

EXTENSION OF SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSMIT RADAR ON LUPO CLASS FRIGATES

Ingalls Shipbuilding, Inc. entered into a contract with the Venezuelan Navy on 18 December 1997 to overhaul, repair, and modernize two LUPO class frigates (F-21 and F-22). The scope of the contract included the overhaul, repair and replacement of the frigates' fire control system, as well as the 3D Surveillance Threat Alert Radar, RAN 11 Radars (X and L), and DARDO Radar (which includes the Orion 10X and RTN 20X). Ultimately, the fire control system on each frigate must be integrated with all of the shipboard radars, including the 3D STAR, RAN 11, and DARDO.

Ingalls subcontracted the overhaul and replacement of the fire control system to MBT and MBT supplied an estimated date of 31 August 2000 to complete installation, testing, and integration. However, due to material availability and an overly optimistic integration schedule on MBT's part, the completion date for the fire control system has slipped numerous times. Attached is a chronology of the scheduled completion dates supplied by MBT during the course of the program.

In order to test the systems after they are integrated, Ingalls obtained multiple Special Temporary Authorizations to radiate shipboard radars. During the course of the program, Ingalls was compelled to request repeated extensions of the STA expiration dates in response to MBT's slips in the integration schedule. Based on completion dates supplied by MBT, Ingalls believed that each request for extension was sufficient cover its need to radiate. Current STAs include:

1. 0317-EX-ST-2001 for the 3D STAR, Orion 10X, and RAN 11X
2. 0277-EX-ST-2001 for the RTN 20X
3. 0336-EX-ST-2001 for the RAN 11L

Integration of the fire control system is essentially the only work remaining on the Venezuelan frigates and is currently projected for 30 April 2002. The foregoing STAs will expire on 1 February 2002. Ingalls respectfully requests an additional extension until May 2002 to facilitate completion of the work.