

# Small Businesses Make Big Waves



***The demand for small business innovation, technology, and solutions has never been higher***

If rural western Massachusetts looks like something out of a Norman Rockwell painting, it's because that's where Rockwell kept his studio. But in addition to the picturesque college towns, quaint villages, covered bridges, and magnificent scenery, the region also has a long history of heavy industry that dates to the industrial revolution. These industries historically harnessed rivers for power and created mill towns that made textiles, paper, leather goods, electrical components, automobiles, and guns.

Pittsfield, Massachusetts is located 40 miles from Albany, New York and 140 miles from Boston. With a population of about 44,000, it is the county seat of Berkshire County (pop. 129,000). For many years the town's business was defined by its largest employer, the General Electric Company, which manufactured transformers, electronics and plastics, and

employed 10,000 workers. Like much of western Massachusetts' heavy industry, it has moved elsewhere.

When General Electric left, it took many good paying jobs with it. But today, General Dynamics Mission Systems (GDMS) has a large, state-of-the-art facility involved in the design and manufacturing of complex electronics for defense purposes, such as submarine combat systems. In fact, General Dynamics' business is growing, attracting new and highly skilled workers, and providing an economic engine for Pittsfield and its surrounding communities.

### **Global Threats Push Innovation**

According to Ann Rusher, GDMS vice president of supply chain management, there have been unprecedented changes in the national security business, largely because, "China and Russia are introducing new technology and new capability at an alarming rate."

To counter that trend, Rusher said defense companies have had to accelerate the pace of innovation to work closely and more collaboratively with smaller businesses, including those that have not previously worked in the defense sector. "We need that innovative spirit and agility that small businesses can bring."

To accomplish that, GDMS is fostering better ties with the community and its supplier base. The company brought together vendors and partners – particularly small businesses – to the Berkshire Innovation Center (BIC) for a "Supplier Day."

Rusher said the event was aimed at reestablishing connections and relationships, and to make small companies aware of the resources in and around the Pittsfield area, as well as across the country, to help them, "learn about, grow, and partner with us."

She said that big companies like General Dynamics truly rely

on small companies, with their innovation and agility. Rusher said that today, more than 60% of GDMS current active supplier base are small businesses. "We added 104 small businesses to our active database just in 2021. And across all categories of small business, we've increased our spend over the last five years by over 15%. And every single one of the categories of small business – the HUBZone, service disabilities, veterans, and women owned – they've all been increasing, from five percent all the way to doubling."

## **Supply Chain Challenges**

Rusher said General Dynamics not only wants to foster relationships between the company and small businesses, but also wants to facilitate the growth of those small businesses so that they can provide support to the entire defense industry. "By doing that, we can be a force multiplier for the government, and we can bring that innovative spirit, not just to us, but to the to the betterment of the country."

"We're a very successful company with an extremely talented workforce, but sometimes we need partners to help to solve some difficult problems," Rusher said. "Not only have these small companies helped us solve tough technical issues, but they often bring a technology or a capability that's so unique and state-of-the-art that when combined with the mission knowledge that General Dynamics has, it really is the differentiator to solve a problem and deliver exceptional capability."

However, while the demand for innovative technology and solutions has never been higher, the number of small companies in the defense sector has declined precipitously.

According to *Inside Cybersecurity*, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Policy Jesse Salazar acknowledged that small businesses are under immense market pressures.

"The number of DIB (defense industrial base) small businesses

has shrunk by more than 40 percent over the past decade,” Salazar said. “One of seven believe they will never return to pre-pandemic levels of performance.”

“Just when we need them the most, the supply chain is shrinking,” Rusher said.

Rusher admits that it might be a little intimidating for a small company to establish a relationship and work with a large defense contractor like General Dynamics. “It might even be tempting to think that we like to go it alone. True, General Dynamics can do a lot of things. And we can do many of the things that perhaps a small business could do. But the reality is the small businesses we work with bring something very different, and way more than what we can do by ourselves,” she said.

“We don’t just want to work with you; we need to work with you,” she said to the Supplier Day attendees.

