

Navy Awards Sailor 2025 Contract to General Dynamics

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) will support the U.S. Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division (NAWCTSD) through their Sailor 2025 Ready Relevant Learning delivery order, the company said in a release.

GDIT will implement training curriculum to support the Navy's Ready Relevant Learning (RRL) program, which was created to provide America's sailors with the right training – at the right time – of their career. The delivery order holds a total price of \$57 million inclusive of options, which was completed through one of NAWCTSD's multiple award contracts.

“We are excited to help the Navy achieve the art of the possible through the Sailor 2025 initiative,” said Senior Vice President Leigh Palmer, head of GDIT's Defense Division. “GDIT's next-generation technology will help implement new tools and resources to empower all sailors as they advance in their career.”

Through this delivery order award, GDIT will implement instructional designs and assessment strategies using advanced technologies across a variety of training formats. This will include instructor-facilitated and self-directed interactive training as well as performance support and structured on-the-job resources. GDIT's products are designed for delivery across multiple environments, including the Navy e-Learning (NeL) platform, labs, virtual display and mobile devices.

The Navy created Sailor 2025 in 2015 to improve and modernize personnel management and training systems with the goal of recruiting, developing, managing, rewarding and retaining the force of tomorrow. Its purpose is to develop new ways of

executing the Navy's career management, including promotion and advancement, evaluations and fitness reports, selection boards, educational and other professional development opportunities.

Wasp Completes Shift of Homeport From Japan to Norfolk



The amphibious assault ship USS Wasp transits the Coral Sea in August. The Wasp arrived at Naval Station Norfolk on Nov. 18 after spending nearly two years forward deployed to Sasebo, Japan, and operating in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Daniel Barker

NORFOLK, Va. – The amphibious assault ship USS Wasp arrived at Naval Station Norfolk on Nov. 18, completing its homeport shift after spending nearly two years forward deployed to Sasebo, Japan, and operating in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

The ship departed Sasebo on Aug. 26 and began its transit to Norfolk. It will be replaced in Sasebo by the amphibious assault ship USS America later this year.

“I’m honored to be on the pier for USS Wasp’s return to Naval Station Norfolk, and to fold this awesome warship and its crew back into ESG-2, our Navy’s forward-leaning blue/green warfighting team,” said Rear Adm. John Mustin, commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 2.

“This ship and her amazing crew spent nearly two years

performing groundbreaking work in U.S. 7th Fleet, honing their skills as professional mariners, reinforcing naval integration and building maritime capabilities with our Indo-Pacific partners. I look forward to meeting with the crew and learning from their time abroad, particularly their lessons learned from deploying with the F-35B Lightning II – a critical high-end capability that I'm eager to incorporate into our east coast amphibious task forces. On behalf of Navy-Marine Corps warfighters at all echelons, I'm thrilled to welcome them back to the Virginia waterfront."

Wasp arrived in the 7th Fleet in January 2018 to replace the USS Bonhomme Richard and had been operating with Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). While working together, the Blue-Green team worked to expand on the relationships that U.S. forces maintain with regional allies and partners.

"I could not be prouder to call myself a 'Stinger' as we make our return to Norfolk after two years forward deployed to Japan," said Capt. Greg Baker, Wasp's commanding officer.

"This crew has shown their mettle consistently through humanitarian assistance operations, large-scale multinational exercises and real-world operations with strategic implications in the 7th Fleet. The crew has taken Wasp through four different fleets, and their resiliency has been demonstrated, as many have not been with their families for more than two years while doing some of the hardest operations the Navy does. We are all happy to be home for some well-earned rest and to enable the ship to get into a maintenance period."

While based in Japan, Wasp participated in exercises Balikatan with the Philippine military and exercise Talisman Sabre with the Australian Defence Force as well as additional forces from Canada, Japan, New Zealand and United Kingdom. The ship also assisted the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local

civilian authorities with relief operations in the Northern Mariana Islands following typhoon Manghut in 2018.

