



# SEALIFT

THE U.S. NAVY'S MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND **UNITED WE SAIL**



A Civil Service Mariner serving aboard the Military Sealift Command's expeditionary fast transport USNS Newport (T-EPF 12) monitors mooring lines as the vessel docks pier-side in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, Sept. 7, in support of Maryland Fleet Week and Flyover Baltimore. (U.S. Navy photo by Hendrick L. Dickson)

## Maryland Fleet Week and Flyover Baltimore

By Chief Petty Officer John Pearl, Naval District Washington Public Affairs

Ships from around the world sailed into the Port of Baltimore, kicking off Maryland Fleet Week and Flyover Baltimore (MDFW), Sept. 7. This year's MDFW included ship tours, Baltimore Inner Harbor flyovers, static displays, and Fleet Week festivals at multiple locations throughout Baltimore, Sept. 7-13, both in-person and on-line. This was the third time Baltimore has hosted Fleet Week.



Civil Service Mariners serving aboard Military Sealift Command's expeditionary fast transport USNS Newport (T-EPF 12) tie off mooring lines as the vessel docks pier-side in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, Sept. 7 in support of Maryland Fleet Week and Flyover Baltimore. (U.S. Navy photo By Hendrick L. Dickson)

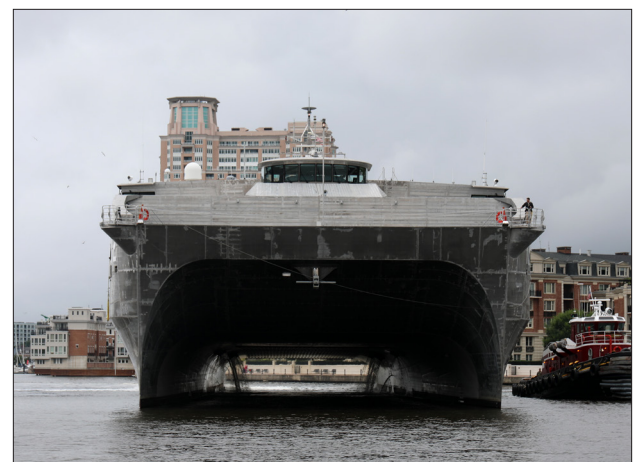
Participating ships included dock landing ship USS Carter Hall (LSD 50), Freedom-variant Littoral Combat ship USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21), Military Sealift Command's Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport USNS Newport (T-EPF 12), Canadian Royal Navy's Kingston-class coastal defense vessel HMCS Moncton (M-708), U.S. Coast Guard Cutter James Rankin (WLM-555), and Danish Tall Ship Danmark. National Oceanic and Atmospheric (NOAA), and Army Corps of Engineers vessels were also available.

Flyover units included Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 2, Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 1, Fighter Squadron Composite Twelve (VFC-12), Training Air Wing 4 (TW4), Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadrons 14 and 15 (HM-14; HM-15), and Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365 (VMM-365).

Rear Adm. Nancy S. Lacore, Commandant, Naval District Washington, discussed the partnership between the Navy and Baltimore.

"Fleet Week is a tradition for Baltimore and the U.S. Navy that goes back years," said Lacore. "Past Fleet Weeks proved just how magnificent this historic city, its port, and its people are and how skilled you are as partners to the Navy and planning and executing such a complex event. We are glad to be back for Fleet Week."

Maryland Fleet Week and Flyover Baltimore was an opportunity for the citizens of Maryland and the City of Baltimore to meet Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen, as well as see firsthand the latest capabilities of today's maritime services. More than 2,300 sea service members supported this year's festivities.



Military Sealift Command's expeditionary fast transport USNS Newport (T-EPF 12) pulls into Baltimore's Inner Harbor to support Maryland Fleet Week and Flyover Baltimore, Sept. 7. (U.S. Navy photo by Bill Mesta)

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# Military Sealift Command's Fleet Ocean Tug USNS Apache Inactivated

By Bill Mesta, Military Sealift Command Public Affairs

Military Sealift Command hosted a ceremony marking the inactivation of its Powhatan-class fleet ocean tug USNS Apache (T-ATF 172), pier-side, on Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Aug. 26.

Delivered to the U.S. Navy on July 23, 1981, Apache was used to tow various Navy vessels, aid in salvage operations, fight fires, and assist in special missions such as data collection. The Apache is equipped with diving equipment, spill equipment and a crane to lift large objects onto its deck. When augmented by Navy divers, Apache assisted in the recovery of downed aircraft, and stranded or grounded ships.

"We are exceptionally proud of the history of this great ship," said Rear Adm. Michael Wettlaufer, Commander, Military Sealift Command. "The Civil Service Mariners (CIVMARs) who crewed Apache should be very proud of the important work you have accomplished over the extensive, and frankly, very cost effective service this ship provided to our nation."

Apache proved its worth during its 41-year service by supporting a variety of important efforts during the ship's career. In 1982, Apache towed the Battleship ex-USS Iowa (BB-61) from the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Westwego, Louisiana, where Iowa began modernization work in preparation for being returned to active service. Apache also provided towing services for the Sherman-class destroyer ex-USS Barry (DD-933); transporting the warship to the Washington Navy Yard to serve as a museum in 1983.

Recent tows conducted by Apache included transporting Whidbey Island-class dock landing ships ex-USS Fort McHenry (LSD-43) and ex-USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41) to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for inactivation.

