

Huntington Ingalls Industries Launches Virginia-Class Submarine Montana



Newport News Shipbuilding division recently reached a significant construction milestone by successfully launching the Virginia-class submarine Montana (SSN 794). The ship was christened on Sept. 12, 2020, and is scheduled to be delivered to the U.S. Navy in late 2021. HII / Matt Hildreth

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – Huntington Ingalls Industries launched the Virginia-class submarine Montana (SSN 794) into the James River at the company's Newport News Shipbuilding division on March 3, the company announced in a release.

The 7,800-ton submarine, which had been in a floating dry dock since being transferred from a construction facility in October, was submerged and moved by tugboats to the shipyard's submarine pier, for final outfitting, testing and crew

certification.

“For our shipbuilders, launching Montana signifies five years of hard work, commitment and dedicated service,” said Jason Ward, Newport News’ vice president of Virginia-class submarine construction. “We look forward to executing our waterborne test program and working toward sea trials and delivering the submarine to the Navy later this year.”

Through the teaming agreement with General Dynamics Electric Boat, approximately 10,000 shipbuilders, as well as suppliers from all 50 states, have participated in Montana’s construction since the work began in 2015. Montana is approximately 92% complete and scheduled to be delivered to the U.S. Navy in late 2021.

Virginia-class submarines, a class of nuclear-powered fast attack submarines, are built for a broad spectrum of open ocean and littoral missions to replace the Navy’s Los Angeles-class submarines as they are retired. Virginia-class submarines incorporate dozens of new technologies and innovations that increase firepower, maneuverability and stealth and significantly enhance their warfighting capabilities. These submarines are capable of supporting multiple mission areas and can operate at submerged speeds of more than 25 knots for months at a time.