

Navy Crew Begins Training in Completed Spaces Aboard JFK



Aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy program director Mike Butler (left) and Capt. Todd Marzano (right), the ship's commanding officer, cut a ribbon inside a classroom on the ship to mark the completion and turnover of the first of 2,700 compartments to the ship's crew. Matt Hildreth/Huntington Ingalls Industries

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – Huntington Ingalls Industries has reached an

important milestone in the construction of the aircraft carrier John F.

Kennedy as the first of 2,700 compartments were turned over to the ship's crew, the company announced.

The completed spaces allow Sailors to begin training on the carrier

while final outfitting and testing progresses at the company's Newport News

Shipbuilding division.

Earlier this month, Sailors assigned to the pre-commissioning unit began coming onboard the ship and working in some of the compartments,

which include a training facility, offices and habitability spaces.

Turning over crew training areas earlier in Kennedy's construction was a lesson learned from the construction of the USS Gerald

R. Ford. As a result, the Kennedy's construction team was able to

complete and turn over 63 compartments to the ship's crew over four months

earlier than on Ford.

“The first Sailors coming onboard is a significant step in the life of the ship,” said Mike Butler, program director for Kennedy. “Our completing and turning over these spaces to the crew will allow them to start on-hands, shipboard training, and learn the systems and components they will operate when the ship joins the fleet.”

Over the next two and a half years, other spaces, such as berthing and mess areas, will be completed, and distributive, mechanical and combat systems, such as catapults and radar arrays, will be tested.