

Hanwha Philly Shipyard CEO Praises Introduction of SHIPS for America Act

From Hanwha Philly Shipyard

WASHINGTON, April 30, 2025 – Today, U.S. Sens. Mark Kelly (D-Arizona) and Todd Young (R-Indiana) alongside U.S. Reps. Trent Kelly (R-Mississippi) and John Garamendi (D-California) reintroduced the [SHIPS for America Act](#), bipartisan legislation aimed at strengthening the U.S. maritime industry in response to urgent shipbuilding needs.

As part of today's announcement, Hanwha Philly Shipyard Chief Executive Officer David Kim issued the following statement:

"Hanwha recognizes and commends U.S. Senators Mark Kelly and Todd Young and Congressmen Trent Kelly and John Garamendi for their maritime policy leadership in reintroducing the bipartisan SHIPS for America Act. This bill offers tangible incentives to the domestic maritime industry with the goal of expanding the U.S.-flagged ocean-going fleet. It supports a major recapitalization of the shipbuilding infrastructure in the U.S., provides substantial incentives for the purchase of U.S.-built commercial vessels, and supports the national security and naval shipbuilding goals of the U.S. Hanwha sees tremendous value in this legislation and believes it would have a long-term positive impact on Hanwha Philly Shipyard, other shipbuilders in the U.S. and Hanwha's investments in America's shipping industry and maritime industrial base."

HII Launching “Build It: In America, For America” Ads Celebrating U.S.-Based Manufacturing Work



[From HII](#)

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., April 30, 2025 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – HII (NYSE: HII), America’s largest military shipbuilder, is launching a series of 15-second television advertisements as part of its nationwide “Build It” campaign.

The video advertisements, along with the broader “Build It” campaign, celebrate the crucial manufacturing work performed in the U.S. to build and deliver platforms and technologies in support of the national defense. These include American-built U.S. Navy ships and submarines, as well as uncrewed underwater

vehicles, technologies, and networks built and integrated by HII to connect and enable today's all-domain joint force.

“‘Build It’ is a call to action to support the important work of building, in support of our national security,” HII President and CEO Chris Kastner said. “It’s hard work and deserves respect. Ultimately it helps to protect us and our families. This campaign recognizes the ongoing value and contributions of those who build careers out of building our national defense.”

The ads feature actual shipbuilders, engineers and technologists who’ve worked for HII and who provide commentary in their own words. HII is the largest industrial employer in the commonwealth of Virginia, and in the state of Mississippi.

The “Build It” campaign supports revitalizing American manufacturing and strengthening the defense industrial base to meet the urgent, increased demand for ships and technologies by the U.S. Navy and the nation.

A playlist of the video advertisements can be found at: <http://hii.com/news/hii-launching-new-build-it-in-america-for-america-ads-celebrating-u-s-based-manufacturing-work-and-workforce/>.

In addition to recruiting motivated talent to shipbuilding, HII is actively developing the next generation of skilled professionals through its apprenticeship programs offered in each of its three divisions. These programs offer a rigorous multi-year curriculum that combines hands-on training, academic coursework and real-world experience.

The HII apprentice schools give students a direct path to skilled careers and long-term growth in the shipbuilding industry. By blending tradition with advanced technology, HII is not just filling jobs – it’s developing leaders and investing in the future of the American workforce.

This “Build It” campaign can be found across HII digital outreach and social media and through educational partnerships to bring the message directly to the next generation of American builders.

HII is hiring at all experience levels, offering paid training, competitive wages, long-term careers, and a strong sense of purpose. Jobs are available across three divisions:

- **Newport News Shipbuilding** in Virginia, builder of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and submarines for the U.S. Navy.
- **Ingalls Shipbuilding** in Mississippi, builder of amphibious ships and destroyers for the U.S. Navy.
- **Mission Technologies** in Virginia, provider of digital defense and national security solutions, and the largest producer of unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs).

GA-ASI Delivers MQ-9A Block 5 Extended-Range UAS To USMC



New UAS Delivered to VMX-1

From General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc.

SAN DIEGO – 29 April 2025 – General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI) delivered an MQ-9A Reaper® Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC). The new MQ-9A Block 5 Extended Range (ER) UAS was delivered on April 22, 2025, and will be operated by Marine Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron 1 (VMX-1), a USMC operational test squadron based at Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Arizona.

The new MQ-9A UAS will be used by the USMC to perform operational tests and evaluations, as well as create Marine Aviation tactics, techniques, and procedures through experimentation as the Marines fully implement MQ-9A as a critical part of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF).

