

USS Hawaii in First Australian Nuclear-Powered Attack Sub Maintenance Availability



HMAS STIRLING, Western Australia, Australia (Aug. 22, 2024) – Sailors assigned to the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) prepare to moor at HMAS Stirling, Western Australia, Australia, as part of a scheduled port visit before conducting a submarine tendered maintenance period (STMP) with the submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39), Aug. 22. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Victoria Mejicanos)

By Lt.Cmdr. Rick Moore Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

HMAS STIRLING, Western Australia, Australia (Aug. 22, 2024) – In a historic first, Australian personnel will work alongside

with their U.S. counterparts to conduct maintenance on USS Hawaii (SSN 776) in Australia as part of a Submarine Tendered Maintenance Period (STMP) at HMAS Stirling in Western Australia. The STMP marks a significant step forward in the Australia, United Kingdom, United States (AUKUS) Pillar 1 program, which is paving the way for Australia to acquire a sovereign, conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability.

Over the coming weeks, submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) will execute several maintenance activities aboard Hawaii. This is the first time Australians have participated in a U.S. submarine maintenance period in Australia. More than 30 Australian personnel who participated in a knowledge exchange period that began in January 2024 aboard Emory S. Land will execute the majority of planned maintenance work with U.S. support and oversight.

The Emory S. Land crew will execute planned and emergent maintenance activities including the removal and reinstallation of an antenna located in Hawaii's sail, divers visually inspecting the underwater towed array and torpedo tube muzzles, and simulating the removal and installation of a trim pump, to include full rigging and preparations.

"This is an important moment for the Royal Australian Navy," said Rear Adm. Matthew Buckley, the Australian Submarine Agency's Head of Submarine Capability. "For the first time, we have Australians who were trained and certified aboard Emory S. Land using their skills on a U.S. SSN in Australian waters."

AUKUS Pillar 1 is an enhanced trilateral security agreement designed to assist Australia in acquiring sovereign, conventionally armed, nuclear-powered attack submarines. The current port visit is part of a years-long effort to grow the Royal Australian Navy's ability to maintain SSNs before

establishing Submarine Rotational Force – West (SRF-W) as early as 2027. Known as Phase 1, SRF-W will see up to four U.S. SSNs and one U.K. SSN have a rotational presence in Western Australia to grow Australia's ability to sustain, operate and maintain a sovereign fleet of SSNs.

The second phase of the AUKUS Optimal Pathway begins in the early 2030s, with the United States selling Australia three Virginia-class submarines, with the potential to sell up to two more if needed. Phase Three sees the combination of the next-generation UK submarine design and advanced United States and Australian technology to deliver SSN-AUKUS, the future attack submarine for both Australia and the United Kingdom. Australia plans to deliver the first Australian-built SSN-AUKUS in the early 2040s.

“The groundwork being laid with the STMP will help the Royal Navy when we conduct our future port visits,” said Rear Adm. Chris Shepherd, the UK's Defence Nuclear Organisation AUKUS Director. “We, like our Australian counterparts, are observing how the U.S. operates so we can help bridge the gap between their system and our Astute-class SSN and, in the near future, SSN-AUKUS.”

“Having Royal Australian Navy Sailors working on our submarine at HMAS Stirling has been something they, and we, have been working toward for months,” said Rear Adm. Lincoln Reifsteck, the U.S. AUKUS Integration and Acquisition Program Manager. “They represent the future of Australia's sovereign SSN fleet – Australians should be proud of what these professionals have accomplished, and will accomplish, to protect their homeland and help deter aggression in the region.”

“Partnering so closely with the Royal Australian Navy has been a fantastic experience,” said Capt. Brent Spillner, Emory S. Land's commanding officer. “Their Fleet Support Unit sailors integrated rapidly into our crew and have excelled at every

task. It's truly been a two-way knowledge exchange; we've learned as much from them as they have from us, and it's exciting to see how that's opened new opportunities to support each other's forward-deployed ships in the future."

