

Navy Awards BAE \$175 Million for Vicksburg Modernization



The guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg prepares to depart Naval Station Mayport, Florida, for a two-month underway in 2016. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Mark Andrew Hays

NORFOLK, Va. – BAE Systems has received a \$175 million contract

from the U.S. Navy to modernize the guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg, the

company said in a Jan. 6 release. The Vicksburg will undergo about 18 months of

work at the company's shipyard in Norfolk, the ship's homeport.

The modernization period (MODPRD) contract includes options that,

if exercised, would bring its cumulative value to \$175.1 million.

BAE Systems initiated the first phase of Vicksburg's modernization program in May 2017. The company will begin the final phase of

work, called MODPRD, later this month. Under the new contract, the shipyard's employees and industry partners will work on

the ship's weapons and engineering equipment, including its gas turbine

propulsion system, restore crew habitability spaces and support the

installation of a new Aegis combat system, communication suite and CANES

(Consolidated Afloat Network Enterprise System). The Vicksburg's MODPRD is

scheduled to be complete in July 2021, allowing the ship to rejoin the operational fleet afterward.

BAE's Norfolk shipyard also is performing similar work on the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg. The Gettysburg's MODPRD work began in January 2019 and is expected to be complete this fall. The Gettysburg and Vicksburg were commissioned in the early 1990s, but BAE's work is expected to extend the service lives of both ships into the mid-2030s.

"Over the last few years, BAE Systems has worked extensively on modernizing the Navy's Atlantic Fleet cruisers," said Dave Thomas, vice president and general manager of BAE Systems Norfolk Ship Repair. "The Vicksburg and Gettysburg modernizations are big jobs. Our experience with cruisers and the expertise of our ship repair partners will return these vital combatants to the fleet with clear improvements and upgraded capability to carry out their missions."

Coast Guard Interdicts 9 Cuban Migrants



A Coast Guard Cutter Charles Sexton small boat crew interdicts a Cuban migrant vessel about 25 miles southeast of Tavernier Creek, Florida, on Jan. 2. U.S. Coast Guard MIAMI – The Coast Guard interdicted nine Cuban migrants 25 miles southeast of Tavernier Creek on Jan. 2, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

Coast Guard Sector Key West watchstanders received a

notification via radio of a migrant vessel with nine people aboard. The watchstanders directed the launch of a Coast Guard Station Islamorada response boat and diverted the Coast Guard Cutter Charles Sexton (WPC-1108) to interdict the vessel.

The cutter crew interdicted the vessel and safely embarked the migrants.

One migrant was transferred into U.S. Customs and Border Protection custody after being brought ashore for more advanced medical care.

The remaining eight migrants were safely repatriated to Cuba on Jan. 4.

A total of 52 Cuban migrants have attempted to illegally enter the U.S. via the maritime environment in fiscal year 2020, which began Oct. 1, 2019, compared to 454 Cuban migrants in fiscal year 2019. These numbers represent the total number of at-sea interdictions, landings and disruptions in the Florida Straits, the Caribbean and Atlantic.

Coast Guard Vessel Capsizes in Oregon

ASTORIA, Ore. – A 26-foot Coast Guard trailerable aids to navigation boat capsized Jan. 4 with four crew members aboard near Pier 39 in Astoria, the Coast Guard 13th District said in a release.

Four Coast Guardsmen were aboard the vessel conducting routine operations when the capsizing occurred. The vessel reportedly encountered a series of heavy wakes that came over the bow, which resulted in an unrecoverable starboard list that capsized the vessel.

At 11:39 a.m., watchstanders at the 13th Coast Guard District command center in Seattle received four personal locator beacon alerts registered to Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team Astoria.

The beacons' positions correlated with multiple good Samaritan reports of visual distress signals in the vicinity of Pier 39 in Astoria. Correlating reports were also received by Astoria 911 dispatch.

At about 11:50 a.m., watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Columbia River issued an urgent marine information broadcast (UMIB) and directed a Coast Guard Air Station Astoria MH-60 Jayhawk crew and a Coast Guard Station Cape Disappointment 47-foot motor lifeboat crew to respond.

At 12:09 p.m., crew members aboard the Columbia Bar Pilot vessel Connor Foss contacted the Coast Guard reporting they had recovered the four Coast Guardsmen from the water after responding to the UMIB and were en route to awaiting medical personnel at the 17th Street pier.

