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CANES Program Achieves Key Milestone ***Navy Tactical Afloat Network Approved for Limited Deployment***

SAN DIEGO – The Navy’s next generation tactical afloat network received approval to enter the production and deployment phase Dec. 14. The decision also paves the way for the first installation of the Consolidated Afloat Network and Enterprise Services, also known as CANES, later this month.

The Milestone C acquisition decision memorandum was approved by Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Frank Kendall. The decision commits the Department of Defense to production and authorizes the program to begin limited deployment.

The San Diego-based destroyer USS Milius (DDG 69) was selected for first installation.

“CANES is more than a system, it is also a new business model for delivering capability to the fleet. It takes five legacy networks and combines them into one network, allowing us to streamline support, training and operating procedures,” said Navy Rear Adm. Jerry Burroughs, program executive officer for command, control, communications, computers and intelligence.

Commander Operational Test and Evaluation Force conducted an operational assessment in September. While the final report from that assessment won’t be available until early next year, initial evaluation contributed to a successful Milestone C decision.

The program was approved for limited fielding of 29 CANES units with 23 installations.

“Today, we have many different variants of networks out there that present significant supportability and information assurance challenges,” said Burroughs. “CANES also has significant IA capability built into it that we’ve never had before, which will allow us to ensure we’re delivering secure capability that stays relevant to the warfighter.”

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CANES is the consolidation and enhancement of five shipboard legacy network programs and will provide the common computing environment infrastructure for C4I – command, control, communications, computers and intelligence – applications that currently require system specific infrastructure to operate legacy systems.

Consolidation through CANES will eliminate many legacy, stand-alone networks while providing an adaptable and responsive information technology platform to rapidly meet changing warfighter requirements. This strategy strengthens the network's infrastructure, improves security and decreases total ownership costs. In addition to providing greater capability, CANES will allow Sailors to benefit from reduced operations and sustainment workloads as a result of common equipment, training and logistics.

Ultimately, CANES will be deployed to more than 190 ships, submarines and Maritime Operations Centers by 2020.

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Headquartered on the Old Town Campus of the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command in San Diego, Calif., the mission of PEO C4I is to provide integrated communication and information technology systems that enable Information Dominance and the command and control of maritime forces. PEO C4I acquires, fields, and supports C4I systems that extend across Navy, joint, and coalition platforms. This includes managing acquisition programs and projects that cover all C4I disciplines: applications, networks, communications, intelligence and surveillance, and reconnaissance systems for afloat platforms and shore commands.