Lockheed Martin Reactivates Sea Shadow; Manages High-Tech Experiments on Navy’s Futuristic Test Ship

ALAMEDA—Bristling with technology, the Navy’s Sea Shadow test ship reemerged after five years of inactivity to participate in a series of high-tech experiments in San Francisco Bay.

Managed by Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Laboratories, Sea Shadow assessed technologies intended to improve the Navy’s and Marine Corps’ warfighting missions during Fleet Battle Experiment Echo. Sea Shadow simulated an adversary launching covert attacks against U.S. Navy assets. Attacks included SEAL team maneuvers and simulated missile launches.

According to Lockheed Martin program manager Gerry Mayer, engineers from the Advanced Technology Laboratories also demonstrated several prototype systems aimed at reducing crew size and improving ship survivability.

“We used Sea Shadow to demonstrate how automation and information technologies can reduce risk in the development of future Navy platforms like DD 21, while improving ship safety and efficiency,” he said.

Following Fleet Battle Experiment Echo, the Advanced Technology Laboratories will manage Sea Shadow as a host vehicle for industry-wide participation in advanced naval technologies. The Navy, which until recently has kept Sea Shadow out of the public eye, has invited defense firms to demonstrate high-tech products aboard the vessel. One of these contractors has been the Advanced Technology Laboratories. Since 1993, the laboratory has demonstrated its high performance distributed computing and artificial intelligence technologies for combat systems and ship control.

“Broader participation will give the Navy, Marine Corps, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency the opportunity to evaluate a broader range of solutions and leverage the best of the best in a
realtime at-sea environment,” Mayer said. “The Advanced Technology Laboratories will continue to manage Sea Shadow for the Naval Sea Systems Command Program office as well as continue its legacy as a source of advanced naval technologies. Lockheed Martin Technology Services-San Diego operates and maintains the craft.”

Sea Shadow was built by Lockheed Martin Missiles & Space in the mid-80s to test new technologies such as automated ship control, advanced structures, crew reduction, sea keeping, and stealth. After five years of inactivity, Sea Shadow recently underwent reactivation at its homeport in San Diego. Engineers from Technical Services-San Diego managed repairs performed by the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company to make the craft seaworthy as well as to repair the vessel’s full-enclosure dry dock. Following reactivation, the crew sailed Sea Shadow from San Diego to the former Alameda Naval Air Station in Oakland, Calif.

Sea Shadow is 164 feet long by 68 feet wide, displaces 560 tons, and draws 14.5 feet. Maximum speed is 14 knots.

The Advanced Technology Laboratories is part of Lockheed Martin Electronics Sector, a leader in the design, development, and manufacture of electronics systems for the global aerospace, defense and commercial marketplace. Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Lockheed Martin Corporation is a highly diversified global enterprise, employing 170,000 people principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture and integration of advanced-technology products and services. The Corporation’s core businesses span space, telecommunications, electronics, information and services, aeronautics, energy, and systems integration.

Contact:
Stephen P. O’Neill
Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Laboratories
One Federal Street A&E – 3W
Camden, NJ 08102

(609) 338-4012 Voice
(609) 338-4748 Fax
soneill@atl.lmco.com