

Schiebel UAS Mobilized for Coast Guard Services for Croatian Agency



A Schiebel CAMCOPTER S-100 unmanned aerial system. Schiebel Group

VIENNA – Croatia's

Maritime Safety Directorate issued the first mobilization request to the

European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) for CAMCOPTER S-100 maritime

surveillance services, according to Schiebel, provider of the UAS services.

Starting in

the summer of 2019, the service provision for Croatia will assist in maritime

Coast Guard functions such as search and rescue, monitoring and surveillance,

ship and port security, vessel traffic, environmental protection and response

and ship casualty assistance as well as accident and disaster response.

For these

purposes, the CAMCOPTER S-100 UAS will be based on the island of Brač and will

carry out regular patrolling flights, on-demand incident monitoring missions

and specific inspection operations.

EMSA awarded

the multiyear maritime surveillance contract for a vertical takeoff and landing

remotely piloted aircraft system to Schiebel last November. In

execution of
this contract, Schiebel will provide simultaneous maritime
surveillance
services to several European Union member states and EU
bodies.

“The CAMCOPTER S-100 is the
perfect vertical takeoff and landing UAS to perform these
Coast Guard
functions,” said Hans Georg Schiebel, chairman of the Schiebel
Group. “Backed
by an impressive service record in the maritime domain, the
S-100 has
established itself as the best choice whenever sophisticated
maritime
surveillance is required.”

Navy Selects Lockheed as Future Frigate’s Combat Systems Integrator

MOORESTOWN,
N.J. – The U.S. Navy has selected Lockheed Martin as the
combat system ship integration
and test agent for the Navy’s future Guided Missile Frigate
ship program, the
FFG(X), the company said in a July 19 release.

The combat
system ship integration and test contract will ensure the
overall integration
of the combat system elements into the FFG(X) design and

validate the installation through the completion of waterfront testing. The 10-year contract will consist of one base year and nine option years' worth up to \$125 million.

"The U.S. Navy will experience substantial efficiency by utilizing the existing processes, tools and experience of the Lockheed Martin ship integration and test team," said Chris Minster, program director of Lockheed Martin Surface Navy Integration Systems. "While minimizing ship impact and cost, our ship integration and test team will enable the successful integration of the combat system elements into the future frigate ship design."

Lockheed has more than 40 years of ship integration and test experience, including Aegis Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruisers and Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers.

Lockheed Martin has delivered and integrated Aegis and Aegis-based products on 126 platforms in eight nations, with an additional 23 under construction or planned. Aegis and Aegis-derived systems are in service in U.S. Navy cruisers, destroyers, littoral combat ships, U.S. Coast Guard national security cutters and Aegis ashore sites. The navies of Japan, Spain, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Australia have also chosen Aegis to protect their nations.

Future USS Oakland Launched at Austal's Alabama Facility



An illustration of the future USS Oakland. U.S. Navy
WASHINGTON

– The future USS Oakland (LCS 24) was launched July 21 at Austal USA's ship manufacturing facility in Mobile, Alabama, according to the Naval Sea System Command's Program Executive Office-Ships Unmanned and Small Combatants. This marked the first time the ship floated in water as it is prepared for delivery next year.

The future USS Oakland is the 12th of 19 Independence-variant littoral combat ships that will join the fleet. Ship sponsor Kate Brandt, Google's sustainability officer, christened the vessel in Mobile on June 29. She previously welded her initials onto a steel plate included in Oakland's hull during a keel-laying ceremony last July. Brandt is a recipient of the Distinguished Public Service Award, the highest award the U.S. Navy can give to a civilian.

Four additional LCSs are under various stages of construction at Austal's Alabama shipyard. The future USS Kansas City (LCS 22) is preparing for sea trials. The

future USS Mobile (LCS 26), Savannah (LCS 28) and Canberra (LCS 30) are under construction, and Austal has four more LCSs under contract.

The future USS Oakland honors the long-standing history its namesake city has with the Navy. It will be the third naval ship to bear the city's name. The first, commissioned in 1918, was largely used to transport cargo. The second USS Oakland was commissioned in 1942 during the height of World War II. While in service for just seven years, it was key in many anti-aircraft missions in places such as Pearl Harbor, Marshall Islands, Pagan, Guam, Iwo Jima, Rota, Peleliu and Okinawa. After the war, Oakland performed two duty patrols off the coast of China before being decommissioned.