In October 2015, Apache went to sea from Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, to aid the National Transportation Safety Board in its search for the missing cargo ship SS El Faro, which was lost with all hands during Hurricane Joaquin, on Oct. 1, 2015, east of the Bahamas. Apache used the CURV 21, a deep ocean remotely operated vehicle, to survey and confirm the identity of the ship's wreckage.

"The CIVMARs who crewed Apache have set a shining example for other



The last Civil Service Mariners to crew Military Sealift Command's fleet ocean tug USNS Apache (T-ATF 172) pose for a photograph pier-side on Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Aug. 26. The photograph was taken prior to a ceremony held aboard the ship marking the inactivation of USNS Apache. (U.S. Navy photo by Bill Mesta)

mariners," according to Wettlaufer. "Apache spent its entire time in the fleet taking on critical missions forward, and has always been ready when the nation called."

At 226 feet in length, Apache was crewed by 18 CIVMARs who provided all shipboard services including navigation, propulsion, hotel services and specialized shipboard equipment operation.

"It has been extremely rewarding for myself and the crew to be a part of the ship's great legacy," said Capt. Matt Hoag, USNS Apache's Master. "The most meaningful part of being an Apache crewmember has been supporting challenging missions and tows that require everyone perform at a high level. All of our departments worked together seamlessly, even under high pressure situations, and this has been apparent to all of our stakeholders."

Apache was the recipient of MSC Maritime "E" for out-performing two other fleet ocean tugs in 2020, by demonstrating day-to-day excellence in providing the highest degree of operational readiness, performance, efficiency and safety standards. Apache has earned the following awards during its service life: Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Unit Commendation, National Defense, and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; two awards for Operation Restore Hope and Operation Uphold Democracy.

"What has been unique about serving on Apache is the tight bond formed among the crew," Hoag stated. "Over the years this bond has become as strong as a family. The ship's inactivation will be difficult for the crew, but we will retain the memories and carry our experiences and work ethic to other ships."

With Apache's inactivation, MSC still operates one of the original seven Powhatan-class fleet ocean tugs, USNS Catawba (T-ATF 168). MSC's remaining fleet ocean tug and two rescue and salvage ships, USNS Grasp (T-ARS 51) and USNS Salvor (T-ARS 52) are scheduled to be replaced by the U.S. Navy's new USNS Navajo-class towing, salvage and rescue ships.



A view of Military Sealift Command's fleet ocean tug USNS Apache (T-ATF 172), as the ship sails into Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story. (U.S. Navy photo by Bill Mesta)

## The Future USNS Apalachicola Achieves Milestones with Acceptance Trials and Completion of Unmanned Logistics Prototype Trials

From Team Ships Public Affairs

The future USNS Apalachicola (T-EPF 13), the Navy's 13th Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport, successfully completed Acceptance Trials and Unmanned Logistics Prototype Trials.

Acceptance Trials consisted of a series of in-port and at-sea demonstrations that allow the Navy and the shipbuilder, Austal USA, to assess the ship's systems and readiness prior to delivery to the Navy.

"The completion of this milestone is another win for our Navy and industry partners and a testament to the hard work of our shipbuilding team," said Tim Roberts, program manager, Strategic & Theater Sealift, Program Executive Office (PEO) Ships. "USNS Apalachicola will enhance the operational flexibility needed by our Sailors."

T-EPF 13 also completed Unmanned Logistics Prototype trials assessing autonomous capabilities integrated into the shipboard configuration, demonstrating that a large ship can become a self-driving platform.

In transit from Mobile, Alabama, to Miami, Florida, Apalachicola's autonomous system completed a stress test in high-traffic coastal areas by taking appropriate ship handling actions while operating around other ships, boats, sailboats, and craft. Overall, the ship was in autonomous mode for approximately 85 percent of the multiple day at-sea period.

The unprecedented development of autonomous capability on Apalachicola is the culmination of collaborative efforts with the Navy's shipbuilding and industry partners, Austal USA, L3 Harris and General Dynamics.

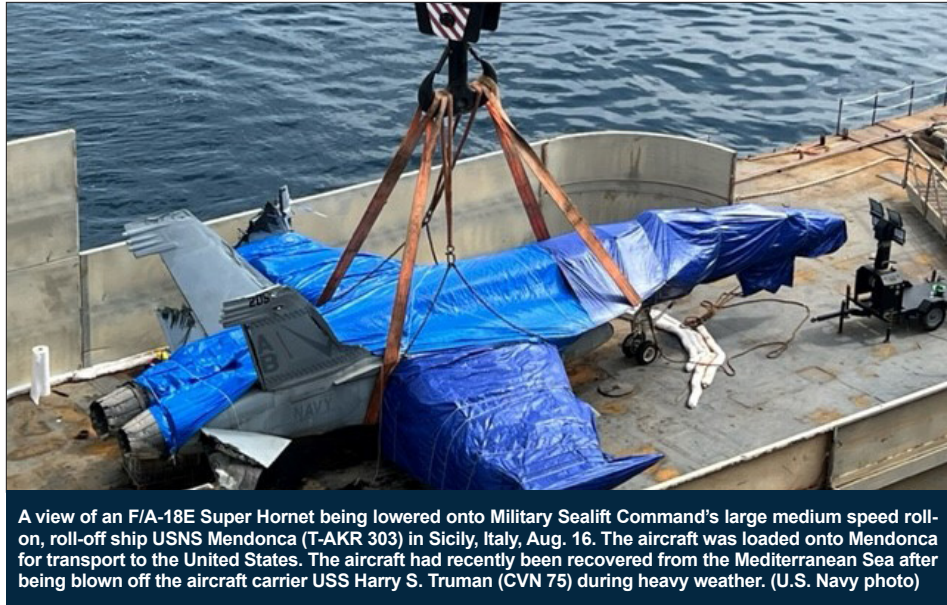
"The ability to expand unmanned concepts into the existing fleet was validated by these trials," said Roberts. "The capabilities integrated onto T-EPF 13 set the groundwork for future autonomous operations."

