

HII Delivers Guided Missile Destroyer Frank E. Petersen Jr. to U.S. Navy



Signing ceremonial documents declaring delivery of Frank E. Petersen Jr. (DDG 121) from Ingalls Shipbuilding to the U.S. Navy are, from left, Navy Cmdr. Daniel Hancock, prospective commanding officer DDG 121; Billy Oaks, superintendent, Aegis Combat System, Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Gulf Coast; and Donny Dorsey, Ingalls DDG 121 ship program manager. In the background are Cmdr. Sean Doherty, left, DDG program manager's representative; and Chief Petty Officer Yamina Bolar, DDG 121 chief Aegis fire controlman. *HUNTINGTON INGALLS INDUSTRIES / Shane Scara*

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – Huntington Ingalls Industries' Ingalls Shipbuilding division delivered the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer Frank E. Petersen Jr. (DDG 121) to the U.S. Navy during a signing ceremony Nov. 30. This milestone officially transfers custody from HII to the U.S. Navy.

"I am again very proud of our DDG team today," said Kari Wilkinson, Ingalls Shipbuilding president. "Not only have they completed another major program milestone, but they have done so in the face of a pandemic. This team, and all of our shipbuilders across our entire portfolio, are what shipbuilding is all about."

Delivery of DDG 121 marked the 33rd destroyer Ingalls has built for Navy, with four more currently under construction, including Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee (DDG 123), Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125), Ted Stevens (DDG 128) and Jeremiah Denton (DDG 129).

Arleigh Burke-class destroyers are highly capable, multi-mission ships and can conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and

power projection, all in support of the United States military strategy. Guided missile destroyers are capable of simultaneously fighting air, surface and subsurface battles. The ship contains myriad offensive and defensive weapons designed to support maritime defense needs well into the 21st century.

DDG 121 is named for Frank E. Petersen Jr., who was the U.S. Marine Corps' first African-American aviator and general officer. After entering the Naval Aviation Cadet Program in 1950, Petersen would go on to fly more than 350 combat missions during the Korean and Vietnam wars.