

Congressman Jo Bonner January-February 2012, Washington Cyber Report is available by clicking the linked image below:

CONGRESSMAN
Jo Bonner
THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

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AUSTAL ROLLS OUT SECOND LCS



Austal USA recently launched its second littoral combat ship, USS Zumwalt (DDG 105), in the Mobile River alongside the first high speed combat ship, USS Spearhead (DDG 104). The Spearhead, which is also undergoing final outfitting, was launched in September. This view shows the new DDG being moved out of the Austal assembly bay. The USS Spearhead (DDG 104) is shown in the right.

Mobile ship builder Austal USA is busy building out two classes of high-tech shallow water vessels for the U.S. Navy. For the first time, both types of ships are docked side-by-side in front of Austal's assembly facility on the riverfront waterfront.

On January 15, Austal USA rolled out its second littoral combat ship, the USS Zumwalt (DDG 105). The Zumwalt was christened on January 14. The vessel will soon undergo sea trials before it is officially handed over to the Navy.

In December 2010, the Navy announced the award of a six-ship LCS contract to Austal. However, Pentagon spending cuts announced recently by Defense Secretary Leon Panetta call for a two-ship reduction of the total number of future LCSs purchased. The Navy's long-term plan will likely be adjusted down from a 50-ship purchase to reflect the two-ship reduction. New contracts will need to be awarded to both contractors once the first 20 vessels are complete. Austal and Lockheed Martin's plant in Wisconsin have separate Navy contracts to build 10 LCSs over five years. To date, both manufacturers have completed two ships each.

Austal's other Navy ship, the joint high speed vessel, USS Spearhead (DDG 104), was launched in September. The Spearhead is Austal's first DDG in a production run that could be capped at 10 ships if proposed Pentagon budget cuts stand. Austal has two other DDG's currently under construction with nearly seven vessels to be built along the Mobile River.

Meanwhile, the administration's proposed defense cuts are just the first step in the military's budget approval process. Congress will fully review the new Pentagon budget request in the coming weeks and months and will appropriate funding at some point this autumn.

APPLY NOW FOR SUMMER INTERSHIPS



Posting in front of the U.S. Capitol with my August 2011 interns.

With the New Year comes the opportunity for interested South Alabama college students to apply for a summer internship in my congressional office.

If you have completed at least one semester of college, you are eligible to apply for a congressional internship.

As a congressional intern, your duties will vary widely from assisting staff in opening and processing mail and taking phone calls to researching and responding to legislative inquiries to attending committee hearings.

You will also have the opportunity to tour one of the most fascinating cities in the world - Washington, DC. The hands-on experience you will receive as a congressional intern should prove valuable, whatever your future career path.

The deadline to submit your application for a summer 2012 congressional internship is February 17. You can contact my office to request an application or visit my web site (www.jobonner.gov) to download a copy. You may also call my office for more information at 1-800-786-8771.

Austal's Peer Congressional Contact - Bureau Chief, Escambia, Mobile and Washington Counties