

Secretary of the Navy, Dr. Donald C. Winter, Visits Bath Iron Works

BATH, Maine – The Honorable Dr. Donald C. Winter, 74th Secretary of the Navy, visited Bath Iron Works (BIW) today for the second time since taking office in January 2006. His first visit to the shipyard was on January 20, 2006, after being in office for less than two weeks.

Today's visit was the result of an invitation extended by Maine's Senator Susan M. Collins encouraging the Secretary to return to the yard to observe BIW's progress since his last trip to the shipyard. During his two and one half hour stay, he received briefings by shipyard executives and a tour of BIW's main shipyard facility in Bath, including the shipyard's new \$40 million Ultra Hall facility.

BIW President Dugan Shipway said, "Today was an important day for BIW and we had a very successful visit. We very much appreciate the efforts of Senator Collins to invite the Secretary to come back and it was unfortunate she couldn't be with us because of her pressing business in the Senate." As he was leaving the shipyard, the Secretary asked Mr. Shipway about BIW's capability to build other types of ships. "My response was short and to the point. I told him we're ready to build any surface ships he decides the Navy needs."

Jeff Geiger, BIW Senior Vice President for Operations and Engineering, echoed Mr. Shipway's assessment of the visit. "This visit gave Secretary Winter the opportunity to hear and see for himself the significant progress the shipbuilders of BIW have achieved since his first visit two and a half years ago. When he was last here, we described the good things that were beginning to take shape while explaining that we were really just getting started. Then, we asked him to keep an eye on us because there was a lot more to come. After today, I believe he now understands what we meant back then. The Secretary seemed particularly impressed with the construction of our Mega Units in the Ultra Hall and our targeted investments that bring real value to the Navy and enable us to continue to deliver quality, affordable ships. He also commented on how much further BIW had progressed from his visit in 2006. He was very impressed with how we are

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expanding and revitalizing our apprenticeship programs. Overall, it was a good day for all the men and women of BIW.”



Secretary of the Navy Dr. Donald C. Winter is accompanied by BIW President Dugan Shipway on a visit to Bath Iron Works new \$40 million Ultra Hall facility. (BIW Photo – M.C. Nutter)



Secretary of the Navy Dr. Donald C. Winter is briefed by BIW Ultra Hall Chief Superintendent Ray Robishaw. (L to R) Ray Robishaw, Dugan Shipway, BIW President, Dr. Donald C. Winter, Dave Clark, BIW Vice President - Operations, Bill Rudis, International Association of Machinists Local S6 Trustee. (BIW Photo – M.C. Nutter)

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Bath Iron Works of Bath, Maine, is a leader in the design and construction of surface combatants for the United States Navy and is the lead designer and builder of the *Arleigh Burke* (DDG 51) class of AEGIS destroyers. The company employs approximately 5,800 people.

General Dynamics, headquartered in Falls Church, Va., employs approximately 84,000 people worldwide and reported 2007 revenues of \$27.2 billion. The company has leading market positions in mission critical information systems and technologies, land and amphibious combat systems, shipbuilding and marine systems, and business aviation. More information about the company is available on the Internet at www.generaldynamics.com.