

Navy Awards BAE \$175 Million for Vicksburg Modernization



The guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg prepares to depart Naval Station Mayport, Florida, for a two-month underway in 2016. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Mark Andrew Hays

NORFOLK, Va. – BAE Systems has received a \$175 million contract

from the U.S. Navy to modernize the guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg, the

company said in a Jan. 6 release. The Vicksburg will undergo about 18 months of

work at the company's shipyard in Norfolk, the ship's homeport.

The modernization period (MODPRD) contract includes options that,

if exercised, would bring its cumulative value to \$175.1 million.

BAE Systems initiated the first phase of Vicksburg's modernization program in May 2017. The company will begin the final phase of

work, called MODPRD, later this month. Under

the new contract, the shipyard's employees and industry partners will work on

the ship's weapons and engineering equipment, including its gas turbine

propulsion system, restore crew habitability spaces and support the

installation of a new Aegis combat system, communication suite and CANES

(Consolidated Afloat Network Enterprise System). The Vicksburg's MODPRD is

scheduled to be complete in July 2021, allowing the ship to rejoin the operational fleet afterward.

BAE's Norfolk shipyard also is performing similar work on the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg. The Gettysburg's MODPRD work began in January 2019 and is expected to be complete this fall. The Gettysburg and Vicksburg were commissioned in the early 1990s, but BAE's work is expected to extend the service lives of both ships into the mid-2030s.

"Over the last few years, BAE Systems has worked extensively on modernizing the Navy's Atlantic Fleet cruisers," said Dave Thomas, vice president and general manager of BAE Systems Norfolk Ship Repair. "The Vicksburg and Gettysburg modernizations are big jobs. Our experience with cruisers and the expertise of our ship repair partners will return these vital combatants to the fleet with clear improvements and upgraded capability to carry out their missions."