

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Communications

MARCH 20, 2020



To my fellow Ingalls Shipbuilders:

I want to greatly thank you for the hard work and dedication you are showing in our shipyard every day.

All of us are affected by the school closings, long lines at stores, and general concerns about COVID-19. We recognize that this is not easy, and is at times very challenging. But our communities and our country are counting on us executing every day.

Your fellow shipbuilders are working hard and taking steps recommended by the CDC to ensure that Ingalls facilities are safe for everyone. We have significantly increased the number of people dedicated to the thoroughness and frequency of cleaning -- shipyard-wide and at offsite locations. This includes, but is not limited to: ships, restrooms, shuttle buses, turnstiles, cafeterias and other common high traffic areas. Additional cleaning supplies and restroom supplies have been purchased in support of the CDC's guidance on handwashing and hygiene. The indoor dining areas are closed, and Aramark is now serving "take-out" food only. Information on Coronavirus precautions has been posted in common areas around campus in an effort to educate our workforce on prevention and facts.

It is important to remember how important our work is...even in these unusual circumstances. Our Nation, neighbors, our friends and families -- as well as our customers and our men and women in uniform are counting on us.

Just yesterday, I received a letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and (importantly) Acquisition, which read, in part, "During this time of national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to emphasize the importance of employee health and safety as well as reemphasize the importance of the ship construction and repair efforts you and your suppliers perform to the national defense. Delivering or redelivering our ships to the fleet is a national need that is unwavering and crucial to our national security. Given the mission-essential functions you perform, while ensuring the safety and well being of the workforce, I cannot stress enough the importance of accomplishing this mission," he said.

He went on to assert that the U.S. Defense Industrial Base, of which Ingalls is a vital element, is one of the business sectors deemed to be "Essential Critical Infrastructure" in the President's COVID-19 response plan.

Today, Undersecretary of Defense Ellen M. Lord sent a memo to members of the Defense Industrial Base, noting that "...consistent with the President's guidelines: 'If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule.'"

I can't say it any clearer than that. What we do today and every day really does matter.

You are the best shipbuilders in the world. I consider it an honor and a privilege to lead and work with the great men and women of Ingalls – not just when times are good, but also when we are challenged.

This challenge will not be easy. But we will get through it, together.

Again, thank you for all that you and your coworkers are doing.

Brian Cuccias
President