Navy Cuts Ribbon on Unmanned Vehicle Testing Facilities at Port Hueneme

Teams at Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center develop and execute a technical solution and demonstration for the assembly, transportation and disassembly of an 85-foot-long, 90-ton extra-large unmanned undersea vehicle at Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme, California, in April 2021. *U.S. NAVY / Palmer Pinckney II*

NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY, Calif. – The Navy conducted a joint ground-breaking and ribbon-cutting ceremony Dec. 8 for the first purpose-built and co-located facilities for unmanned maritime vehicle testing, Program Executive Office Unmanned and Small Combatants Public Affairs said in a Dec. 14 release.

Located on Naval Surface Warfare Center Port Hueneme Division, at Naval Base Ventura County, the facilities will accommodate testing, evaluation, and technology demonstration for Extra-Large Unmanned Undersea Vehicle and Unmanned Surface Vessel prototypes.

"These facilities will be the focal point of Navy learning and experimentation on the capabilities, operations and sustainment of Unmanned Maritime Vehicle prototypes to inform future programs," said Capt. Pete Small, Program Manager, Unmanned Maritime Systems (PMS 406).

PMS 406, within the Program Executive Office Unmanned and Small Combatants (PEO USC), oversees the XLUUV, Large USV, Medium USV programs and their advanced technology capabilities.

The ribbon-cutting recognized completion of modifications to

the existing Littoral Combat Ship Mission Package Support Facility (Building 1392) that will house the XLUUV prototypes, and personnel who will perform test and evaluation and training on the vehicles, which are in fabrication under a contract with Boeing. The ground-breaking recognized the start of construction of the modular administrative building for the newly established Unmanned Surface Vessel Division One and Unmanned Undersea Vehicles Squadron One personnel who will operate and maintain the unmanned vehicle prototypes.

In addition to five Orca XLUUV prototypes, the NBVC Port Hueneme site will eventually accommodate one MUSV, two Sea Hunter USV and four Overlord USV prototypes. NBVC is ideally suited for these facilities with ready access to open-water instrumented ranges, multimodal expeditionary transportation capabilities, proximity to Navy and industry hubs, and synergies with other tenant commands.