BAE’s San Diego Shipyard to Tandem Dry-Dock Two Destroyers

USS Stethem and USS Decatur will dry-dock together in San Diego inside the “Pride of California.” BAE Systems

SAN DIEGO – BAE Systems has received $170.7 million in contracts from the U.S. Navy to perform simultaneous maintenance and repair on two Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers in its shipyard here, according to a Sept. 18 company release.

The shipyard will tandem dry-dock the USS Stethem (DDG-63) and USS Decatur (DDG-73) in October. The synchronized two-ship docking will be a first for the company’s newest dry-dock in San Diego. The contracts include options that, if exercised, would bring their cumulative value to $185 million.

“The ability to simultaneously dock two DDGs is a special capability that BAE Systems brings to our Navy customer and comes at a critical time when additional throughput is necessary to meet surface combatant demands and modernization requirements,” said David M. Thomas Jr., vice president and general manager of BAE Systems San Diego Ship Repair.

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

“Beyond the remarkable nature of this

tandem docking, it will be business as usual for our shipyard team and partners
given our significant experience working with the Arleigh Burke class."

Positioned end to end, the Stethem and Decatur
will be lifted together inside BAE's "Pride of California" dry-dock. Installed
in 2017, the dry-dock is 950 feet long, 160 feet wide and has a lifting
capacity of 55,000 tons – making it the largest floating dry-dock in San Diego.
The destroyers each displace about 9,000 tons and are expected to be refloated next
April.

The Stethem is the 13thship
of the Arleigh Burke class, which is the Navy's largest class of surface
warfare combatants. Named for Master Chief Constructionman Robert Stethem, the
505-foot-long ship was commissioned in October 1995. BAE Systems will perform
hull, mechanical and engineering repairs aboard the ship. Once back in the
water, the Stethem's Extended Docking Selected Restricted Availability (EDSRA)
is expected to be completed in October 2020.

The Decatur is the 23rd ship of the Arleigh Burke class. Named for the early 19th-century Naval hero Stephen Decatur Jr., the ship was commissioned in August 1998. BAE Systems will perform much of the same upgrade work aboard the 505-foot-long Decatur as it will perform on board the Stethem.

After undocking, the Decatur's EDSRA work is expected to continue into October 2020. BAE Systems' San Diego shipyard currently employs about 1,300 people and hundreds of temporary

workers and subcontractors nearby the San Diego-Coronado Bridge.