

CTF 150, U.S. Coast Guard Seize \$25 Million in Illegal Drugs

Release from U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs

By U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs | October 11, 2023

MANAMA, Bahrain – The U.S. Coast Guard Sentinel-class fast response cutter USCGC John Scheuerman (WPC 1146) seized about \$25 million worth of illegal drugs from a stateless vessel while operating in the international waters of the Gulf of Oman, Oct. 3.

The cutter, working under the command of Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, seized 360 kilograms of methamphetamines, 107 kilograms of heroin and 1,961 kilograms of hashish from the vessel during an interdiction operation.

This event marks the second time in a month that CTF 150 has interdicted illicit narcotics at sea. Last month, the Royal Navy frigate HMS Lancaster (F229) seized more than 450 kilograms, or approximately \$9.5 million, of illegal drugs including heroin and hashish during a CTF 150 operation in the Arabian Sea.

“This new seizure, the second since the French Navy took command of CTF 150 last July, again shows the commitment of Combined Maritime Forces working together to enhance maritime security in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean,” said French Navy Capt. Yannick Bossu, commander of CTF 150.

CTF 150 is one of five task forces under Combined Maritime

Forces, the largest multinational naval partnership in the world. CTF 150 focuses on maritime security operations outside the Arabian Gulf.

Since 2021, Combined Maritime Forces has seized more than \$1 billion in illegal drugs while patrolling waters across the Middle East.

The 38-nation naval partnership upholds the international rules-based order by promoting security and stability across 3.2 million square miles of water encompassing some of the world's most important shipping lanes.

U.S. Coast Guard recovers remaining evidence from Titan submersible



[Release from Coast Guard Headquarters](#)

From Coast Guard Headquarters, Oct. 10, 2023

WASHINGTON – Marine safety engineers with the Coast Guard's Marine Board of Investigation (MBI) recovered and transferred remaining Titan submersible debris and evidence from the North Atlantic Ocean seafloor, Oct. 4.

The salvage mission, which was conducted under an existing agreement with U.S. Navy Supervisor of Salvage & Diving, was a follow-up to initial recovery operations following the loss of the Titan submersible. Investigators from the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Transportation Safety Board of Canada joined the salvage expedition as part of their respective safety investigations.

The recovered evidence was successfully transferred to a U.S.

port for cataloging and analysis. Additional presumed human remains were carefully recovered from within Titan's debris and transported for analysis by U.S. medical professionals.

The MBI is coordinating with NTSB and other international investigative agencies to schedule a joint evidence review of recovered Titan debris. This review session will help determine the next steps for necessary forensic testing.

The MBI will continue evidence analysis and witness interviews ahead of a public hearing regarding this tragedy.

Additional updates will be available on the Titan Submersible Marine Board of Investigation webpage: www.news.uscg.mil/News-by-Region/Headquarters/TITAN-submersible. A full resolution, downloadable version of the above photo is available at [DVIDS – Images – Titan Marine Board of Investigation conducts recovery operations \(dvidshub.net\)](http://DVIDS-Images-Titan-Marine-Board-of-Investigation-conducts-recovery-operations(dvidshub.net))

Anyone wishing to provide information that may assist the Coast Guard MBI can submit it to accidentinfo@uscg.mil. Media may contact mediarelations@uscg.mil.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group to deploy



Release from the U.S. Navy Office of Information

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group will depart on a regularly scheduled deployment, Oct. 13.

The flagship aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) and guided-missile destroyer USS Gravely (DDG 107) are scheduled to depart from Naval Station Norfolk. USS Mason (DDG 87) will depart from Naval Station Mayport, Fla.

Along with the surface ships, the IKECSG is comprised of the Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 2 staff, the squadrons and staff of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 3, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 22 staff and the Information Warfare Commander. In total, the strike group is a force of more than 5,000 Sailors, capable of carrying out a wide variety of missions around the globe.

Squadrons of CVW-3 include the "Gunslingers" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 105, the "Fighting Swordsmen" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 32, the "Rampagers" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 83, the "Wildcats" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 131, the "Screwtops" of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 123, the "Zappers" of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ)

130, the “Dusty Dogs” of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 7, the “Swamp Foxes” of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 74 and the “Rawhides” of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 40.

HII is Awarded \$347 Million U.S. Navy Lionfish Small UUV Contract



[Release from HII](#)

Contract includes initial build of nine UUVs with potential for up to 200

MCLEAN, Va., Oct. 11, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – HII (NYSE: HII) announced today that its Mission Technologies division was

awarded a contract to build nine small unmanned undersea vehicles (SUUV) for the U.S. Navy's Lionfish System program. The contract has the potential to grow to as many as 200 vehicles over the next five years with a total value of more than \$347 million.

