

SECNAV Del Toro Calls on Industry and Academia to Help Restore the Nation's Competitive Shipbuilding and Repair Landscape

[Release from SECNAV Public Affairs](#)

14 December 2023

Calling it a strategic imperative, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro urged industry and academia to join efforts to restore the Nation's competitive shipbuilding and repair landscape. Secretary Del Toro delivered the remarks at the NDIA Delaware Valley Chapter (NDIA-DVC) Naval Nuclear Submarine and Aircraft Carrier Suppliers' Conference at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Dec. 14.

"I'm here at this conference today because I believe in the potential of our joint efforts to get shipbuilding and maintenance right. It is my number one priority," said Secretary Del Toro. "While the vision is ambitious, it is achievable. We are a nation accustomed to taking on ambitious endeavors, and restoring our maritime strength is no exception."

To do so, requires a multi-pronged approach, Secretary Del Toro stated, including investing in the revitalization of our shipbuilding industry and merchant marine fleet, developing innovative technologies to maintain our naval edge, strengthening partnerships with key allies to counter China's growing influence, and promoting fair competition.

Call to Action

The Department of the Navy's commitment to innovation and rapid technology development presents an attractive opportunity for industry participation, stated Secretary Del Toro. For example,

Pennsylvania alone boasts more than 570 vital submarine industrial base suppliers, 39 of which are classified as critical. In the past five years, the Department of the Navy (DON) invested more than \$250 million to build capacity, increase capability, and add resiliency to these suppliers.

The Department of the Navy added 1,000 new small businesses by investing nearly \$2 billion dollars through initiatives led by the Office of Small Business Programs to the Navy-industry team.

"Now, the key is to help find and train the right people, and our Talent Pipeline Initiative has been instrumental in addressing workforce shortages," said Secretary Del Toro.

Philadelphia, for instance, was the first location for the DON's pilot program, which it has since expanded to Pittsburgh and other locations. Since its launch in 2021, this initiative has placed more than 1,200 skilled workers with Pennsylvania suppliers, with over 698 placed in fiscal year 2023 alone.

"We are also committed to expanding apprenticeship programs, as evidenced by the recent reinstatement of the Philadelphia Shipyard's program—previously suspended since 2017—currently training over 100 workers," said Secretary Del Toro.

High-paying, high-skilled "new-collar" jobs that restore America's manufacturing prowess are a priority of this Administration, added Secretary Del Toro, combining traditionally blue-collar trades with cutting-edge technologies.

“We must establish programs that build capacity in fields like naval architecture, engineering, and lifecycle management, as well as technical expertise in nuclear welding, robotics, software management, and additive manufacturing,” said Secretary Del Toro. “Your work on these programs will be invaluable to developing and rebuilding our nation’s shipbuilding landscape. Everyone here has a part to play in these efforts—and it is a strategic imperative that we rise to the occasion.”

U.S. Navy And Lockheed Martin Successfully Test Key Capabilities Of Advanced Off- Board Electronic Warfare System



[Release from Lockheed Martin](#)

BETHESDA, Md. Dec. 12, 2023 – Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) supported a successful government test of the Advanced Off-Board Electronic Warfare (AOEW) system’s electronic attack capabilities while installed on a U.S. Navy MH-60R helicopter. This marked the first time in the program’s development the system was able to perform engagement testing, demonstrate the ability to deter threats, and quantify system performance, while integrated and controlled by the target platform.

In partnership with the U.S. Navy at Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland, this integration event tested the capabilities of the system and operability on the MH-60R helicopter platform. While the system is designed for both the MH-60R and MR-60S host platforms, only the MH-60R was used for this test.

Strategic Perspectives

“The AOEW system is one of the most advanced, complex electronic warfare systems ever developed,” said Deon Viergutz, vice president of Spectrum Convergence at Lockheed Martin. “AOEW is a force multiplier for our Sailors that will help them dominate and control the battlespace without ever firing a single shot. It is designed with evolutionary capabilities, set up to be completely programmable so that it can develop, deliver and deploy new techniques as the threat landscape changes.”

