

# Decatur Chapter #4 Newseyletter

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Current Deposit Balance \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## India Navy DSRV's in testing phase



After fifteen years of wait, the Indian navy is finally all set to receive the much-needed submarine rescue vehicles in a contract with the England firm James Fisher Defense. Two vehicles have completed testing and sailors from India are training in Scotland. This builder has already supplied the *DSAR 500* to several other Navy's which include the South Korean Navy and the Singapore Navy.

## Proposals requested for next fleet of U S Navy FFG's



This appears to be the AUSTAL version of the FFG(X)

Far be it for me to say the LCS program was a total loss. Personally, I think that it is a jump start to strengthen the U S Coast Guard's drug interdiction program in the near future, by selecting the LCS's to work closely with the USCG to interdict drugs. I suspect for every bust we see, ten smugglers get through. But, not that the Navy is admitting the LCS program is a failure, it is embarking on a program to build FFG's in the future. Many naval experts have said they were under-gunned and too lightly built to

have heavy guns added. Metals have also been an expensive repair problem with severe corrosion. Many of the mission modules were late or did not work. The AUSTAL version also is short of crew areas. The program has asked five shipbuilders to come up with designs for the new FFG(X) program. The selected companies are Austal and Lockheed Martin with their adaptations of littoral combat ship designs, Huntington Ingalls Industries with its offshore patrol cutter-based frigate design, Fincantieri Marinette Marine with the FREMM frigate-based bid and General Dynamics Bath Iron Works who has teamed with Navantia to propose a design based on Navantia's Aegis frigate family. All five contenders have received \$14.9 million contracts and are expected to complete the designs by June 2019.

## Israel Shipyards launches first Argentine Coast Guard Shaldag-class patrol boat



Photo: Naval Prefecture Argentina

The Argentine Coast Guard is set to receive the first of four Shaldag-class patrol boats after it was launched by Israel Shipyards on January 26 and loaded for shipping as commercial cargo. The lead boat will become part of the Naval Prefecture fleet under the name *Guarani GC 195*.

## US approves sale of 15 patrol boats to Kuwait

The US state department has approved the possible sale of 15 fast patrol boats to Kuwait under a contract worth an estimated \$100 million. The boats would be built by Vigor subsidiary Kvichak at their Kent, Washington, site. Kuwait intends to use the boats for patrol, interdiction, and maritime protection.