

## Shipboard Protection System Achieves Milestone Decision

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From Program Executive, Littoral and Mine Warfare Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Program Executive Officer, Littoral and Mine Warfare (PEO LMW) announced today that the Shipboard Protection System (SPS) was approved for production Aug. 26.

The SPS program is an Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection initiative to provide multiple classes of U.S. Navy ships with an enhanced ability to accomplish self-protection against asymmetric threats. SPS is a system of systems that coordinates command and control of sensors, ship's equipment, software, personnel and procedures.

"Achieving a favorable milestone C decision and attendant permission to enter low rate initial production (LRIP) are major accomplishments for SPS," said Capt. John Day, program manager for Anti-Terrorism Afloat Program Office. "What is especially notable is that system design and development was accomplished by Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Dahlgren, in a short, three-year span. Starting with guided missile destroyers, SPS will provide warfighters additional capability to help protect Sailors from attacks similar to the small-boat attack on the USS Cole (DDG 67)."

The Navy's Anti-Terrorism Afloat Program Office, a division of PEO LMW, is now authorized to enter into a LRIP for up to 12 SPS sets for DDG 51-class destroyers.

To benefit from various technology development programs such as the Navy's Fleet Force Protection Future Naval Capabilities initiatives, and to meet an aggressive schedule, SPS was fielded via installation of equipment and software sub-sets, or "block" upgrades. This approach facilitated the early delivery of useful technologies at an economical cost and addressed important capability gaps.

Future enhanced capabilities will continue to be incorporated as research and development efforts mature and available resources permit.

"Shipboard Protection System, low rate initial production, is a vital step toward protecting our Sailors, Marines, ships and systems," said Program Executive Officer, Littoral and Mine Warfare Ms. E. Anne Sandel. "SPS LRIP will enable the Navy to field systems, and gain valuable fleet feedback to evolve the technology further."

Following a series of developmental tests conducted at NSWC Dahlgren, SPS was successfully deployed on USS Benfold (DDG 65), USS Donald Cook (DDG 75), USS Laboon (DDG 58), and USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79). Installation and testing of SPS on aegis class cruisers, "L" class amphibious assault ships and aircraft carriers is anticipated in fiscal year 2012.

PEO LMW is an affiliated Program Executive Office of the Naval Sea Systems Command which designs, delivers and maintains the systems, equipment and weapons needed by the warfighter to dominate the littoral battle space and provide the warfighter assured access.

For more news from Naval Sea Systems Command, visit [www.navy.mil/local/navsea/](http://www.navy.mil/local/navsea/).

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