years of operating experience and 57,000 flight hours. For

the past 15 years, ATAC has provided a wide range of contracted close air

support capabilities to U.S. Department of Defense JTAC communities across

Europe, continental U.S., Hawaii and the western Pacific region. The only

contractor that has operated supersonic fighter aircraft for the DoD, ATAC has

helped train crews from the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps and regularly

operates out of as many as 25 different bases per year.

Textron Airborne Solutions

focuses on live military air-to-air, air-to-ship and air-to-ground training and support services. Within Textron Airborne Solutions is Airborne Tactical Advantage Company (ATAC), a business that provides tactical flight training and adversary aggressor services for Navy, Marine and Air Force pilots.

Lockheed Develops Rack to Make F-35A/C a Six-Shooter



Marines prepare F-35B Lightning II aircraft on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp. The F-35B can't accommodate the new Sidekick weapons rack, as its weapons bay is too small, but the F-35C, the Navy's variant of the joint strike fighter, can. Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Benjamin F. Davella III

ARLINGTON,

Va. – The builder of the F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter has designed a new weapons rack to enable the aircraft to carry two more missiles internally.

The new rack, called Sidekick, enables each of the two weapons bays of the Air Force F-35A and Navy carrier-capable F-35C to carry three AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) instead of the current two, for a total of six internally carried AMRAAMs.

Speaking May

1 to reporters at a Lockheed Martin media briefing, a company F-35 test pilot, Tony 'Brick' Wilson, said the rack was developed entirely with company internal research and development funds.

"The extra missiles add a little weight but are not adding extra drag."

Tony 'Brick' Wilson, F-35 TEST PILOT

The rack is not compatible with the vertical lift Marine Corps F-35B version, which has smaller weapons bay.

The F-35 can carry more AMRAAMs on external pylons, but Wilson pointed out that carrying two more internally preserves the stealth characteristics of the F-35.

"The extra missiles add a little weight but are not adding extra drag," Wilson said.

Wilson also said the F-35 has the external structural capacity for hypersonic weapons should that be required in the future.

He also said the company, working with the Air Force Research Lab, has developed and installed on the F-35A – six years ahead of schedule – the Auto Ground Collision Avoidance System (AGCAS).

The AGCAS has

“saved eight pilots’ lives,” Wilson said.

He

said the AGCAS will be installed later on the F-35B and on the F-35C in 2021.

Australia to Purchase Second Triton UAV



CANBERRA, Australia –The Australian government has agreed to purchase a second MQ-4C Triton, Northrop Grumman Corp., manufacturer of the aircraft, said in a release.

Australia’s 2016 Defence White Paper identified the requirement for seven high-altitude, long-endurance Triton unmanned aircraft. Northrop Grumman will deliver the Triton through a cooperative program with the U.S. Navy.

“Northrop Grumman is excited to develop this unrivaled capability for the Royal Australian Air Force,” said Doug Shaffer, vice president and program manager for the Triton at the company. “Triton will provide the Australian Defence Force a high-altitude, long-endurance system for intelligence, reconnaissance and broad-area surveillance missions to enhance the security of Australia’s borders.”

Defence Minister Christopher Pyne identified “people smuggling and the exploitation of our natural resources” as threats that Triton’s capabilities can help to address.

Minister for Defence Industry Linda Reynolds identified the opportunities this program will create for Australian industry

and said that “there will be significant opportunity for Australian industry to share in billions of dollars of system maintenance and network management functions.”

Northrop Grumman is committed to developing a sovereign defense capability for Australia through industrial partnership and participation, direct investment and technology transfer, the company said.

USS America, USS New Orleans to Forward Deploy to Japan; USS Stethem, USS Wasp to Return to U.S.



PEARL HARBOR (Jan. 23, 2018) The amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA 6) and its amphibious ready group (ARG) are moored at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

SASEBO, Japan – The Navy announced that the amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA 6) and landing platform dock USS New Orleans (LPD 18) will become part of the U.S. 7th Fleet forward-deployed forces in Sasebo, Japan, the commander, Naval Forces Japan Public Affairs, said in a release.

The guided-missile destroyer USS Stethem (DDG 63) will shift its homeport to San Diego for its midlife modernization and the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) will shift its homeport to Norfolk, Virginia, to undergo scheduled maintenance.

America is capable of supporting the F-35B Lightning II, the

Marine Corps vertical-lift variant of the Joint Strike Fighter, as part of an embarked U.S. Marine Corps Air Combat Element.

The United States values Japan's contributions to the peace, security and stability of the Indo-Pacific and its long-term commitment and hospitality in hosting U.S. forces forward deployed there. These forces, along with their counterparts in the Japan Self-Defense Forces, make up the core capabilities needed by the alliance to meet our common strategic objectives.

The security environment in the Indo-Pacific requires that the Navy station the most capable ships forward. This posture allows the most rapid response times possible for maritime and joint forces and brings our most capable ships with the greatest amount of striking power and operational capability to bear in the timeliest manner.

Maintaining a forward-deployed force capability supports the U.S. commitment to the defense of Japan and the security and stability of the vital Indo-Pacific region.

