

GENERAL DYNAMICS CORP

Form S-8

August 13, 2003

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 12, 2003

Registration No. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

General Dynamics Corporation

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware

*(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)*

Issuer: 13-1673581

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

3190 Fairview Park Drive
Falls Church, Virginia 22042-4523
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

General Dynamics Corporation
Supplemental Savings and Stock Investment Plan
(Full Title of the Plan)

David A. Savner, Esq.

Senior Vice President and General Counsel
General Dynamics Corporation
3190 Fairview Park Drive
Falls Church, Virginia 22042-4523
(Name And Address Of Agent For Service)

Telephone: (703) 876-3000

(Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent for Service)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Type of Securities to Be Registered	Amount To Be Registered (2)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share (3)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee (3)
	\$20,000,000	100%	\$20,000,000	\$1,618

Supplemental Savings and
Stock Investment Plan Obligations(1)

- (1) The obligations under the General Dynamics Corporation Supplemental Savings and Stock Investment Plan are unsecured obligations of General Dynamics Corporation to make payments in the future in accordance with the General Dynamics Corporation Supplemental Savings and Stock Investment Plan.
 - (2) In addition, pursuant to Rule 416(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement also covers an indeterminate amount of interests to be offered or sold pursuant to the employee benefit plan described herein.
 - (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee.
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PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(A) PROSPECTUS

The documents containing information specified in Part I of Form S-8 will be sent or given to participants under the General Dynamics Corporation Supplemental Savings and Stock Investment Plan (the Plan) as specified by Rule 428(b)(1) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). Those documents and the documents incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement, taken together, constitute a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation Of Documents By Reference

The following documents filed by General Dynamics Corporation (the Corporation) with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission) pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), are hereby incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002.

Amendment No. 1 to Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002 on Form 10-K/ A, filed on March 25, 2003.

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 30, 2003.

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 29, 2003.

Current Reports filed on Form 8-K dated January 30, March 18, March 21, April 16, May 16, June 13, July 16, July 29, and August 11, 2003.

In addition to the foregoing, all documents subsequently filed by (i) the Corporation or (ii) the Plan, pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment that indicates that all securities registered hereunder have been issued or that deregisters all securities offered then remaining unsold, shall be deemed incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of the filing of such documents. Any statement, including financial statements, contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

Item 4. Description Of Securities

The Plan provides a select group of management or highly compensated employees with benefits that are otherwise limited under the Corporation's Savings and Stock Investment Plan (or other defined contribution plans as determined by the Corporation) (the SSIP) due to applicable limitations under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the rules and regulations thereunder (the Code).

Under the Plan, a participant may defer the same percentage of compensation as the participant is permitted under the SSIP, without giving effect to certain SSIP and Code limitations, and offset by actual contributions to the SSIP. Further, such supplemental deferrals are eligible for Corporation matching contributions as provided for under the SSIP, also without regard to those certain SSIP and Code limitations.

A Plan account is created on the Corporation's books for a participant's compensation deferrals and the Corporation matching contributions. Generally, no amount will be credited to a participant's Plan account for any period in which a participant does not make the maximum salary deferral that is eligible for a Corporation matching contribution. The foregoing sentence does not apply to so called "catch up" contributions under the SSIP nor where matched participant deferrals may be otherwise limited by SSIP or Code limitations.

The Plan offers a rate of return based on the same investment options as the SSIP. Generally, a participant's Plan account will be adjusted to reflect investment gains and losses in the same proportion as investment gains and losses experienced in the SSIP.

Participants may not receive distributions or borrow from their accounts, nor are they able to make withdrawals from their accounts, while employed by the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries. Following a separation from service with the Corporation (and its subsidiaries), the entire vested balance of a participant's account, valued as of the applicable accounting date under the Plan, will be paid in cash. A participant may, however, by a written statement filed with the Corporation on or before one year prior to such separation from service, elect to defer such distribution and/or receive annual installments. Any portion of a Plan account remaining unpaid at a participant's death will be paid to the participant's beneficiary as determined under the SSIP.

The Plan is unfunded and benefits payable under it (referred to herein as the "Supplemental Obligations") are paid from the general assets of the Corporation. The Supplemental Obligations are unsecured general obligations of the Corporation to make payments in the future in accordance with the terms of the Plan and rank ratably and without preference with other unsecured general obligations of the Corporation. As Supplemental Obligations, a participant's compensation deferrals and associated matching contributions are deemed to be general funds of the Corporation and may therefore be subject to a lien or security interest of secured creditors. While not obligated to do so, the Corporation may segregate assets to be used to pay the Supplemental Obligations, provided that no participant will have an identifiable interest in such assets and that such assets remain subject to the claims of general creditors of the Corporation.

