

Navy Commissions Submarine USS New Jersey



Cmdr. Steven Halle, right, commanding officer of USS New Jersey (SSN 796), returns a salute from the ceremonial first watch during a commissioning ceremony at Naval Weapons Station Earle, N.J. (MCC Joshua Karsten)
16 September 2024

From U.S. Navy

MIDDLETOWN, N.J. – The Navy commissioned the fast-attack Virginia-class submarine USS New Jersey (SSN 796) in a traditional ceremony held September 14, at Naval Weapons Station Earle in Middletown, New Jersey.

The ceremony culminated a years-long process for commissioning the New Jersey, the third U.S. Navy ship named after the state of New Jersey, the most recent being the decorated battleship BB-62 which saw action during WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

New Jersey's commanding officer Cmdr. Steve Halle called the event "a truly historic moment" during his speech, praising all the distinguished guests, shipbuilders, and supporting organizations before addressing his crew.

"To the crew, the plank owners, this ceremony... is about you" Halle emphasized. "You operate the most complex platform on the planet and you continuously strive for excellence. I'm amazed and humbled at what we have accomplished" he continued.

"Our superior professionalism is enhanced by our crew integration and our diversity," Halle said of his crew being the first fully integrated fast-attack submarine. "We have exceeded expectations at every turn and overcome every obstacle set before us."

Halle also spoke to the people of New Jersey stating "I know that the legacy we have inherited from the state of New Jersey and BB-62 will carry forward in our pursuit of greatness."

"Today, we commissioned our ship, and she is the fastest, most advanced, fully integrated fast-attack to date," Halle said in closing.

Susan DiMarco, New Jersey's sponsor and wife of former Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, gave the crew the traditional order to "man our ship and bring her to life," after which New Jersey's sailors responded "aye aye ma'am" before ceremonially running aboard the submarine.

Other speakers at the commissioning ceremony included New Jersey Governor Philip Murphy, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro, Ms. Jennifer Boykin, president of Newport News Shipbuilding, and Mr. Larry Runkle, vice president of General Dynamics Electric Boat. Adm. William Houston, director of the Navy's Nuclear Propulsion program, served as the senior Naval

officer and Submarine Force commander Vice Adm. Robert Gaucher as the presiding officer. Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Hutchison, the ship's executive officer, served as master of ceremonies.

The submarine is 377 feet long, has a 34-foot beam and is able to dive to depths greater than 800 feet and operate at speeds in excess of 25 knots. New Jersey has a crew of nearly 135 Navy personnel.

Fast-attack submarines are multi-mission platforms enabling five of the six Navy maritime strategy core capabilities – sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security, and deterrence. They are designed to excel in anti-submarine warfare, anti-ship warfare, strike warfare, special operations, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, irregular warfare, and mine warfare. Fast-attack submarines project power ashore with special operations forces and Tomahawk cruise missiles in the prevention or preparation of regional crises.

General Dynamics NASSCO Receives Additional Eight- Ship Contract to Build T-AO 10-17



NASSCO is currently under contract for the first nine ships of the class and has delivered three to date. With this award, the company will build seventeen of the Navy's twenty-ship program of record.

From NASSCO Sept. 13, 2024

SANDIEGO – General Dynamics NASSCO, a subsidiary of General Dynamics (NYSE: GD), announced today that it has received a block-buy contract from the U.S. Navy for the construction of up to eight additional John Lewis-class fleet replenishment oilers (T-AO 214 through 221) . The tenth ship, and first under the new contract, has been awarded for \$780 million. If all eight ships are ultimately exercised, and including incentives and other contract options in support of those ships, the contract value will total over \$6.7 billion.

“We are pleased to continue building these ships, with seventeen of the Navy's twenty-ship program of record now on contract. This will make the T-AO program the longest Navy production series in NASSCO history,” said Dave Carver,

president of General Dynamics NASSCO. “The NASSCO team is honored to continue working with our Navy customer and thankful for their unwavering support.”

In 2016, the Navy awarded NASSCO with a contract to design and build the first six ships in the next generation of fleet oilers, the John Lewis-class. In 2022, that contract was modified to add an additional three oilers (T-AO 211 – 213). Designed to transfer fuel to U.S. Navy ships operating at sea, the 742-foot vessels have a full load displacement of 49,850 tons, capacity to carry 162,000 barrels of oil and significant amounts of dry cargo, as well as providing aviation capability while traveling at speeds up to 20 knots.

