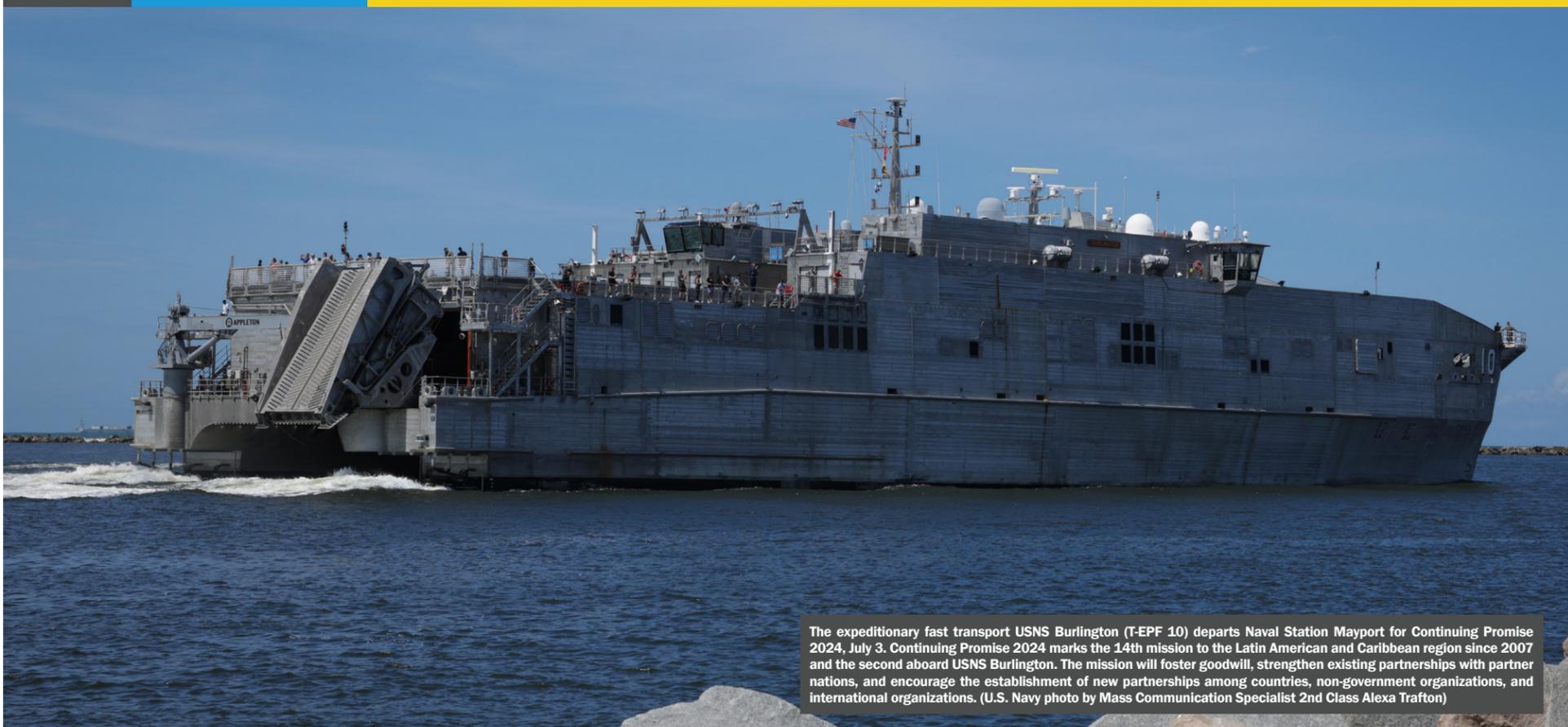




# SEALIFT

THE U.S. NAVY'S MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND

AUGUST 2024



The expeditionary fast transport USNS Burlington (T-EPF 10) departs Naval Station Mayport for Continuing Promise 2024, July 3. Continuing Promise 2024 marks the 14th mission to the Latin American and Caribbean region since 2007 and the second aboard USNS Burlington. The mission will foster goodwill, strengthen existing partnerships with partner nations, and encourage the establishment of new partnerships among countries, non-government organizations, and international organizations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Alexa Trafton)

## USNS BURLINGTON DEPARTS FOR CONTINUING PROMISE 2024 DEPLOYMENT

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Adriones Johnson, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command / U.S. 4th Fleet Public Affairs

The U.S. Navy's Spearhead-class fast transport ship, USNS Burlington (T-EPF 10) departed from Naval Station Mayport for Latin America and the Caribbean in support of Continuing Promise 2024, July 3.

During this iteration of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet's Continuing Promise mission, the 14th since 2007, Burlington will stop in Jamaica, Costa Rica, Honduras, Colombia, and Panama to share knowledge and provide side-by-side professional expertise with international partners.

"One of the major benefits of being aboard the USNS Burlington for Continuing Promise 2024 is that this ship is incredibly versatile and has the ability to conduct

a variety of mission types," said Lt. Cmdr. Zachary Smith, Mission Commander for Continuing Promise 2024.