No benefit under the Plan will be subject in any manner to anticipation, alienation, sale, transfer, assignment, pledge, encumbrance or charge, and any attempt so to anticipate, alienate, sell, transfer, assign, pledge, encumber or charge the same will be void, and no such benefit will in any manner be liable for or subject to the debts, liabilities, engagements or torts of the person entitled to such benefit, except as specifically provided in the Plan.

The Plan is administered by the Corporation. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Corporation may modify, amend or terminate the Plan, subject to certain limitations.

In the event of a "change-in-control" (as defined in the Corporation's Second Amended and Restated 1997 Incentive Compensation Plan), all unvested portions of an active employee's Plan account will become fully vested.

Upon termination of the Plan, no additional employees shall become entitled to benefits under the Plan, all benefits accrued through the date of termination will become immediately nonforfeitable as to each participant, no additional benefits (other than the allocation of "income" or "earnings" on a participant's contributions if provided by the Corporation) will be accrued under the Plan for subsequent payment and all benefits accrued to date shall be distributed to the participants as soon as practicable.

Item 5. *Interests Of Named Experts And Counsel*

Not Applicable.

Item 6. *Indemnification Of Directors And Officers*

Section 145 (Section 145) of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, as may be amended from time to time (the General Corporation Law), provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any of its directors or officers who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party, to any third party proceeding (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director or officer of the corporation, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, if such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reason to believe that such person's conduct was unlawful. In a derivative action, (i.e., one by or in the right of a corporation) the corporation is permitted to indemnify directors and officers against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by them in connection with the defense or settlement of an action or suit if they acted in good faith and in a manner that they reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, except that no indemnification shall be made if such person shall have been adjudged liable to the corporation, unless and only to the extent that the court in which the action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that the defendant directors or officers are fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses despite such adjudication of liability.

Expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred by any such person in defending any such action, suit or proceeding may be paid or reimbursed by the corporation in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding upon receipt by it of an undertaking of such person to repay such expenses if it shall ultimately be determined that such person is not entitled to be indemnified by the corporation.

Section 145 further authorizes a corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or enterprise, against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by him or her in any such capacity, arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would otherwise have the power to indemnify him or her under Section 145.

The Corporation's Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that it will indemnify its current and former directors and officers from and against all liabilities and reasonable expenses that they incur in connection with or resulting from any claims, actions, suits or proceedings to the extent that indemnification is not inconsistent with Delaware law. The Corporation also provides directors' and officers' liability insurance coverage for the acts and omissions of its directors and officers. In order to be entitled to indemnification under the provisions of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation, a director or officer of the Corporation must be wholly successful with respect to the claim, action, suit or proceeding or have acted in good faith in what he or she reasonably believed to be the best interests of the Corporation, or with respect to a criminal action or proceeding, must have had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful. Prior to the final disposition of a claim, action, suit or proceeding, the Corporation will advance expenses incurred by a current or former director or officer if the director or officer provides the Corporation with an undertaking to repay the amount advanced if he or she is not entitled to indemnification after the final disposition.

The Corporation's Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that the Corporation's directors will not be personally liable to the Corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages resulting from breaches of their fiduciary duties as directors except (a) for any breach of the duty of loyalty to the Corporation or its stockholders, (b) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (c) under Section 174 of the General Corporation Law, which makes directors liable for unlawful dividends or unlawful stock repurchases or redemptions, or (d) for transactions from which directors derive improper personal benefit. While this provision provides directors with protection from awards for monetary damages for breaches of their duty of care, it does not eliminate that duty.

Item 7. Exemption From Registration Claimed

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits

The following exhibits are filed as part of this Registration Statement:

4.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation, effective August 2, 1999, and Certificate of Amendment thereto (incorporated by reference from the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated as of August 11, 1999, and the Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2002, respectively)
4.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws, effective June 5, 2002 (incorporated by reference from the Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 29, 2002)
4.3	General Dynamics Corporation Supplemental Savings and Stock Investment Plan, as amended and restated as of August 1, 2003
5.1	Opinion of Jenner & Block, LLC
23.1	Consent of KPMG LLP
23.2	Consent of Jenner & Block, LLC (included in Exhibit 5.1 hereto)
24.1	Power of Attorney of the Board of Directors

Item 9. Undertakings

A. Subsequent Disclosure

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement;

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement;

provided, however, that the undertakings set forth in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant, pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

B. Incorporation By Reference

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

C. Commission Position On Indemnification

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

EXHIBIT INDEX

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