The Lionfish System, based on HII's REMUS 300, is a highly portable, two-person SUUV with an open architecture design and versatile payload options. In early 2022, REMUS 300 was chosen as the Navy's official program of record for the next-generation SUUV.

Administered by Naval Sea Systems Command, this contract provides for the delivery and support of the Navy's next generation SUUVs, as well as afloat and auxiliary support equipment and engineering services. The vehicles, incorporating the latest in autonomous and unmanned technology, will conduct critical undersea missions for the Navy.

"Lionfish provides increased capability and interoperability that aligns with the Navy's undersea priorities, and we look forward to delivering next-generation vehicles that can readily adapt to and support a variety of mission needs," said Andy Green, executive vice president of HII and president of Mission Technologies.

Photos accompanying this release are available at: <https://hii.com/news/hii-navy-lionfish-small-unmanned-undersea-vehicle-contract-2023/>.

"We are pleased with the Navy's decision to support a combat-proven technology, essential to the Navy's undersea mission," said Duane Fotheringham, president of Mission Technologies' Unmanned Systems business group. "Our team is committed to delivering fully capable vehicles that will enhance the effectiveness of the warfighter against emerging threats."

The Lionfish System was developed through an innovative

process with the Department of Defense's Defense Innovation Unit and the Navy that incorporated feedback from multiple user groups to uniquely meet the needs of the warfighters.

HII is the largest producer of unmanned undersea vehicles (UUV) worldwide. Serving customers in more than 30 countries, HII provides design, autonomy, manufacturing, testing, operations and sustainment of unmanned systems, including UUVs and unmanned surface vessels (USV).

Navy Hospital Ship Departs for Pacific Partnership 2024-1



[Release from U.S. 3rd Fleet](#)

By USNS Mercy Public Affairs

San Diego (Oct. 11, 2023) – The Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) departed San Diego, marking the beginning of Pacific Partnership 2024-1, Oct. 10.

The U.S. Navy will join allied and partner nation forces for the 19th iteration of Pacific Partnership, the largest annual multilateral disaster response preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific region. This annual maritime humanitarian and civic assistance mission focuses on improving disaster response preparedness, resiliency and capacity while enhancing partnerships with participating nations and civilian humanitarian organizations throughout the region.

For this year's mission, medical and dental practitioners will be embarked on the 1,000-bed hospital ship. Aboard the Mercy, a combined 800 military and civilian personnel will support the multi-month mission led by U.S. Navy Capt. Brian Quin, PP24-1 mission commander, and Rear Adm. Mark A. Melson, PP24-1 executive agent under U.S. Pacific Fleet, and commander, Task Force 73.

"The Pacific Partnership mission teams work collectively each year with host and partner nations to strengthen existing regional interoperability, and increase disaster-response-capacity," said Melson. "I am honored to be part of this year's mission because this annual mission helps increase security and stability in the region, while fostering new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific."

The Pacific Partnership mission team aboard the Mercy will make stops in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Experts in the fields of engineering, medicine and disaster response will partner with each host to conduct civic-action projects, community health exchanges, medical symposiums, and

disaster response training activities.

“This mission reflects the continued commitment to the region and dedication to disaster-response-readiness from the United States, our partners and allies, and the host nations,” said Quin.

Engagements between Pacific Partnership participants and host nations ensure the international community is better prepared to function together when responding to a disaster emergency by increasing capacity, enhancing regional partnerships, and increasing multilateral cooperation for disaster preparedness.

The Pacific Partnership began in response to one of the world’s most catastrophic natural disasters, the December 2004 tsunami that devastated parts of Southeast Asia. The mission has evolved over the years from emphasis on direct care to an operation focused on enhancing partnerships through host nation subject matter expert and civil-military exchanges.

USS Jack H Lucas Commissioned in Port Tampa



[Release from Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet](#)

TAMPA, FLORIDA (Oct. 7, 2023) – Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Jack H Lucas (DDG 125) was commissioned at Tampa, Florida, Oct. 7.

DDG 125 is named for Pfc. Jack Lucas, who served in the U.S. Marines during World War II, earning the Medal of Honor for his heroism at Iwo Jima, when he was just 17 years old. He is the youngest Marine, and the youngest service member in World War II, to be awarded the United States' highest military decoration for valor. In 1961, he returned to military service as a captain in the U.S. Army and trained younger troops headed for Vietnam. Lucas passed away on June 5, 2008, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

During the ceremony, guest speaker Under Secretary of the Navy, The Honorable Erik Raven wished the crew of Jack H Lucas fair winds and following seas as the ship begins its commissioned service.