Clatsop County Sheriff Marine Unit assisted in the recovery by towing the capsized vessel to the 17th Street pier.

All persons involved are reported to be in healthy condition after being evaluated at Columbia Memorial Hospital. The Coast Guard is overseeing salvage operations and has initiated the mishap board review process.

General Atomics Advanced Arresting Gear Completes Critical High-Cycle Testing

SAN DIEGO – General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) announced that high cycle testing of its Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG) system for Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carriers was successfully completed over a two-day period in October at the Runway Arrested Landing Site (RALS) in Lakehurst, New Jersey.

High cycle testing was conducted at RALS on a single AAG system that is identical to the three systems aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78). Five F/A-18E/F Super Hornets were involved in the testing to simulate the operational tempo of carrier flight operations at sea.

“Over and over again, in rapid succession, AAG sustained an aircraft arrestment rate of nearly one per minute, successfully testing the system’s capability to handle the recovery sequence required for combat readiness,” stated Scott Forney, president of GA-EMS.

“Arresting aircraft at a high rate over a sustained period on the same wire is an aggressive test and shows the ability of the system to withstand extreme conditions. The Ford has the capability for an even higher operational tempo than demonstrated at the test site because it has three wires and clears aircraft from the flight path more efficiently.”

High cycle testing is part of the verification and validation of AAG System requirements. The AAG system test program has completed more than 5,000 arrestments at the land-based test

facilities at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, and 747 arrestments aboard CVN 78 during the ship's initial sea trials. The Navy has also issued an Aircraft Recovery Bulletin for the fleet air wing, clearing the AAG system for use on all Ford-class carriers.

"We look forward to CVN 78 getting back out to sea in early 2020 to conduct more robust flight operations," Forney said. "We anticipate executing significantly more sorties during this phase, utilizing both jet and prop aircraft. AAG works as intended, and we will continue to collaborate with the Navy to ensure system readiness and reliability to meet operational objectives."

AAG is a turbo-electric system designed for controlled and reliable deceleration of aircraft. AAG is installed on board Gerald R. Ford along with the GA-EMS Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS), which uses electromagnetic technology to launch aircraft from the deck of naval aircraft carriers. In addition to CVN 78, EMALS and AAG are being delivered for the future John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) and the Enterprise (CVN 80).

Significant Sea Service Events Mark End of 2019, Start of 2020



The Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville conducts a replenishment-at-sea with the oiler USNS Big Horn. The Huntington Ingalls Shipbuilding division has received a contract for planning yard services in

support of Ticonderoga-class cruisers and Spruance-class destroyers. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jeremy Graham

ARLINGTON, Va. – Even though the *Seapower* staff was on liberty ashore over the holidays, the world kept turning and things kept happening. Below is a summary of significant events since Dec. 19:

- Acting Navy Secretary Thomas B. Modly announced on Dec. 23 the names selected for the first two Block V Virginia-class attack submarines. The boats, SSN 602 and SSN 603, were named USS Oklahoma and USS Arizona, respectively. The submarines' names will memorialize two battleships sunk in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. Unlike the other battleships sunk or damaged during the attack, the Oklahoma and Arizona never served again. The Arizona is a submerged memorial at the site where it was sunk in the harbor. The Oklahoma was raised but later sank in the eastern Pacific Ocean while under tow for planned repairs.
- The U.S. 2nd Fleet has reached full operational capability (FOC), the fleet commander announced Dec. 31. "The achievement of FOC signifies 2nd Fleet has reached sufficient capacity to sustain command and control over assigned forces using the operational functions and processes of the Maritime Operations Center and Maritime Headquarters, in accordance with Navy Doctrine. [The fleet] will primarily focus on forward operations and the employment of combat ready naval forces in the Atlantic and Arctic, and to a smaller extent, on force generation and the final training and certification of forces preparing for operations around the globe," the release said.
- Huntington Ingalls Industries announced Dec. 20 that its Ingalls Shipbuilding division has been awarded a contract with a potential total value of \$453.4 million

for planning yard services in support of in-service Ticonderoga-class cruisers and Spruance-class destroyers. The contract includes options over a five-year period.