Dive Deeper

AOEW is a pod-based electronic warfare missile defense system that will provide U.S. Navy with enhanced electronic surveillance and attack capabilities against anti-ship missile threats. To date, the system has successfully undergone a series of incremental developmental and operational tests at Lockheed Martin’s facility in Syracuse, New York.

AOEW can be fully integrated with Aegis Baseline 9C.2+ and the Surface Warfare Electronic Warfare Improvement Program Block II.

The system can work independently or with other systems onboard ships and other assets.

AOEW leverages open-systems architected solutions, allowing for rapid upgrades, interoperability, reduced lifecycle costs and prompt insertion of new hardware.

The architecture and technologies of AOEW lay the groundwork to deliver similar capabilities on other assets such as small ships or unmanned aerial and surface vehicles.

What’s Next

More tests and demonstrations of the AOEW pod on host platforms are planned in 2024. The team will use the results to continue to refine system performance. Currently, AOEW is

under a low-rate initial production contract and deliveries of the first AOEW units are expected in the next year.

SERMC 3D Lab produces another AM win for Navy



[Release from Naval Sea Systems Command](#)

Dec. 12, 2023

By SERMC Public Affairs

NAVAL STATION MAYPORT, Fla. – Additive Manufacturing (AM) 3D printers continue to enable sailors across the Navy with continuity of operations of the fleet's warships. New high-

resolution 3D printers at Southeast Regional Maintenance Center (SERMC) are adding the capability to manufacture intricate replacement parts on-site, directly impacting the command's ability to meet established availability deadlines and increase a naval ship's presence at sea.

Recently, USS Farragut (DDG 99) was nearing completion of a maintenance period at SERMC, when the ship's personnel discovered an irregularity with a radar system. LTJG Anton Tyree, USS Farragut Electronics Material Officer and ship's personnel identified a malfunctioning part, and as the solution, decided to consult with SERMC to produce a replacement part.

"I felt this part was a great candidate for my first 3D print design for SERMC, said Tyree. "I went to work providing as much detail as possible on the form about the part."

SERMC's Additive Manufacturing coordinator Chief Machinist Mate Nicholas Heinrich reverse-engineered the part in about 40 minutes and added the data into a computer aided design program for printing. A replacement part was produced from conception to completion in a total of 3.5 hours.

"The original part was injection molded and the 3D printed version was made with more rigidity than the original," said Heinrich, who also printed an additional replacement part so the ship would have an extra while at sea.

"If any ship on the waterfront needs the same part, we can manufacture a new one in about two hours," added Heinrich.

"This accomplishment is another historical first for our 3D Lab here," said Capt. Justin Dowd, SERMC commanding officer. "Today we demonstrated that if a customer on the waterfront needs something quickly, they can rely on SERMC's talented workforce and new printers to deliver a high-quality solution to the warfighter in a short period of time."

This new part has been underway for several weeks and is proving its ability to stand up to the demands of naval ships operating at sea.

AEROVIRONMENT AWARDED \$16 MILLION U.S. NAVY CONTRACT FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF VIDEO ANALYTICS AND COMPUTER VISION RESEARCH TO SUPPORT MULTI-DOMAIN ROBOTICS INITIATIVES

Release from AeroVironment Inc.

ARLINGTON, Va., December 12, 2023 – AeroVironment, Inc. today announced it received a \$16,098,922 cost-plus-fixed-fee contract from the U.S. Navy for the advancement of video analytics and computer vision research to support multi-domain robotics initiatives. This contract is in support of the Small Business Innovation Research Phase III “Automated Entity Classification in Video Using Soft Biometrics” and will be managed by the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division in Lakehurst, New Jersey.

AeroVironment’s focus is on developing a video analytics software ecosystem for the government that can be used across platforms (both internal and external to AeroVironment) to provide enhanced situational awareness and capabilities for

the warfighter in a wide range of mission areas.

“This is a multi-year effort that will allow us to explore and implement new research initiatives and provide critical processing capabilities to AeroVironment products, integration partners, and other research organizations,” said Jeff Rodrian, senior vice president and general manager for the MacCready Works Segment. “This investment will allow us to optimize how current Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR) and Targeting are performed throughout the United States DoD.”