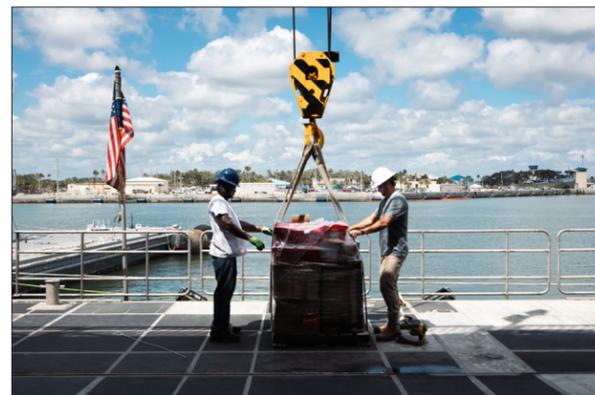
Christened in 2018, USNS Burlington is the tenth Spearhead-class ship. It is also the first ship in service named to honor Burlington, Vermont, the state's largest city. The ship has an off-load ramp for vehicles to move on and off the ship and a flight deck rated to be capable of receiving U.S. Navy helicopters. Operated by a crew of 22, it is capable of transporting over 300 personnel. Of the U.S. Navy personnel aboard, there are 18 unique enlisted job specialties and 10 unique officer specialties to support eight different mission specific areas.

"The better we can learn to work together during missions such as Continuing Promise the better we can work together as we respond to the real-world challenges that will inevitably come," said Smith.

The first mission stop for Burlington will be Kingston, Jamaica. While there, embarked medical personnel will work with local medical practitioners to provide enhanced direct patient care, share knowledge and expertise, and strengthen partnership between the U.S. military and Jamaican civilian and military officials.

"It's important to contribute to other countries, and help out any way we can," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Ricardo Maldonado, a dental technician from Navy Medical Readiness Training Command Portsmouth. While providing assistance to the dental officer aboard, he expects to put smiles on people's faces by providing them with the medical attention they need.

USNS Burlington continued on page 8



Civil Service Mariners load non-government organization donations onto Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Burlington (T-EPF 10) for Continuing Promise 2024, July 1. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Jasmin L. Aquino)

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Chief Mate Zachary Jonsson aboard Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Burlington (T-EPF 10) communicates with port operations during the ship's departure for Continuing Promise 2024. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Jasmin L. Aquino)

# KEEL CERTIFIED FOR MSC'S NEWEST FLEET REPLENISHMENT OILER USNS SOJOURNER TRUTH

By Sarah Canon, Military Sealift Command Pacific Public Affairs



A General Dynamics NASSCO San Diego employee welds the initials of the sponsor of Military Sealift Command's newest fleet replenishment oiler USNS Sojourner Truth (T-AO 210), Children's Rights Activist Marian W. Edelman, onto a steel plate, during the keel certification ceremony of the ship. The plate will be installed on the ship as a permanent reminder of the start of construction. (U.S. Navy photo by Sarah Cannon)

Military Sealift Command Pacific's Commanding Officer, Capt. Micah Murphy joined employees of Military Sealift Command and General Dynamics NASSCO of San Diego to celebrate the keel certification of MSC's newest ship, fleet replenishment oiler USNS Sojourner Truth (T-AO 210) at the NASSCO shipyard San Diego, June 21.

Truth, an escaped slave who became an American abolitionist and activist for African-American civil rights, women's rights, and alcohol temperance. The ship is sponsored by Children's Rights Activist and founder of the Children's Defense Fund Marian W. Edelman.

The time-honored tradition of the keel laying/certification marks the official start of construction of the ship.

"Today's ceremony is the Navy's unique way of celebrating our nation's heritage and also looking forward to safeguarding our future," said John Lighthammer, program manager, Auxiliary and Special Mission Shipbuilding Program Office, General Dynamics NASSCO.

The ship honors Sojourner Truth, an escaped slave who became an American abolitionist and activist for African-American civil rights, women's rights, and alcohol temperance. The ship is sponsored by Children's Rights Activist and founder of the Children's Defense Fund Marian W. Edelman.

The 746-foot Sojourner Truth is the sixth ship of the John Lewis-class fleet replenishment oilers. Sojourner Truth has the ability to carry 162,000 barrels of diesel ship fuel, aviation fuel and dry stores cargo. The John Lewis-class is built with double hulls to protect against oil spills and strengthened cargo and ballast tanks, and will be equipped with a basic self-defense capability. The Lewis-class of oilers will replace the current Kaiser Class fleet replenishment oilers as they age out of the MSC fleet.

"Beyond its technical specifications, Sojourner Truth carries a deeper significance," said Rear Adm. Kevin Kennedy, Commander Carrier Strike Group 15. "It symbolizes our commitment of a government of the people; all people, echoing the legacy of Sojourner Truth herself, and it resonates today, as we embark on this journey of building a ship that bears her name."

In July 2016, U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus that he would name the John Lewis-class oilers after prominent civil rights activists and leaders including John Lewis, Earl Warren, Harvey Milk, Lucy Stone, Thurgood Marshall, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Harriet Tubman.

## SECNAV NAMES SHIP IN HONOR OF NARRAGANSETT TRIBE OF RHODE ISLAND

From the Office of the Secretary of the Navy

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro announced that a future Navajo-class towing, salvage, and rescue (T-ATS) ship will be named USNS Narragansett in honor of the Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island, June 18.

Secretary Del Toro made the announcement on the 90th Anniversary of the Indian Reorganization Act.

The Indian Reorganization Act, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was aimed at decreasing Federal control of Native American Indian Affairs. The Act presented a major reversal of Federal policy toward Native Americans and provided them greater control over their lands, allowing the formation of legally recognized tribal governments and decreasing pressure toward assimilation.

The naming selection of the future USNS Narragansett (T-ATS 14) follows the tradition of the Navajo-class of naming towing, salvage and rescue ships after prominent Native Americans or Native American tribes. Secretary Del Toro has previously named three Navajo-class ships: USNS Billy Frank Jr., USNS Solomon Atkinson, and USNS James D. Fairbanks.