The first ship, USNS *John Lewis* (T-AO 205), was delivered to the U.S. Navy in July 2022. The USNS *Sojourner Truth* (T-AO 210) and the USNS *Thurgood Marshall* (T-AO 211) are currently under construction, while the USNS *Lucy Stone* (T-AO 209) will be christened and launched on September 21, 2024. Start of construction for the USNS *Ruth Bader Ginsburg* (T-AO 212) will be in October 2024.

General Dynamics NASSCO specializes in the design and construction of Navy and commercial ships and is a major provider of repair services for the U.S. Navy, with capabilities in San Diego, California; Norfolk, Virginia; Mayport, Florida; and Bremerton, Washington. More information about General Dynamics NASSCO is available at www.nassco.com.

Sept 11-15 U.S. Central

Command Update

SEAPOWERS

The Official Publication of the Navy League of the United States

From U.S. Central Command

Sept 15, 2024

TAMPA, Fla. – In the past 24 hours, U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) forces successfully destroyed one missile system in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.

It was determined this system presented a clear and imminent threat to U.S. and coalition forces, and merchant vessels in the region. This action was taken to protect freedom of navigation and make international waters safer and more secure for U.S., coalition, and merchant vessels.

Sept. 13, 2024

TAMPA, Fla. – In the past 24 hours, U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) forces successfully destroyed three uncrewed aerial vehicles and one support vehicle in Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.

It was determined these systems presented an imminent threat to U.S. and coalition forces, and merchant vessels in the region. These actions were taken to protect freedom of navigation and make international waters safer and more secure for U.S., coalition, and merchant vessels.

Sept. 11, 2024

TAMPA, Fla. – In the past 24 hours, U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) forces successfully destroyed one Iranian-backed Houthi missile system in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.

It was determined this system presented a clear and imminent threat to U.S. and coalition forces, and merchant vessels in the region. This action was taken to protect freedom of navigation and make international waters safer and more secure for U.S., coalition, and merchant vessels.

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USCGC Oliver Henry Crew

Completes Patrol Under Operation Rematau

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam



Ensign Matt Go and Chief Robert Etiuweliug, chief of the community on Satawal, take a moment for a photo on the bridge of the USCGC Oliver Henry (WPC 1140), offshore of Satawal, Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia. *U.S. Coast Guard | Lt. Ray Cerrato*

SANTA RITA, Guam – The USCGC Oliver Henry (WPC 1140) concluded a strategic patrol on Sept. 2, 2024, under Operation Rematau, marking significant achievements in maritime security and regional cooperation in the U.S. and Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Exclusive Economic Zones.

The crew successfully executed a series of operations that reinforced their readiness and operational capabilities. At

the forefront of the patrol's accomplishments was the rescue of six fishermen whose vessel became disabled near Satawal, FSM. This operation underscored the crew's readiness, capability to respond effectively to maritime emergencies, and the value of using personal locator beacons.

"The rescue operation was a testament to the skill and preparedness of our crew," said Lieutenant Ray Cerrato, commanding officer of the Oliver Henry. "Navigating through challenging conditions to ensure the safety of these individuals highlights our commitment to the core values of the Coast Guard. We encourage mariners to take personal locator beacons and keep an eye out for our white hulls and blue lights as we seek to bring them home safely."

During the patrol, the crew of the USCGC Oliver Henry collaborated diplomatically and operationally with local maritime authorities and other stakeholders in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These engagements helped reinforce mutual understanding and coordination capabilities, laying a stronger foundation for future joint operations. The mere presence of the USCGC Oliver Henry in critical maritime zones served as a deterrent to potential illicit activities. Regular patrols signal ongoing commitment and surveillance, discouraging illegal activities through visible enforcement presence.

The crew worked to enhance communication and information-sharing systems with regional partners through relationship strengthening. By improving these channels, Oliver Henry helped ensure that real-time data and insights could be shared more effectively, allowing for quicker responses to potential IUU fishing activities. The patrol also allowed the crew to follow up on previous commitments and relief efforts, such as those conducted in Satawal. These follow-ups help maintain strong community relations and ensure continued cooperation, which is vital for addressing broader maritime issues through a united front.