"It is both personally and professionally rewarding to know that the work we do over the coming weeks will set our Australian partners on the path toward a sovereign SSN capability," shared Cmdr. Dan Jones, USS Hawaii commanding officer.

The STMP is similar to a planned maintenance period generally conducted in U.S. submarine ports with support from shore-based or tender-based maintenance personnel. Generally lasting up to three weeks, this type of maintenance availability does not require dry-docking the submarine and serves to ensure submarines receive planned and emergent maintenance to remain ready for tasking.

The STMP will support Australia's nuclear stewardship growth through the planning and execution of simulated radiological training evolutions that will not involve the use of radiological material. These training evolutions will allow Australian radiological controls policy makers to observe how the U.S. Navy safely handles simulated low-level radiological material as a means to increase their knowledge and develop Australian policy and radiation safety practices that are protective of the workforce, the public, and the environment.

August 22-23 U.S. Central

Command Update

From U.S. Central Command

Aug. 23, 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.

Aug. 22, 2024

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

It was determined these UAVs 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.

Amphibious Transport Dock

Richard M. McCool, Jr. Sails Away From Ingalls Shipbuilding



From HII

PASCAGOULA, Miss., Aug. 22, 2024 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – *San Antonio*-class amphibious transport dock ship *Richard M. McCool, Jr.* (LPD 29) departed from HII’s (NYSE: HII) Ingalls Shipbuilding division on Thursday, en route to its commissioning site in Pensacola, Florida.

“When any of our ships sail away, it is a poignant reminder of the importance of shipbuilding to the freedom and security of our country,” said Kari Wilkinson, president of Ingalls Shipbuilding. “We are committed to the mission and stand behind those who serve the nation for all Americans.”

[Richard M. McCool, Jr. was delivered](#) to the U.S. Navy in April and is the 13th *San Antonio*-class ship delivered by Ingalls. As the final Flight I transition ship before the company moves

into production of the LPD Flight II line, *Richard M. McCool, Jr.* is the first LPD 17-class ship to undergo the installation and activation of the Enterprise Air Surveillance Radar, SPY-6(V)2, rotating variant, S-Band radar. SPY-6(V)2 provides the U.S. Navy with a common hardware variant for aircraft carrier and amphibious ships and commonality with the SPY-6 Family of Radars. In addition to providing hardware and software commonality across the fleet, the radar will also contribute to increased target engagement capability and overall ship self-defense.

Photos accompanying this release are available at: <https://hii.com/news/amphibious-transport-dock-richard-m-mccool-jr-lpd-29-sails-away-from-ingalls-shipbuilding/>.

Currently, Ingalls has two Flight II LPDs under construction including *Harrisburg* (LPD 30) and *Pittsburgh* (LPD 31). In March 2023, Ingalls was awarded a modification to the contract for the procurement of the detail design and construction of *Philadelphia* (LPD 32), the 16th ship in the *San Antonio* class and the third LPD Flight II.

“I am filled with a deep sense of honor and purpose watching LPD 29 sail away,” said Davianne Stokes, Ingalls Shipbuilding’s LPD program manager. “Our shipbuilders have done an outstanding job, and I am grateful to be part of a team that plays such a crucial role in serving our military.”

[LPD 29 is scheduled to be commissioned](#) on Sept. 7, 2024, at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Pensacola, Florida. The naming of LPD 29 honors U.S. Navy Capt. Richard M. McCool, Jr., who was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1945 for the heroism he displayed after his ship was attacked by kamikaze aircraft in the Battle of Okinawa. Despite suffering from shrapnel wounds and painful burns, he led efforts to battle a blazing fire on his ship and rescue injured sailors.