### **BIC Innovation Hub**

The BIC in Pittsfield is a multimillion-dollar collaborative initiative between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, private industry, local colleges, and local government that opened in 2020. BIC serves as a confluence of technology and ideas. It offers conference rooms, offices and laboratory space, all designed to bring people together so they share knowledge and expertise to address challenges and seize opportunities.

“We offer world-class research and development facilities and equipment, interactive training and conference facilities, and shared access to advanced technology for local manufacturers,” said Ben Sosne, BIC’s executive director. “We can do more together.”

Innovation centers like the BIC can offer online advanced manufacturing courses and access to content that serves companies and students, both locally and elsewhere. When

potential employees learn about the technology being developed in the Pittsfield area, it can attract new qualified workers to companies like General Dynamics.

According to Sosne, a workforce with higher digital skills can command higher wages, but it also attracts more employers looking for people with those skills. "When we have a pipeline of new talent through apprenticeships, and the adoption of new technology, the higher the wages you can offer, and the more that you can attract that new talent. By working with local employers like General Dynamics and developing a curriculum that teaches methods and processes that meet their needs, you are essentially graduating an industry-ready group of engineering professionals and technologists."

"Employers like General Dynamics are an economic engine and a jobs-multiplier," said Benjamin Lamb Director of Economic Development with 1Berkshire. "One manufacturing job in the Berkshires supports 4.8 other jobs in the county."

The official regional economic development organization and regional tourism council of Berkshire County, 1Berkshire, represents the Berkshire business community and offers a powerful network of resources for members and companies. "This is where the synergy of marketing and economic development within the same organization in the same building with the same team can become very powerful," said Lamb.

### **Small Businesses are Essential Partners**

"General Dynamics designs, engineers and makes all kinds of systems that are used for national security, so we take a lot of pride in that," said Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyer. "They are an essential partner here in the city of Pittsfield and throughout the Berkshires. They are a large employer, providing 1,600 skilled jobs for our community. But there are many opportunities for our small companies to be part of the supply chain that serves General Dynamics, so that we are

strengthening the economy here in Pittsfield and the Berkshires. Our plastics manufacturers and engineering companies help provide plenty of opportunity for those small businesses to benefit from the presence of General Dynamics.”

Tyer said that workforce development is an essential part of the future and the success of General Dynamics and small businesses, no matter what kind of work they are doing. “It’s incumbent upon academic institutions like our community colleges and four-year colleges, as well as institutions like the Berkshire Innovation Center (BIC), as well as the state agencies that provide workforce training opportunities and internship programs, to make sure they are partnering with each other and the employers who need talent and have the job opportunities,” she said. “That’s why having the BIC here is so important to the future of the innovation economy here in Pittsfield.”

State Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier, who represents Pittsfield, agrees. “General Dynamics reaches throughout the region to bring new talent to the Berkshires, not only with intellect and their skills, but the energy that they bring to our community. They spend their dollars in the outdoors and arts economy and in our shops and cafes, and volunteer in the Berkshire County. We want to ensure that we have a reliable local supply chain for this global company of General Dynamics, and ensure that the pipeline is a short one,” she said. “I think workforce development is the biggest challenge right now, and that’s across the board in every industry here in western Massachusetts. But we’re very well positioned in Berkshire County because our high schools are producing really good workers and launching them into STEM careers, and that is an excellent source of talent for General Dynamics.”

Farley-Bouvier cautioned that General Dynamics can’t stand back and wait for the workforce to come to them. “General Dynamics has been and needs to continue to be part of that solution. They need to continue to be in at Taconic High

School, MCLA (Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts), and Berkshire Community College and be part of those solutions. One of the most successful things that General Dynamics has done, and other smaller companies around Berkshire County have copied, is to provide paid internships. Paid internships are critically important because they level the playing field. It used to be that everybody took unpaid internships because there weren't a lot of jobs out there. But the only people who could take an unpaid internship were those students whose families could support them. The young people who were economically distressed had to take those low paying service jobs over the summer because they had to pay their bills," she said.

"Fortunately, General Dynamics is really invested in these students, and it's paid off for them," said Farley-Bouvier. "And we need to do a lot more of that to ensure that we have a reliable local supply chain for this global company of General Dynamics."