Building on 50 years of innovation, AeroVironment draws from a legacy in multi-domain robotic systems; its pioneering autonomy and advanced perception capabilities serve as a force multiplier for warfighters today and tomorrow.

**Coast Guard Cutter Dauntless
returns home to Florida after
interdicting 19.4 million in
illegal narcotics, 3
suspected drug smugglers**



[Release from U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area](#)

Dec. 13, 2023

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Dauntless (WMEC 624) returned to their homeport in Pensacola Tuesday following a 25-day counterdrug deployment in the Caribbean Sea.

While underway in the Coast Guard Seventh District's area of operations and in support of Joint Interagency Task Force–South, Dauntless's crew spent 25 days patrolling the Caribbean, where their primary mission was detecting and interdicting go-fast and other vessels suspected of smuggling illegal narcotics into the U.S.

During the patrol, Dauntless's crew interdicted one go-fast vessel smuggling illegal narcotics, seizing over 670 kilograms of cocaine worth an estimated 19.4 million, and apprehended three suspected drug smugglers.

“This interdiction truly showcased the impressive skill and relentless perseverance of the Dauntless crew,” said Cmdr. Aaron Kowalczyk, commanding officer of Dauntless. “Their ability to complete the seizure despite challenging conditions highlights the Coast Guard’s important role in countering transnational criminal organizations. The crew’s commitment to combating narcotics trafficking is emblematic of their dedication to service.”

In addition to interdicting illegal narcotics, Dauntless’s crew conducted joint operations with the USS Farragut and its embarked Law Enforcement Detachment to transfer 433 kilograms of illegal narcotics and six suspected traffickers, strengthening interoperability with Department of Defense partners and promoting maritime security and safety.

Dauntless is a 210-foot Reliance-class medium endurance cutter. The cutter’s primary missions are counter-narcotics operations, migrant interdiction, living marine resources protection, and search and rescue in support of U.S. Coast Guard operations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

For information on how to join the U.S. Coast Guard, visit www.GoCoastGuard.com to learn more about active duty and reserve officer and enlisted opportunities. Information on how to apply to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy can be found at www.uscga.edu.

BlastOne Commissions State-of-the-Art Blast and Paint

Facility at Fincantieri Marinette Marine



Release from BlastOne

Premier shipbuilder launches facility to accelerate delivery of new Constellation-Class Frigates to US Navy

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 13, 2023 /PRNewswire-PRWeb/ – BlastOne International, a leader in industrial sandblasting and coating solutions, announces the completion of its advanced naval blast and paint booths for Fincantieri Marinette Marine (FMM) in Wisconsin. The new facility significantly enhances FMM's shipyard efficiency as it was designed to specifically eliminate the most pervasive bottleneck in production: the surface preparation and coating phase.

The state-of-the-art installation delivers the highest blast and paint capacity in North American shipyard manufacturing, which now boosts FMM's delivery of Constellation-Class

frigates to the maritime defense capabilities of the US Navy. The Constellation-Class Frigates embody the United States' dedication to modernize the American Fleet.

BlastOne's role in helping FMM expedite the delivery of these vessels as quickly as possible is a proud achievement, as expressed by CEO Matthew Rowland: "As speed and deliverability are critical to FMM's success, contracting BlastOne in a Design-Build capacity allowed us to streamline processes and deliver the facility at a 25% lower cost and in a 30% faster time-frame than traditional Design-Bid-Build projects. The faster we delivered for them, the faster they can continue to deliver for the US Navy."

Key Features of the Modernized Blast and Paint Facility:

- **Optimized Space:** 25,000 square feet of climate-controlled finishing space with two dedicated painting bays and two blast and paint combination bays.
- **Maximum Output:** Capacity for 16 blasters and eight paint sprayers across four modules.
- **Enhanced Safety:** Each of the four process areas are equipped with state-of-the-art ventilation systems with continuous air quality monitoring as well as camera systems to increase the safety of FMM personnel.
- **Maximum Energy Efficiency:** Utilization of heat from the compressed air plant for winter heating.

Pierroberto Folgiero, CEO of Fincantieri, highlights the facility's impact: "This improved facility allows for larger portions of ships to be prepared and painted with modern environmental controls, ensuring our shipyard remains one of the safest, most efficient, and environmentally responsible in America."