Amphibious transport docks are used to transport and land

Marines, their equipment, and supplies by embarked Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC) or conventional landing craft and amphibious assault vehicles (AAV) augmented by helicopters or vertical take-off and landing aircraft (MV 22). These ships support amphibious assault, special operations, or expeditionary warfare missions and serve as secondary aviation platforms for amphibious operations.

SECNAV Advances Maritime Statecraft During Visit to UK's Barrow-in-Furness Shipyard

From SECNAV Public Affairs, 22 August 2024

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro visited BAE Systems Submarines Barrow-in-Furness Shipyard during a trip to the United Kingdom last week. During the visit he met with UK government, Royal Navy and industry leadership to discuss expanding collaboration and applying best practices to U.S. submarine construction and maintenance.

During the visit he met with UK government, Royal Navy and industry leadership to discuss expanding collaboration and applying best practices to U.S. submarine construction and maintenance. Secretary Del Toro was also updated on the SSN-AUKUS program as well as U.S.-UK collaboration on knowledge transfer, technology insertion and senior leadership engagements.

A tour of facilities showcased submarine production from hull

sections of the future Dreadnought-class to the final stages of construction of the Astute-class. The secretary stopped by the Submarine Skills Academy as well and spoke with apprentices pursuing a variety of skilled trades at the shipyard.

“It was an incredible visit to BAE’s Barrow Shipyard, where I saw construction of the Royal Navy’s most advanced submarines by highly skilled technicians and toured their apprentice workshops to develop the next generation of submarine-builders,” said Secretary Del Toro. “Lessons learned from building these extraordinary ships will pave the way for industry to build the next-generation SSN-AUKUS.”

The visit also highlighted use of the Shiplift system to raise and lower submarines in and out of the water, both for delivery and for maintenance, instead of using a dry dock.

Construction of a public university satellite facility at the shipyard demonstrated ways that overseas industry is working to attract, educate and incorporate new talent into its workforce.

“I was very impressed with the strong partnership displayed between the shipyard, national and local governments to address skilled-workforce challenges in the shipbuilding industrial base that we all face,” said Del Toro. “As part of my Maritime Statecraft initiative, I will continue to promote public-private training partnerships like this that revitalize American shipbuilding.”

Launched on Sept. 23, 2023, Maritime Statecraft promotes whole-of-government efforts to restore U.S. and allied comprehensive maritime power.

Navy's Carrier Air Wings Will Train as a Joint Fighting Force in Simulators at Sea

From NAWCAD Visual Information, 22 August 2024

Aviators across USS Abraham Lincoln's (CVN 72) carrier air wing now train as a joint fighting force using advanced simulators developed and installed by the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD).

The first-of-its-kind training capability, called Simulators at Sea, features connected desktop trainers that enable aviators to practice missions together while deployed—a historically limited capability.

“Simulators at Sea brings American aviators a level of readiness our carrier air wing has never experienced while deployed,” said NAWCAD Commander Rear Adm. John Dougherty IV. “This training is a game changing advantage that keeps our forces the most dominant in the skies.”

Aviators with Lincoln's Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9 flying F-35C Lightning II, F/A-18 E/F Super Hornets, EA-18G Growlers, and E-2D Hawkeyes are the first to deploy and rehearse naval missions including wartime scenarios with the Navy's new Simulators at Sea. Previously, joint mission training on this scale has been significantly limited as practicing wartime scenarios holds risk, flight operations can be expensive, and open-air rehearsal puts Navy tactics on display for adversaries.

“Naval aviators train extensively working up to deployment, but those skills begin to atrophy the day they pull out of port,” said NAWCAD Joint Simulation Environment Director Blaine Summers, whose team delivered the Simulators at Sea capability. “This was a capability gap we had to plug with a fully integrated carrier air wing solution—one we’re ready to scale across the Navy’s fleet of carriers.”

CVW-9 aviators have trained in its new simulators daily since its July 2024 deployment.

