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

CONGRESSMAN

Jo Bonner

THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

1236 Rayburn House Office Building ★ Washington, DC 20515 ★ (202) 225-4931 ★ January/February 2012

AUSTAL ROLLS OUT SECOND LCS

Austal USA recently launched its second littoral combat ship, USS Coronado (LCS 4), into the Mobile River alongside the Joint High Speed Vessel, USS Spearhead (JHSV 1). The Spearhead, which is also undergoing final outfitting, was launched in September. This view shows the new LCS being moved out of the Austal assembly bay. The USS Spearhead (JHSV 1) is moored to 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 downtown waterfront.

On January 14, Austal USA rolled out its second littoral combat ship, the USS Coronado (LCS 4). The Coronado 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 ten 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 procured. The Navy's long-term plan will likely be adjusted down from a 55 ship purchase to reflect the two vessel 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 (JHSV 1), was launched in September. The Spearhead is Austal's first JHSV in a production run that could be capped at 10 ships if proposed Pentagon budget cuts stand. Austal has two other JHSVs currently under construction with another 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 summer.

APPLY NOW FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Posing 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 (bonner.house.gov) to download a copy. You may also call my office for more information at 1-800-288-8721.

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