---

## **Navy Orders Third Lot of Next-Generation Jammer Pods**



\*\*\*\*\*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Navy has placed an order with Raytheon for the third lot of ALQ-249 Next-Generation [Jammer-Mid-Band \(NGJ-MB\) pods](#).

The Naval Air Systems Command awarded a \$650 million fixed-price incentive (firm target) and cost-plus-fixed-fee contract to Raytheon, “for the production and delivery of low-rate initial production (LRIP) Lot III Next Generation Jammer (NGJ) Mid-Band (MB), to include 15 NGJ-MB LRIP ship sets (2 pods per ship set), 11 for the Navy and four for the government of Australia,” a March 30 Defense Department contract announcement said.

The contract also includes “associated spares, support equipment, non-recurring engineering and associated data.”

The NGJ-MB is a portion of the overall NGJ program that will replace the legacy ALQ-99 jamming pods on board the EA-18G aircraft. When the NGJ is combined with the EA-18G’s comprehensive suite of radar and communications receivers, electronic warfare officers can detect, analyze and react to current and future threat systems.



Raytheon delivered two production-representative NGJ-MB pods to the Navy's Airborne Electronic Attack Systems Program Office (PMA-234) pod shop in July 2022 where they were used for testing.

Initial operational capability of the NGJ-MB was scheduled for fall 2023, according to information obtained in 2022.

---

## Coast Guard Cutter Warren Deyampert commissions in Boston



[Release from Coast Guard 1st District](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

March 31, 2023

## Coast Guard Cutter Warren Deyampert commissions in Boston

BOSTON – The Coast Guard's newest cutter, the Coast Guard Cutter Warren Deyampert (WPC-1151), was commissioned at Coast Guard Base Boston, March 30.

Chief Warrant Officer Lance DeFoggi, assumed command of the cutter during a ceremony presided over by Vice Admiral Kevin Lunday, the Coast Guard Atlantic Area commander. The Warren Deyampert is the second of six Fast Response Cutters that will be homeported in Boston, serving along the 1st Coast Guard District.

"This is truly a special moment in our lives and a milestone for our family's history that will be remembered for generations to come," said Pamela Jackson, a cousin of Deyampert, and the ship's sponsor "To the crew, congratulations on the commissioning of the 51<sup>st</sup> Fast Response Cutter that will bear the name of my cousin, Warren Deyampert. I am so honored to serve as the sponsor and know that this crew will always have a special place in my heart."

The Sentinel-class fast response cutter (FRC) is designed for multiple missions, including drug and migrant interdiction; ports, waterways and coastal security; fishery patrols; search and rescue; and national defense. The Coast Guard has ordered 65 FRCs to replace the 1980s-era Island-class 110-foot patrol boats. The FRCs feature advanced command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment; over-the-horizon cutter boat deployment to reach vessels of interest; and improved habitability and seakeeping.

"Now, we are standing ready, to get underway to perform all of the missions we have been training for in the birthplace of the Coast Guard," said DeFoggi. "We will strive to embody the

words of our motto, 'Gallantry during grave peril', as what was written on Deyampert's award citation".

Born in Attalla, Alabama, the cutter's namesake joined the Coast Guard at age 19, and served aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Escanaba during World War II, beginning in August, 1941. Deyampert's primary role was within the food service rating, but he also served as one of the ship's three rescue swimmers.

Following a torpedo attack on the U.S. Army transport ship Dorchester in North Atlantic waters on Feb. 3, 1943, Deyampert swam in absolute darkness to rescue survivors in the freezing waters of the North Atlantic. His efforts affected the rescue of more than 100 crewmembers, many of whom were hypothermic and unable to swim.

Four months later, June 13, 1943, the Escanaba sank, following an explosion onboard that was believed to be from a torpedo attack. All but two crewmembers were killed in the explosion. Deyampert was posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and Purple Heart Medal for his heroic rescue of the Dorchester crew.

---

**Navy to Commission Future  
Littoral Combat USS Ship  
Santa Barbara**



[Release from the Department of the Navy](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

MARCH 31, 2023

The Navy will commission the future USS Santa Barbara (LCS 32) as the newest Independence- variant littoral combat ship (LCS) during a 10:00 a.m. PST ceremony on Saturday, April 1, in Port Hueneme, Calif., near its namesake city.