Future USS Tripoli Completes Builder's Trials



The future USS Tripoli during her builder's trials. Huntington Ingalls Industries PASCAGOULA, Miss. – The Navy's newest America-class amphibious assault ship, the future USS Tripoli (LHA 7), successfully completed builder's trials on July 19. The ship

returned to the Huntington Ingalls Industries shipbuilding division's shipyard following four days underway in the Gulf of Mexico.

Builder's trials are the Navy's first opportunity to assess the operational readiness of a ship. During the trials, the multipurpose amphibious assault ship underwent dock trials followed by more than 200 at-sea test events.

"The Navy and industry team did a commendable job this week," said Tom Rivers, amphibious warfare program manager for Naval Sea System Command's Program Executive Office-Ships.

USS Tripoli's christening ceremony.

"America-class ships bring tremendous capability to our Sailors and Marines, and Tripoli will be the first large deck amphib to reach the fleet fully ready to integrate the Marine Corps air combat element to include Joint Strike Fighters."

Tripoli is the second ship of the America (LHA 6) class, built to facilitate forward presence and power projection. LHA 7 is the last Flight 0 ship planned for construction and features an enlarged hangar deck, realignment and expansion of the aviation maintenance facilities, an increase in available stowage for parts and support equipment and increased aviation fuel capacity.

LHA 8 will be the first Flight I ship, reincorporating a well deck to enhance expeditionary warfighting capabilities while maintaining the principal aviation characteristics of the Flight 0 ships.

LHA 7 incorporates gas turbine propulsion plant, zonal electrical distribution and fuel-efficient electric auxiliary propulsion systems first installed on USS Makin Island (LHA 8). LHA 7 will be 844 feet in length, will have a displacement of about 45,000 long tons and will be capable of operating at speeds of more than 20 knots.

HII's Pascagoula shipyard is also in production on Bougainville (LHA 8), the guided missile destroyers Delbert D. Black (DDG 119), Lenah H. Sutcliffe Higbee (DDG 123), Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125), and amphibious transport dock ships, Fort Lauderdale (LPD 28) and Richard M. McCool Jr. (LPD 29).

Navy Awards Billion-Dollar Sonobuoy Contract



Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Jason Rosemond loads sonobuoys into a P-8A Poseidon aircraft at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-

Hickam during Rim of the Pacific exercise last year. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kevin A. Flinn
Arlington,

Va. – The U.S. Navy’s increasing focus on anti-submarine warfare is reflected in a recent mega-contract award for its primary air-dropped sensor, the sonobuoy.

Naval Air

Systems Command has awarded to ERAPSCO, a joint venture of Sparton and USSI

based in Columbia City, Indiana, a \$1 billion contract to manufacture and deliver

a maximum of 37,500 SSQ-36B sonobuoys as well as 685,000 SSQ-53Gs, 120,000

SSQ-62Fs and 90,000 SSQ-101Bs for fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1RLKPiS24c>

This video shows the MH-60R helicopter’s sonobuoy launch capability.

“Sonobuoys

are air-launched expendable, electro-mechanical anti-submarine warfare acoustic

sensors designed to relay underwater sounds associated with ships and

submarines,” according to a July 18 Defense Department release.

On a typical

ASW mission, a P-3 Orion or P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft can launch a

few dozen sonobuoys while tracking submarines. Sonobuoys also are dropped by MH-60R

helicopters.

In a new era of “Great Power

Competition,” anti-submarine warfare has taken on increasing importance as the Navy

and those of allied nations ramp up efforts to track and, should it become necessary, counter the submarine forces of Russia, China, Iran or North Korea.

Navy Recon Aircraft Approached by Venezuelan Fighter in Unsafe Manner



A Venezuelan fighter as it shadowed a U.S. EP-3 Aries II in international airspace over the Caribbean Sea on July 19. U.S. Southern Command

MIAMI, Fla. –

A U.S. Navy EP-3E Aries II aircraft, flying a mission in approved international airspace on July 19, was approached in an unprofessional manner by a SU-30 Flanker

Venezuelan fighter aircraft, according to the U.S. Southern Command.

