

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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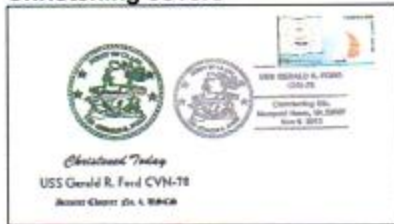
Huntingdon Ingalls protests USCG OPC finalists

On February 11, the U S Coast awarded contracts for further work on designs for a new Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC) to three finalists in a competition to build up to 25 ships for the Coast Guard.



Huntingdon Ingalls was eliminated and was not one of the three finalists. The three shipyards that made the cut were Bath Iron Works, Eastern and Bollinger. The protest has halted any work by the three finalists until the General Accounting Office rules on the protest.

Newport News returns CVN-78 Christening covers



For months collectors have been asking about the pictorial cancel from the Newport News VA post office for the Christening Ceremony of the *USS Gerald R. Ford CVN-78*. The event was held on 9 November 2013. The pictorial appeared in the USPS Postal Bulletin on 31 October 2013 but as fate would have it, the wrong date was in the pictorial cancel. A replacement was made available to the customer service person at Newport News then all went quiet. Covers did surface from Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipbuilding, with their own private postmark and no postage stamps on the covers. On 8 March 2014, the chapters covers from the Newport News post office arrived home. All is well, that ends well. The chapter cover above is available at 2.50.

Will M/V CAPE RAY mission succeed?



On 27 January the Military Sealift Command vessel *MV CAPE RAY T-AKR 9679* left Norfolk enroute Italy to be available for a mission to destroy chemical weapons from Syria. Deployed aboard were MSC personnel to operate the ship, Navy security forces and a U S Army unit to operate the mobile chemical weapons destruction equipment that had been installed for this mission. The mission itself was brokered by Russia, with the help of several EU member nations. But recent press releases indicate that the cooperation that was necessary was not in place now. Additionally, Russia now finds itself in the cross hairs of the international community after soldiers in uniforms with no markings have taken over key installations in Crimea, and Russian naval forces have sunk three obsolete vessels in an attempt to blockade the Ukrainian Navy from leaving port. Latest info is that destruction has proceeded but news releases say chemical weapons are still in use in the Syrian civil war. Above cover is available from the chapter for 2.50.

Work Begins on Sub That Won't Hit Fleet Until 2030

Kris Osborn, Military.com Feb 4



QUONSET POINT, R.I. – Over the next several years, General Dynamics Electric Boat plans to add several new buildings to its facility here, double its workforce, and invest about \$150 million – all as preparation for the construction of the Navy's next-generation nuclear-armed submarine. Early prototyping

is already under way at Electric Boat for the Ohio Replacement Program (ORP), a high-tech, 560-foot long, nuclear-powered submarine. Navy leaders have announced plans to build 12 ORPs, with the first one slated to enter service in the early 2030s. General Dynamics Electric Boat is working on a five-year technology development contract worth up to \$1.85 billion on the submarine that has come to be known simply as ORP.

Another Kilo-Class Submarine Heading for Vietnam

VietNamNet Bridge, Feb 4



A Dutch heavy lift ship left Kaliningrad on February 3, carrying the second Russian-built Kilo-class submarine to a naval base in Vietnam. The submarine, named *HQ-183 Ho Chi Minh City*, was built at Admiralty Verfi Shipyard in St. Petersburg. Due to harsh weather conditions in St. Petersburg, the naval diesel-electric submarine was loaded on to the Dutch heavy lift ship at Kaliningrad's Yantar shipyard instead of Admiralty Verfi. The loading was supported by two tug boats and a canoe. The Dutch ship is now travelling to the Baltic Sea and then to Vietnam. It is scheduled to dock at Cam Ranh Port in one and a half months. Vietnam and Russia signed a document verifying the result of the vessel's technical tests at the Admiralty Verfi Shipyard on January 16. This is the second of the six Kilo-class submarines Vietnam is purchasing from Russia under a contract signed in 2009. The first submarine, dubbed *HQ-182 Hanoi*, was delivered to Vietnam in November 2013. It was transported to Cam Ranh Port on December 31, 2013 and successfully made its first maiden voyage on January 8, 2014. The third vessel, named *HQ-184 Haiphong*, was launched in Russia on August 28, 2013, and will be delivered to Vietnam this year.

Check out the naval items on eBay. Proceeds go to Decatur Chapter. Seller: CGCOVERGUY

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Visit the Universal Ship Cancellation Society web site at: www.uscs.org/