EPFs are shallow draft, commercial-based, catamaran designed for rapid, intra-theater transport of personnel and equipment. The EPF's high speed, shallow draft, and ability to load/unload in austere ports enables maneuver force agility in achieving positional advantage over intermediate distances without reliance on shore-based infrastructure. USNS Apalachicola is scheduled to be delivered to the Navy later this year.

As one of the Defense Department's largest acquisition organizations, PEO Ships is responsible for executing the development and procurement of all destroyers, amphibious ships, special mission and support ships, boats and craft.

# USNS Mendonca Transports Recovered Navy F/A-18E Aircraft to the United States

By Bill Mesta, Military Sealift Command Public Affairs



The civilian mariners who crew Military Sealift Command's Bob Hope-class USNS Mendonca (T-AKR 303), a large, medium speed roll-on, roll-off ship (LSMR), brought aboard an F/A-18E Super Hornet from the Augusta Bay Port Facility in Sicily, Italy, Aug 16.

The aircraft was brought aboard Mendonca to be transported back to the United States.

The F/A-18E aircraft, assigned to Carrier Air Wing (CVW 1) and embarked aboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), blew overboard due to unexpected heavy weather in the Mediterranean Sea, July 8.

"The Mendonca's crew assisted with planning the lift, landing the aircraft from the salvage barge's crane, and securing the F/A-18 on deck," according to Capt. James Gill, USNS Mendonca's Master. "The USNS Mendonca received the tasking due to our available cargo space and geographic location. We were the right piece at the right place at the right time."

The aircraft was recovered from a depth of approximately 9,500 feet by a team from Task Force (CTF) 68, Naval Sea Systems Command's Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV), Harry S. Truman, Naval Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic, and U.S. 6th Fleet embarked on the multi-purpose construction vessel (MPV) Everest and transported to Italy.

Mendonca has over 73,000 square feet of weather-deck space for cargo, and twin pedestal cranes which made the ship a perfect platform to transport the aircraft back to the U.S.

"The return of the F-18 came up as a lift of opportunity during our recent mission in support of Operation Resolute Castle," according to Gill. "Our configuration and cargo capabilities allow us support many different types of cargo. Whether it is lift-on, lift-off, roll-on, roll-off, containerized or break-bulk cargo, we can do it all; from artillery, armor, vehicles of all sizes, containers, helicopters, and now tactical aircraft."

The F/A-18's ultimate destination is Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

"Mendonca's crew performed extremely well," Gill stated. "The unique nature of the lift and aircraft has provided a break from the routine and kept everyone interested and involved."

Gill also credited overseas shore-side partners for the successful aircraft on load.

"MSC Europe and Africa's staff and the Port Operations Team made the process quick and painless," Gill stated. "We pulled in, anchored, conducted the lift, secured the aircraft, and cleared the port in a little over four and a half hours."

USNS Mendonca is crewed by approximately 30 civilian contract mariners who are employed by U.S. Marine Management, Inc.

Gill concluded by stating, "this mission came together quickly and demonstrated the flexibility and valuable capabilities of the LSMRs and showed the Bob Hope-class of ships remain a valuable asset and should be utilized as much as possible."

## Military Sealift Command's USNS Charles Drew Conducts Maintenance Stop in India

By Leslie Hull-Ryde, Military Sealift Command Pacific Public Affairs



Military Sealift Command's (MSC) Lewis and Clark-class dry cargo ship USNS Charles Drew (T-AKE 10) conducted maintenance at Larsen & Toubro Ltd, commonly known as L&T shipyard, in Kattupalli near Chennai, India, Aug. 7-17.

"India's initiative to offer logistics, repairs, and refits to the U.S. ships assumes special significance in furthering the strategic partnership between India and the United States, thereby promoting harmony in South Asia under the Indo-Pacific initiative," said Dr. Ajay Kumar, Defence Secretary of India.

Both Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressed their intent to conduct maintenance in India during the U.S.-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in April.

"This inaugural repair of a United States naval ship, the Charles Drew, conducted by the L&T Kattupalli shipyard, is a landmark development to be celebrated as a symbol of our strengthened U.S.-India partnership," said Judith Ravin, U.S. Consul General in Chennai.

"Today marks another step forward in Indian and American maritime cooperation. Our shipping industries positively contribute to a free and open Indo-Pacific by partnering to deliver effective, efficient, and economical repair of military vessels. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of this endeavor and where our partnership may go in the future," Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy at New Delhi Rear Adm. Michael Baker said when the ship first arrived in India.

Routine maintenance conducted aboard Charles Drew in India included repairs to safety and crew habitability systems and equipment.