"Native Americans have been integral to the history of our Nation; however, historically, the rights of Native Americans have been drastically impacted in negative ways," said Secretary Del Toro. "Today, on the 90th Anniversary of the Indian Reorganization Act, I am honored to announce the name of our newest Navajo-class T-ATS, the future USNS Narragansett (T-ATS 14)."

Prior to European contact, the Narragansett were a powerful Algonquian-speaking warrior tribe that occupied most of present-day Rhode Island from the Narragansett Bay in the east to the Pawcatuck River in the West. They first encountered European explorers in the 1520s when Giovanni de Verrazano visited the region and provided land to Roger Williams in 1636 to establish the settlement of Providence.

Increasing tensions with colonists led the Narragansett tribe to unite with other tribes during King Philip's War. Their territory was gradually reduced to a 15,000-acre reservation and the Narragansett people were officially recognized by the federal government as the Narragansett Indian Tribe in April 1983.

## MARITIME PREPOSITIONING SHIPS SQUADRON TWO CHANGES LEADERSHIP

By Grady Fontana, Military Sealift Command Far East Public Affairs



Capt. Nathan W. Fugate (left) relinquishes command of Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron Two to Capt. Aaron L. Helgerson during a ceremony at headquarters, U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia, June 10. (U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Jayme Gordon)

Capt. Aaron L. Helgerson relieved Capt. Nathan W. Fugate as commander of Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron Two during a change of command ceremony at headquarters, U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia, June 10.

Helgerson takes the reins after a 14-month tenure by Fugate as the Commodore of the squadron that is forward deployed to Diego Garcia. Currently, the dry cargo ship USNS Lewis and Clark (T-AKE 1) is designated as the command's flagship.

A native of Freeman, San Diego, Captain Helgerson enlisted in the Navy in January 1995 and was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program in 1999. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and U.S. Navy commissioning while attending the University of Nebraska in 2001.

Helgerson has deployed multiple times to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

His previous sea duty assignments include: Aegis Fire Controlman in USS Lake Erie (CG 70); Electronics Material Officer, Communications Officer, Fire Control Officer, and Navigator in USS Chosin (CG 65); Weapons Officer, fleet up to Combat Systems Officer in USS Hue City (CG 66); and Executive Officer, fleet up to Commanding Officer of USS Billings (LCS 15) Blue Crew, "The Kraken."

Ashore, Helgerson served various tours and was also assigned as Division Officer Instructor at Surface Warfare Officers School, where he completed the Graduate Education Voucher program, earning a Master of Science in Management from Salve Regina University.

As part of the Navy's strategic sealift capability, MPSRON 2 is responsible for the operation and administrative support to non-combatant ships of the Military Sealift Command Prepositioning Program in the Indian Ocean.

# MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND SUPPORTS BIENNIAL RIM OF THE PACIFIC EXERCISE

By Sarah Cannon, Military Sealift Command Pacific Public Affairs



The Indonesian Navy frigate KRI Raden Eddy Martadinata (331) conducted a replenishment at sea with the Henry J. Kaiser-class fleet replenishment oiler USNS Pecos (T-AO 197) during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2024, June 24. (Indonesian Navy courtesy photo)

Military Sealift Command is supporting the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2024 maritime exercise throughout the month of July in Hawaii.

MSC's fleet replenishment oiler USNS Pecos (T-AO 197) and dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS Washington Chambers (T-AKE 11) will provide logistics services for the exercise including aviation fuel, diesel ship fuel, dry, fresh and frozen food, equipment and supplies to the ships participating in RIMPAC.

MSC chartered tanker ships MT Overseas Mykonos and MT Allied Pacific will provide fuel to the MSC combat logistics ships during replenishment-at-sea events. With the closing of the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, the tanker replenishment events will allow the CLF ships to receive fuel at sea, enabling them to provide logistic services to exercise participants as needed, without delay.

MSC's rescue and salvage ship USNS Grasp (T-ARS 51) will deliver two decommissioned Navy ships to a designated target area to conduct sinking exercises (SINKEX); amphibious transport dock Ex-Dubuque (LPD 8) and amphibious assault ship Ex-Tarawa (LHA 1).

Five members of Military Sealift Command Pacific's (MSCPAC) Headquarters Unit are serving as watch standers, providing maritime logistics support to Commander, Task Group 173. These reservists, are providing comprehensive planning and coordination for each replenishment-at-sea conducted during the exercise, including arranging and coordinating rendezvous locations and times for MSCs CLF ships and MSC chartered tankers. In addition, the reservists will coordinate the towing operations for USNS Grasp.

Twenty-four members of MSC Cargo Afloat Rig Team (CART) will support at-sea logistics operations in support of the exercise, training and working hand-in-hand with the Civil Service Mariner crews in order to meet the huge underway replenishment demands of keeping the ships of the 29 participating nations supplied and moving.

"MSC and our crews of highly professional Civilian Mariners are proud to be a part of RIMPAC 2024," said Leonard Bell, Deputy to the Commodore, Military Sealift Command Pacific. "This is a great opportunity for us to not only demonstrate our logistics capabilities, but to work and learn from our foreign Navy partners in an at-sea environment. In today's challenging environments, exercises such as RIMPAC allow us to foster goodwill and relationships with like-minded partners, ensuring safe seas for military and commercial sailing."

Hosted biennially by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT), and executed by Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet (C3F), RIMPAC is a multinational maritime exercise that takes place in and around the Hawaiian Islands. This year marks the 29th iteration of RIMPAC, a series that began in 1971 and is scheduled to take place from June 26 to Aug. 2. Approximately 29 nations, 40 surface ships, three submarines, 14 national land-forces, over 150 aircraft and more than 25,000 personnel are scheduled to participate. This year's exercise includes units or personnel from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States. RIMPAC is a unique training opportunity designed to foster and sustain the cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans.