- Raytheon Missile Systems has been awarded \$1 billion multiyear (2019-2023) contract for full-rate production requirements, spares and round design agent for the Standard Missile-6 (SM-6). This contract provides all up rounds, flight test rounds, spares and round design agent.
- The first CMV-22B version of the Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft made its first flight on Dec. 19, according to a Facebook post by a photographer outside the Bell facility. The CMV-22B will replace the C-2A Greyhound as the Navy's carrier-onboard-delivery aircraft.
- Northrop Grumman Systems Corp. has been awarded a \$251.6 contract modification for three Low-Rate Initial Production Lot 4 MQ-4C Triton high-altitude, long-endurance unmanned surveillance aircraft plus ground stations, trade studies, tooling and associated support equipment.
- Raytheon announced on Dec. 20 that the Navy awarded a \$250 million contract for additional SPY-6 radars, bringing the total ordered to nine. The SPY-6 Air and Missile Defense Radars will be installed on Flight III Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers.
- The Naval Sea Systems Command awarded Lockheed Martin a \$1.6 billion Foreign Military Sales contract to build four Multi-Mission Surface Combatants for the navy of Saudi Arabia. The frigate design is based on the company's Freedom-class littoral combat ship. The ships will be built at Fincantieri's shipyard in Marinette, Wisconsin, and will be equipped with the Mk41 Vertical launch system for the Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile, RGM-84 Harpoon Block II+ missiles and a 4D air-search radar.

- Teledyne Brown Engineering Inc. was awarded a \$27.2 million contract modification to exercise the Year One option for one Mk11 Shallow-Water Combat Submersibles.
- BAE Systems' AGR-20A Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System has been used to down an aerial target. The laser-guided air-ground rocket was used in a demonstration by a U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter as an inexpensive way to shoot down aircraft and cruise missiles.
- Metal Shark is engaged in the Operational Test and Evaluation of its 40-foot Defiant patrol boat that is designed under the PB-X program to replace the Navy's 160 coastal patrol boats.
- The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf (WMSL-750) completed an 82-day patrol in the eastern Pacific and offloaded more than 18,000 pounds of cocaine in San Diego on Dec. 23. The cocaine, worth an estimated \$312 million, was seized by five cutters in seven separate actions between mid-October and early December.
- About 100 Marines were deployed on Dec. 31 to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, to strengthen the embassy's defenses against crowds of protesters who destroyed the embassy's gatehouse. The agitation began after U. S. Air Force F-15E aircraft struck Iranian-backed militia sites in retaliation for the death in a rocket attack of an American contractor and wounding of four U.S. soldiers.

Esper, Milley Reject

Assertions in 'Afghanistan Papers'



Soldiers load onto a Chinook helicopter to head out and execute missions across the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan. U.S. Army/1st Lt. Verniccia Ford
The U.S. defense secretary and its top military officer rejected the premise of the recently published "Afghanistan Papers" in The Washington Post – that defense leaders engaged in a deliberate effort to deceive the public on the lack of progress in the 18-year-long war. And Joint Chiefs Chairman Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, who repeatedly led forces there, emotionally insisted that none of the troops killed in Afghanistan died in vain.

In a Dec. 20 media briefing at the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper and Milley also defended the prolonged military engagements in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria as necessary to protect the nation from terrorists and said U.S. forces would be there until that mission was completed.

But Esper, citing the new National Defense Strategy's recognition of "great power competition" with Russia and China, said his aim is to determine "how can we reduce our presence in other parts of the world to either return troops home to retrain and equip for those bigger missions or to

allocate to the Indo-Pacific.” Esper has said he is considering removing about 5,000 of the 13,000 U.S. troops now in Afghanistan.

And Milley, speaking for the military, said “none of us want forever wars. It has to do with the national interests.”

The two leaders were asked several times about the week-long series of stories in The Washington Post that extensively quoted senior military and diplomatic officials as privately expressing strong doubts about the way the Afghanistan conflict was going, while giving more positive views in public.

“I know there is an assertion out there of some sort of coordinated lie over the course of 18 years,” but that was “more than a stretch.

I find that a mischaracterization,” Milley said. With hundreds of general officers, State Department officials and other involved, “I just don’t think you can get that level of coordination on a lie.” He said the assessments he and others gave were “based on facts that we knew at the time, and those were honest assessments and were never intended to deceive either the Congress or the American people.”

Milley contrasted the Post’s expose on Afghanistan with the 1970s “Pentagon Papers,” which revealed secret documents on the government’s consistently gloom views on Vietnam. He said those were “contemporary papers written in advance of decision making. These, the Afghan papers, were an attempt by SIGAR

in about 2,000 pages to do post-facto interviews, looking back, to determine lessons learned," he said, referring to the reports of the special investigator general for Afghanistan.

