Maritime Patrol Aircraft

The Boeing P-8 Poseidon is the favourite to fulfil this role, with the design having been in service with the US Navy since 2009. These aircraft will be expected to fulfil a variety of roles, including ELINT, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Anti-Surface Warfare (ASUW).

UAVs

The UAVs forming part of the SNEP II will be a mixture of shore and ship-launched systems, fulfilling a mixture of short and long-range reconnaissance missions. A key characteristic of the drones will be their ability to be launched and retrieved from the aft landing deck of the OPVs.

Maritime Helicopters

Most likely to be the Sikorsky MH60R design, the purchase of these helicopters is to come with one-thousand AN/SSQ-36/53/62 Sonobuoys; thirty-eight AGM-114R Hellfire II missiles; five AGM-114 M36-E9 Captive Air Training missiles; four AGM-114Q Hellfire Training Missiles; three-hundred and eighty Advanced Precision Kill Weapons System rockets; twelve M-240D crew-served weapons and twelve GAU-21 crew-served weapons.

Littoral Combat Ships

Dubbed the “Multi-Mission Surface Combatant” design, this will be a variation on the US littoral combat ship design, aimed at establishing maritime superiority. Classed as frigates by Saudi Arabia, these vessels will be heavily-armed, sporting a 16-cell VLS installation able to launch Evolved Sea Sparrow missiles, and will carry Harpoon Block II surface-to-surface missiles in dedicated launchers, and anti-air Rolling Airframe Missiles in a SeaRAM close-in weapon system. The MMSC will also mount a 76mm gun, in place of the lighter 57mm variety chosen for service on American vessels.

SAUDI NAVAL EXPANSION PROGRAMME II

Saudi Arabia is presently embarking upon a major proliferation of its Eastern Naval Command in Jubail. The scale of this proliferation is unparalleled in the region and will involve the purchase of many major naval items. Get a glimpse of the Kingdom’s expansion plan expected to be worth US$16 billion in this infographic.

TOTAL SPEND

US$16BN

Maritime Patrol Aircraft

Corvettes

Helicopters

UAVs

Littoral Combat Ships

Saudi Naval Expansion Programme II

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TOTAL SPEND

US$16BN

Maritime Patrol Aircraft

3

Corvettes

6

Helicopters

10

UAVs

30-50

Littoral Combat Ships

4

OPVs

20-24

Join 200+ naval officers, chiefs of navies, coast guards at the region’s leading event OPV Middle East and discuss their focus on the principle theme of GCC cooperation in maritime security. Officially supported by the Bahrain Defence Force and Royal Bahrain Naval Force, the event is set to take place in September in Bahrain.

26-28 SEPTEMBER 2016 – MANAMA, BAHRAIN

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