"We appreciated the opportunity to complete this maintenance in India which will ensure we are ready for any tasking," said Charles Drew's Third Officer Anna Lewis, who serves as the ship's navigator and operations officer.

Charles Drew is one of the many ships that are part of the U.S. Navy's MSC's Combat Logistics Force (CLF). CLF are the supply lines to U.S. Navy ships while at sea. These ships provide virtually everything Navy ships need including fuel, food, fleet ordnance, dry cargo, spare parts, mail, and other supplies.

CLF ships enable the Navy fleet to remain at sea and combat ready for extended periods of time. In addition to U.S. Navy ships, CLF ships also resupply international partners and allies operating in the Indo-Pacific Region.

MSC Far East ensures approximately 50 ships in the Indo-Pacific Region are manned, trained, and equipped to deliver essential supplies, fuel, cargo, and equipment to warfighters, both at sea and on shore. Under Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet and routinely interacts and operates with 35 maritime nations in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific Region.



The Indian Army 12 Madras Unit band welcomes the Lewis and Clark-class dry cargo ammunition ship USNS Charles Drew (T-AKE 10) to L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, near Chennai, India, Aug. 7, where the ship conducted scheduled maintenance. (U.S. Navy photo by Joel Garcia)

# U.S. Navy's Humanitarian Mission Concludes in Philippines

By Lt.j.g. Molly Sanders, Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific Public Affairs



Cmdr. Jeffrey Carness (left) conducts Point of Care Ultrasound Training for local medical professionals in support of Pacific Partnership 2022. Now in its 17th year, Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Brandie Nuzzi)

The Philippines phase of Pacific Partnership concluded in Puerto Princesa, aboard Military Sealift Command's hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), Aug. 16.

In the Philippines, the Pacific Partnership 2022 (PP22) team included representatives from the host nation, Australia, Chile, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.

During the mission stop, the PP22 team provided medical care to more than 9,500 patients, including over 100 surgeries on board Mercy; 1200 veterinary treatments; seven humanitarian assistance and disaster relief workshops with 390 participants; 14 band concerts with more than 6700 attendees; and a field training exercise.



Hospitalman Michael Gonzalez (right) cleans a patient's teeth during the Barangay Health Fair at Irawan Elementary School during Pacific Partnership 2022. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Raphael McCorey)

“Every Pacific Partnership mission has transformed and further strengthened our regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increasing stability and security in the region,” said Armed Forces Philippines Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Vicente Bartolome Bacarro in his remarks during the closing ceremony. “Meaningful partnerships and missions such as this present us with a myriad of opportunities to forge new and enduring friendships across the Indo-Pacific region to further our national and regional security objectives.”

In addition, Pacific Partnership included cleft palate and lip repair surgeries on 35 children, health fairs conducted in seven local barangays, exams for more than 3,200 optometry patients, two school renovation projects, and Mercy's participation in a maritime exercise with the Royal Navy's HMS Tamar (P233) and the Philippine Coast Guard's BRP Kalanggaman (FPB-2404).



A view of Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) anchored outside Puerto Princesa, Philippines, while the ship was in-country to support Pacific Partnership 2022. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Drace Wilson)

“The coordination between the Philippine government and community, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and all our partner nations during PP22 contributed to enhanced understanding and cooperation, as well as prepared all involved to respond as partners to any hazard that we may face,” said Capt. Hank Kim, Pacific Partnership mission commander.

This year's Pacific Partnership mission has so far included stops in Vietnam and Palau, as well as engineering engagements in the Republic of Marshall Islands and Fiji. The hospital ship USNS Mercy serves as the PP22 mission platform.

Now in its 17th year, Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific.

## USNS Burlington Conducts Theater Security

By Sgt. Brendan Mullin, U.S. 4th Fleet Public Affairs

The Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Burlington (T-EPF 10) arrived in the port of Oranjestad on the island of Aruba, Aug. 7, during its deployment to the U.S. 4th Fleet area of operations.

Its mission was to provide expeditionary maintenance to deployed littoral combat ships operating in the region, conduct theater security cooperation engagements to maintain access, enhance interoperability with the Dutch military, and build enduring partnerships in the Caribbean, Central and South American areas of responsibility.

“Theater security cooperation events are important because every single one of our allies and partners brings a unique perspective and background to the table,” says Lt. Christopher Martinez, the officer-in-charge of the military detachment aboard the Burlington. “It increases each of our capabilities as a whole as we learn from each other.”



Dutch military police practice room clearing techniques aboard the Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Burlington (T-EPF 10), during a theater security cooperation event, Aug. 9. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Brendan Mullin)



Chief Master-At-Arms Robert Abreu, assigned to the Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Burlington (T-EPF 10), briefs Dutch military police while they tour the ship during a theater security cooperation event, Aug. 9. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Brendan Mullin)

The crew aboard Burlington invited the Dutch Marines and military police to tour the vessel to demonstrate some of the capabilities the ship possesses. Events like these help reaffirm the United States' commitment to its allies and partner nations with tangible actions and assets.

While aboard the Burlington, the Dutch military police performed active shooter response drills with the U.S. Navy embarked personnel.

“Working with the Dutch proves there's more than one solution to a problem,” says Chief Master-At-Arms Robert Abreu. “We both approached the problem a bit differently, and after coming together to talk a bit more, we came up with some techniques that we were both satisfied with.”