The Henry J. Kaiser-class fleet replenishment oiler USNS Pecos (T-AO 197) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, to begin the Force Integration phase of Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2024, July 8. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Preston Cash)

## NAVY CHRISTENS USNS CHEROKEE NATION

From the Office of the U.S. Navy Chief of Information

The Navy christened the Navajo-class towing, salvage, and rescue ship, the future USNS Cherokee Nation (T-ATS 7), during a ceremony, June 8, in Houma, Louisiana.

The Honorable Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation delivered the principal address. Remarks were also provided by the Honorable Franklin Parker, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs; Vice Adm. Scott Gray, commander, Navy Installation Command; and Mr. Ben Bordelon, President and Chief Executive Officer, Bollinger Shipyards. In a time-honored Navy tradition, the ship's sponsor, the Honorable Victoria Vazquez, Deputy Speaker of the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council, christened the ship by breaking a bottle of sparkling wine across the bow.

USNS Cherokee Nation is the second ship in its class and will be operated by the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command. The vessels will replace the existing Powhatan-class T-ATF fleet ocean tugs and Safeguard-class T-ARS rescue and salvage ships in service with the U.S. Military Sealift Command.

The Navajo-class is a new series of towing, salvage, diving, and rescue ships (T-ATS) being constructed for the U.S. Navy. The Navajo-class is a multi-mission common hull platform that will be deployed to support a range of missions such as towing, rescue, salvage, diving, humanitarian assistance, oil spill response and wide-area search and surveillance operations.

# WE ARE MSC: CAPTAIN JIM WHITE LEADS MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND'S NEWEST FLEET REPLENISHMENT OILER

By Hendrick Dickson, Military Sealift Command Public Affairs

There's nothing like a new ship. The gray is hazier, the lights are brighter and brass is shinier. When you walk aboard a new ship, you notice the crew's sense of pride. They know they are the ones who will lay the foundation for the ship's future.

That's the feeling aboard Military Sealift Command's newest fleet replenishment oiler, USNS Harvey Milk (T-AO 206). The current crew has the very important task of getting her fit and ready for future operations, and with a wealth of MSC experience behind him, Ship Master, Capt. Jim White, looks to lead them to success.

The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy graduate, class of '86, has been sailing for MSC for 34-years. After graduating USMMA, White initially joined the Navy. He said there were limited employment opportunities for career Mariners during that time, and he thought a tour aboard a naval auxiliary ship would give him a chance to raise his license from third mate to second mate. But while serving in the Navy, he realized a different path.

"I was assigned to a Navy oiler based in Norfolk, the USS Savannah (AOR 4), and I found I liked it," said White. "I enjoyed the ship's mission. I thought it was pretty cool to work aboard ships that operate like that, close together and re-supplying Navy ships. And I found out what MSC was when I was aboard the Savannah."

The Salem, Massachusetts, native transitioned to MSC in 1989. He has commanded numerous MSC oilers and AFS-class ships; including USNS William McLean (T-AKE 12), USNS Lewis and Clark (T-AKE 1), USNS Kanawha (T-AO 196), USNS Laramie (T-AO 203), USNS Patuxent (T-AO 201), USNS Concord (AFS 5) and USNS Saturn (T-AFS 10). It has been a career that has put White on the front-lines several times when MSC has been called upon for crises abroad and at home.

"I've been involved at some points in a few history making events," he said. "I was on USNS Arctic (T-AOE 8) as a Chief Mate for Operation Iraqi Freedom. When 9/11 happened, I was on the USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) when we were activated to go to New York City. Lewis and Clark won an AOTOS (Admiral of the Ocean Sea) award for avoiding a pirate attack when I was there in Somalia. It's been fascinating. Any place the Navy is and a world event happens, MSC is there as well."

Reflecting on a career that has spanned more than three decades, White remembers the Mariners he's served with over the years who have impacted his career, and credits some mentors with giving him the tools to be the captain he is today.

"I've benefited from sailing with a lot of experienced captains like Ed Burns, Ed Nanartowich, Steven Aspiotis, Rich Cicchetti, Randall Rockwood and Keith Walzak. I got just a lot of mentorship from them and I feel I'm trying to do that now," he



Capt. James J. White, Master of the John Lewis-class fleet replenishment oiler, USNS Harvey Milk (T-AO 206), right gives a tour of the ship to Rep. Nancy Pelosi, left, and other distinguished visitors during the ship's namesake visit to San Francisco, March 29. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Joseph R. Vincent)



Capt. James J. White, Ship Master, USNS Harvey Milk (T-AO 206), greets Thomas Kiss, Military Sealift Command's Director of Ship Management, as he arrives aboard the ship, June 3. (U.S. Navy photo by Ryan Carter)

said. "Having been sailing Captain for 19 years now, I'd say there are probably 15 to 20 permanent Masters who are working with MSC, who have sailed for me as junior officers or in some cases unlicensed Mariners. I feel pretty proud about that."

He also credits the support system he has at home; his wife Dee and their three kids. Through all the deployments, transfers and long hours working aboard ships, they've been his inspiration.

"I've been married for 33 years. My wife certainly puts up with every aspect of this job, but she's always been supportive of it. And my kids are too. They're all adults now, but they still enjoy hearing all the sea stories. I certainly couldn't have done it without them," he said.

With the support of his family and years of experience behind him, White seems to be the perfect leader for MSC's newest fleet replenishment oiler. Only the second John Lewis-class vessel, Harvey Milk was launched in November 2021. It is named in honor of activist Harvey Milk, the first openly gay person to be elected to public office.