The deployment of Constellation-Class Frigates, equipped with cutting-edge technology, helps deliver on the Navy's

commitment to ensure global peace and stability.

Insitu Announces Successful Shryke Demonstration with Integrator Uncrewed Aircraft System



Release from Insitu

BINGEN, Wash., Dec. 12, 2023 – Insitu, A Boeing Company, announced today the [first successful drop](#) of inert GPS-guided Shryke munitions from the Integrator Uncrewed Aircraft System (UAS) in collaboration with Corvid and L3Harris Technologies.

Shryke, developed by Corvid Technologies with L3Harris, is known for its multi-mission precision strike and versatility and is another option in a long line of highly sought-after strike capabilities that Insitu is offering to its customers.

“We were able to demonstrate a low signature munition with a safe separation sensor, fuze, and warhead on Integrator,” said Kyle Bowen, Corvid Technologies Director of Business Development. “Integrator delivered the munitions within 1-2 meters of the target in each test flight. We couldn’t have asked for a more successful demonstration,” Bowen said.

Integrator, a NATO Class 1 Small UAS (DoD Group 3 UAS) offers endurance of more than 24 hours and carries up to 40lb of payload capacity. Payload integrations are accommodated in the center CG bay, two wing trays, and two wing-mounted hardpoints. Integrator’s multi-payload capacity provides our customers the ability to carry multiple munitions and/or transition between kinetic and non-kinetic objectives as the mission requires.

“The two rounds of munitions were seamlessly fitted into Integrator’s CG payload bay and several mission sorties were executed demonstrating advanced navigation, targeting, and payload delivery systems,” said Justin Pearce, Insitu Vice President of Programs, Engineering & Flight. “Pairing kinetics with Insitu’s proven endurance and range gives our customers flexibility in how they address a dynamic battlefield.”

The Integrator was equipped with a MIL-STD-1316 Electronic Safe and Arm Device (ESAD) from L3Harris to provide safety-critical energetic systems initiation-on-command and to safely support the post-flight recovery of munitions still installed.

“The ESAD was designed for applications that require a reliable arming and firing sequence with precise timing events, as well as vital personnel safety precautions,” said

Steve Stasiak, General Manager, L3Harris Technologies. “We were able to validate this capability on Integrator and are very pleased with the way the ESAD configurations performed during the flight test.”

Insitu continues to work with customers and industry partners in testing and integrating additional munition payloads.

With three decades of experience, more than 3,500 uncrewed aircraft manufactured to date, and more than 1.4 million operational flight hours, Insitu continues to deliver the most advanced capabilities available to our global customer base in more than 35 countries. Visit Insitu.com to learn more about the most capable, reliable, and combat-proven small tactical UAS on the market.

Coast Guard Upgrades Two Detachments to Full Bases

By Richard R. Burgess, Senior Editor

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Coast Guard has upgraded two of its land-based detachments stations to full bases, according to two Coast Guard directives.

The Coast Guard’s Operational Logistics Command formally established Base St. Louis, Missouri, in ceremonies held Nov. 30, with Lieutenant Commander John Waters in command, and established Base Borinquen, Puerto Rico, on Dec. 12, with Lieutenant Commander Thomas Kai in command.

The directives noted that each base “provides a new junior command opportunity for the mission support enterprise.”

Base St. Louis will provide support to Coast Guard operations in the Western Rivers and heartland of the United States. Base Borinquen will provide support to Coast Guard operations in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean.

AUKUS-Related Foreign Military Sales Case Goes to Congress



Release from NAVSEA Office of Corporate Communications and
AUKUS Integration and Acquisition Program Office Public
Affairs

Dec. 11, 2023

By NAVSEA Office of Corporate Communications and AUKUS
Integration and Acquisition Program Office Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – The Department of State endorsed, and the Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered congressional notification of, a proposed Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Case for submarine training devices, personnel training, planning, and nonrecurring engineering (NRE) services in support of the AUKUS Pillar One Optimal Pathway. The case will span nine years and have a ceiling of \$2 billion pending passage of several legislative proposals.

