

U.S. Navy Launches First Flight III DDG, the Future USS Jack H. Lucas



The future guided-missile destroyer Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125) is launched, June 4, 2021, at Huntington Ingalls Industries, Ingalls Shipbuilding division in Pascagoula, Mississippi. *U.S. NAVY / HUNTINGTON INGALLS INDUSTRIES*

PASCAGOULA, Miss. – The first DDG 51 Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer to be built in the Flight III configuration, the future Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125), was successfully launched at Huntington Ingalls Industries, Ingalls Shipbuilding division, June 4, the Navy said in a June 7 release.

The DDG 51 Flight III upgrade is centered on the AN/SPY-6(V)1 Air and Missile Defense Radar and incorporates upgrades to the electrical power and cooling capacity plus additional associated changes to provide greatly enhanced warfighting capability to the fleet. The Flight III baseline begins with DDGs 125-126 and will continue with DDG 128 and follow-on ships.

“Flight III ships will provide cutting edge integrated air and missile defense capability to include significantly greater detection range and tracking capacity. Launching the first Flight III ship, the future Jack H. Lucas, is another important step to delivering Flight III to the Navy,” said Capt. Seth Miller, DDG 51 Arleigh Burke-class program manager.

The DDG 51 Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer (DDG 51) is a multi-mission guided missile destroyer designed to operate offensively and defensively, independently, or as

units of Carrier Strike Groups, Expeditionary Strike Groups, and Surface Action Groups in multi-threat environments that include air, surface and subsurface threats. These ships will respond to low intensity conflict and coastal and littoral offshore warfare scenarios, as well as open ocean conflict, providing or augmenting power projection, forward presence requirements and escort operations at sea. Flight III is the fourth flight upgrade in the 30-plus year history of the class, building on the legacy of Flight I, II and IIA ships before it.

HII is currently constructing four other DDG 51 class ships, including the future Frank E. Petersen Jr. (DDG 121) and Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee (DDG 123) in the Flight IIA configuration, and the future Ted Stevens (DDG 128) and Jeremiah Denton (DDG 129) as Flight III ships. There is a total of 20 DDG 51 class ships under contract at both new construction shipyards.