The United States is building enduring partnerships throughout the Caribbean and Central and South America, and through security cooperation events, remains committed to being the partner of choice for nations in the region.

# USS Hershel “Woody” Williams Gold Crew Awarded U.S. Coast Guard Special Ops Ribbon

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Caitlin Mazzola, Expeditionary Strike Group Two Public Affairs



U.S. Coast Guard Vice Adm. Kevin Lunday (right) presents the U.S. Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon to Capt. Michael Concannon, commanding officer of the Gold crew of the expeditionary sea base USS Hershel “Woody” Williams (ESB 4), at U.S. Coast Guard Base Portsmouth, Aug. 22. (U.S. Navy photo)

It was an April Fool’s Day for the ages and perhaps the signature moment for the USS Hershel “Woody” Williams (ESB 4) Gold Crew recently being awarded the United States Coast Guard Special Operations Service (SOS) Ribbon during a presentation last week by Coast Guard Vice Adm. Kevin Lunday.

On April 1, HWW Gold Crew members, alongside their Marine Corps and Coast Guard tri-maritime service partners, boarded a Brazilian-flagged vessel and made what would turn out to be the second largest non-containerized trans-Atlantic drug bust in history.

The drug interdiction was obviously a big deal. Not only did the Chief of Naval Operations Tweet out a BZ to the HWW Gold crew, news outlets around the world reported about the exploits that included apprehending seven traffickers and seizing a staggering 13,228 pounds of cocaine worth an estimated \$350 million street value.

Significant as it was, the ballyhooed bust was hardly the only measure behind the Hershel “Woody” Williams’ Gold Crew earning the special operations ribbon.

The award, presented on August 22 by Lunday, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area, at United States Coast Guard Base Portsmouth, recognized HWW’s overall exceptional support of several tri-maritime service operations from February to April 2022. In addition to the counter-

narcotics, additional efforts included maritime security operations (MSO) as well as the crew’s corporate energies put forth to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing off the west coast of Africa.

The ship also participated in Obangame Express 22. Taking place on West African seas, this year’s iteration was a six-day, 32-nation exercise – the largest ever multinational maritime exercise – designed to improve regional cooperation by focusing on maritime domain awareness, information-sharing, and tactical interdiction across all participant militaries.

Upon completion of the exercise, HWW Gold Crew conducted MSO patrols off the coast of West Africa with African partner nations and interdicted a foreign-flagged vessel engaged in IUU fishing. As a result, \$6 million in fines were issued.

Gold Crew commanding officer, Capt. Michael Concannon, expressed excitement for his crew as he said the distinction is not often awarded to maritime units.

“The crew and I appreciate the Coast Guard’s recognition for the successful tri-maritime operations conducted off the coast of Africa,” Concannon said. “The successes from Obangame Express and the MSO patrols go a long way to show African partners that the U.S. is committed to regional stability assistance.”

Established on July 1, 1987, the United States Coast Guard Medals and Awards Manual says the SOS Ribbon is awarded to U.S. armed forces members who participated in a major Coast Guard operation of a special nature not involving combat.

To be eligible, SOS Ribbon nominees must be attached to a participating unit and have to be present no less than 21 non-consecutive days during the period the unit is engaged in the special operation. If the operation is less than 21 days, personnel must serve the entire duration. Additionally, the tactical commander within the appropriate area commander’s area of responsibility must specifically recommend SOS Ribbon candidates. Expeditionary sea base ships are critical in supporting the deployment of forces and supplies to provide prepositioned equipment and sustainment with flexible distribution

As part of Expeditionary Strike Group 2, USS Hershel “Woody” Williams is the second Lewis B. Puller-class ESB and is currently forward deployed to Souda Bay, Greece. The first U.S. Navy ship assigned to the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) area of operations, HWW is a highly flexible platform that consists of both U.S. Navy Sailors and Military Sealift Command civilian mariners and may be used across a broad range of military operations supporting multiple operational phases.

## USNS Trenton (T-EPF 5) Completes Gulf of Guinea Deployment

From Naval Forces Europe and Africa Public Affairs

The Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport USNS Trenton (T-EPF 5) arrived in Malaga, Spain, following a two-month deployment to the Gulf of Guinea, Aug. 28.

The deployment demonstrates the U.S. commitment to strengthening maritime security as well as peace and stability within the region. From July to August, Trenton conducted regional maritime presence operations and enriched valued relationships with African partners from Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Morocco, and Sierra Leone.

“Our combined military and civilian crew executed their mission with professionalism and enthusiasm, which demonstrated the United States’ steadfast commitment to our partner nations,” said Cmdr. Tim Rustico, officer in charge of Trenton.

Trenton’s deployment also included tri-service maritime efforts within the U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAF) area of operations. While deployed, Marines assigned to Task Force 61 Naval Amphibious Forces Europe-2d Marine Division (TF-61/2) embarked Trenton to provide in port security assistance and to continue bolstering integrated maritime operations between the sea services.

“I’m incredibly proud of Trenton’s professional execution during their deployment, where they worked with our partners, developed logistical nodes, and expanded maritime domain awareness in Western Africa,” said Capt. Kenneth Pickard, commodore, Task Force 63. “Trenton’s efforts laid the groundwork for continued presence and partnership in the Gulf of Guinea.”