Wasp arrived in the U.S. 4th Fleet area of operations Oct. 1. The ship enjoyed the sights during a visit to Valparaiso, Chile, and embarked 20 multinational naval officers assigned to a maritime Combined Task Force (CTF) that was based aboard the Wasp. The Naval War College hosted a classroom education course for the CTF that focused on humanitarian and disaster relief planning.

The ship then conducted a 26-hour transit of the Strait of Magellan, bringing the ship from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic, and visited Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, where the crew explored the city and participated in community relations events.

Continuing Resolution Already Taking Toll on Navy Readiness, Geurts Says



James F. Geurts, assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition, says the continuing resolution has forced the Navy to postpone indefinitely the overhaul of the guided-missile destroyer USS Bainbridge, scheduled to start on Nov. 7. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Joshua D. Sheppard

ARLINGTON, Va. – The continuing resolution currently in effect instead of an enacted fiscal 2020 budget already is taking a toll on the readiness of U.S. Navy units and acquisition plans, with two ship overhauls delayed indefinitely and more

to come unless Congress acts soon, Navy officials said.

Seven weeks into fiscal 2020, a CR is limiting Navy budget expenditures to 2019 levels, the sole year in the last decade in which the defense budget was enacted on time. When a CR is in effect, not only are expenditures and production orders limited but no new programs can be started.

Inefficiencies also are induced that complicate government and industry planning, cause cash-flow problems and add costs to programs. The cascading effects include uncertainty in hiring workers and ordering materials. The uncertainty of the duration of the CR magnifies the problems for planners.

“The No. 1 impact of a CR is instability,” said James F. Geurts, assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition, who spoke with Thomas W. Harker, assistant secretary of the Navy for financial management and comptroller, at a Nov. 15 media roundtable in the Pentagon. “It makes all your work unstable and inefficient.”

Geurts said the Navy has had to postpone indefinitely the overhauls – called “availabilities” by the Navy – of two Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers, USS Bainbridge and USS Gonzalez, which were supposed to start on Nov. 7 and Nov. 8, respectively.



Geurts says the Navy is working on plans to keep the Columbia ballistic-missile submarine program from being delayed from its 2021 construction start by the budgetary effects of the continuing resolution. Columbia is the Navy’s top procurement priority. U.S. Navy

Burned by many years of CRs, the Navy has learned to plan few new program starts for the first quarter of a fiscal year to reduce the impact of a CR.

Geurts presented an analysis of the effects of the six-month

CR and a year-long CR to reporters. A six-month CR would force the Navy to delay the procurement of one Virginia-class submarine, one Navajo-class towing, salvage and rescue ship and two utility landing craft and the start of the refueling and complex overhaul (RCOH) of the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis. It also would delay the production of 32 new training helicopter systems, 22 F-5 adversary jets, five F-35C strike fighters and three MQ-9 Reaper UAVs, the latter for the Marine Corps. The CR also would create a cash shortfall of \$1 billion for maintenance, equipment and spare parts and delay 17 new-start research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) projects.

"The No. 1 impact of a CR is instability."

James F. Geurts, assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition

A year-long CR would delay all of the above plus the completion of five ships; the start of the FFG(X) frigate program; the procurement of a KC-130J tanker aircraft; more than 500 weapons; and another seven RDT&E projects, plus 33 military construction projects.

The RDT&E projects delayed would include new unmanned systems planned for the fleet such as the Large Unmanned Surface Vessel, Conventional Prompt Strike, Artificial Intelligence development, surface and shallow-water mine countermeasures development, and digital warfare.

The one-year CR would restrict operations and maintenance with a shortfall of about \$5.6 billion, which would result in the cancellation of 14 ship availabilities; shut down nondeployed carrier air wings and expeditionary squadrons; reduced flight hours for aircraft and steaming days for ships; delays in repairs of hurricane-damaged bases; and delays in Marine Corps unit training and exercises.

Geurts said the top three procurement programs that would be impacted by a CR would be the new Advanced Helicopter Training System, the FFG(X) and the RCOH of the USS John C. Stennis.

Geurts said the Navy has some flexibility to deal with anomalies in the budget to shore up some programs. The sea service is working on plans to keep the Columbia ballistic-missile submarine program from being affected and to start the construction program in 2021 on time despite the CR.