The principal speaker is Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Additional speakers include the Honorable Julia Brownley, U.S. Representative, California's 26th district; the Honorable Russell Rumbaugh, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, financial management and comptroller; the Honorable Randy Rowse, Mayor of Santa Barbara, Calif; Rear Adm. Casey Moton, program executive officer for unmanned and small combatants; and Mr. Larry Ryder, vice president of business development and external affairs for Austal USA. The ship's sponsor is Mrs. Lolita Zinke, a Santa Barbara native and wife of the Honorable Ryan Zinke, U.S. Representative,

Montana's first district and former U.S. Interior Secretary.

"The city of Santa Barbara is rich in history, spanning hundreds of years of change and progress that make Santa Barbara an iconic location and a fitting name for LCS 32," said Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro. "During the second World War, it was home to a Marine Corps Air Station and a Naval Reserve Center. Today, many Veterans and their families continue to call Santa Barbara 'home.' Though our Navy and Marine Corps footprint is smaller than in decades past, the spirit of military service and connection with the city of Santa Barbara remains strong."

LCS 32 is the third United States ship to bear the name Santa Barbara. The first Santa Barbara was a single-screw steel freighter built in 1916 by William Cramp and Sons of Philadelphia. Ordered and taken over by the Navy on February 1, 1918 from the Atlantic & Pacific Steamship Co. of New York, it was commissioned there on April 15, 1918. The second Santa Barbara, a Kilauea-class ammunition ship, was laid down on December 30, 1966 by the Bethlehem Steel Corp., Sparrows Point, MD, launched on January 23, 1968, and commissioned on July 11, 1970.

The LCS class consists of two variants, the Freedom and the Independence, designed and built by two industry teams. Austal USA leads the Independence-variant team in Mobile, Al., for LCS 6 and the subsequent even-numbered hulls, including the future USS Santa Barbara. Lockheed Martin leads the Freedom-variant team, the odd-numbered hulls, in Marinette, Wis.

Littoral Combat Ships are fast, optimally-manned, mission-tailored surface combatants that operate in near-shore and open-ocean environments, winning against 21st-century coastal threats. LCS integrate with joint, combined, manned and unmanned teams to support forward-presence, maritime security, sea control and deterrence missions around the globe.

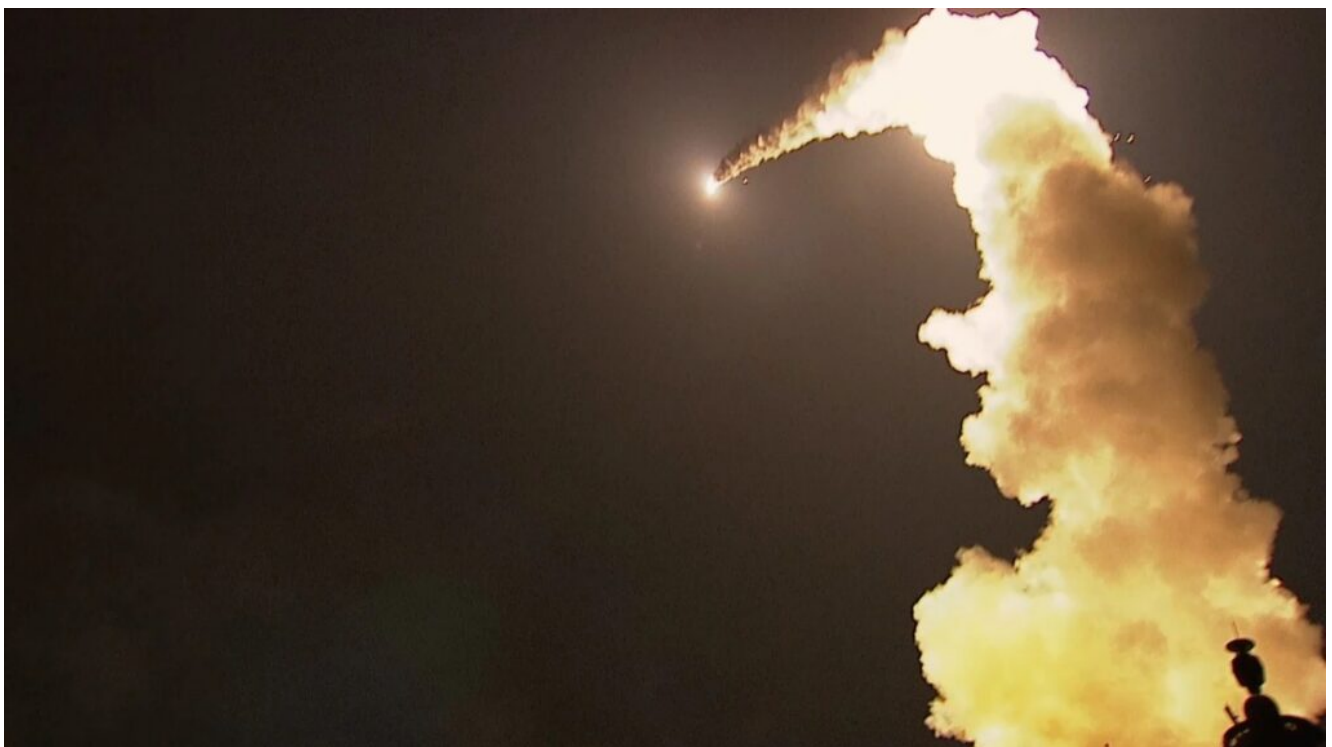
USS Santa Barbara is homeported at Naval Base San Diego.