"For years, we were clear there is not a reasonable chance of a military victory against the Taliban or the insurgency... and that remains true today." Milley said. "There is only one way this is going to end, in a negotiated solution." Milley conceded that Afghanistan has been "a strategic stalemate," where the Taliban cannot win as long as the United States provides some degree of military support, but cannot defeat the Taliban "so long as they have sanctuary in Pakistan and some degree of popularity with the people."

And, with evident emotion, Milley said: "Our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who have given their lives in Afghanistan did not give their lives in vain."

Esper pointed out that some of the reporters in the audience had been to Afghanistan as had many members of Congress and the SIGAR investigators. "This has been very transparent. It's not like this war was hiding somewhere. For all the folks who have been in this conflict over the years, some insinuation there's been some kind of conspiracy, is ridiculous."

Coast Guard Cutter Crew Offloads 18,000 Pounds of Cocaine in San Diego



Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf crew members offload more than 18,000 pounds of cocaine in San Diego on Dec. 18. The \$312 million worth of seized cocaine was the result of seven separate suspected drug smuggling vessel interdictions and disruptions by Bertholf and four other Coast Guard cutter crews. U.S. Coast Guard/Petty Officer 3rd Class Alexander Gray SAN DIEGO – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf offloaded about 18,000 pounds of cocaine on Dec. 18 seized from known drug-transit zones of the eastern Pacific Ocean worth approximately \$312 million.

The interdictions were made between mid-October and early December by the joint efforts of the following five separate Coast Guard cutter crews:

- Northland was responsible for one case, or 3,328 pounds
- James was responsible for one case, or 1,609 pounds
- Harriet Lane was responsible for one case, or 5,037 pounds
- Thetis was responsible for one case, or 2,394 pounds
- Bertholf was responsible for three cases, or 5,851 pounds

“This offload demonstrates another successful example of the

'cycle of justice,' said Vice Adm. Linda L. Fagan, Coast Guard Pacific Area commander.

"This cycle begins with intelligence-driven detection and monitoring of illicit activities that then cue the interdiction and apprehension of smugglers and contraband, and ultimately leads to criminal prosecution. This 'cycle of justice' disrupts a 'cycle of crime,' which left unchecked, fuels violence and instability that corrodes our Hemisphere's social and economic fabric, and directly contributes to historically high drug-related deaths in neighborhoods across North America."

Also in attendance for the offload was Preston Grubbs, the principal deputy administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, and Robert Brewer, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of California.

"One of our key missions is stopping dangerous drugs before they reach our shores," Brewer said. "Succeeding in that mission would not be possible without the tireless efforts of the United States Coast Guard."

Numerous U.S. agencies from the Departments of Defense, Justice and Homeland Security cooperated 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 counter-drug operations.

The fight against drug cartels in the eastern Pacific requires unity of effort in all phases from detection, monitoring and interdictions, to criminal prosecutions by U.S. Attorneys in districts across the nation.

Foggo: Russia, China on the Move, From the Arctic to the Med



The Defense Writers Group on Dec. 18 featured Adm. James G. Foggo III. GW Project for Media and National Security
The commander of U.S. and allied naval forces in Europe and Africa said he is dealing with increased activities by both Russia and China in his vast area of responsibility – which stretches from the Arctic to the southern tip of Africa – despite a shortage of resources.

“We do the best we can with what we have,” Adm. James G. Foggo III, commander, U.S. Forces Europe and Africa, and commander, Allied Joint Forces Command Naples, said Dec. 18.

“It’s an extremely large tactical area” and “setting priorities is the biggest challenge – where do you go,” Foggo said. He must look at the entire theater, which covers all of Europe, the Mediterranean and Black seas, the Baltics, the Arctic and Eastern Atlantic, down to the Cape of Good Hope.

“When there are tensions, you try to go where the tensions are” or respond to something that might threaten allies. “You have to be flexible, agile.”

A career submariner, Foggo said the Russians are operating

some very capable submarines in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, including new Kilo-class diesel-electric boats, which are very quiet. "It's important we know where they are because they have Kalibr (cruise) missiles that can reach anywhere in Europe." He said Russia also is building anti-access, area-denial capabilities in Crimea, installing anti-ship cruise missiles and S-300 and S-400 advanced air- and missile-defense weapons.

