Navy Accepts Delivery of Destroyer USS Delbert D. Black



Donny Dorsey (right), Ingalls' DDG 119 ship program manager, Cmdr. Matthew McKenna (center), the Delbert D. Black's prospective commanding officer, and Peter T. Christman III, DDG 51 Project Office, SUPSHIP Gulf Coast, practice social distancing while signing the transfer of custody of the ship to the Navy on April 24 at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Huntington Ingalls Industries

PASCAGOULA, Miss. – The U.S. Navy accepted delivery of the guided missile destroyer Delbert D. Black from Huntington Ingalls Industries' Ingalls shipbuilding division on April 24, the Navy's Program Executive Office (PEO)–Ships said in a release.

Accepting delivery of the Delbert D. Black represents the official transfer of the ship from the shipbuilder to the

Navy. Prior to delivery, the ship successfully conducted a series of at-sea and pier-side trials to demonstrate its material and operational readiness.

The 68th Arleigh Burke-class destroyer honors Delbert D. Black, the first master chief petty officer of the Navy, and will be the first naval ship to bear his name. Black is known for guiding the Navy through the Vietnam War and ensuring enlisted leadership was properly represented Navy-wide by initiating the master chief program.

“The DDG 51 shipbuilding program and Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Gulf Coast are proud to accept delivery of Delbert D. Black on behalf of the Navy and look forward to her commissioning later this year,” said Capt. Seth Miller, DDG 51 class program manager for PEO-Ships. “Ingalls has delivered another highly capable platform that will sail from our shores and help protect the nation for decades to come.”

The DDG 51 class ships currently being constructed are Aegis Baseline 9 Integrated Air and Missile Defense destroyers with increased computing power and radar upgrades that improve detection and reaction capabilities against modern air warfare and ballistic missile defense threats.

In addition to Delbert D. Black, HII’s Pascagoula shipyard also is in production on the future destroyers Frank E. Peterson Jr. and Lenah H. Sutcliffe Higbee as well as the Flight III ships, Jack H. Lucas and Ted Stevens.