Simulators at Sea came together for Abraham Lincoln in less than 12 months following lessons learned from NAWCAD’s 2023 deployment of F-35 simulators onboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). The Simulators at Sea effort was more complex, requiring significant integration efforts that stretched across the Naval Aviation Enterprise’s Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division, NAWCAD’s Webster Outlying Field, and the Naval Aviation Training Systems and Ranges Program, as well as industry partners Boeing, Collins Aerospace, and General Dynamics Information Technology.

The warfare center plans to expand Simulators at Sea to other carriers in the future.

The Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division employs more than 17,000 military, civilian and contract personnel. It operates test ranges, laboratories, and aircraft in support of test, evaluation, research, development and sustainment of everything flown by the Navy and Marine Corps. Based in Patuxent River, Maryland, the command also has major sites in St. Inigoes, Maryland, Lakehurst, New Jersey, and Orlando, Florida.

August 21 U.S. Central Command Update

From U.S. Central Command, Aug. 21, 2024

TAMPA, Fla. - In the past 24 hours, U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) forces successfully destroyed an Iranian-backed Houthi surface-to-air missile and radar system 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.

USS San Diego Departs for Japan



From Commander, Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, 20 August 2024

SAN DIEGO – The San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS San Diego (LPD 22) left San Diego, Aug. 14, for Sasebo, Japan.

San Diego will replace USS Green Bay (LPD 20), also a San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship, which has been forward deployed to Sasebo for a decade. Green Bay will return to the United States at its new homeport of San Diego.

The forward presence of San Diego supports the United States' commitment to the defense of Japan, enhances the national security of the United States and improves its ability to protect strategic interests. San Diego will directly support the Defense Strategic Guidance to posture the most capable units forward in the Indo-Pacific Region.

“USS San Diego is prepared for this move. Being forward deployed will be very rewarding for the crew and families. We appreciate all the support and fond memories of the City of San Diego, but it's time for the city's namesake USS San Diego

to lead the charge. America is counting on us to deter aggression, defend our national security interests, and preserve our way of life,” said Capt. David Walton, San Diego commanding officer.

San Diego was commissioned May 19, 2012, and has been stationed in San Diego for 12 years. The ship’s motto is “Semper Vigilans,” or “Always Vigilant.” Its crest, adapted from the City of San Diego’s coat of arms, recalls the city’s origin as a mission settlement. The mission bell has been replaced with a ship’s bell, acknowledging the city’s long-standing connection to the maritime industry and the U.S. Navy. The palm wreath signifies honor and victory.

Maintaining an FDNF capability with the most advanced ships supports the United States’ commitment to the defense of Japan and the security and stability of the vital Indo-Pacific region.

**Sidus Space Awarded \$2M
Contract for US Navy
Propulsion Program**

SEAPOW

The Official Publication of the Navy League of the United States

From Sidus Space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., August 20, 2024 – Sidus Space, Inc. (NASDAQ: SIDU), a provider of end-to-end precision Space Infrastructure solutions that include satellite Data-as-a-Service on its proprietary on-orbit platform, proudly announces its selection by [Craig Technologies](#) for the manufacturing of two (2) Fleet Interactive Display Equipment (FIDE) Pre-production Unit Main panels for Bechtel Plant Machinery, Inc. (BPMI) in support of a critical U.S. Navy program. This significant subcontract, valued at \$2 million, marks the third time Sidus Space has been chosen as a subcontractor for this customer.

Under the new agreement, Sidus Space will leverage its state-of-the-art facilities and experienced team to manufacture, assemble, test, and deliver the FIDE panel trainers for Craig Technologies who is leading the design phase of the two panels.

“Sidus Space is currently manufacturing thirteen (13) Propulsion Plant Trainers and had previously manufactured a related U.S. Navy trainer system. Our repeat engagements are a testament to the exceptional quality and reliability of our

services. This contract reinforces our commitment to delivering superior products that meet the rigorous standards of the defense sector. Our team is dedicated to contributing to the advancement of national defense capabilities through innovative mission critical technology,” said Carol Craig, CEO of Sidus Space.