America will provide the Marine Corps with a means of combat operations utilizing the F-35B fighter. New Orleans is capable of ship-to-shore movement by tilt-rotor and helicopter. In addition to combat operations, both ships can conduct humanitarian-assistance operations.

L3 Technologies Awarded

Contract for Battle Force Tactical Training

NORFOLK, Virginia – L3 Integrated Maritime Systems has been awarded a \$76 million contract to support U.S. Navy shipboard integrated training systems and provide instruction, engineering, systems integration and life-cycle support for the Battle Force Tactical Trainer (BFTT) family of training devices.

BFTT allows coordinated stimulation and simulation of shipboard combat systems to facilitate Navy team training. This training helps Sailors conduct realistic joint warfare drills across the spectrum of armed conflict and enables unit-level team training and battle group fleet synthetic exercises.

“We are pleased to continue to support the U.S. Navy’s combat systems training to maintain proficiency and mission readiness,” said Bill Toti, president of L3 Integrated. “We are dedicated to providing the best training and program support to the Navy’s afloat training groups and our country’s frontline warfighters.”

BFTT delivers training to sailors while aboard their ships in the environment in which they will fight. It assists fleet commanding officers in generating exercises to prepare for expected missions and provides playback of their crew’s performance for continuous improvement. L3 provides instruction and training support at all major Navy ports around the world and Aegis ashore locations.

Black to Become 19th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps



Sgt. Maj. Troy E. Black has been selected to be the 19th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, the Corps announced in a release.

Black is the current Sergeant Major of Manpower and Reserve Affairs and will replace the current Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Green, during a post and relief ceremony later this year.

Following the ceremony, Green will retire after 35 years of service.

Since his enlistment in 1988, Black has, among other billets, served as Sergeant Major of Officer Candidates School, the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, and 1st Marine Logistics Group. He has deployed extensively, including in support of Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom as well as numerous MEU and Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team Company deployments.

His personal awards include the Legion of Merit with Gold Star, Bronze Star with Combat Distinguishing Device, Meritorious Service Medal with two Gold Stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device and three Gold Stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Gold Star and the Combat Action Ribbon with two Gold Stars.

The post of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps was established in 1957 as the senior enlisted adviser to the commandant of the Marine Corps, the first such post in any of the branches of U.S. military. The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps is selected by the commandant and typically serves a four-year term.

U.S. Navy Supports Japanese-Led F-35A Search and Recovery Operations

OKINAWA, Japan – A U.S. Navy salvage team embarked a contracted vessel and departed Okinawa on April 24 to aid Japanese-led search-and-recovery operations for a downed Japan Air Self Defense Force (JASDF) F-35A Lightning II jet fighter, the U.S. 7th Fleet Public Affairs said in a release.

DSCV Van Gogh is a multipurpose diving support and construction vessel equipped with Navy remotely operated vehicles and a Navy towed-pinger locator (TPL-25) system.

The F-35A aircraft went missing about 85 miles east of Misawa Air Base on April 9.

From April 9 to April 17, the U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyer USS Stethem (DDG 63) and P-8A Poseidon aircraft joined JASDF forces, searching about 5,000 square nautical miles. Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft flew 182 hours.

The missing Japanese F-35A was not located.

Navy to Christen High-Speed

Transport Vessel Guam



WASHINGTON – The Navy will christen its newest high-speed transport vessel, the future USNS Guam (T-HST 1), during a 10 a.m. Japan Standard Time ceremony Saturday, April 27, in Okinawa, Japan, the Navy's Office of Information said in a release.

USNS Guam is named to honor the long-standing historical and military relationship between Guam and the United States. She will be the fourth ship to bear the name Guam.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea Harry B. Harris Jr. will be the principal speaker, and Bruni Bradley, a 25-year Navy veteran and wife of Harris, will serve as the ship's sponsor. In a time-honored Navy tradition, she will christen the ship by breaking a bottle of sparkling wine across the bow.

"This ship honors the island of Guam and the important contributions Guamanians have made to our nation and our Navy and Marine Corps team," Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer said. "For decades to come, USNS Guam and its crew will carry on the Guamanian tradition of service by providing our commanders with much needed high-speed sealift mobility and agility."

Long before Guam joined the U.S. as a territory, the island had a military relationship with the United States. The long-standing historical and military relationship began in 1898, when the U.S. acquired the island from Spain as a result of the Treaty of Paris that ended the Spanish-American War. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese captured Guam, and they occupied it until U.S. troops retook the island July 21, 1944, commemorated in Guam every year as

“Liberation Day.” Guam continues to host many critical U.S. military installations.

USNS Guam is an aluminum catamaran designed to be fast, flexible and maneuverable, even in austere port conditions, making the vessel ideal for transporting troops and equipment quickly. USNS Guam’s 25,000-square-foot mission-bay areas can be quickly reconfigured for any cargo requirement, from supporting disaster relief to transporting troops and equipment.

The ship is preceded in service by the patrol gunboat USS Guam (PG 43), which was renamed Wake in 1941 and captured by the Japanese later that year, the Alaska-class large cruiser USS Guam (CB 2) in service 1944-1947, and the Iwo Jima-class amphibious assault ship USS Guam (LPH 9) in service 1965-1998.