“The Marine Corps is building out its ISR capabilities with this new aircraft,” said GA-ASI President David R. Alexander. “We are excited to see what VMX-1 does in terms of operational test in preparation for pushing new capabilities into the field.”

The MQ-9A ER is designed with field-retrofittable capabilities, such as wing-borne fuel pods and reinforced landing gear, that extend the aircraft's endurance to more than 30 hours while further increasing its operational flexibility. It provides long-endurance, persistent surveillance capabilities, with Full-Motion Video and Synthetic Aperture Radar/Moving Target Indicator/Maritime Mode Radar. An extremely reliable aircraft, MQ-9A ER is equipped with a fault-tolerant flight control system and a triple-redundant avionics system architecture. It is engineered to meet and exceed manned aircraft reliability standards.

To date, GA-ASI has delivered 18 MQ-9A UAS to USMC. The USMC awaits delivery of two additional aircraft by the end of this year.

Coast Guard Cutter Calhoun Seizes Over \$74M in Cocaine Interdicted in Atlantic Ocean



A Coast Guard Cutter Calhoun (WMSL 759) boarding team interdicts approximately 10,000 pounds of cocaine being smuggled aboard a vessel in the Atlantic Ocean, April 13, 2025. (U.S. Coast Guard photo)

From U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area, April 28, 2025

ATLANTIC OCEAN – The crew of U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Calhoun (WMSL 759) seized approximately 10,000 pounds of cocaine, worth an estimated \$74 million in the Atlantic Ocean, April 12-13, 2025.

The seized contraband was the result of an interdiction in international waters in the Atlantic Ocean, and five suspected smugglers remain in U.S. custody pending prosecutorial disposition.

On April 12, the Calhoun, under tactical control of Coast Guard Atlantic Area, detected a suspicious fishing vessel in international waters exhibiting behavior consistent with

narcotic trafficking approximately 1,265 miles west of Las Palmas, Canary Islands. Calhoun's crew launched a cutter small boat and interdicted the suspicious vessel, apprehending five suspected smugglers and seizing approximately 10,000 pounds of cocaine.

"This interdiction demonstrates the Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to combating transnational criminal organizations (TCOs)," said Vice Adm. Nathan Moore, commander, Coast Guard Atlantic Area. "Our dedicated crews, in close coordination with interagency and international partners, continue to disrupt the flow of illicit narcotics, which serves as a critical strategic action that disrupts the financial networks of TCOs, undermining their ability to fund further illicit activities that threaten our communities."

The Coast Guard is the United States' lead federal maritime law enforcement agency with authority to enforce national and international laws on the high seas and waters within U.S. jurisdiction. The Coast Guard continues increased operations to interdict, seize and disrupt transshipments of cocaine and other bulk illicit drugs by sea. These drugs fuel and enable cartels and TCOs to produce and traffic illegal fentanyl, threatening the United States.

Calhoun, which commissioned in 2024, is the newest of four, 418-foot, Legend-class national security cutters homeported in North Charleston, South Carolina. The cutter's primary missions are counter-drug operations and defense readiness.

Calhoun falls under the command of U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area, which is based in Portsmouth, Virginia. U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area oversees all Coast Guard operations east of the Rocky Mountains to the Arabian Gulf. In addition to surge operations, they also allocate ships to deploy to the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific to combat transnational organized crime and illicit maritime activity.

BAE Systems Receives \$188M USMC Contract for Amphibious Combat Vehicle 30mm



YORK, Penn. – April 29, 2025 – BAE Systems has been awarded a \$188 million full-rate production contract from the U.S. Marine Corps for 30 ACV-30mm vehicles, which includes fielding support, spares and test equipment. This is the first award as part of the FRP Lot 5/6 contract.

The ACV-30 includes an integrated medium caliber Remote Turret System which the government is procuring separately and integrating at Naval Information Warfare Integration Center Atlantic. The ACV-30 enables transport of troops, mission essential equipment, and other payloads, while providing the lethality and protection Marines need. The lightweight turret system also ensures platform mobility is preserved.

“The ACV is tested and proven to be incredibly adaptable – it not only swims, but it’s also optimized for ship-to-shore, island-hopping, and advanced land operations,” said Rebecca McGrane, vice president of Amphibious programs at BAE Systems. “With enhanced direct-fire lethality via the 30mm fully stabilized weapon system, the ACV-30 helps to ensure Marines are ready for any mission, land or sea.”