The ceremony will be live streamed at: [www.dvidshub.net/webcast/31155](http://www.dvidshub.net/webcast/31155). The link becomes active approximately ten minutes prior to the event (9:50 a.m. EST).

Media may direct queries to the Navy Office of Information at (703) 697-5342. More information on the Littoral Combat Ship Program can be found at: <https://www.navy.mil/Resources/Fact-Files/Display-FactFiles/Article/2171607/littoral-combat-ship-class-lcs/>

---

## **MDA Test Successfully Intercepts Ballistic Missile Target**



[Release from the Missile Defense Agency](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

From by Mark Wright, Missile Defense Agency Public Affairs

PACIFIC OCEAN – The U.S. Missile Defense Agency, in cooperation with the U.S. Navy, successfully conducted Flight Test Aegis Weapon System 31 Event 1a (FTM-31 E1a).

The test demonstrated the capability of a ballistic missile defense (BMD)-configured Aegis ship to detect, track, engage, and intercept a medium range ballistic missile (MRBM) target in the terminal phase of flight utilizing the Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) Dual II with Software Upgrade (SWUP) in a single salvo of two interceptors.

FTM-31 E1a was the third successful flight test of an Aegis BMD-equipped vessel using the SM-6 Dual II missile and the first Aegis Baseline 9.C2.0 (BMD 5.1) intercept of an MRBM target using the SM-6 Dual II SWUP missile.

FTM-31 E1a highlights adjustments made after FTM-31 E1, conducted in May 2021, which did not meet all its objectives. The successful execution of this mission validates that the upgraded SM-6 Dual II SWUP capability is now ready for use by the warfighter in order to defend and protect our allies and deployed forces worldwide.

“This was an incredible accomplishment and key milestone for the Sea-based defense program,” said MDA Director Vice Adm. Jon Hill. “This test proved our capabilities in an operationally realistic scenario, which is a critical step in increasing capability to outpace emerging threats. My congratulations to the entire test team, including our Sailors and our industry partners, who helped us to achieve this milestone.”

The target was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, located on Kauai, Hawaii. The firing ship used for this test was the USS DANIEL INOUYE (DDG 118), which launched two SM-6 Dual II missiles and successfully intercepted the MRBM.

SM-6 delivers over-the-horizon, air defense capability and can perform anti-air warfare, ballistic missile defense, and anti-surface warfare missions. The SM-6 Dual II SWUP missile is designed to defend against short-to-medium range ballistic missiles in the terminal phase of flight.

The Sea Based Terminal (SBT) program, with the Aegis Baseline 9 Weapon System and SM-6 missile, is instrumental in MDA's efforts to deliver a capability to the Navy to defend high value assets at sea and ashore against advanced threats in the terminal phase of flight. SBT is an incremental and evolving capability for ballistic and regional hypersonic defense capability.