Over the last decade, the United States has steadily increased maritime security cooperation with partners on Africa’s Atlantic coast to improve maritime domain awareness capability to protect their sovereign waters.

In 2013, Gulf of Guinea coastal nations developed and signed the Yaoundé Code of Conduct, a key agreement to improve maritime interoperability.

This powerful framework established objectives and improved inter-region coastal relationships and joint capabilities that have reduced illegal activities in the Gulf of Guinea.

The U.S. shares a common interest with African partner nations in ensuring security, safety, and freedom of navigation on the waters surrounding the continent, because these waters are critical for Africa’s prosperity and access to global markets.

Trenton is an expeditionary fast transport ship capable of rapid transit and deployment of conventional and special forces, equipment and supplies in support of maneuver and sustainment operations.



A view of Military Sealift Command’s expeditionary fast transport USNS Trenton (T-EPF 5) at-sea. (U.S. Navy photo by Bill Mesta)

# Burger Brothers serve aboard USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) during Pacific Partnership 2022

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Brandie Nuzzi, Pacific Partnership 2022 Public Affairs



Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (MA2) Anthony Burger and Personnel Specialist Seaman (PSSN) Robert Burger are brothers who are deployed aboard Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) in support of Pacific Partnership 2022 (PP22).

Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific region.

Although the brothers have distinctly different missions during PP22, with Anthony serving on the security force aboard Mercy and Robert handling pay and Navy allowance issues, together they know that the chance to end up on a deployment together may not happen again. They plan to make the most out of the mission.

“A deployment with a sibling is super memorable,” said PSSN Burger. “It is something that is only going to happen once, and the odds of it happening again are even lower than it happening the first time. It is awesome to wake up every day and see someone that you are so familiar with.”

The Burgers said hearing stories from their Navy veteran grandparents and their military friends had a major impact on their decision to join the Navy.

“It is a brotherhood that you search for,” said PSSN Burger. “You could see the pride they had for their service. It was something that really spoke to me when I was younger to be able to see a band of people that really cared about each other. It was awesome to see the mentality of we are a team, we are a family.”

MA2 Burger, who joined six years prior to PSSN, was another source of inspiration for his little brother to join the Navy and make similar memorable experiences.

“Him joining the Navy saved a lot of thought process for me,” said PSSN Burger of his brother. “I knew it was something that I wanted to be a part of.”

While being deployed together, the brothers are using this opportunity to make everlasting memories to share with their family.

“Anytime we end up somewhere together in port, we always get a picture for our parents” said MA2 Burger. “We will remember these moments, but we get the photos since they aren’t here and will want to remember how we are deployed together.”

Both of them said they want to make their parents proud and would not be here today without all of the support and encouragement that they gave to them.

“I just wanted to say thank you,” said PSSN Burger. “Thank you for backing us up and having our back, pushing us, motivating us, and just making sure everything is good. I appreciate you.”

“Thanks for always taking up for us and molding us into who we are and pushing us to do the things we didn’t want to but had to,” said MA2 Burger.

The brothers said the support and dedication their father has during this unique experience is unwavering even to this day.

“Every time we give him an update, he is always the first one to like the picture on Facebook,” said PSSN Burger. “Every time I call him, we put him on speaker phone, and he is yelling in the background so excited. I am sure he is super proud that we joined the Navy together and are serving alongside each other. It must be a special and proud moment for him to see us both on the same mission and work towards a common goal.”

As the brothers are thankful for their family and their experiences, they are also grateful to have each other to act as a support system as they continue on the PP22 mission.

Military Sealift Command’s hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) is currently underway for Pacific Partnership 2022.

## Military Sealift Command Civilian Rotation Training Opportunity Program

By Bill Mesta, Military Sealift Command Public Affairs

Three Military Sealift Command civilian teammates and three supervisors recently participated in MSC’s Civilian Rotation Training Opportunity (CRTO) program.

MSC’s CRTO program provides a formal process which allows civilian teammates to gain professional knowledge and development through temporary assignment to positions outside their normal employment.

“The CRTO program enhances personal, professional, and organizational growth for employees,” said Mike Kishbaugh, MSC Human Resource Training Administration Branch Director. “These opportunities increase institutional knowledge transfer and retention of information, promote ongoing learning and development, and create continuity of organizational culture.”

“The CRTO is a unique opportunity that can be tailored to the specific needs of the individual, Kishbaugh added.” CRTO is a win-win-win program where the individual, host department and the Command all win by sharing knowledge, fostering collaboration therefore increasing understanding across and throughout the Command.”

### MSC CRTO Participants:

#### Teammates:

Maria Spikes (served with MSC Europe and Africa, Naples)  
Tanya Delpriore (served with N8)  
Perry Corbett (served with N7)

#### Supervisors who hosted CRTO:

Thomas Giudice (MSCEURAF hosted MSC’s first CRTO Maria Spikes)  
Chellsia Broughton-Ford (hosted Tanya Delpriore)  
Steven Midas (hosted Perry Corbett)

Perry Corbett, MSC Occupational Safety and Health Specialist/Manager ,and recent CRTO program participant, provided some insight about his experience with the temporary position rotation.

“During my CRTO rotation I was assigned to assist branch heads within MSC Ship Material and Readiness Testing (SMART) Program, MSC Environmental Protection, Damage Control Programs and MSC Safety Management System (SMS) Program,” according to Corbett. “My primary reason for taking advantage of MSC CRTO was to broaden my tunnel vision view of other roles shore employees provide in assisting the fleet as they service the warfighters and other customers.”

