

Chapter Newseyletter

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Pentagon deliberates canceling the third Zumwalt destroyer



U S Navy Photo

Float-out (Launch) of USS Zumwalt DDG-1000 Oct 28, 2013

From gCaptain blog - By Tony Capaccio

(Bloomberg) — Pentagon officials are weighing whether to cancel the last of three ships in General Dynamics Corp.'s \$22 billion program to build new destroyers even though the vessel is already under construction.

Canceling the *USS Lyndon B. Johnson DDG-1002*, a Zumwalt-class destroyer, is a topic that's "to be reviewed in the next few weeks" by teams formed by the Pentagon's independent cost- assessment office, according to a Defense Department briefing document dated Aug. 25. Two officials familiar with the issue confirmed that cancellation discussions are under way although no decision has been made.

The Zumwalt-class destroyer is designed as a multi-mission land-attack vessel that will use electricity generated by gas turbines to power all of its systems, including weapons. The cancellation discussions, part of planning for the fiscal 2017 budget, are the latest twist for a program that's been buffeted by delays, rising costs and changing plans.

From an initial 32, the quantity planned was reduced over the years to seven and then three. The estimated procurement cost for all three vessels has increased by 37 percent since 2009 to \$12.3 billion, according to the Congressional Research Service.

The estimated construction cost for the third destroyer, designated DDG-1002, is about \$3.5 billion. A key question is how much of that could be saved by canceling a ship that's about 41 percent complete, according to the officials, who asked not to be identified discussing internal deliberations.

SECNAV and Maine Senators in favor of Completing JOHNSON

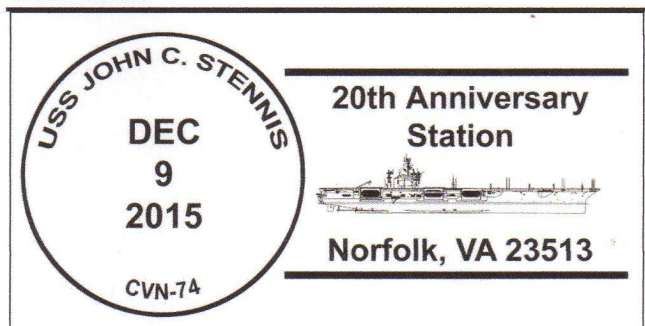
PENTAGON — Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and the Maine congressional delegation have thrown their support behind finishing the third Zumwalt-class guided missile destroyer — one that the Department of Defense is studying canceling.

Editors note: Interesting struggle within the Pentagon about Bath Ironworks struggling with the three Zumwalt-class ships and the Arleigh Burke-class DDG's falling behind schedule due to the work load. Some in the Pentagon felt that canceling the JOHNSON would free up the yard to get back on schedule with the other DDG's. What they are not taking into consideration is that the USS Lyndon B. Johnson DDG-1002 is 40% complete and canceling it would not save any money, just waste what has already been committed at this point. So, 40% complete, lets get her keel authenticated!

France Sells ex-Russian *Mistral*-class amphibious warships to Egypt



French President Francois Hollande said that France would suffer no loss on its sale of the two Mistral warships, pictured here at the STX Les Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, western France, in this May 25, 2015 file photo. They were originally built for Russia but France cancelled the deal over Russia's incursion into Crimea and Ukraine. They were the ex-Sevastopol and ex-Vladivostok.



Proposed pictorial for Norfolk, VA post office. Same design used for the ships T-F cancel. Both designs by USCS member Wolfgang Hechler.

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

Information published here is not guaranteed.

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