The Columbia is the Navy's top procurement priority.

U.S. Government Designates Lockheed Martin's Newest Radar: AN/SPY-7(V)1

MOORESTOWN, N.J. – The radar technology formerly known as Lockheed Martin's Solid State Radar (LM SSR) has been designated as AN/SPY-7(V)1 by the U.S. government.

The Japanese Ministry of Defense selected AN/SPY-7(V)1 for two planned Aegis Ashore installations in 2018. Additionally, variants of AN/SPY-7(V)1 will be used by the Royal Canadian Navy for the Canadian Surface Combatant program and the Spanish Navy for the upcoming F-110 frigate program.

"Lockheed Martin's solid-state solution meets the mission now and is flexible to adapt to the evolving threats of the future," said Paul Lemmo, vice president and general manager at Lockheed Martin. "This new designation solidifies our ability to provide the most technically advanced capabilities our warfighters require."

AN/SPY-7(V)1 is a modular and scalable solid-state radar, allowing for continuous surveillance and protection. It will be fully integrated with the Aegis Combat System, providing advanced technology for future ship classes.

Coast Guard Repatriates 23 Migrants to the Dominican Republic After Interdiction



The Coast Guard Cutter Donald Horsley and a U.S. Customs and Border Protection maritime patrol aircraft interdicted a migrant vessel near Mona Island, Puerto Rico, with 28 Dominican men on Nov. 14. U.S. Coast Guard SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – The Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk repatriated 23 of 28 Dominican migrants to the Dominican Republic navy in Santo Domingo following the interdiction of an illegal migrant voyage in the Mona Passage, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

Five of the interdicted migrants remain in Puerto Rico to face possible federal prosecution on charges of violating U.S. Code for attempting to illegally re-enter the United States, which carries a potential maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years and a fine of up to \$250,000.

The interdiction was the result of ongoing efforts in support of Operation Unified Resolve, Operation Caribbean Guard and the Caribbean Border Interagency Group (CBIG).

“We are glad that we were able to arrive in time to safely recover all 28 migrants from this grossly overloaded vessel,”

said Lt. Christopher Martin, commanding officer of the Donald Horsley. "This vessel could have easily capsized, and the people onboard would have had a very little chance of survival since they basically possessed no lifesaving equipment onboard. We appreciate the collaboration and coordination of are CBP partners, which allowed for a prompt response and successful outcome in this case."

The interdiction took place Nov. 14 after a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Air and Marine Operations DHC-8 patrol aircraft crew sighted a migrant boat just off Mona Island. The Donald Horsley diverted to the scene and interdicted the 30-foot migrant boat with 28 adult Dominican men aboard.

The crew of the Donald Horsley transferred the migrants to the cutter Mohawk for their repatriation, while the five migrants awaiting prosecution were transferred to the cutter Joseph Napier. Ramey Sector Border Patrol agents in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, received custody of the five migrants awaiting federal prosecution.

Navy Accepts Delivery of Expeditionary Sea Base USNS Miguel Keith



The newest expeditionary sea base is named in honor of Marine Corps Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Miguel Keith. U.S. Navy

SAN DIEGO – The U.S. Navy accepted delivery of its third expeditionary sea base (ESB) ship, USNS Miguel Keith (T-ESB 5), on Nov. 15, Program Executive Office-Ships said in

a release.

Delivery marks the official transfer of the ship from the shipbuilder to the Navy. The USNS Miguel Keith will be owned and operated by Military Sealift Command.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-EPdW2ZB8w&t=1s>

“The Navy and industry team overcame significant setbacks in the construction of this ship, and I’m extremely proud of the urgency and determination displayed on everyone’s part to deliver a high-quality ship that will support our operational requirements in the 7th Fleet area of operations,” said Capt. Scot Searles, Strategic Sealift and Theater Sealift program manager, Program Executive Office Ships. “Like the ship’s namesake, those who sail aboard Miguel Keith will embody his dedication to service to our country.”

ESBs are flexible, modular platforms that are optimized to support a variety of maritime-based missions such as special operations force and airborne mine countermeasures support operations in addition to humanitarian support and sustainment of traditional military missions.

