News Release

Construction Begins on First Egyptian Fast Missile Craft

WASHINGTON – Under the program management of Naval Sea System Command’s affiliated Program Executive Office, Ships, fabrication of the first Egyptian navy Fast Missile Craft (FMC) began Nov. 30, at VT Halter Marine in Pascagoula, Miss.

The Egyptian FMC program is being managed as a foreign military sale by the Auxiliary Ships, Small Boats and Craft Program Office (PMS 325). The Navy utilizes the foreign military sales (FMS) program to help build partner nation maritime security capabilities through acquisition and transfers of ships, weapon systems, communication equipment, and a variety of training programs.

“PEO Ships was uniquely positioned to assist Egypt with this effort,” said Frank McCarthey, auxiliary ships, small boats and craft program manager. “Our foreign military sales office has extensive experience managing complex design and acquisition programs for our allies. In 2009 alone, PEO Ships has delivered more than 180 boats and combatant craft to foreign nations. Foreign military sales cases, like the Egyptian FMC, represent a commitment to continued cooperation between the United States and our partners.”

The primary mission of the FMC is to conduct independent and joint operations, primarily against armed surface adversaries. The Egyptian navy has a requirement for a ship with the capabilities of an FMC to combat these threats, and to patrol and defend its coastal waterways of the Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and in particular, the Suez Canal.

To counter armed foes, FMCs will be equipped with effective anti-air warfare, anti-surface warfare, and electronic warfare capabilities. Each of the 63 meter craft will carry a 76 mm Super Rapid Gun, Harpoon Block II missiles, MK49 Rolling Airframe Missiles, and the Close-In Weapon System, Block 1B. These high-speed, agile ships will reach speeds of greater than 34 knots. They will provide berthing for a crew of up to 40 Sailors, and will be able to operate up to eight days independently at sea.

Egypt signed an FMS case for the purchase of three FMCs in September 2004. After extensive functional design and long lead item procurement and design efforts, the construction contract was placed with VT Halter Marine in September 2008. The first FMC is scheduled to join the Egyptian fleet in 2012. PEO Ships will continue to assist with acquisition and oversight efforts throughout the construction process, and will also provide follow-on technical and training support to the Egyptian navy upon delivery of the vessels.

PEO Ships is currently managing the design and construction of 21 major surface ships and a wide range of small boats and craft. Since its creation in November 2002, PEO Ships has delivered 35 major warships and hundreds of small boats and craft from more than 20 shipyards and boat builders across the United States. PEO Ships is committed to affordable and efficient shipbuilding and is focused on the necessity of getting ships into serial production, which is leading to significant cost and schedule reductions across the shipbuilding portfolio.

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