Huntington Ingalls Completes Flight Deck on Aircraft Carrier John F. Kennedy



The 780-ton upper bow was lowered into the dry dock and placed on future aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy. Ashley Cowan/Huntington Ingalls Industries

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – The final piece of the John F. Kennedy's (CVN-79) flight deck, the upper bow section, was installed July 10 on the future aircraft carrier, Huntington Ingalls Industries announced in a release.

The addition of the upper bow section at the company's Newport News Shipbuilding division is one of the last steel structural units, known as a superlift, to be placed on Kennedy. It was built using digital technology, such as visual work instructions to install piping in the upper bow on the final assembly platen instead of on the ship.

"We are very pleased with the progress being made on Kennedy as we inch closer to christening the ship later this year," said Mike Butler, Newport News Shipbuilding's program director for the JFK.

"The upper bow is the last superlift that completes the ship's primary hull. This milestone is testament to the significant build strategy changes we have made –

and to the men and women of Newport News Shipbuilding who do what no one else
in the world can do.”

Weighing
780 tons, the superlift took 18 months to build.

Kennedy is
being built with an improved build strategy that includes the increased use of
digital tools to build superlifts that are much larger and more complete at
ship erect than on prior carriers. Kennedy is on track to be built with
considerably fewer man-hours than the first ship in its class, USS Gerald R.
Ford.

More than 3,200
shipbuilders and 2,000 suppliers from across the country are supporting the
construction of aircraft carrier Kennedy. The ship is in the early stages of
its testing program and is on schedule to launch during the fourth quarter. Christening
is planned for late 2019.