The vessel arrived in Norfolk in April. The crew will soon begin the long, strenuous process of sea trials and qualifications to ensure it is mission ready. White says he excited and honored to lead the crew and to represent a namesake which means so much to so many people.

"I'm very proud to be the Captain of Harvey Milk," said White. "I've met the people in the Harvey Milk Foundation, Harvey Milk's nephew, Stuart Milk, and Anne Kronenberg, who was Harvey Milk's campaign manager when he ran for office in San Francisco. Their stories and his are very inspiring. His legacy of inclusion is an important message for today that everybody can contribute too."

MSC is celebrating 75 years of providing maritime logistics to the Navy and department of defense. White has been with the command nearly half of its existence. In his stateroom, he keeps a coin rack with nearly 50 challenge coins on it. One of those coins is an MSC 50th anniversary coin. It is a reminder of both his and MSC's longevity and commitment to serving the nation.

"I think 75 years from now, we'll be talking about the 150th anniversary of MSC," White said. "I think it's here to stay. I sometimes tell people that we work in a hidden world at-sea, but the things I see the crews do, day after day, the professional and outstanding support they render is just awe-inspiring at times. The crews always come

## MARITIME PREPOSITIONING SHIPS SQUADRON THREE TEAM MEETS WITH ASPIRING CIVIL SERVICE MARINERS

By Lt.j.g. Jaden Trejo, Military Sealift Command Far East

The Commodore and team of Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron Three met with recent maritime academy graduates in Saipan to provide an introduction to seafaring careers with Military Sealift Command, May 25.

Capt. Steven Wasson, Commodore of MPSRON 3, spoke with the recent graduating class of Western Pacific Maritime Academy at Kagman High School, Marianas High School, and Da'ok Academy, many of whom aspire to become MSC Civil Service Mariners.

Wasson visited the academy at their respective high schools to share insight with the graduated class of 2024 about jobs as a Civil Service Mariner and the journey the students are about to undertake.



A staff member with Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron Three inspects recent graduates of Western Pacific Maritime Academy at Kagman High School, Marianas High School, and Da'ok Academy in Saipan, during a campus visit, May 25. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Jaden Trejo)

Future CIVMARs continued on page 8

# USNS RICHARD E. BYRD HOSTS FAMILY CRUISE

By Sarah Cannon, Military Sealift Command Pacific Public Affairs



Students from The Seattle Maritime Academy, pose aboard the Military Sealift Command dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS Richard E. Byrd (T-AKE 4) during the recent family cruise in the Pacific Northwest. (U.S. Navy photo by Sarah Cannon)

Family members and friends got the opportunity to experience life at-sea on a Military Sealift Command (MSC) ship as they participated in a Family Cruise, also known as a Tiger Cruise, aboard the MSC dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS Richard E. Byrd (T-AKE 4) in the Pacific Northwest.

Twenty-four Tigers, made up of family members, students and faculty from The Seattle Maritime Academy, boarded the ship, early in the morning, in Everett, Washington, and spent the day sailing to the Naval Magazine Indian Island, Washington.



Students from The Seattle Maritime Academy observe operations from the bridge of the Military Sealift Command dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS Richard E. Byrd (T-AKE 4) during a family cruise (Tiger Cruise) in the Pacific Northwest. (U.S. Navy photo by Sarah Cannon)

The Tigers were given a tour of the ship that included machinery spaces, cargo handling areas, underway replenishment stations, small boats and aviation spaces. During the transit the riders were able to see how the ship operates from the engine room and the bridge. They were also able to watch as the harbor tug pilot embarked from the tugboat onto Richard E. Byrd and observed line handling operations as the ship departed and returned to port.

In addition to a full day of tours and demonstrations, the Tigers were able to enjoy both breakfast and lunch in the crew's mess. Here they enjoyed food prepared by the David M. Cook Food Service Award Recipients (11-time winners!) and had the opportunity to chat with crew members in a relaxed setting.

“Days like this helps the families frame daily life aboard and puts some faces to names,” explained Capt. Lee Apsley, Byrd’s Civil Service Master. “They help families wrap their head around this lifestyle and the choice to work at-sea.”

Apsley noted that for many family members, this was the first time they had ever been on ship and the first time they had the opportunity to see where their loved ones live and work.



A student from The Seattle Maritime Academy, uses the “Big Eyes” to observe operations aboard the Military Sealift Command dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS Richard E. Byrd (T-AKE 4) during the recent family cruise in the Pacific Northwest. (U.S. Navy photo by Sarah Cannon)

The Seattle Maritime Academy students joined the family members as part of MSC’s continued recruiting initiatives. For them, the cruise provided the opportunity to be on a working ship and to see and learn about the opportunities MSC has to offer within the maritime industry.

“I think the students has an amazing opportunity here,” said Lt. Ryan Molokie, MSC Strategic Sealift Officer accompanying the students. Kings Point/State Maritime Academy cadets who are aboard Richard E. Byrd, gave tours, and provided a very clear understanding of this type of work and lifestyle. Capt. Apsley and the rest of the crew were so hospitable and made this a memorable experience for everyone.”

# USNS PECOS SUPPORTS USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN STRIKE GROUP PRE-DEPLOYMENT EXERCISES

By Sarah Canon, Military Sealift Command Pacific Public Affairs

Military Sealift Command (MSC) fleet replenishment oiler USNS Pecos (T-AO 197) provided logistics services to the ships of the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group as they conducted routine, pre-deployment training operations in the Pacific area of operations.