The project encompasses a range of sophisticated tasks, including precision manufacturing and rigorous testing processes, ensuring that every component meets the highest standards of quality and reliability. As Sidus Space continues to expand its portfolio of government and commercial projects, this latest subcontract exemplifies the company’s unwavering dedication to excellence and its pivotal role in supporting the nation’s critical infrastructure.

BPMI provides the U.S. Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program high quality nuclear power plant components for submarines and aircraft carriers. For more information, visit www.bpmionline.com.

**General Dynamics Mission
Systems Awarded Modification
to Deliver Hammerhead
Encapsulated Effectors to
U.S. Navy**

SEAPOWERS

The Official Publication of the Navy League of the United States

From General Dynamics Mission Systems, August 20, 2024

TAUNTON, Mass. – General Dynamics Mission Systems announced today that it was awarded a cost-plus-fixed-fee modification to a [previously awarded contract](#) by the U.S. Navy worth \$20.7 million to exercise an option for Hammerhead Encapsulated Effector systems. Hammerhead is a moored anti-submarine mine which delivers new capabilities and effects to the U.S. Navy.

Work will be performed in Taunton, Mass., and is expected to be completed by June 2026.

“General Dynamics Mission Systems has more than 60 years of experience designing, testing, integrating and delivering advanced maritime technologies. Our expertise in integrating undersea payloads and sensors is being applied to this critical maritime mine capability. The Hammerhead program will ensure that threats to the fleet will be neutralized safely and effectively. We look forward to delivering these additional Hammerhead systems to the U.S. Navy,” said Paul Dalton, vice president of Undersea Systems at General Dynamics Mission Systems.

BAE Systems to Upgrade Flight Control Computers for FA-18E/F and F-15EX Fighters



Technology refresh increases processing power to enhance aircraft performance, capabilities, and readiness

ENDICOTT, N.Y. – August 20, 2024 – BAE Systems has been selected by Boeing to upgrade the fly-by-wire (FBW) [flight control computers](#) (FCC) for the F-15EX Eagle II and F/A-18E/F Super Hornet fighter aircraft. The FCCs feature common core electronics that support the quad-redundant FBW flight control systems (FCS), providing the safety, reliability, robustness, and performance needed for the missions of these advanced platforms.

As the original manufacturer of the FCCs for both aircraft, BAE Systems will modernize the FCC electronics hardware and software to increase processing power, enhance cyber and product security, address obsolescence issues, and support sustainment well into the future. The upgraded FCC will leverage the company's high-integrity flight control product roadmap, built upon technology investments, and used across multiple recent military airborne platform flight control upgrades. The F/A-18E/F FCC will also receive an additional processor to enable future capabilities for the fleet.

"BAE Systems is a leader in high-integrity controls and this upgrade reflects our commitment to providing our customers with next-generation solutions," said Corin Beck, senior director of Military Aircraft Systems for Controls and Avionics Solutions at BAE Systems. "Our advanced flight-critical solution ensures that these platforms will maintain fleet readiness now, and in the future, as well as provisions the aircraft to support the integration of new functions."

These computers efficiently manage aircraft flight by processing pilot inputs, monitoring real-time aircraft movement conditions via on-board sensors, and transmitting commands to actuators that move the control surfaces. The redundant FCS, along with the flight control laws, enables the pilot to maintain controlled operation across the demanding flight regime and multiple loadout configurations. Additionally, the FCS can reconfigure how it controls the aircraft in case of a failure or battle damage by mixing the remaining control surfaces differently. The advanced FBW FCS allows the pilot to focus more on the mission and less on flying the aircraft.

BAE Systems has more than 40 years of experience developing and integrating flight control technology for military and commercial platforms. This flight control upgrade will be conducted at the company's state-of-the-art engineering and manufacturing facility in Endicott, New York.