Additional information about all elements of the U.S. Missile Defense System can be found at [www.mda.mil](http://www.mda.mil).

Please direct all media related queries to Mark Wright, MDA director of public affairs, at 571-231-8212, [Mark.Wright@mda.mil](mailto:Mark.Wright@mda.mil) or Nancy Jones-Bonbrest, public affairs officer at 571-231-8211, [Nancy.J.Bonbrest@mda.mil](mailto:Nancy.J.Bonbrest@mda.mil).

---

## USCGC Northland returns home



# following 62-day Florida Straits and Windward Passage patrol



[Release from Coast Guard Atlantic Area](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

PORTSMOUTH, Va. – The crew of the USCGC Northland (WMEC 904) returned to their home port in Portsmouth, Thursday, following a 62-day maritime safety and security patrol in the Florida Straits and Windward Passage.

Patrolling in support of Homeland Security Task Force – Southeast and Operation Vigilant Sentry in the Seventh Coast Guard District's area of responsibility, Northland's crew conducted maritime safety and security missions while working to detect, deter and intercept unsafe and illegal maritime migration ventures bound for the United States.

Northland's crew interdicted multiple unsafe and overloaded migrant vessels during the patrol, providing food, water, shelter and medical aid to 515 migrants. In one case, Northland partnered with additional Coast Guard air and surface assets to intercept an overloaded, tugboat-style vessel attempting to reach the United States. In another case, Northland was one of the primary assets to respond to a report of multiple people in the water just south of Key West, Florida, rescuing 27 migrants.

"I am immensely proud of the Northland crew," said Cmdr. Andrew Dennelly, commanding officer of Northland. "Day in and day out, the crew demonstrated they are always ready to deliver exceptional service to the nation. Their inspirational vigilance, professionalism and actions saved hundreds of lives."

Northland is a 270-foot, Famous-class medium endurance cutter. Its primary missions include law enforcement, search and rescue, drug interdiction, fisheries enforcement, migrant interdiction, homeland security, international training, defense and humanitarian operations. Northland patrols the offshore waters from Maine to Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, the Eastern Pacific and the Caribbean Sea.

For information on how to join the U.S. Coast Guard, visit [www.gocoastguard.com](http://www.gocoastguard.com) to learn more about active duty and reserve officer and enlisted opportunities. Information on how to apply the U.S. Coast Guard Academy can be found [here](#).

---

## Coast Guard crew offloads

# \$166 million worth of counternarcotics in San Diego



[Release from Coast Guard 11th District](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

SAN DIEGO – The Coast Guard Cutter Waesche (WMSL 751) crew offloaded more than 6,325 pounds of cocaine and more than 13,220 pounds of marijuana worth more than \$166 million, Wednesday, in San Diego.

The five interdictions occurred in international waters in the Eastern Pacific Ocean off the coasts of Central and South America in February and March.

“The Coast Guard is dedicated to preventing illicit drugs from entering our country via the maritime environment,” said Rear Adm. Andrew Sugimoto, Eleventh District commander. “These transnational criminal networks will be met on the water by

our vigilant service members, like the crew of the Waesche, at every turn and brought to justice by the U.S. Attorney's office."

The counternarcotics were interdicted by the following U.S. Coast Guard cutters:

- Waesche's crew was responsible for two interdictions seizing approximately 881 pounds of cocaine and 9,500 pounds of marijuana.
- Coast Guard Cutter Steadfast (WMEC 623) crew was responsible for one interdiction, seizing approximately 3,300 pounds of cocaine.
- Coast Guard Cutter Active (WMEC 618) crew was responsible for two interdictions seizing approximately 2,116 pounds of cocaine and 3,716 pounds of marijuana.

"This marks Waesche's first counter-narcotics patrol in several years and the crew did an outstanding job to work with international and inter-agency partners to successfully prevent \$166 million dollars' worth of illicit drugs from entering our country, cities, and neighborhoods," said Capt. Robert Mohr, commanding officer of the Waesche. "I am extremely impressed with the crew's dedication throughout this dynamic patrol. They overcame multiple challenges with collective hard work, ingenuity, and positive attitudes to keep us in pursuit of these cartels and their dangerous drugs. I couldn't be prouder of this remarkable crew and what they do to protect our communities."