Through a series of 33 replenishments-at-sea evolutions (RAS), Pecos delivered 567 pallets of food, parts, equipment and mail. In addition, the ship delivered 4.4 million gallons of diesel ship fuel and 3.2 million gallons of JP5 aviation fuel.

MSC’s ability to replenish ships at-sea, benefits the Navy, by providing all the items needed to sustain the ships at sea, and allows them to stay in the area of operation longer, and without the need to come into port for supplies.



Henry J. Kaiser-class fleet replenishment oiler USNS Pecos (T-AO 197) transfers supplies to the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) during a replenishment-at-sea. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kassandra Alanis)



Henry J. Kaiser-class fleet replenishment oiler USNS Pecos (T-AO 197) sails alongside the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) during a replenishment-at-sea. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kassandra Alanis)

Just as RAS events allow Navy ships to stay on station for longer periods of time, so too does MSC’s ability to receive fuel from tanker ships at-sea. While Pecos was delivering fuel and supplies to the ships of the Lincoln strike group, the oiler was receiving fuel from the tanker MV Empire State. The more traditional option is for ships like Pecos to return to port to a fuel pier to take on fuel for delivery. The option for a combat logistics ship to receive bulk cargo fuel at sea, from a tanker, gives MSC flexibility in obtaining products needed by Navy customers quickly and efficiently.

In addition to providing logistics services to the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group, Pecos also served as the Pacific duty oilers, delivering supplies to Navy ships in the region.

# SMOOTH SAILING AHEAD: FAREWELL CAIRNS!

By Seaman Recruit Ethan Lambert, USS Emory S. Land (AS-39)



Royal Navy sailors assigned to Offshore Patrol Vessel HMS Tamar (P233), left, connect a bow to Royal Australian Navy hydro-graphic survey ship HMAS Leeuwin (A 245), right, as both vessels are alongside the submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) during the ship's scheduled port call in Cairns, Australia, June 13. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Mario E. Reyes Villatoro)

The submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) departed from Cairns, Queensland, Australia, after a regularly scheduled port call, June 17. Cairns was the second port call of Emory S. Land's current deployment which began on May 17.

"We had a very rewarding visit to Cairns," said Capt. Brent Spillner, the ship's commanding officer. "We were able to simultaneously provide repairs and other services to Australian, British, and American warships, to improve our coordination with allies, and to participate in some very meaningful naval and community events."

Emory S. Land had the honor of welcoming the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Leeuwin-class survey ship HMAS Leeuwin (A 245) and Royal Navy (RN) River-class vessel HMS Tamar (P 233) alongside as both allied vessels demonstrated mooring capabilities. The last time the tender moored an allied ship alongside was the Republic of Korea submarine ROKS Jeong Ji in October 2023.

"This was a great opportunity to visit a culturally-rich area and enhance the relationship between our countries," said Emory S. Land Executive Officer, Cmdr. Michael Fasano. "Our Sailors participated in military-to-military exchanges, cultural exchange projects and numerous community relations events. A highlight of this port call was demonstrating our capability to moor RAN and RN vessels alongside simultaneously. All three nations have a common interest in the security, stability, and well-being of the Indo-Pacific region. Our respective platforms complement each other well, and we open up the possibility of a number of important missions by being able to coordinate seamlessly with our regional trusted partners."

Sailors had the opportunity to participate in community relations events organized by the ship's religious ministries team. A group of Sailors spent the day with the young indigenous men and women of the Australian Football League Cape York House, receiving boomerang-throwing lessons, partaking in traditional dance, and competing in various outdoor activities. Sailors also visited the James Cook University Marine Research Facility, taking a tour of the marine life in rehabilitation, and assisting the staff in the cleanup and reorganization of the facility.

"I think it's a really good way to give back as a country, and also as a military," said Chief Machinery Repairman Rene Gomez, "It means a lot to us to be able to put ourselves out there, letting people know we're not just here to conduct military missions, but that we're here to actually give back to the communities."

Previously, the ship conducted a port visit in Darwin, Australia, which began on May 30. There, the crew participated in local fishing and tourism, and participated in community relation events such as a community cleanup and assisted with the local Reconciliation Week barbecue.

National Reconciliation Week is held from May 27 to June 3 every year. The week is dedicated to all Australians to interchange histories, cultures and achievements, in order to build a stronger community. The week showcases Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' culture.

Emory S. Land is on deployment supporting the U.S. 7th Fleet, the U.S. Navy's largest forward deployed numbered fleet, operating with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region. Emory S. Land provides expeditionary intermediate-level maintenance, services, and logistics support to deployed submarines.



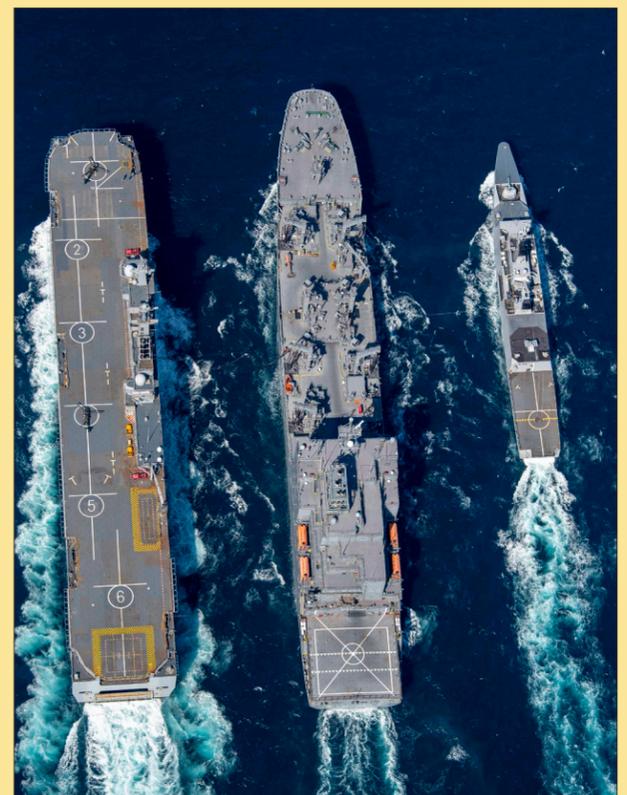
The submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39), right, Royal Australian Navy hydro-graphic survey ship HMAS Leeuwin (A 245), left, and Royal Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel HMS Tamar (P233), center, are moored together in Cairns, Australia, June 13, while Emory S. Land conducts a scheduled port call. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Darek Leary)