“The submarine trainers are the same ones used by U.S. crews assigned to Virginia Class boats,” said Capt. Lincoln Reifsteck, the AUKUS Integration and Acquisition (AUKUS I&A) Program Manager. “The systems will be used by Australian submariners and U.S. crews on boats assigned to HMAS *Stirling* in Western Australia as part of Submarine Rotational Force – West (SRF-W) which will be established as early as late 2027. The Royal Australian Navy will utilize the trainers to train its crews ahead of buying and operating their own Virginia Class submarines.”

The United States, with Congressional approval, will sell three Virginia Class submarines to Australia starting in the early 2030s with the potential of increasing the total number to five. The training devices will be used for the life of the Australian-flagged Virginia Class SSNs.

The FMS case also provides the mechanism to train Australian civilians and contractors at United States Naval Shipyards. Pending Congressional approval, the first Australian submarine maintainers will begin training at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

& Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF) in the second quarter of calendar year 2024.

“Right now we have Australian Maintenance Personnel, or AMPs, observing how we plan and execute SSN maintenance at PHNSY & IMF,” said Reifsteck. “They’re also laying the ground work to have up to 75 Australians per quarter living and training in Hawaii so we can bring them over as soon as we’re able to so.”

The AUKUS partnership is a strategic endeavor that strengthens the three nations’ national security and promotes peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia will acquire conventionally armed SSNs for the Royal Australian Navy under AUKUS Pillar One via the Optimal Pathway announced by the heads of the three partner nations on March 13, 2023. AUKUS I&A is responsible for executing the trilateral partnership to deliver conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered attack submarines to the Royal Australian Navy at the earliest possible date while setting the highest nuclear stewardship standards.

SECNAV Del Toro Establishes DON Office of Strategic Assessment

[Release from SECNAV Public Affairs](#)

11 December 2023

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro today announced the

establishment of the Department of the Navy Office of Strategic Assessment (DON OSA).

✘ A cornerstone of the Secretary's Maritime Statecraft initiative, DON OSA will inform the development of guiding principles and priorities to promote a modernized and more lethal force that stands ready to deter high-end conflict while simultaneously protecting and advancing the global maritime interests of the Nation.

DON OSA will provide the Secretary independent, data-driven assessments and recommendations that will help drive smart choices for the Department of the Navy to balance current readiness investments and future modernization, enhancing the Department's competitiveness against the pacing threat. OSA demonstrates the Secretary's commitment to ensure the DON is the best possible steward of taxpayer dollars.

"The Office of Strategic Assessment will provide a critical capability ensuring that we are ready to build upon our maritime supremacy across the globe today while also preparing for the dynamic challenges of the future," said Secretary Del Toro. "Data-driven assessments looking strategically across the entire DON enterprise in support of the Joint Force will help us make smarter choices as we balance investments in current readiness and future modernization in order to enhance the Department's competitiveness against the pacing threat."

Additionally, Secretary Del Toro appointed Dr. Cara LaPointe to serve as the first Director of Strategic Assessment. A U.S. Naval Academy graduate, LaPointe brings more 25 years of national security, technology policy, and leadership experience to the position. LaPointe's deep background of government service includes service as a Naval Surface Warfare Officer and experience within the acquisition community as an Engineering Duty Officer. She also has served within the Executive Office of the President under three administrations, including as a Senior Advisor. Most recently, LaPointe came

from Johns Hopkins University, where she was a founding Co-Director of the Institute for Assured Autonomy. She has also served as an expert advisor for global emerging technology initiatives at both the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, as well as an inaugural member of the DON Science and Technology Board.

“I am deeply honored to serve in this new role as Director of OSA. I look forward to collaborating with the Navy and Marine Corps as well as with our other key partners across the Department of Defense, academia, and industry as we collectively chart a course for the future of the DON in the face of dynamic global change,” said LaPointe. “In close partnership with our One Navy-Marine Corps Team, OSA will build on the transformational paths the Services have charted to advance the Department’s enduring priorities.”

By aligning investments and actions to the Department’s enduring priorities of strengthening maritime dominance, building a culture of warfighting excellence, and enhancing strategic partnerships, OSA will ensure the Department continues to field the world’s most dominant maritime force.