“After

reviewing video documentation, we have determined the Russian-made fighter

aggressively shadowed the EP-3 at an unsafe distance in international airspace

for a prolonged period of time, endangering the safety of the crew and

jeopardizing the EP-3 mission,” according to a July 21 release from Southern

Command.

*A Venezuelan Su-30 fighter plane "aggressively shadowed" a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft operating over the Caribbean Sea, according to U.S. Southern Command, in a move the U.S. is calling "unprofessional." <https://t.co/pq9JV02Znj>
[pic.twitter.com/Vd2mjRyVtg](https://t.co/pq9JV02Znj)*

– ABC News (@ABC) [July 22, 2019](#)

“The U.S. routinely conducts regionally supported, multinationally recognized and approved detection and monitoring missions in the region to ensure the safety and security of our citizens and those of our partners. The EP-3 aircraft was adhering to international standards and rules.”

“The Maduro regime continues to undermine internationally recognized laws and demonstrate its contempt for international agreements authorizing the U.S. and other nations to safely conduct flights in international airspace,” according to the release.

Ricardo Technology Used in Navy Prototyping, Experimentation Exercise

LONDON –

Ricardo Defense’s Mobile Fuel and Energy Management (MFEM)

system has successfully completed its participation in Phase 1 of the U.S. Navy's Fight the Naval Force Forward Advanced Naval Technology Exercise, the company announced July 22.

The Ricardo MFEM provides dynamic visibility and management of liquid fuel to help ensure that forces in the field have the resources needed to attain their objectives. The Ricardo MFEM provides the tools and information needed to understand fuel usage, distribution and availability in the theater of operations.

Manual procedures for fuel management – measuring, collecting, aggregating, calculating usage and projecting needs – are replaced with fully automated processes, significantly improving the commander's ability to plan and monitor fuel use and status with the speed, accuracy and efficiency needed for field operations. MFEM offers commanders with insight into fuel status that can be incorporated into a battlefield "common operating picture."

Ricardo Defense demonstrated the capabilities of the MFEM system during Phase 1 of the Fight the Naval Force Forward Experimentation Campaign, a multimonth exploration phase that allowed for the detailed assessment of technologies integrated into actual mission scenarios. Technologies were

examined in live, virtual or constructive simulation demonstrations as a part of the Advanced Naval Technology Exercise over a two-week period that ended on July 18.

The collaboration with a variety of system stakeholders during the exercise positions Ricardo Defense for future development and fielding of these capabilities. The Ricardo MFEM is being assessed for a follow-on Phase 2 project that would include a six- to 18-month prototyping period, limited use in the field and experimentation, as part of Fleet/Force Experiments and/or Rapid Fielding.

“We are very excited to have had the Ricardo MFEM included in this year’s Advanced Naval Technology Exercise,” Ricardo Defense President Chet Gryczan said. “MFEM helps improve military personnel decision-making through an accurate, up-to-date shared view of fuel resources. The award of a Phase 2 effort, if granted, will validate the value of MFEM and pave the way for maturation of the capabilities it provides.”

Navy to Commission USS

Minneapolis-Saint Paul in Duluth



Duluth Mayor Emily Larson (left) and Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy Jodi Greene announce Duluth as the commissioning city of the future USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul during a joint press conference at City Hall during Duluth Navy Week. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Evan Thompson
DULUTH, Minn. – Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy Jodi Greene announced Duluth as the commissioning location for the future USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul in a joint press conference July 18 with Duluth Mayor Emily Larson.

Greene is LCS

21's sponsor and is in Duluth for Duluth Navy Week, an outreach effort in which

Sailors and naval personnel from different commands across the country are in

the city meeting with people from all walks of life to talk about the Navy and why it is important.

Greene

expressed excitement during at the announcement, underlining the importance of

the Navy maintaining ties to cities in America's heartland.

"We are

eager to announce that Duluth has been chosen as the city in which we will hold

the commissioning for the USS Minneapolis/Saint Paul," said Greene. "The city

of Duluth is an important port on Lake Superior and your Navy is looking

forward to continuing a strong partnership with Mayor Larson and the people of

Duluth as well as the people in Minneapolis and St. Paul.”

Larson

mirrored Greene’s enthusiasm, highlighting Duluth’s historic connection to the Navy.

