HII Weekly News Digest

Nov. 20, 2026

HII's Weekly News Digest is compiled every Friday by the Corporate Communications team to summarize and highlight news stories of significance to the company.

US Navy Ups Contract For HII's Lionfish Undersea Drones: Defense Daily reported on Tuesday that the U.S. Navy updated its five-year contract with HII for 82 more Lionfish small unmanned undersea vehicles (SUUVs). The contract now has a total potential value of over $347 million. The updated award exercises additional options, meaning HII will now provide production as well as support and ancillary equipment. HII is now under contract to build, test and deliver 175 Lionfish SUUVs. The work will mostly occur at HII's facility in Pocasset, Massachusetts and is expected to be finished by December 2027. *Executive* Biz reported on Tuesday that Lionfish is a two-person-portable SUUV based on HII's commercial REMUS 300 design. The vehicle can perform a range of undersea warfare missions, including mine countermeasures; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; anti-submarine warfare; and electronic warfare. Lionfish is the only cyber-compliant unmanned underwater vehicle that the Navy currently has in production.

Senate GOP Readies $1.1 Trillion Defense Appropriations Bill: The Hill reported on Monday that Senate Republicans have unveiled a nearly $1.1 trillion defense appropriations bill for fiscal year 2027. The proposal includes tens of billions of dollars for programs initially part of the Pentagon's $350 billion reconciliation request. The legislation contains $41.6 billion for shipbuilding, which includes nearly $2 billion in additional funding for a second *Arleigh Burke*-class guided-missile destroyer. The bill also includes $6.2 billion for continued research, development and procurement of drone and counter-drone systems. USNI News reported on Wednesday that the Senate Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee zeroed out the $1 billion the Navy sought in advanced procurement funding for the *Trump*-class battleship, calling the request "early to need" in the funding tables. The committee's legislation is using incremental funding authority for multiple major programs, including two *Virginia*-class attack boats, one *Columbia*-class ballistic missile submarine, one *San Antonio*-class amphibious transport dock, one new frigate based on the Coast Guard's national security cutter and one mid-life aircraft carrier refueling. The bill's release comes as lawmakers face a Dec. 11 deadline to avert a government shutdown.

Hung Cao Testifies During Senate Confirmation Hearing: The Hill reported on Tuesday that acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao fielded questions from members of the Senate Armed Services Committee with concerns over sailor suicide attempts on Navy ships, the U.S. war against Iran and shipbuilding, during a contentious two-and-a-half-hour confirmation hearing. Concerning shipbuilding, Sens. Tim Kaine, D-Va., and Roger Wicker, R-Miss., who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee, asked Cao about the president's directive to return to steam-powered systems to launch aircraft off aircraft carriers. While Cao said he believes the electromagnetic system used on *Ford*-class carriers is contributing to delays, Wicker advised him that steam is a "non-starter." The Washington Post reported on Tuesday that switching back to steam-powered systems would be a multibillion-dollar engineering effort to modify a single vessel. It could also leave ships with lower sortie generation rates and an inability to launch future aircraft classes.

Social Media Highlight Of The Week

Posted Wednesday on HII's Facebook page:

"Different communities. Different causes. One shared commitment to giving back. 💙

For HII's Global Day of Caring, Mission Technologies, a division of HII teammates across the country came together to make a meaningful difference in the communities where we live and work.

From packing weekend food bags and serving meals to building homes, improving community facilities, cleaning shorelines and supporting local animal shelters, our employees turned compassion into action.

These efforts helped students facing food insecurity, supported organizations serving veterans and children with disabilities, and raised funds and collected supplies for shelter animals. At one adoption event, 39 animals found loving homes.



Thank you to our teammates, families and community partners who generously volunteered their time and recourses to help make this year's Global Day of Caring a success.

#GlobalDayOfCaring #HIIMissionTechnologies"

Eastern Shipbuilding To Build Additional DDG Units For HII: Defense Daily reported on Wednesday that HII's Ingalls Shipbuilding division has reached a new agreement with Eastern Shipbuilding Group to support production of destroyer *Telesforo Trinidad* (DDG 139). Eastern Shipbuilding will produce outfitted structural units for the Flight III *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyer. The agreement extends an existing relationship between Ingalls and Eastern Shipbuilding, the latter of which constructed parts for destroyers *Thad Cochran* (DDG 135) and *John F. Lehman* (DDG 137). WJHG reported on Wednesday that the latest contract expands Eastern Shipbuilding's work to include major production elements including structure, HVAC, piping, electrical systems and outfitting into fully assembled grand blocks.

Public Shipyards See Submarine Maintenance Improvements: Breaking Defense reported on Friday, Nov. 13, that submarine maintenance delays at public shipyards improved by more than 40% in fiscal year 2026. Vice Adm. Rob Gaucher, the direct reporting portfolio manager for submarines, said there has been a more than 600-day drop in maintenance delays from previous years. While the service faced roughly 1,400 days of maintenance delay for submarines in both fiscal years 2024 and 2025, that number was down to 780 in fiscal year 2026. Gaucher told the Naval Submarine League Annual Symposium that the Navy's investment in *Virginia*-class spare parts in recent years has contributed to the improvement. He also expects further progress in fiscal year 2027. Inside Defense reported on Friday, Nov. 13, that the program has established a supplier helpline that serves 41 key submarine part suppliers — containing 60% of sequence critical material for both the *Virginia*- and *Columbia*-class submarine programs. When issues arise, suppliers can call a 1-800 toll-free number to report them, and the Navy will intervene with prime manufacturers to attempt to resolve them.

HII's Weekly News Digest is produced by HII's Corporate Communications team and posted to MyHII every Friday.

Please note: Social media is blocked on HII computers for most employees. Employees are encouraged to visit HII's Facebook page and other social media sites on personal time and from non-work devices.

Send feedback to: HII_Communications@hii-co.com.