“Commissioning the Jack H. Lucas means we continue to deliver fast, agile, and networked surface combatants to the Navy. The Jack H. Lucas is built to fight. It is a fast, maneuverable, versatile, and lethal ship – capable of tackling any mission it is given,” said Raven. “It will keep the Navy and Marine Corps adaptive and ready, and also uphold our commitment to maintaining the free flow of commerce, deterring military aggression, and facilitating quick responses to natural disasters across the globe.”

Ruby Lucas, one of the ship’s sponsors, and Jack’s wife at the time of his death, emotionally thanked the audience for coming to honor her husband before giving the order to “man our ship and bring her to life!” alongside co-sponsor, philanthropist Catherine B. Reynolds.

On behalf of the President of the United States and for the Secretary of the Navy, the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlos Ruiz, USMC, placed the USS Jack H Lucas into commission.

“Something inside Lucas’ souls said, ‘I need to get to the fight.’ And fight he did,” Ruiz reflected. “The Navy and the Marine Corps team – our destinies are intertwined. The Navy, the ship, represents the perseverance of Americans. This beautiful ship represents the grit, the determination, of enlisted Marines, enlisted Sailors, and all of us that we will not give up until we win.”

“My charge to you and your team is to keep that tenacity, that toughness, and grit going because the challenges will keep coming,” Adm. Daryl Caudle, commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command counseled Oster and his crew. “It will be hard, but I know that you and the 330 of the Navy’s finest Sailors are the team to do it. Your namesake, 17-year-old Medal of Honor recipient, Jack H Lucas, carried that same fiery passion.”

Capt. Brett Oster, Jack H Lucas’ commanding officer,

recognized the driving force behind the ship's namesake, and how his crew reflects that memory.

"There is something you can never, ever deny about Jack H Lucas. That man loved this country. That is why we're here, because we love this country. You can never take that away – his dedication," said Oster. "When you have a purpose, and you have dedication, and you have vision, and you have teamwork, anything that you set your sites on can come together."

To cap off a week of special memories, three Sailors were meritoriously promoted at the close of the commissioning ceremony, Petty Officer First Class Boatswain's Mate Victor Mejia, Petty Officer Second Class Boatswain's Mate Lloyd Tillman, and Petty Officer Third Class Damage Controlman Ruben Rubio.

Today's commissioning ceremony is the culmination of five years of work from everyone involved in the construction of Jack H Lucas, its operations, and all those involved in bringing the ship to life.

The city of Tampa and its residents welcomed the ship and its crew with events throughout the week. Along with other residents, family, and friends, the Tampa Lightning toured the ship to see the new technology aboard the first Flight III Arleigh Burke guided-missile destroyer. In turn the Lightning invited the crew on the ice not only to present their ship's color guard, but to introduce the Jack H Lucas' first, new chief petty officers. Local restaurants opened their kitchens to the ship's culinary specialists, teaching the Sailors advanced techniques used for the chef's dining rooms.

Honoring the whole of Lucas' life, his widow Ruby, The Trail of Honor Foundation, and Flags of Honor Escort presented the ship with a vest adorned with his Medal of Honor. The vest traveled to Jack's gravesite in Hattiesburg, Mississippi; numerous locations and Memorials to include the United States

Marine Corps War Memorial and the World War II Memorial; the Never Forget Flag travelled to or thorough 20 states and the District of Columbia, amassing a total of 11,325.8 miles as part of Jack's Vest Run before the presentation earlier this week.

The ship's motto, "Indestructible" is reflection of Lucas' survival, first on Iwo Jima and later from several other traumatic events after the war that rivaled his exploits as a Marine.

Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers are the backbone of the U.S. Navy's surface fleet. These highly capable, multi-mission ships conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence to national security providing a wide range of warfighting capabilities in multi-threat air, surface and subsurface. The Flight III upgrade is centered on the AN/SPY-6(V)1 Air and Missile Defense Radar and incorporates upgrades to the electrical power and cooling capacity.

USS Jack H Lucas is the first AEGIS Weapon System, Baseline 10, to be commissioned. It integrates air and missile defense capability with the new AN/SPY6(V)(1) air and missile defense radar to provide significantly greater detection and tracking capacity among its warfighting capabilities across mission areas. Flight III also incorporates upgrades to the electrical power and cooling capacity, plus additional associated changes to provide enhanced warfighting capability to the fleet.

The mission of CNSP is to man, train, and equip the Surface Force to provide fleet commanders with credible naval power to control the sea and project power ashore.