Although he seldom gets a carrier strike group in his theater, due to the focus on the Persian Gulf and the Pacific, Foggo praised the Virginia-class fast attack subs he gets, which "move very fast" so he can put them where he needs them.

"We're very, very busy in the undersea domain, busiest I've ever seen," he said. "We are challenged by resources," although the nation has been "very generous" in defense funding. "But we're in a great power competition," he added, citing Russia and China. "We still maintain the competitive edge and need to do so."

Although Russia is operating frequently all around his AOR, China is mainly active in Africa, buying access and support with loans and construction projects that frequently come with demands for long-term access to ports, such as in Djibouti, where it has a large military facility next door to the U.S. base.

China also is increasingly active in the Arctic, where

Russia is trying to create dominance as the polar ice cap shrinks, Foggo said.

“We’ve seen much more Chinese activity up there than before,” and Russia and China “are collaborating in the Arctic.”

Foggo noted the value of the allied and partner nations that contribute to security in his command area, the increased defense spending by NATO nations and the recent re-establishment of the U.S. 2nd Fleet in Norfolk and the Joint Forces command in Naples in response to the Russian threat.

While noting the lack of unprofessional or unsafe activities by Russian forces for several months, Foggo cited the “unsafe” activities of a Russian spy vessel currently operating close to the U.S. Atlantic coast and refusing to respond to radio contact and sailing without running lights at night.

**General Dynamics Wins
Contract to Continue Navy
Submarine Fire Control
Systems Modernization,**

Maintenance

PITTSFIELD, Mass. – The U.S. Navy awarded a contract to General Dynamics Mission Systems that continues a broad scope of work for fire control systems and subsystems aboard U.S. Navy and United Kingdom's Royal Navy nuclear ballistic-missile submarines (SSBN), the company said in a release.

The contract has a total potential value of \$299.9 million over the next four years. The omnibus contract is a follow-on to a contract awarded to General Dynamics in December 2015 for the development, production, installation and deployed-systems support of U.S. and U.K. Trident II submarine strategic weapons systems and subsystems.

General Dynamics Mission Systems' Maritime and Strategic Systems line of business will deliver support and modernization of the existing SSBN strategic weapon system including fire control subsystem installation, maintenance, sustainment, training and repairs to navigation and launch subsystems.

The company also will continue development of the fire control system for the U.S Navy's Columbia class submarine and the Royal Navy's Dreadnought class ballistic-missile submarine. Work on the development and sustainment of the Navy's Ohio-class guided-missile submarine attack weapon control system is also part of the contract. Most of the work in support of this contract will take place here.

"Our support for the Navy's strategic deterrent program spans nearly six decades and forms the foundation of our U.S. Navy business," said Carlo Zaffanella, vice president and general manager of General Dynamics Mission Systems' maritime and strategic systems business. "Continuing the work we have done on existing Ohio SSBN fire control systems and the development of the fire control system for the

Navy's newest fleet of submarines demonstrates our ongoing relationship, built on trust, partnership and innovation, with the U.S. and U.K. naval forces."

Navy Awards Contract to BAE for Thousands of APKWS Rockets

HUDSON, N.H. – BAE Systems announced that the U.S. Navy has signed a \$2.68 billion contract for the purchase of thousands of additional APKWS laser-guided rockets, the company said in a release.

"Our armed forces customers are looking to apply just the right amount of force at the right location to execute their missions without unnecessary damage," said Marc Casseres, director of precision guidance and sensing solutions at BAE. "APKWS rockets provide warfighters with the unique ability to precisely engage targets without excessive force, reducing the risk to nearby forces, civilians and assets. It's the driving force behind growing global demand."

APKWS rockets fill the gap between unguided rockets and large precision munitions and are the U.S. government's only program of record for 2.75-inch laser-guided rockets. APKWS guidance kits are compatible with new inventories of rocket motors, warheads and launchers and easily transform unguided rockets into precision munitions with little training.

The indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract enables the Navy to purchase APKWS guidance kits over a five-year period, representing full-rate production lots 8 through 12.

To meet growing demand, BAE Systems has ramped up production at its advanced manufacturing facilities in Hudson, New Hampshire, and Austin, Texas, and established a robust supply chain.

The APKWS laser-guided rocket is used by the Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, Air Force and U.S. Army and is available to allied nations via foreign military sales.