“Duluth is a city full of people linked to the Navy,” Larson said. “We have both active servicemembers and veterans who call Duluth their home, and we proudly display the anchor from the decommissioned USS Duluth where everyone can see it. I am grateful to be able to continue honoring our Navy.”

The Navy recently held a christening and launching ceremony for the future USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul in Marinette, Wisconsin, where it is being built.

The ship is being built by an industry team led by Lockheed Martin at Fincantieri Marinette Marine Corp. in Marinette. The future USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul will be about 388 feet in length and have a beam of nearly 58 feet.

LCS is a modular, reconfigurable ship designed to meet validated fleet requirements for surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare and mine countermeasures missions in the littoral region. An interchangeable mission package is embarked on each LCS and provides the primary mission systems in one of these warfare areas. Using an open architecture design, modular weapons, sensor systems and

a variety of
manned and unmanned vehicles to gain, sustain and exploit
littoral maritime
supremacy, LCS provides U.S. joint forces access to critical
theaters.

Iranian Drone Downed by Marine Corps Electronic Attack System



An Iranian UAV was targeted and brought down July 18 by the Marine Corps Polaris MRZR vehicle parked on the forward flight deck of the USS Boxer. U.S. Marine Corps/Lance Cpl. Dalton Swanbeck

ARLINGTON, Va. – An Iranian fixed-wing unmanned aerial vehicle downed by U.S. naval forces July 18 was brought down not by missiles or guns but by a vehicle-mounted electronic attack system.

The Iranian

UAV had flown within 1,000 yards of the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer and

its unknown controller had ignored radioed warning calls. The ship was in

transit toward the Persian Gulf through the Straits of Hormuz, the scene of

several attacks on shipping and UAVs in recent weeks.

“At approximately 10 a.m. local time, the amphibious ship USS Boxer was in international waters conducting a planned

inbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz,” Chief Pentagon spokesperson Jonathan Hoffman said in a July 18 release. “A fixed-wing unmanned aerial system approached Boxer and closed within a threatening range. The ship took defensive action against the UAS to ensure the safety of the ship and its crew.”

The Iranian UAV was targeted by a Marine Corps Polaris MRZR vehicle parked on the forward flight deck of the Boxer.

The MRZR hosted a Mk2 counter-UAS version of the Light Marine Air Defense Integrated System (LMADIS) that features four circular antenna radar antennas arrays mounted at 90-degree intervals and an electro-optical/infrared sensor turret, and a direct-fire weapon, according to the Marine Corps website.

President Trump initially announced the incident in a June 18 White House briefing.

Iranian forces shot down a U.S Navy RQ-4A Global Hawk UAV on June 21 and fired on an MQ-9 Reaper on June 13. Iranian forces also are believed to have planted the mines that damaged six commercial tankers in May and June. Iran also claims to have seized a British-owned tanker on July 19.

USS Stethem Arrives at New San Diego Homeport



Sailors assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Stethem (DDG 63), compete in a tug-o-war competition during the 80th annual Shimoda Black Ship Festival in May in Shimoda, Japan. The ship arrived back in San Diego July 18 after 14 years of service. U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jeremy Graham
SAN DIEGO –

The guided-missile destroyer USS Stethem (DDG 63) arrives at its new homeport, Naval Base San Diego, July 18, following 14 years of forward-deployed service in the Indo-Pacific region operating from Japan, the commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, said in a July 17 release.

As part of the U.S. 7th Fleet's Forward Deployed Naval Forces in Japan, Stethem worked alongside allies and partners to provide security and stability throughout a free and open Indo-Pacific. Stethem arrived in Yokosuka, Japan, in June of 2005. While serving in 7th Fleet, Stethem conducted a wide range of operations, exercises and port visits, including disaster relief as well as search-and-rescue missions. In 2011, the ship supported Operation Tomodachi to provide relief to Japanese citizens affected by the Fukushima earthquake and tsunami, and this year, joined Japan-led search operations for a missing Japan Air Self-Defense

Force F-35.

While in San

Diego, Stethem will undergo a planned maintenance and modernization period.

Stethem will be fitted with the latest combat system suite, which includes

state-of-the-art air defense, ballistic-missile defense, surface warfare and undersea warfare capabilities.