“This experience allowed me to not only expanded my knowledge but allowed me to understand other functions that go into ship readiness,” Corbett added. “This opportunity also provided a period for me to step away from day-to-day safety duties and allowed me to experience other supervisors/managers approach and styles in reaching departmental and MSC goals in a positive manner.”

MSC Human Resource Specialist Michele Sandifer provided guidelines for the command’s teammates in regards to CRTO.

“CRTOs are not to exceed 120 days however, many can be held in shorter time-frames such as 3-4 weeks or even completed part-time such as 1-2 days per week,” Sandifer said. “CRTOs are open to permanent MSC civilian General Schedule (GS) employees and external federal employees rotating within MSC.”

CRTO Continued on Page 8

# MSC Hosts Women's Equality Day Celebration

By Jennifer Hunt, Military Sealift Command Public Affairs

Service members and civil service employees attached to Military Sealift Command gathered at Naval Station Norfolk's Vista Point to commemorate Women's Equality Day, Aug. 24.

This year's theme of "Follow Your Yellow Brick Road," highlighted the efforts of women such as WWII and Korean War correspondent Marguerite Higgins, co-founder of the National Farmworkers Association Dolores Huerta, Grand President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, Elizabeth Peratrovich, one of the first female pitchers in professional baseball, Jackie Mitchell, first woman astronaut of Indian descent to enter space, Kalpana Chawla, first Black woman to achieve general officer rank, Sherian Cadoria, and American mathematician whose contributions were incorporated into the Global Positioning System (GPS).

"All of these women have left a mark on someone's life," said keynote speaker Vivian Oden, vice president for equity and inclusion at the Hampton Roads Community Foundation (HCRF). "I encourage you to leave your own mark, regardless of your gender."

"What yellow brick road are you following?" Oden continued.



Vivian Oden, vice president for equity and inclusion at the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, delivers a speech for a Women's Equality Day celebration hosted by Military Sealift Command at Naval Station Norfolk's Vista Point. (U.S. Navy photo by Jennifer Hunt)

"How do you address discriminatory policies that support sexism or racial inequities in your own organization? What change do you want to bring?" she asked.

Oden is a leader for racial equity work. She has contributed to her local community by creating Hampton Roads' first celebration of Black Philanthropy Month in 2018 that continues as an annual regional event. Oden also founded Visionaries of Change, a giving circle with other Black business and civic leaders who develop solutions for Black communities experiencing economic distress.

"As Maya Angelou said, 'If you want to live, leave a legacy.' Leave a mark on the world that can't be erased. If you want to move mountains tomorrow, you must start by moving stones today," said Oden. "I encourage you to fight for women's equality whether you are a woman or an ally. It takes a collective group to bring about change. Go out, and be great. Follow your yellow brick road."

Women's Equality Day is a tribute to the enduring effort of gender equality, beginning with the inception of suffrage movement in 1848. In 1973, Congress designated Aug. 26 as Women's Equality Day to commemorate the 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote in the United States.

## October is National Depression and Mental Health Screening Month

From Military Sealift Command Health Promotion Program

We all feel sadness from time-to-time, or irritable or maybe experience trouble sleeping once in a while, but these feelings usually pass after a couple of days. Depression, on the other hand, is a serious mood disorder that may cause severe symptoms. It is more common than you may think, affecting an estimated 21 million adults in the U.S. annually. Depression affects the ability to feel, think, and handle daily activities. Also referred to as major depressive disorder or clinical depression, one must have symptoms for at least two weeks to be diagnosed with depression.

Both men and women get depression, but their willingness to talk about their feelings may differ. Common depression symptoms include:

- Anger, irritability, or aggressiveness
- Feeling anxious, restless, or "on the edge"
- Loss of interest in work, family, or once-pleasurable activities
- Problems with sexual desire and performance
- Feeling sad, "empty," flat, or hopeless
- Not being able to concentrate or remember details
- Feeling very tired, not being able to sleep, or sleeping too much

- Overeating or not wanting to eat at all
- Thoughts of suicide or suicide attempts
- Physical aches or pains, headaches, cramps, or digestive problems
- Inability to meet the responsibilities of work, caring for family, or other important activities
- Engaging in high-risk activities
- A need for alcohol or drugs
- Withdrawing from family and friends or becoming isolated

Similar to other mental health conditions, recognizing what depression is and how to identify it is the first step in treating it. It's important to take the next step and reach out to your primary care provider to be screened if you or someone you know feels they may be depressed.

MSC has resources available for you! The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides confidential free counseling, work-life services, on-line programs, and more. Contact them today at 1-844-366-2327.

