

# SECNAV Del Toro Directs Comprehensive Navy Shipbuilding Review



Rear Adm. Tom J. Anderson, then acting commander of Naval Sea Systems Command, discusses the construction status of pre-commissioning unit John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) with HII's construction leadership team during a production progress visit in September 2023. *U.S. Navy | Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tyler Slavicek*

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro has directed newly confirmed Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development & Acquisition Nickolas Guertin and Commander of Naval Sea Systems Command Vice Adm. James Downey to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the Navy shipbuilding portfolio.

The intent is to provide an interim progress review to Secretary Del Toro within 45 days. The purpose of the review is to provide an assessment of national and local causes of shipbuilding challenges, as well as recommended actions for achieving a healthier U.S. shipbuilding industrial base that provides combat capabilities that our warfighters need, on a schedule that is relevant.

"I remain concerned with the lingering effects of post-pandemic conditions on our shipbuilders and their suppliers that continue to affect our shipbuilding programs, particularly our Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines and Constellation-class frigate," Del Toro said. "The Department of the Navy has a strategic imperative requiring a whole-of-government effort to rebuild our nation's comprehensive maritime power – a new Maritime Statecraft in which the Navy plays a vital role. The American public should know that the Department of the Navy is committed to developing, delivering, and sustaining the finest warfighting

capability to our Sailors and Marines. We will continue to work with industry and all other stakeholders to strengthen our national shipbuilding capacity, both naval and commercial.”