In addition, BAE Systems is currently under contract for the ACV-Personnel (ACV-P) and ACV-Command (ACV-C). The ACV-P variant has the ability to transport 13 combat-loaded Marines plus three crew, while the ACV-C variant provides multiple workstations for Marines to maintain and manage situational awareness in the battle space.

The company is also building three ACV-Recovery (ACV-R) variant Production Representative Test vehicles which will provide field maintenance, recovery, and repair capabilities to the Assault Amphibian companies in support of the Marine division.

Work for the ACV-30mm will take place in York, Pennsylvania, Johnstown, Pennsylvania and Charleston, South Carolina through the third quarter of 2026.

Robotic Blasting Facility to Be Upgraded for Amphibious Assault Vehicles



From BlastOne International

BlastOne International and US Marines Base Partner to upgrade Surface Preparation Facility with Robotic Blasting to Skyrocket Efficiency, Safety, and Performance for Amphibious Assault Vehicle Repair

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 29, 2025 /PRNewswire-PRWeb/ – BlastOne International is proud to announce its latest [partnership with the US Marine Corp](#) base in Albany Georgia to upgrade their existing blast facility with a state-of-the-art [robotic blasting system](#). This groundbreaking initiative is designed to

revolutionize the surface preparation of armored amphibious assault vehicles prior to being re-coated. This investment will bring cutting-edge automation, efficiency, and safety to the coating facility at the US Marine's base, reinforcing BlastOne's commitment to innovation and excellence in industrial surface treatment.

By integrating robotics into their blasting process, the US Marine Corp are eliminating inefficiencies, enhancing safety, and dramatically improving quality—all while reducing operational costs for Amphibious Assault Vehicle Repair

Project Overview

The Albany, Georgia, project will feature a fully integrated robotic blasting system, leveraging the latest in automation and abrasive recovery technology to streamline operations while reducing costs and environmental impact. The project includes:

- B20S7 Gantry-Mounted Blast Robot – An 8-axis robotic system capable of processing up to 2,150 square feet per hour, ensuring precision and consistency in surface treatment.

- BP1400 Robotic Blast Pots – A dual-chamber design allowing for continuous blasting without downtime for refilling.

- Advanced Abrasive Recovery System – Including a robot-rated bucket elevator, airwash system, and storage hopper, optimizing abrasive recycling and reducing material waste.

- 150HP Abrasive Vacuum System – A heavy-duty industrial

vacuum designed specifically for harsh blasting environments, ensuring a clean and efficient workspace.

- Turnkey Installation & Engineering Support – BlastOne will provide comprehensive project management, engineering, and installation services, ensuring seamless integration and long-term success.

Driving Industry Innovation

“This partnership with the US Marines is a testament to BlastOne’s mission of providing superior performance in surface preparation,” said Brad Gooden, Director at BlastOne International. “By integrating robotics into their blasting process, we are eliminating inefficiencies, enhancing safety, and dramatically improving quality—all while reducing operational costs.”

**Harry S. Truman Carrier
Strike Group F/A-18 Super
Hornet Lost at Sea**



From the Navy Office of Information, 28 April 2025

MANAMA, Bahrain – USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) lost an F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 136 and a tow tractor as the aircraft carrier operated in the Red Sea, April 28. All personnel are accounted for, with one Sailor sustaining a minor injury.

The F/A-18E was actively under tow in the hangar bay when the move crew lost control of the aircraft. The aircraft and tow tractor were lost overboard.

Sailors towing the aircraft took immediate action to move

clear of the aircraft before it fell overboard. An investigation is underway.

The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group and embarked air wing remain fully mission capable.

The strike group consists of flagship Harry S. Truman, the nine squadrons of Carrier Air Wing 1, three guided-missile destroyers of Destroyer Squadron 28, and the Ticonderoga-class cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG 64).

State Dept. Approves Possible Sale of Tomahawk Missiles to The Netherlands



PACIFIC OCEAN (Dec. 1, 2020) The guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) launches a Block V Tomahawk, the weapon's newest variant, during a missile exercise. (U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Sean Ianno)

From the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, April 25, 2025

WASHINGTON – The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of the Netherlands of Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$2.19 billion. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale today.

The Government of the Netherlands has requested to buy up to 163 Tomahawk Block V All Up Rounds (AURs); 12 Tomahawk Block IV AURs; up to 10 Tactical Tomahawk Weapons Control Systems (TTWCS); and up to two Tomahawk Block IV telemetry missiles, as well as other components, systems, training, spare parts and other support.

The proposed sale will improve the Netherlands' capability to meet current and future threats by utilizing long-range, conventional surface-to-surface missiles with significant standoff range that can neutralize growing threats. The Netherlands will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, located in Tucson, Arizona.