## MSC anyday

## USNS HARVEY MILK (T-AO 206)



An aerial view of Military Sealift Command's fleet replenishment oiler USNS Harvey Milk (T-AO 206) (center) performing an underway replenishment-at-sea with the French Navy frigate FS Guépratte (F714) (left) and amphibious assault ship FS Tonnerre (L9014) (right) in the Atlantic Ocean (French Navy courtesy photo)



An aerial view of Military Sealift Command's fleet replenishment oiler USNS Harvey Milk (T-AO 206) (center) performing an underway replenishment-at-sea with the French Navy frigate FS Guépratte (F714) (right) and amphibious assault ship FS Tonnerre (L9014) (left) in the Atlantic Ocean (French Navy courtesy photo)

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# MSC75 Blast from the Past - USNS Windham Bay



Named after Windham Bay, within Tongass National Forest of the Territory of Alaska, USS Windham Bay (CVE-92) was a Casablanca-class escort carrier designed specifically to be mass-produced using prefabricated sections, in order to replace heavy early World War II losses. It was laid down under a Maritime Commission contract Jan. 5, 1944 at Vancouver, Washington, by the Kaiser Shipbuilding Co. It was launched March 29, 1944, sponsored by Mrs. Henry M. Cooper, and commissioned on May 3, 1944.

Following its commissioning, Windham Bay served as a replenishment and transport carrier for the U.S. Navy during the war. It participated in the Invasion of Iwo Jima and Battle of Okinawa and earned three World War II battle stars. However, the ship was moved for duty with the Pacific Reserve Fleet Jan. 25, 1945 and designated "in commission, in reserve," as the temporary flag ship of the Commander, Tacoma Group, 18th, until Aug. 23, 1946, when she was placed out of commission.

The carrier stayed with the Reserve Fleet until hostilities erupted in Korea during the summer of 1950. Windham Bay was designated for reactivation Aug. 7, 1950, for assignment to the Military Sealift Command (then known as Military Sea Transportation Service), and recommissioned USNS Windham Bay (T-CVE 92) at Bremerton, Washington, Oct. 28, 1950. The vessel headed for Yokohama, Japan, that Jan. of 1951, to unload a cargo of aircraft.

In February of 1951, during a voyage to Saigon in French Indochina, Windham Bay became the first large ship to navigate the Long Tam River since 1925. While the ship was docked at Saigon, 17 hand grenades were tossed at the ship by terrorists. Before setting course back to the U.S., it unloaded a cargo of Grumman F8F Bearcats naval aircraft for the French and at Sangley Point, Philippine Islands.

Windham Bay's career lasted until the end of 1958. In Jan. of 1959, she was decommissioned and berthed with the San Francisco Group, Pacific Reserve Fleet. Her name was stricken from the Navy list on Feb. 1, 1959, and she was ultimately sold to the Hugo Neu Steel Products Corp., of New York City. The ship was scrapped in Japan in Feb. 1961.

## AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION MONTH

By Meghan Sullivan, Military Sealift Command Health Promotion Program

August is National Immunization Awareness Month. This annual observance highlights the efforts of MSC to protect Civil Service Mariners against vaccine-preventable illness through on-time vaccination.

It is our responsibility to work hand-in-hand with our health care provider to keep up with our shots, beyond just the yearly flu shot. Getting vaccinated can prevent you and your loved ones from serious diseases and can help keep you healthy to avoid missing time with your family, friends, and loved ones. See below for a list of adult vaccinations to have on your radar:

### Young adults (and college-aged adults)

- HPV (human papillomavirus)—usually ages 13 to 21
- Meningococcal (meningitis)—initial vaccine when you're about 11 years old with a booster around age 16
- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)

### All adults

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Td/Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Zoster (shingles)—usually given at age 50 and older
- COVID-19 Vaccine
- Flu Vaccine

### Older adults

- Pneumococcal (for pneumonia)
- Shingles Vaccine (zoster)



(U.S. Air Force photo by Kenneth Abbate)

MSC has available resources for you. The Health Promotion program at MSC offers the free following services to its Civil Service Mariners:

- InBody Screenings (measures percentage of body fat, muscle mass, basal metabolic rate, or how many calories you burn at rest in a day, and more)
- Individualized Health Coaching
- Online health education and exercise classes
- Subscription to Weekly Wellness newsletters, covering a variety of health and wellness topics
- Health Risk Assessment and subscription to online wellness portal
- SHIP FIT: A workout plan distributed quarterly with all bodyweight exercises that can be done while underway or at home

HPP is here for you! We encourage you to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. EMAIL: [stephanie.rusnak.ctr@us.navy.mil](mailto:stephanie.rusnak.ctr@us.navy.mil) or [msullivan@millenniumhealthandfitness.com](mailto:msullivan@millenniumhealthandfitness.com)



# MSC IS NOW HIRING

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MSC is an equal opportunity employer and a drug-free workplace.