ESBs include a four-spot flight deck and hangar and a versatile mission deck and are designed around four core capabilities: aviation facilities, berthing, equipment staging support and command and control assets. ESBs will operate as the component commander requires, providing the fleet with critical access to infrastructure that supports the flexible deployment of forces and supplies.

USNS Miguel Keith was built by General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard in San Diego. NASSCO is under contract for detail design and construction of ESBs 6 and 7 with an option for ESB 8.

Coast Guard, Border Patrol, Dominican Navy Interdict 52 Migrants



The Dominican Republic navy coastal patrol boat Bellatrix embarks a group of 52 illegal migrants from a makeshift vessel on Nov. 13 in the Mona Passage. U.S. Coast Guard SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Dominican Republic navy air and surface units interdicted 52 migrants aboard a makeshift vessel during an illegal voyage on Nov. 13 in the Mona Passage, according to the Coast Guard 7th District.

The group of migrants included 51 Dominican and one Cuban national, 39 men and 13 women, who were safely returned to the Dominican Republic. The interdiction was the result of ongoing efforts in support of Operation Caribbean Guard and the Caribbean Border Interagency Group (CBIG).

“The close collaboration and effective communication between the Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection and Dominican Republic Navy responding assets led to the interdiction and safe recovery of all 52 migrants,” said Cmdr. Beau Power, Sector San Juan chief of response. “People should not take to the sea as part of an illegal migrant voyage; they are extremely dangerous.”

The interdiction took place on the morning of Nov. 14, after a CBP Air and Marine Operations DHC-8 patrol aircraft crew sighted a migrant vessel, about 15 nautical miles northwest of Mona Island. Coast Guard watchstanders in Sector San Juan diverted the cutter Donald Horsley to carry out the

interdiction and alerted Dominican navy authorities, whom also diverted the Dominican coastal patrol boat Bellatrix to the scene.

The Bellatrix arrived on scene and stopped the migrant vessel. Shortly thereafter, the Donald Horsley arrived on scene and assisted with the transfer and safe removal of the migrants to the Bellatrix for return to the Dominican Republic.

Navy Secretary Names Future Destroyer in Honor of Late Sen. Thad Cochran



A graphic illustration of the future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Thad Cochran. U.S. Navy
WASHINGTON – Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer announced a future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer will be named in honor of late Sen. Thad Cochran, a Navy veteran, the secretary's public affairs said in a release.

Cochran was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1959 after graduating from the University of Mississippi with a bachelor's degree in psychology and completed his service in the U.S. Navy in 1961.

He served on the staff of the Commandant of the 8th Naval District in New Orleans; taught military law and naval orientation at the Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island; and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Cochran went on to serve in the House of Representatives from 1973 to 1978 and represented Mississippi in the U.S. Senate from 1978 to 2018. He was recognized as the 10th longest-serving senator in the U.S. history. He was chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee from 2005 to 2007 and from 2015 to 2018.

“From his service as a legal officer aboard the heavy cruiser USS Macon, to his dedicated work on behalf of our Sailors and Marines on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Sen. Thad Cochran was always a strong advocate for our nation’s defense and a courtly voice for cooperation and civility in American politics,” Spencer said. “We mourned his passing this May, but his legacy will live on wherever this Arleigh Burke-class destroyer may serve.”

Arleigh Burke-class destroyers conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence and crisis response to sea control and power projection. The USS Thad Cochran will be capable of fighting air, surface, and subsurface battles simultaneously and will contain a combination of offensive and defensive weapon systems to support maritime warfare, including integrated air and missile defense and vertical launch capabilities. The ship will be 509 feet long, have a beam of 59 feet and be capable of operating in excess of 30 knots.

Navy Secretary Names Future Destroyer in Honor of Late

Senator



A graphic illustration of the future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Richard G. Lugar. U.S. Navy WASHINGTON – Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer announced a future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer will bear the name of the late Sen. Richard G. Lugar, a Navy veteran, Spencer’s public affairs office said in a release.

Lugar served in the Navy from 1957 to 1960 and represented Indiana in the U.S. Senate for 36 years. He died April 28.