Numerous U.S. agencies from the Departments of Defense, Justice and Homeland Security cooperate in the effort to combat transnational organized crime. The Coast Guard, Navy, Customs and Border Protection, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, along with allied and international partner agencies, play a role in counternarcotic operations.

The fight against drug cartels in the Eastern Pacific Ocean requires unity of effort in all phases from detection, monitoring, and interdictions, to criminal prosecutions by international partners and U.S. Attorneys' Offices in districts across the nation. The law enforcement phase of counter-smuggling operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean is conducted under the authority of the Eleventh Coast Guard District, headquartered in Alameda. The interdictions, including the actual boardings, are led and conducted by members of the U.S. Coast Guard.

"Like the United States Coast Guard and our other law enforcement partners, we are always ready to bring drug smugglers to justice in court," said Sean P. Costello, United States attorney for the Southern District of Alabama. "Disrupting and dismantling the organizations responsible for transporting and distributing this poison remains among our highest priorities."

The Waesche is the second Legend-class cutter of the U.S. Coast Guard and is homeported at Coast Guard Island in Alameda. The Waesche is 418 feet long with a top speed of 28 knots and a range of 12,000 nautical miles. It is equipped with a flight deck and hangars capable of housing two multi-mission helicopters, and outfitted with the most advanced command, control, and communications equipment.

---

## **USMC Use GA-ASI MQ-9A for Training Exercise**





### [Release from General Atomics](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

#### *MQ-9A Used for Live-Fire and Simulated Exercises*

SAN DIEGO – 30 March 2023 – General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) is working with the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) on a series of Service-Level Training Exercises (SLTE) using a company-owned MQ-9A Unmanned Aircraft System to support the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFTC). The SLTE 2-23 is being conducted near Twentynine Palms, Calif. with participation from Joint Forces. The training ensures participants are prepared for the future dynamic environment.

Contracting the use of MQ-9A enabled USMC to begin integrating Group 5 unmanned aircraft into the Marine Air-Ground Task Force for the first time within the various exercises. GA-ASI began flying the MQ-9A on Feb. 3, 2023, with a combination of GA-ASI and VMU-3 pilots and sensor operators. The aircraft flew out of GA-ASI's facility at the Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., with flights over training ranges in Southwest-Continental United States (CONUS). The MQ-9A is providing its proven Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR)

data package – including GA-ASI's Lynx® Multi-mode Radar – to provide the USMC with extraordinary situational awareness and simulated close air support.

"GA-ASI is always ready and willing to support the USMC exercises," said GA-ASI Vice President of DoD Strategic Development, Patrick Shortsleeve. "We know that being able to utilize an actual MQ-9A is critical to the success of these exercises and helps the USMC ramp-up their training program."

The SLTE Program consists of a series of exercises, including the live-fire Integrated Training Exercise (ITX), Marine Littoral Regiment Training Exercise (MLR TE), and Force-on-Force (FoF) MAGTF Warfighting Exercise (MWX). MAGTFTC executes the SLTE Program, which includes simulated and live-fire armed exercises, to enhance the readiness of the Fleet Marine Forces and support the Marine Corps' responsibilities to national security.

GA-ASI was [contracted by the USMC](#) in 2022 to deliver eight MQ-9A Extended Range (ER) UAS as part of the ARES Indefinite-Delivery/Indefinite-Quantity (ID/IQ) contract.

---

## **Raytheon Technologies awarded \$619 million US Navy contract for SPY-6 family of radars**



### [Release from Raytheon Technologies](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

*Contract includes the first Flight IIA destroyers to be modernized with an upgraded radar*

TUCSON, Ariz., (March 29, 2023) –Raytheon Technologies was awarded a \$619 million contract to continue to produce AN/SPY-6(V) radars for the U.S. Navy. This is the second option exercised from the [March 2022 hardware, production and sustainment contract](#) that is valued up to \$3 billion over five years.