For more news from Naval Surface Forces, visit DVIDS – Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/COMNAVSURFPAC>, and Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, <https://www.surfpac.navy.mil/>.

For additional information about the ship visit, USS Jack H Lucas (DDG 125), <https://www.surfpac.navy.mil/ddg125/>.

Teledyne FLIR Defense Unveils New Black Hornet 4 Personal Reconnaissance System



Release from Teledyne FLIR Defense

Next gen nano-drone builds on battle-proven Black Hornet 3 legacy;

Delivers improved range, endurance, signature and imagery data while providing covert situational awareness to warfighters

WASHINGTON, DC, October 10, 2023 – Teledyne FLIR Defense, part

of Teledyne Technologies Incorporated (NYSE:TDY), is introducing its new Black Hornet® 4 Personal Reconnaissance System at this week's Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) conference in Washington D.C.

Black Hornet 4 represents the next generation of lightweight nano-drones, building on its predecessor to deliver enhanced covert situational awareness to small units. A new 12-megapixel daytime camera with superior low-light performance, plus new high-resolution thermal imager, deliver crisp video and still images to the operator. At just 70 grams, Black Hornet 4 has a flying time of more than 30 minutes, range greater than two kilometers, and can fly in 25-knot winds. Flight performance has been augmented by new obstacle avoidance capabilities and an advanced battery.

Compared to small quad-rotor drones, the single rotor Black Hornet 4 unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) has an extremely low visual and audible signature, enabling it to identify threats day or night without being detected. Able to launch in less than 20 seconds and well suited for missions in GPS-denied environments, the Black Hornet 4 UAV can be used to rapidly identify targets beyond visual line-of-sight and assess weapon effects in real-time.

"Black Hornet 4 takes the features and capabilities that made Black Hornet 3 world renowned to the next level," said Dr. JihFen Lei, executive vice president and general manager of Teledyne FLIR Defense. "We've worked closely with customers and end users to make this system even more valuable for dismounted soldiers in need of situational understanding or engaged in covert operations, where precise and immediate intel is crucial.

"Black Hornet 4 is future-proof nano-drone technology," Lei added.

FLIR Defense has delivered more than 20,000 Black Hornet PRS

systems to military and security forces in over 40 countries. Black Hornet drones are currently being used in Ukraine through donations made by the British and Norwegian governments, where they have performed successfully in numerous missions under the harshest of environments.

The U.S. Army began acquiring Black Hornets five years ago as part of its Soldier Borne Sensor program and since then has placed orders totaling more than \$125 million. In July, the Army awarded Teledyne FLIR a five-year contract worth up to \$94 million for additional Black Hornet systems.

General Dynamics Electric Boat and the Metal Trades Council Agree to a New Contract

Release from General Dynamics Electric Boat

GROTON, Conn. (October 6, 2023) – General Dynamics Electric Boat, a business unit of General Dynamics (NYSE: GD), and the Metal Trades Council (MTC) announced today union members ratified a new, five-year collective bargaining agreement. The MTC represents more than 3,400 employees in the skilled trades at the company's Groton shipyard which includes welders, electricians, machinists, pipefitters, laborers, painters, transportation services and administrative support.

The agreement provides for significant increases in compensation and benefits, including:

- General wage increases for all MTC members totaling 21.4% over the term of the contract.
- Retention and sign on bonuses with the opportunity to earn up to \$6,000.
- A one-time, \$2,500 contribution to the employee's 401k retirement savings account.
- Continuation of a comprehensive, competitive medical plan with modest premium and deductible increases.
- Increases to vacation days and paid sick time for most members.

The contract is effective as of September 30, 2023.

"This is the largest wage package in more than 30 years and demonstrates the value we place on the skills and experience necessary to build the world's finest submarines," said Kevin Graney, president of General Dynamics Electric Boat. "This investment in our people complements investments by General Dynamics in our facilities and infrastructure and is a key element of our strategy to grow our production rate to deliver more submarines faster to the U.S. Navy."

"Ratification of this robust contract is a five-year ironclad guarantee of economic security for the Electric Boat metal trades workforce, which they richly deserve. It also sends a powerful message to the Navy and Congress, who fund their work, that the Groton waterfront is in for the long haul as our nation grows its undersea fleet, a decades-long enterprise. Kudos to Peter Baker and the Metal Trades Council team, and Shawn Coyne from Electric Boat Human Resources who spent months hammering out the many details of this historic contract," said U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney (CT-02).

"This new agreement will help attract and retain new employees

while providing for the current membership,” said Peter Baker, president of the Metal Trades Council. “This will also provide Electric Boat with a stable workforce that will continue to build our nation’s defense. We want to thank the membership for their support throughout the negotiations process.”