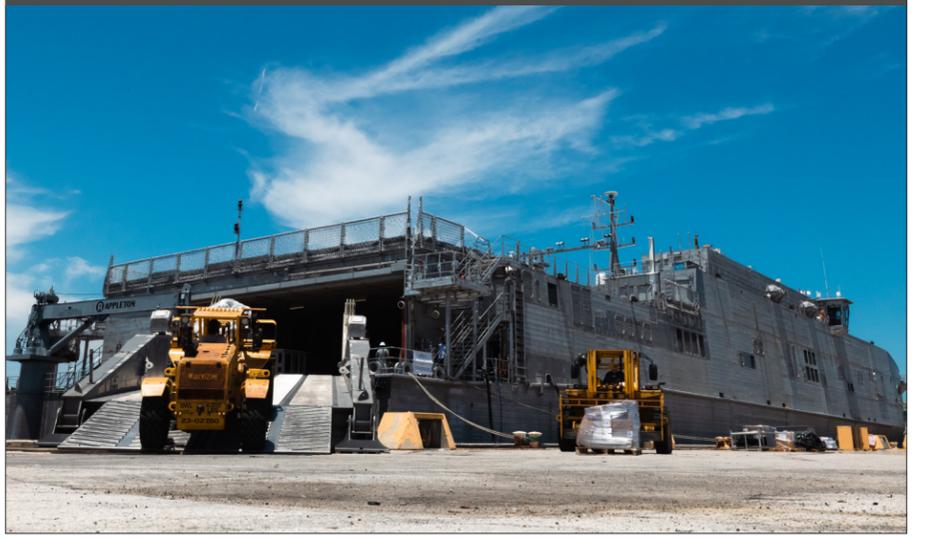
USNS Burlington from Page 1

Pharmacists, optometrists, nurses, biomedical technicians, optometrists, dentists, and general practitioners will be among the 30 U.S. Navy medical professionals sharing their expertise and working with local patients.

Just as in past iterations of Continuing Promise, an integral part of the mission is the United Nations' (UN) Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) initiative. WPS is derived from a UN resolution signed in 2000 that recognizes women are dis-proportionally affected by crisis and conflict and aims to provide better support and protection to provide a safer environment in their communities.

“Continuing Promise 2024 will feature at least two multi-day seminars in each location discussing the prevention of gender-based violence, in addition to discussions with the military forces of each partner nation regarding women in the military as it relates to the initiative,” said Smith. “WPS is a cornerstone of the USSOUTHCOM and U.S. 4th Fleet mission because they believe that societies are more peaceful and prosperous when women and men have equal rights, liberties, dignities, and access to resources.”

Civil Service Mariners load non-government organization donations onto the Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Burlington (T-EPF 10) for Continuing Promise 2024. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Jasmin L. Aquino)



Future CIVMARs from Page 4

Shortly after, Wasson introduced his staff, their jobs in the Navy, and answered questions about life at sea and opportunities in MSC.

After meeting with the MPSRON 3 staff, the Natibu Division of the Sea Cadets and the Western Pacific Maritime Academy toured the USNS Charlton (T-AKR 314), a large, medium-speed roll on/roll off prepositioned ship.

While aboard, the Sea Cadets and students were able to see what life would be like aboard an MSC vessel, interview the staff, and hold a question and answer session with the ship's master.

Seventeen Western Pacific Maritime Academy students graduated with Merchant Mariner credentials. This qualifications will help position graduates for careers with MSC. Several soon-to-be graduates have already accepted positions of employment.

Western Pacific Maritime Academy is a non-profit organization that fulfills maritime workforce opportunities through excellence in maritime training in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and beyond.

The United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a non-profit youth organization founded in 1958 with the commitment to provide knowledge and skills of military services and offer a variety of specialized military training, according to their website.

Commander, MPSRON 3 supports warfighters from all the U.S. Armed Forces by prepositioning MSC ships throughout the Indo-Pacific Region, ensuring Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps vehicles, heavy equipment, personnel and supplies are strategically positioned to support the full range of military operations.

MSC Far East supports the U.S. 7th Fleet and 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. U.S. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.



The recent graduating class of Western Pacific Maritime Academy at Kagman High School, Marianas High School, and Da'ok Academy in Saipan, pose for a photo during a tour aboard the large, medium-speed roll on/roll off, prepositioned ship USNS Charlton (T-AKR 314), May 25. (Navy photo by Lt. J.g. Jaden Trego)

# FALLEN MSC TEAMMATE



**Boatswain David Chinchilla**  
MSC Service 2004-2024

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.



## Military Sealift Command

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Editor, Sealift, Military Sealift Command  
471 East C Street  
Norfolk, VA 23511-2419  
Commercial: 757-443-2839  
DSN: 646-2839  
EMAIL: lewis.w.mesta.civ@us.navy.mil

- Commander .....Rear Admiral Philip Sobeck, USN
- Director, Public Affairs ..... Tom Van Leunen
- Deputy Director, Public Affairs ..... Jillian Morris
- Editor.....Bill Mesta, Norfolk, VA
- Visual Information ..... Brian Suriani, Norfolk, VA
- Visual Information ..... Ryan Carter, Norfolk, VA
- Writer ..... Jennifer Hunt, Norfolk, VA
- Writer ..... Hendrick Dickson, Norfolk, VA
- Writer ..... Dave Griesmer Norfolk, VA
- Writer ..... LaShawn Sykes, Norfolk, VA
- Writer ..... Sarah Cannon, San Diego, CA
- Writer .....Grady Fontana, Singapore

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