

HISTORY OF THE NEWPORT NEWS SHIPYARD

1886-1919

1886

Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company is founded by Collis P. Huntington as the Chesapeake Dry Dock and Construction Company.



USS Wilmington (PG 8) was built at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company and commissioned on May 13, 1897. It was the lead ship in a class of two U.S. Navy gunboats.

1897

1914-1918

During World War I, the shipyard plays a vital role in building and repairing ships for the U.S. Navy.



1891

The shipyard launches its first vessel, the tugboat Dorothy.



1900

The first battleships built by The Newport News Shipbuilding were Kearsarge (BB 5) and Kentucky (BB 6), both commissioned in 1900.



1919

The Newport News Shipbuilding Apprentice School opened to provide formalized training and education for individuals seeking to become skilled craftsmen and professionals in shipbuilding and related trades. Since its founding, The Apprentice School has played a crucial role in training generations of workers for Newport News Shipbuilding, contributing to the shipyard's reputation for excellence.

1921-1958



The dreadnought was the predominant type of battleship in the early 20th century. The USS Maryland (BB 46), also known as "Old Mary" or "Fighting Mary" to her crewmates, was a dreadnought battleship of the Colorado class. She was built by Newport News Shipbuilding and was commissioned in 1921 becoming the flagship of the U.S. Navy fleet.

1921

1951

Passenger liner SS United States was christened at Newport News Shipbuilding in June of 1951. About 10,000 people were in attendance to watch the christening of the ship. Another 500,000 are estimated to have watched a live telecast of the ceremony. "The Big U" was the largest passenger liner built in the country and included the world's largest stacks.



1940s

The shipyard's production ramps up during World War II, constructing numerous ships, including aircraft carriers, battleships, and submarines.



1958

Newport News Shipbuilding began work on the USS Shark (SSN 591) in 1958. It was the first nuclear-powered submarine built at the shipyard and was commissioned in 1961.



1975-2011

1975

The Newport News Shipbuilding builds the Nimitz class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), continuing its legacy of constructing nuclear-powered carriers.



The shipyard celebrates its centennial anniversary.

1986

2011

Combining Newport News Shipbuilding and Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi, Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) formed March 31, 2011. HII emerged as the nation's largest shipbuilder, later expanding into all-domain technology solutions to civil, commercial, and defense customers domestically and internationally.



1984

Newport News Shipbuilding began building Newport News (SSN 750) – the third U.S. Navy ship named in honor of the city – in 1984. The Los Angeles class submarine was commissioned in June 1989.



1990s

Newport News Shipbuilding continues constructing aircraft carriers and submarines for the U.S. Navy, including the USS George Washington (CVN 73) and Virginia class submarines.



2017-2024



Newport News Shipbuilding's Joint Manufacturing Facility delivers the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), the lead ship of the Gerald R. Ford class aircraft carriers.

2017

2017

Newport News Shipbuilding's Joint Manufacturing Assembly Facility (JMAF) opens. The JMAF is a state-of-the-art facility used for assembling large sections of aircraft carriers, such as the Gerald R. Ford class carriers, as well as other complex naval vessels. It represents a significant investment in modernizing the shipyard's infrastructure and enhancing its capabilities for constructing and assembling advanced ships for the U.S. Navy.



2024

The USS New Jersey is the 23rd Virginia class submarine delivered to the U.S. Navy under a teaming agreement between Newport News Shipbuilding and General Dynamics Electric Boat.



Today Huntington Ingalls Industries is a global, all-domain defense provider with a more than \$45 Billion shipbuilding backlog and more than 43,000 employees. It is the largest industrial employer in Virginia, where the company is headquartered.