Throughout the patrol, the crew participated in rigorous training exercises, including gunnery exercise drills, where they expended both .50 caliber and 25mm ammunition to ensure proficiency in using and maintaining the weapons systems. These exercises ensure the crew remains at peak readiness.

“This patrol exemplifies the spirit and dedication of the Oliver Henry crew,” said Captain Robert Kistner, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. “Their ability to adapt and overcome challenges while achieving mission objectives reinforces our role as a steadfast protector in the Pacific.”

New Commander Takes Charge of Pacific Marines



U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. William M. Journey, U.S. Marine

Corps Forces, Pacific, gives his final remarks as commander during the MARFORPAC change of command ceremony on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Sept. 12, 2024. *U.S. Marine Corps | Staff Sgt. Ash McLaughlin*

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – Lieutenant General William M. Journey relinquished command of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific to Lieutenant General James F. Glynn during a ceremony aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Sept. 12, 2024. Journey also retired from the Marine Corps during the ceremony.

“You don’t get here by happenstance,” said General Eric M. Smith, commandant of the Marine Corps. “You get here by determination, by hard work, by commitment to your profession. You’re hand selected to come here based on your integrity, your vision, and your warfighting expertise.”

Journey, a native of Statesville, North Carolina, commanded MARFORPAC since September 2022. After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1987, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and retired with more than 37 years of service.

“The Marines and Sailors standing in front of you today represent two Marine Expeditionary Forces, both I and III MEF, and our headquarters,” stated Journey during his last address as commander. “The MEFs and MARFORPAC represent approximately two-thirds of the entire United States Marines Corps’ combat power. Every day, over 80,000 Marines and Sailors make sacrifices for our country, and we do not forget them for their service.”

During Journey’s tenure, Pacific Marines participated in several significant events, including the first deployment of the Amphibious Combat Vehicle with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, the redesignation of 12th Marine Regiment to 12th Marine Littoral Regiment, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3’s transition from the RQ-21A to the MQ-9A MUX/MALE, and support to more than 120 exercises and engagements

throughout the Indo-Pacific theater.

Reflecting on the achievements and progress made while in command, Journey highlighted the dedication and readiness of Pacific Marines.

“They stand ready to fight – and to fight and win – on behalf of our nation and on behalf of our nation’s commitment to our allies and to our partners,” Journey said. “Our capabilities of readiness are possible because of strong partnerships and our strong alliances.”

A native of Albany, New York, Glynn graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and commissioned in 1989. He most recently served as deputy commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, based in Quantico, Virginia.

“You should expect me to be out front ensuring that you have what you need and that you are taken care of so that we can achieve the things in support of our partners and Allies,” Glynn said during his first remarks to Pacific Marines. “So, we can do the things that are required to prevail – that are expected of us as individuals and as a group. So, know those standards and exceed those standards at every occasion.”

The ceremony featured marching units, the MARFORPAC Band, a combined color guard representing MARFORPAC and its subordinate commands, an artillery salute, and the traditional passing of the unit colors from the outgoing to the incoming commander, signifying the transfer of authority and accountability of the command.

Marine Corps Adds AGM-158A Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile to F/A-18 Arsenal



U.S. Marines load an AGM-158A joint air-to-surface standoff missile on an F/A-18 Hornet assigned to VMFA-232 during the AGM-158A validation and verification at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, Aug. 27, 2024. *U.S. Marine Corps | Lance Cpl. Jennifer Sanchez*

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, California – Marines with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 232 became the first to conduct ordnance operations with the Marine Corps' newest F/A-18 Hornet weapon, the AGM-158A joint air-to-surface standoff missile, during validation and verification testing at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, Aug. 27-28, 2024.

The AGM-158A JASSM is a conventional, stealthy, air launched

ground attack cruise missile with a range of 230 miles. In 2018, the United States employed the JASSM in combat for the first time, fired from U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers, destroying a Syrian chemical weapons manufacturer and proving the JASSM's effectiveness.

"The integration of the AGM-158A joint air-to-surface standoff missile into the F/A-18's arsenal significantly enhances the Hornet's capabilities, enabling it to strike targets from well beyond the reach of enemy air defenses," said Major Bradley Kirby, an aviation ordnance officer with 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

Marines conducted validation and verification testing by loading an AGM-158A JASSM onto an F/A-18 assigned to VMFA-232 to evaluate the loading procedures, connecting hardware and software – a required protocol before the JASSM is incorporated in the Marine Corps arsenal.