“Senator Lugar dedicated his life to his country, first through service in the U.S. Navy then through service in Congress,” Spencer said. “I am honored to name a future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer after him. It is fitting this class of ship should bear Senator Lugar’s name, just as he served under Admiral Burke in life. This ship and her crew will continue his legacy of service, safeguarding the safety and security of America and her allies all over the world.”

Lugar attended Officer Candidate School in Rhode Island, with follow-on training in Florida, before serving as an intelligence briefer for Adm. Arleigh Burke, who was chief of naval operations at the time.

As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Lugar was a co-creator of the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which provided funding and expertise to secure and dismantle nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and delivery systems around the world. In recent years, funding provided through the program has focused on export and border control programs and on the detection of radiological weapons.

In 2013, Lugar was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The future USS Richard G. Lugar will be capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously and will contain a combination of offensive and defensive weapon systems to support maritime warfare, including integrated air and missile defense and vertical launch capabilities. The ship will be 509 feet long, have a beam of 59 feet and will be capable of operating in excess of 30 knots.

Navy Undersecretary Modly Touts E4S Education Initiative During Forum

The Navy Department is aggressively pushing its new “Education for Seapower” initiative because it will need Sailors and Marines who will have the mental flexibility and critical thinking skills to compete and win in an era of “great power competition” and rapidly changing technology, naval leaders of the effort said Nov. 14.

Educating its leaders is more important now because of “the new strategic environment we’re in” and the rapid changes in technology, said Undersecretary Thomas Modly, who has been tasked to drive the initiative. Looking at the future, “it’s going to be unpredictable” and the naval services “will need intellectual flexibility,

Sailors and Marines able to respond to the changing conditions," he said.

America's strategic competitors, who Modly prefers to call "adversaries," are overtaking U.S. technological advantages, so success will be determined by how America can use the technology, Modly said at a forum sponsored by the U.S. Naval Institute and hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

When a skeptical member of the audience asked what problem the program is trying to solve, Modly said it was trying to answer the question "is the naval education system really able to provide the officers we will need to solve" the strategic problems the new era will bring.

John Kroger, a former enlisted Marine and experienced educator, said he took the newly created job as the Navy Department's Chief Learning Officer because "better education in the Navy and Marine Corps is fundamentally important to competing." Because the great technological and economic advantages America had in the 1980s and 1990s have been eroded by the great power competitors, "we're not going to be a credible force unless we educate," Kroger said.

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer launched Education for Seapower, referred to as E4S, on Feb. 12 saying:
"I am convinced, now more than ever before, that the intellectual development of our naval leaders is the most

critical warfighting capability for our national security.”

E4S was advocated by a panel of former senior Navy, Marine and diplomatic leaders who looked critically at the Department’s top educational institutions, including the Naval Academy, Naval Postgraduate School, Naval War College and Marine Corps University, and key civilian academic institutions. It envisioned establishing a Naval Community College, with residential and online course and universal transcripts so “enlisted Sailors and Marines could earn accredited associate’s degrees in technology-rich fields, and a new Naval University System that retains the strengths of current educational institutions, while aligning strategic intent in order to provide increased agility,” according to the Navy’s announcement.

Modly and Kroger said formation of those institutions is still in process.

Kroger said he hoped to be able to name the community college officials soon.

His top immediate priority, he said, was “developing the first-ever comprehensive Navy educational strategy” that would guide the program going forward.

Those two officials and a later panel of the leaders of the Naval Academy, Postgraduate School and Marine Corps University, wrestled with unresolved issues of how the educational progress of officers and enlisted leaders would be considered in the annual fitness reports and evaluations, how civilian educational institutions would collaborate with the new naval educational structures and how the increased emphasis on education would mesh with the current intensive

focus on military training, given the pressure on naval personnel's time.

Kroger said he did not see military training and education being separate efforts but as a needed blend. With the increased technical levels of warfighting, "training is going to become even more complex going forward. The fundamental thing you get from education is how to learn," he said. The officials said the education programs they were creating would include cultural aspects as well as technical fields to better prepare naval personnel to engage with foreign allies and partners and confront the adversaries.