Editor's note: The sale would make The Netherlands the fifth nation to deploy the Tomahawk, after the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Japan.

Continuing Promise 2025 Completes Planning USNS Comfort to Deploy to SOUTHCOM Region



From U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command / U.S. 4th Fleet Public Affairs, April 28, 2025

NORFOLK, Va. – Military and civilian planners from the United States and six partner nations met this week in Norfolk, Va., to make final plans for the upcoming Continuing Promise 2025 deployment.

U.S. Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) will deploy in support of Continuing Promise 2025, with the ship scheduled to conduct mission stops in Grenada, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic. U.S. Navy Capt. Ryan Kendall, Deputy Commander, Destroyer Squadron 40 (COMDESRON 40) will serve as mission commander for Continuing Promise 2025.

Representatives from the six U.S. country teams joined other U.S. personnel at the conference, meticulously reviewing medical engagements, subject matter expert exchanges, and public engagements for each mission stop, which includes the participation of partner nation personnel and non-governmental organizations. Participants also heard from Capt. Bryan Carmichael, Continuing Promise 2022 Mission Commander, and Lt. Cmdr. Zachary Smith, Continuing Promise 2024 Mission Commander, who both shared their lessons learned and observations from their respective missions.

“Through detailed planning with our friends and partners, we have the blueprint for a successful Continuing Promise 2025 deployment,” said Capt. Kendall. “We look forward to bringing USNS Comfort to all six partner nations with the intent of strengthening maritime partnerships by helping people in need.”

Continuing Promise 2025 marks the 15th mission to the region since 2007 and the eighth time that USNS Comfort will visit the region in those 18 years. Continuing Promise 2025 will foster goodwill, strengthen existing partnerships with partner nations, and encourage the establishment of new partnerships among countries, non-government organizations, and international organizations.

“The Continuing Promise 2025 Team has produced a strong plan for USNS Comfort Sailors and civilians to carry out,” said Rear Adm. Carlos Sardiello, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet. “We are committed to supporting the success of this important mission.”

Since its inception in 2007, Continuing Promise has treated more than 605,000 patients and performed approximately 7,300 surgeries, leaving a lasting positive impact on people in need.

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet serves as a trusted maritime partner for Caribbean, Central and South American maritime forces, promoting unity, security, and stability in the region.

USCENTCOM Forces Continue to Target Houthi Terrorists



From U.S. Central Command, Apr. 27, 2025

TAMPA, Fla. – Since March 15, U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) forces have conducted an intense and sustained campaign targeting the Houthi terrorist organization in Yemen to restore freedom of navigation and American deterrence. These operations have been executed using detailed and comprehensive intelligence ensuring lethal effects against the Houthis while minimizing risk to civilians.

- To preserve operational security, we have intentionally

limited disclosing details of our ongoing or future operations. We are very deliberate in our operational approach, but will not reveal specifics about what we've done or what we will do.

- We will continue to increase the pressure and further disintegrate Houthi capabilities as long as they continue to impede freedom of navigation.
- Since the start of Operation Rough Rider, USCENTCOM has struck over 800 targets. These strikes have killed hundreds of Houthi fighters and numerous Houthi leaders, including senior Houthi missile and UAV officials.
- The strikes have destroyed multiple command-and-control facilities, air defense systems, advanced weapons manufacturing facilities, and advanced weapons storage locations. These storage facilities housed advanced conventional weapons, including anti-ship ballistic and cruise missiles, unmanned aerial systems, and uncrewed surface vessels, which were employed in Houthi terrorist attacks on international shipping lanes.
- While the Houthis have continued to attack our vessels, our operations have degraded the pace and effectiveness of their attacks. Ballistic missile launches have dropped by 69%. Additionally, attacks from one way attack drones have decreased by 55%.
- U.S. strikes destroyed the ability of Ras Isa Port to accept fuel which will begin to impact Houthi ability to not only conduct operations, but also to generate millions of dollars in revenue for their terror

activities.

- The operation has been conducted by a robust assembly of forces to include two Carrier Strike Groups, the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group and the Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group. We are extremely proud of our well-trained and professional forces as they have effectively delivered precise and lethal strikes against Houthi military capabilities.
- Iran undoubtedly continues to provide support to the Houthis. The Houthis can only continue to attack our forces with the backing of the Iranian regime.
- We will continue to ratchet up the pressure until the objective is met, which remains the restoration of freedom of navigation and American deterrence in the region.