Electric Boat is in the midst of an unprecedented expansion to increase production of Virginia-class fast-attack submarines and the Columbia class of ballistic missile submarines. The company is the prime contractor for the Columbia class, designated by the U.S. government as the nation’s number one defense priority. Electric Boat plans to hire 5,750 new employees in 2023. Interested applicants should visit EBCareers.com to see available positions.

U.S. 5TH FLEET ENHANCES MIDDLE EAST MARITIME SECURITY WITH UNMANNED CAPABILITIES



[Release from U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs](#)

[By U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs |](#)

06 October 2023

MANAMA, Bahrain – Last month, naval forces in the Middle East region successfully integrated unmanned platforms with traditionally crewed ships and aircraft to conduct enhanced maritime security operations in the waters surrounding the Arabian Peninsula.

Seven task forces falling under U.S. 5th Fleet integrated 12 different unmanned platforms with manned ships for “manned-unmanned teaming” operations, tracking Iranian Navy and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN) ships and small boats over several days during routine patrols in and around the Strait of Hormuz.

This operation bolstered presence in and around a critical

chokepoint that in recent months has seen Iran unlawfully seize internationally flagged merchant ships.

Unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs), unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) were involved in the operation.

“We have been operating UAVs and UUVs in the region for years,” said Capt. Joe Baggett, Director of Maritime Operations for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and U.S. 5th Fleet. “Adding our new USVs, and then integrating all of these platforms into fleet operations, is how we expect to fly and sail well into the future.”

Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, ships and aircraft from Task Force 51/5 (Amphibious/Marine), Task Force 52 (Mine Countermeasures), Task Force 53 (Logistics), Task Force 55 (Surface Warfare), Task Force 56 (Expeditionary), Task Force 57 (Patrol/Reconnaissance) and Task Force 59 (Unmanned/Artificial Intelligence) conducted the operations.

“The integration of new, multidomain unmanned platforms into routine fleet operations provides more ‘eyes on the water,’ enhancing maritime domain awareness and increasing deterrence in the region,” said Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and U.S. 5th Fleet.

Cooper added that collectively, these platforms support the safe navigation and free flow of commerce through vital regional chokepoints, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz.

“This enhanced maritime security serves as a deterrent against malign activity and strengthens regional stability, which is good for everybody,” he said.

U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet’s area of operations encompasses about 2.5 million square miles of water area and includes the Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman,

Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean. This expanse, comprising 21 nations, includes three critical choke points at the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal and the Strait of Bab al Mandeb.

HII's Ingalls Shipbuilding Launches Amphibious Assault Ship Bougainville (LHA 8)



[Release from HII](#)

PASCAGOULA, Miss., Oct. 06, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – HII's (NYSE: HII) Ingalls Shipbuilding division announced the successful launch of the Navy's third *America*-class amphibious assault ship *Bougainville* (LHA 8) from its floating dock into

the Pascagoula River on Saturday.

“This launch is a significant accomplishment for our entire LHA shipbuilding team, and we are honored to be building such a versatile ship for our Navy and Marine Corps partners,” Ingalls Shipbuilding Amphibious Ship Program Manager Gene Miller said. “It is also a testament to the outstanding teamwork we see every day as our shipbuilders continue the critical work of preparing *Bougainville* for delivery.”

On Sept. 9, *Bougainville* was translated from land to the company’s floating dry dock using translation railcars to support the ship. While in the dry dock, the Ingalls team completed final prep work for launch.

Bougainville is the first ship in the *America* class to be built with a well deck. The ship will retain aviation capabilities while adding the surface assault capability of a well deck and a larger flight deck configured for F-35B Joint Strike Fighter and MV-22 Osprey aircraft. These large-deck amphibious assault ships also include top-of-the-line medical facilities with full operating suites and triage capabilities.

A video and photos accompanying this release are available at: <https://hii.com/news/hii-ingalls-shipbuilding-launches-amphibious-assault-ship-bougainville-lha-8>.

The *America* class is a multi-functional and versatile ship that is capable of operating in a high density, multi-threat environment as an integral member of an expeditionary strike group, an amphibious task force or an amphibious ready group.

Ingalls has delivered 15 large-deck amphibious ships to the U.S. Navy. The shipyard delivered the first in the new *America* class of amphibious assault ships (LHA 6) in 2014. The second ship in the *America* class, USS *Tripoli* (LHA 7), was delivered to the Navy in early 2020. In addition to *Bougainville*, *Fallujah* (LHA 9) is also under construction, and the company

authenticated the keel during a ceremony in September 2023.