“SPY-6 is the most advanced naval radar in the world providing unprecedented integrated air and missile defense capabilities,” said Kim Erzen, president of Naval Power at Raytheon Missiles & Defense. “Integration into the U.S. fleet is well underway with SPY-6 operating on the Navy’s first, new Flight III destroyer. This contract enables the radar to be added to more ships including the first of existing Flight IIA destroyers that will be modernized.”

The [SPY-6 family of radars](#) can defend against ballistic



missiles, cruise missiles, hostile aircraft and surface ships simultaneously. They provide several advantages over legacy radars, including significantly greater detection range, increased sensitivity and more accurate discrimination. Their scalable and modular radar arrays reduce cost and sustainment needs, while meeting the mission requirements of seven classes of ships.

---

## **Congressman Questions Navy's Delay in Super Hornet Contract**



PHILIPPINE SEA (March 21, 2023) An F/A-18F Super Hornet from the “Mighty Shrikes” of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 94

approaches for an arrested landing aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68). Nimitz is in U.S. 7th Fleet conducting routine operations. U.S. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with Allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Justin McTaggart)

\*\*\*\*\*

WASHINGTON – The delay in the Navy's award of a contract for the service's final procurement of 20 F/A-18E/F Super Hornet strike fighters is exacerbating the service's strike fighter shortage, a congressman said, and is reducing the Navy's future warfighting capacity.

Rep. Mike Garcia, R-California, a former Navy F/A-18 pilot and a member of the House Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee (HAC-D), questioned Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro about the delay in a March 29 hearing.

Garcia said the Navy currently is, "effectively two air wings short [of strike fighters] over the next 10 years" which will not be resolved until 2031.

The congressman noted that the [12 Super Hornets approved in fiscal 2022](#) and the eight approved in fiscal 2023 are not yet on contract. He noted that there are discussions between the Navy and [Boeing, the Super Hornet's manufacturer](#) regarding the technical data package for the aircraft.

### **Data Package Negotiations**

"The Department of the Navy is committed to putting on contract those 20 additional F/A-18E/Fs," Del Toro said. "In fact, we've extended an RFP [Request for Proposal] to the Boeing Corporation. They have told us that they will come back to us with a proposal sometime in the June time frame. In the meantime, what we're trying to actually do is to ensure that Boeing does deliver to us the data rights are essential for us

to be able to in the future maintain and repair those aircraft.

“And what I’m most concerned about, Congressman, is that if we do actually get into a conflict with China, we’re not going to be able to send those aircraft back to the continental United States to get repaired at a manufacturing plant,” he said. “We’re going to have to repair those things ourselves. Which means the government – we need on behalf of the American people and our service members the data rights – the full data package that we paid for and deserve to have in order to be able to repair and sustain those aircraft in combat. That’s our major concern. [...] Our engineers are meeting with their engineers to get the full definition of what the data package actually calls for.”

Del Toro also said he instructed the respective general counsels to meet to have parallel discussions on the issue.

### **Get the Jets Delivered**

Garcia noted his own experience on the warfighting side and the defense contracting side and that he has read Super Hornet contracts specifically.

“I would submit that I agree with you the Navy has a requirement to maintain and repair and the tech data package to support that, not to manufacturing, and there is a clear bifurcating line there,” he said. “You are calling right now an IP [intellectual property] that is not within the government’s domain. Boeing has been very supportive in the SLM [F/A-18E/F Service-Life Modernization] projects and making sure that the FRCs [Fleet Readiness Centers] – the 0-level depot maintenance is actually functional.

“And I would submit that the IP that you’re calling for right now – the manufacturing know-how, which is not only Boeing but their entire supply chain is not nearly as valuable in closing the strike fighter as the 20 jets,” Garcia said. We have

mandate – it's not formal, but we should – to be ready for something in 2025. Closing the gap in 2023 (sic) would be interesting, but your gap by that point will be significantly higher because our carriers will be schwacked, our air wings will be missing, and our warfighters will be dead.

“I think this conversation between the lawyers and the contracting officers is screwing the customer,” Garcia said. “The customer is the warfighter, the customer is the taxpayer, and I implore you sir, with all the power and levers at your disposal, to compartmentalize this IP conversation, get these jets so they can get delivered. They're already going to be late. I don't know if we're going to get 20 for the amount of money that we allocated at this point.”