Or contact your Health Promotion Coordinator at Leighanne.gerstbrein.ctr@us.navy.mil OR MSC\_HPPP@us.navy.mil



# ANYDAY

The Lewis and Clark-class dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Alan Shepard (T-AKE 3) launches a BQM-177A subsonic aerial target during a Standard Missile (SM) 2 exercise conducted with Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Barry (DDG 52) as part of Pacific Vanguard 22 while operating in the Philippine Sea, Aug. 28. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Greg Johnson)

## For More Information About Careers Sailing with Military Sealift Command

[www.sealiftcommand.com](http://www.sealiftcommand.com)

Call: 1-877-JOBS MSC (562-7672), 1-757-341-4611

e-mail: [civmar@sealiftcommand.com](mailto:civmar@sealiftcommand.com)

# NAVSUP, Mission Partners Support Combat Logistics Force Vessel's First Port Visit in Scotland

By Joseph Yanik, Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella Public Affairs



U.S. Marines assigned to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit process and load mission-related cargo during USNS William McLean's port visit Aug. 11, at Defense Munitions Crombie, Scotland, United Kingdom. Combat Logistics Force vessels, like USNS William McLean, are the supply line to U.S. Navy surface combatant ships, with their multi-purpose capability to provide food, mail, fuel, spare parts, ammunition, and portable water; allowing fleet units to remain at sea for prolonged periods of time. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ryan Lee)

At its cooperative security location (CSL) at Defense Munitions (DM) Crombie, Scotland, United Kingdom, Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella (NAVSUP FLCSI) is expanding its capabilities to support U.S. Naval and Allied ships, submarines, aircraft and expeditionary forces deploying into, and operating across, the High North, Baltics and Arctic Circle.

In mid-August 2022, some of the command's logisticians coordinated the loading, shipping and delivery of provisions, cargo and mail to Lewis and Clark-class USNS William McLean (T-AKE 12), one of Military Sealift Command's Combat Logistics Force (CLF) vessels.

CLF vessels are the supply line to U.S. Navy surface combatant ships, with their multi-purpose capability to provide food, mail, fuel, spare parts, ammunition, and portable water; allowing fleet units to remain at sea for prolonged periods of time.

"This was the first emergent port visit conducted by a U.S. CLF-class vessel in Crombie," said Lt. Adam Thomas, NAVSUP FLCSI Site Crombie

officer in charge. "Successfully supporting William McLean required us to flex our working relationships with our mission partners, Command Task Force 63 and DM Crombie Port Operations teams, with less than 48 hours of notice."

Some of these mission-critical materials loaded onto the William McLean were transported to ships assigned to the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group (ARG). The ARG is operating in the Baltic Sea to strengthen interoperability with key NATO allies and partners.

"Our ability to support ships like USNS William McLean at our CSL site in Scotland is another concrete example of NAVSUP's expanding capabilities delivering holistic operational readiness to the Fleet where and when our deployed Warfighters need it," said Capt. Douglas S. MacKenzie, NAVSUP FLCSI commanding officer. "Thanks to the tireless efforts of NAVSUP and our growing network of USNAVEUR mission partners, such as Military Sealift Command and CTF 63 teams, Site Crombie is fast becoming a logistics center of gravity from which we can better facilitate end-to-end sustainment across Europe's High North region."

The Kearsarge ARG and larger amphibious task forces provide military commanders a wide range of flexible capabilities including maritime security operations, expeditionary power projection, strike operations, forward naval presence, crisis response, sea control, deterrence, cyber operations, security cooperation and counter-proliferation, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Headquartered at Naples, Italy, Command Task Force 63 is composed of oilers, provision ships, and repair ships. Its mission is the delivery of supplies at sea, and effecting repairs to other ships and equipment of the Fleet.

Site Crombie is NAVSUP FLCSI's cooperative security location strategically positioned to support NAVEUR-NAVAF, U.S. Sixth and Second Fleets and Joint Warfighters who routinely conduct operations with their High North Allies and Partners. From this transshipment hub, FLCSI Site Crombie's logisticians and their mission partners enable the expansion of maritime sustainment through its key products and services.

## CRTO continued from Page 6

"Applicants must have at least one year of service with MSC," Sandifer added. "Applicants' last performance rating must be Fully Successful (or equivalent) or higher. Rotation training opportunities should not involve the performance of higher level duties which would constitute a promotion."

Sandifer directed MSC teammates interested in participating in the CRTO program begin the process by talking with their supervisor. They will be required to complete and submit a CRTO Request Form and SF-182 and submit the documents to their supervisor.

For more information about MSC's CRTO program please contact Michele Sandifer at [michele.l.sandifer.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:michele.l.sandifer.civ@us.navy.mil) or call (757) 341-6507.

MSC supports opportunities for civilian General Schedule (GS) employees to rotate to other MSC positions or external federal agencies, with chain of command approval, and to provide guidance to assist external federal employees rotating within MSC in order to improve individual and organizational performance. This is done in an effort to support the goals of Chief of Naval Operations and MSC, and to provide a mission-ready workforce by developing and retaining highly skilled employees to meet current and projected performance requirements essential to maintaining optimum readiness.

## Fallen MSC Teammate

The Lord is my Pilot;  
I shall not drift.  
He leadeth me across the dark waters  
and steereth me in the deep channels.  
He keepeth my Log  
and guideth me by the star of holiness  
for His Name's sake.  
Yea, though I sail amid  
the thunders and tempests of life,  
I shall dread no danger,  
For Thou art with me;  
Thy love and Thy care, they shelter me.  
Thou preparest a harbor before me  
in the homeland of eternity;  
Thou anointest the waves with oil,  
and my ship rideth calmly,  
Surely sunlight and starlight  
shall favor me all the days of my voyaging,  
and I will rest in the port of my Lord forever.



Ship's Communication Officer  
**Gregory J. Sampson**  
MSC Service:  
2007-2022



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