As the Marine Corps tailors its advanced fighter attack aircraft and ushers in fifth-generation aircraft, it is also integrating new munitions with increased range, speed and lethality.

Marine Corps strike fighter platforms are postured to acquire long-range, maritime strike capabilities with the inclusion of the AGM-158B joint air-to-surface standoff missile extended range and AGM-158C long range anti-ship missile on the F-35B/C weapons integration roadmap.

"The JASSM not only surpasses the capabilities of any other weapon currently in the Hornet's extensive weapons portfolio, but also the Marine Corps at large," Kirby said. "This added capability will greatly increase 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing's ability to support the joint force and enable greater freedom of maneuver across all operational domains."

Navy to Boost Fleet's Electronic Attack Capability with Next Generation Jammer Low Band Contract Award



The Navy awarded a contract for the engineering and manufacturing development of the Next Generation Jammer Low Band system, which will deploy on the EA-18G Growler (pictured). It is part of a larger system that will provide enhanced AEA capabilities to disrupt, deny and degrade enemy air defense and ground communication systems. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Nicholas Priest)

From Naval Air Systems Command, Sept. 10, 2024

PATUXENT RIVER, Md. – The U.S. and Australian fleets are one

step closer to getting the next increment of the U.S. Navy's most advanced airborne electronic attack (AEA) system. The Navy awarded L3 Technologies Inc., Communication Systems-West a \$587.4 million contract Aug. 26 for the engineering and manufacturing development of the Next Generation Jammer Low Band (NGJ-LB) system.

"NGJ-LB will meet current and emerging electronic warfare threats and increase the lethality of 4th and 5th generation platforms and strike weapons," said Rear Adm. John Lemmon, Program Executive Officer for Tactical Aircraft Programs. "The Navy will partner with L3Harris to get this key capability into the hands of the warfighter."

The NGJ-LB is part of a larger NGJ system that will augment and ultimately replace the legacy ALQ-99 Tactical Jamming System on the EA-18G Growler aircraft. Using the latest software and Active Electronically Scanned Array technologies, NGJ will provide enhanced AEA capabilities to disrupt, deny and degrade enemy air defense and ground communication systems.

This latest increment will counter a larger capacity of adversary systems in the low-frequency electromagnetic spectrum. NGJ-LB is scheduled to reach early operational capability in 2029.

The Navy originally awarded the contract in 2020. Following multiple protests, the Navy issued an amended request for proposals in 2023. This contract supports the final design efforts and manufacturing of operational prototype pods and system-level prototypes for the U.S. Navy and Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). NGJ-LB is a joint cooperative program between the U.S. Department of Defense and the Australian Department of Defence.

"The contract award is a major step for our fleet as well as the RAAF," said Capt. David Rueter, Airborne Electronic Attack

Systems Program Office (PMA-234) Program Manager. “Our partnership with Australia to develop the newest AEA jamming capability exhibits our joint commitment to ensure continued superiority over the electromagnetic spectrum.”

PMA-234 is responsible for acquiring, delivering and sustaining AEA systems including the NGJ, [ALQ-99](#), and [ALQ-231](#) Intrepid Tiger Pod II. The program office provides combatant commanders with electronic warfare capabilities that enable operational mission success.

SECNAV Del Toro Visits Philly Shipyard for NSMV II Christening



From SECNAV Public Affairs, 9 September 2024

PHILADELPHIA (Sept. 9, 2024) – Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro visited Philly Shipyard, Inc. and spoke at the christening for the second National Security Multi-Mission Vessel Patriot State (NSMV II) Sept. 9.

✘ “It was incredible to see how quickly the NSMV program and Philly Shipyard have come in just a few years,” said Secretary Del Toro. “Building Patriot State and enabling its mission to train Massachusetts Marine Academy cadets will advance our Maritime Statecraft for decades.”

Philly Shipyard is a U.S. shipbuilder pursuing a mix of commercial and government work, ranging from shipbuilding to repair and maintenance.

Secretary Del Toro has made Maritime Statecraft and restoring the comprehensive maritime power of the United States a

key component of his tenure as Secretary of the Navy. That component was advanced with Korean Shipbuilder Hanwha's acquisition announcement of Philly Shipyard in June 2024.

