

Decatur Chapter #4 Newseyletter

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DARPA, Manta Ray project



Unmanned undersea vehicles (UUVs) that operate for extended durations without the need for human-present logistic support or maintenance offer the potential for persistent operations in forward environments. Such systems could allow traditional host vessels increased freedom of operational flexibility while providing traditional servicing ports with relief of workload. The Manta Ray program seeks to demonstrate critical technologies for a new class of long duration, long range, payload-capable UUVs. If successful, this new class of UUV will give the combatant commander an amplification of capacity without disrupting current operations by remaining independent of manned vessels and ports once deployed.



The Manta Ray program plans to advance key technologies that will benefit future UUV designs, including, but not limited to:

- Novel energy management techniques for UUV operations and undersea energy harvesting techniques at operationally relevant depths;
- Low-power, high efficiency undersea propulsion systems;
- New low-power means of underwater detection and classification of hazards or counter detection threats;
- Mission management approaches for extended durations while accounting for dynamic maritime environments;
- Unique approaches for leveraging existing maritime data sets and exploiting novel maritime parameters for high-efficiency navigation and/or C3; and

- New approaches to mitigate biofouling, corrosion, and other material degradation for long duration missions.

Manta Ray is a multi-phase effort that includes at-sea demonstration of critical technologies. The program is using a disciplined systems engineering approach to define demonstration system objectives and identify enabling technologies needed for future systems.

Harpoon missiles return to USN submarines



The U.S. Navy is loading its submarines with Harpoon anti-ship missiles once more, after a 25-year absence. The Navy withdrew the missiles from frontline service decades ago, following the disappearance of a credible rival at sea. But now, as the Chinese Navy increasingly grows in strength, the U.S. is reintroducing the Harpoons. This variant, known as Sub-Harpoon, can deliver a quarter ton of high explosive against the hull of an enemy ship from over 100 miles away.

Was your mail late recently?

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has apologized repeatedly for the slow mail deliveries that have marked his first year in office and vowed that the United States Postal Service will rebound from its poor performance. Speaking to the Postal Service's board of governors, which hired him, DeJoy blamed the COVID-19 pandemic and an unexpected surge of packages for causing mail delays across the country that have provoked anger and calls for the resignation of top postal officials. "All in all, we threw everything we had at it and we fell short," DeJoy told the governors during a Feb. 9 telephone meeting. The postmaster general acknowledged that mail service "fell far short" of the federal agency's standards and promised a new financial plan should speed the recovery.

He wants to raise rates again. Will that help?

Check out the naval items on eBay. Proceeds go to Decatur Chapter. Seller: [cgcoverguy and patchesnaval](#)

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