

Deep Water Port *notes*

The News Portfolio of The Connecticut Deep Water Port Community
New London . New Haven . Bridgeport

Submarine Construction & Development in Connecticut



*Tanker STI Manhattan, outbound from Motiva New Haven after discharging full load of gasoline.
 Picture by Senior Connecticut Pilot Captain Charles Jonas*

For Connecticut, 2015 saw stability in funding for submarine construction/development and other major defense programs. Political bickering over FY 2016 funding for defense and non-defense programs slowed down congressional consideration of the annual defense policy and appropriations bills.

But when both were passed late in the year the overall results amounted to very good news for major programs providing economic benefit for the state.

Chief among them:

- \$5.3 billion for Virginia-class submarine construction, including \$3.3 billion for two submarines in 2016 and \$2 billion for advanced procurement for additional submarines in 2017 and beyond \$1.4 billion for the Ohio Replacement Program, for continued engineering

and design for a new class of ballistic missile submarines replacing the existing Ohio-class of such submarines. This program is a top priority for the Navy.

- \$168 million for continued development of the Virginia Payload Module, which will significantly increase the capacity of Virginia-class submarines to carry and launch cruise missiles.

- Funding for 68 F-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft, including \$1.33 billion for 11 more than the DOD budget request. The F-35 is powered by Pratt & Whitney engines.

- \$1.6 billion for 102 Sikorsky Black Hawk helicopters for the Army and National Guard, eight more than requested in the budget. Also \$942 million for an additional 29 multi-mission Black Hawk helicopters.

Submarine Construction & Development in Connecticut *continued on page 2*



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Submarine Construction & Development in Connecticut *continued from page 1*

- \$572 million for development of the new Presidential helicopter, a contract awarded in 2014 to Sikorsky. Under the \$1.24 billion contract, Sikorsky will design and build the first six helicopters.

- \$156 million for development of the Air Force Combat Rescue helicopter, another contract won by Sikorsky in 2014. The initial contract was for \$1.28 billion. If all options are exercised, the program could be worth \$7.9 billion through 2029. While large appropriations and huge contracts for major programs benefit the Connecticut-based prime contractors like Electric Boat, Pratt & Whitney and Sikorsky, the flow-through economic benefits to smaller suppliers throughout the state are also very significant. According to the Submarine Industrial Base Council, 471 Connecticut suppliers have received some \$580 million in contracts over the past five years for major submarine programs, mainly Virginia-class construction. And while investments in our submarine industrial base are concentrated in southeastern Connecticut, the impacts are statewide.

For example, in the Virginia-class program, over 600 suppliers are dispersed in all five of the state's congressional districts, with the largest concentration in central Connecticut's 1st District. All together, they supply over \$600 million worth of goods and services in this defense acquisition program alone. As we seek to maintain production of Virginia-class submarines at two per year, the positive impacts on our Connecticut's defense industrial base remained strong in 2015 and the outlook remains very positive in the years ahead.

Excerpts from this article are from the CT Office of Military Affairs (OMA) 2015 Annual Report available at: http://www.ct.gov/oma/lib/oma/oma_annual_report_2015.pdf

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Organized in 2000, the Connecticut Maritime Coalition is a non-profit trade association advocating for Connecticut's Maritime Industry.

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CONNECTICUT MARITIME COALITION



The Connecticut Maritime Coalition is a non-profit trade association facilitating the competitiveness of Connecticut's maritime industries. Our member network is mostly composed of small and medium-sized businesses.

To join **the Connecticut Maritime Coalition** or to advertise your business in **Deep Water Port notes**, please contact:

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In this issue: Submarine Construction & Development in Connecticut



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