"I thank all those who answered the nation's call to service to ensure we remain the most dominant maritime force in the world," said Del Toro. "Your contributions to our shipbuilding industry and maritime training are vital to our Maritime Statecraft."

The christening was attended by U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA 5th District), Maritime Administrator Hon. Ann C. Phillips, Massachusetts Maritime Academy President Adm. Fran McDonald, and Philly Shipyard President and CEO Steinar Nerbovik.

When it is complete, Patriot State will be a key platform to train future leaders of the United States Merchant Marine and United States Navy.

Coast Guard Offloads More Than \$54 million in Illegal Narcotics Interdicted in Caribbean Sea



Bales of illegal narcotics, worth an estimated \$54 million, are staged for an offload by crew members of U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Diligence (WMEC 616) in Port Everglades, Florida, Sept. 23, 2024. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Eric Rodriguez)

Sept. 10, 2024

Coast Guard offloads more than \$54 million in illegal narcotics interdicted in Caribbean Sea

Coast Guard 7th District, Sept. 10, 2024

MIAMI – The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Diligence offloaded more than 4,125 pounds of cocaine with an assessed street value of approximately \$54 million in Port Everglades, Monday.

Coast Guard crews, working alongside interagency and international partners, seized the illegal drugs in the international waters of the Caribbean Sea during three separate interdictions.

The following assets and crews were involved in the interdictions:

- Royal Navy ship HMS Trent (P 244)
- U.S. Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement Team Pacific (PAC-TACLET)
- U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Napier (WPC 1115)
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Operations (CBP-AMO)
- Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-South)

Along with the illicit narcotics, 11 suspected smugglers were apprehended and will face prosecution in federal courts by the U.S. Department of Justice.

“I am extremely proud of our crew’s tenacity and professionalism, coupled with outstanding coordination with Coast Guard aircrews, during this complex counter-drug mission,” said Lt. Matthew Carmine, Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Napier commanding officer. “Their steadfast efforts, along with those of foreign allies and partner agencies, continue to prove vital to countering drug trafficking organizations and safeguarding the people of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.”

Detecting and interdicting illicit drug traffickers on the high seas involves significant interagency and international coordination. The Joint Interagency Task Force South in Key West, Florida conducts the detection and monitoring of aerial and maritime transit of illegal drugs. Once interdiction

becomes imminent, the law enforcement phase of the operation begins, and control of the operation shifts to the U.S. Coast Guard throughout the interdiction and apprehension. Interdictions in the Caribbean Sea are performed by members of the U.S. Coast Guard under the authority and control of the Coast Guard's Seventh District, headquartered in Miami.

These interdictions relate to Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces' (OCDETF) Strike Force Initiatives and designated investigations. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF program can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/OCDETF>.

For breaking news, follow us on ["X" \(formerly Twitter\)](#). For additional information, find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Visit GoCoastGuard.com to learn about active duty and reserve, officer and enlisted opportunities in the U.S. Coast Guard. Information on how to apply to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy can be found [here](#).

September 6-9 U.S. Central Command Update

From U.S. Central Command

Sept 9, 2024

TAMPA, Fla. – In the past 24 hours, U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) forces successfully destroyed two Iranian-backed Houthi missile systems and one support vehicle in Houthi-

controlled areas of Yemen.

Additionally, USCENTCOM forces successfully destroyed one Houthi unmanned aerial vehicle over the Red Sea.

It was determined these systems presented a clear and imminent threat to U.S. and coalition forces, and merchant vessels in the region. These actions were taken to protect freedom of navigation and make international waters safer and more secure for U.S., coalition and merchant vessels.

Sept 8, 2024

TAMPA, Fla. – In the past 24 hours, U.S. Central Command forces successfully destroyed three Iranian-backed Houthi uncrewed aerial vehicles and two missile systems in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.

It was determined these systems presented a clear and imminent threat to U.S. and coalition forces, and merchant vessels in the region. These actions were taken to protect freedom of navigation and make international waters safer and more secure for U.S., coalition, and merchant vessels.

Sep. 6, 2024

TAMPA, Fla. – In the past 24 hours, U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) forces successfully destroyed one Iranian-backed Houthi uncrewed aerial vehicle and one support vehicle in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.

It was determined these systems presented a clear and imminent threat to U.S. and coalition forces, and merchant vessels in the region. This action was taken to protect freedom of navigation and make international waters safer and more secure for U.S., coalition, and merchant vessels.