



SHIPSHAPE

"Keeping you in touch with the world's finest Navy"

August 2004

One of the great things about the Leaders To Sea program is that guests embark different ships each month and see a part of the Navy that is operating off the coast that day. We regularly rotate LTS groups through cruisers, destroyers, frigates and our amphibious ships (amphibs). The last two issues of Shipshape went into some detail about destroyers and cruisers; the first amphibians that I wanted to highlight are the LHD and LHA, which are our amphibious assault ships.

Often referred to as "helicopter carriers," LHA/Ds are much more than that. They carry AV-8B 'Harrier' jump-jet attack aircraft, CH-53E 'Sea Stallion' medium lift helicopters, UH-1N 'Huey' utility helicopters, AH-1W 'Super Cobra' attack helicopters and are planned to embark MV-22 'Osprey' tilt-rotor cargo/utility aircraft soon. These ships also launch amphibious landing craft like LCACs and LCUs that carry Marines up to and beyond the beach. These amphibians also maintain huge hospitals aboard to care for injured forces or to treat people who have suffered illness during one of the many humanitarian missions the U.S. Navy has responded to in the last few decades. We have five LHAs and seven LHDs in our inventory, with another LHD under construction. The Navy is already planning for the next generation of amphibious assault ships designated LHA(R), which will add to our assault capability far into the future.

The amphibious, or "Gator," Navy enjoys tremendous camaraderie and has been a mainstay of the force for decades. Maintaining the capability for amphibious landings is vital to our naval strategy and putting forces into a world hot spot or disaster area via air and sea is something we are incredibly proud of.

I welcome our newest LTS alumni and look forward to educating you further about your Navy every month.

Keep Smiling,
Tim LaFleur



**Vice Admiral
Tim LaFleur
Commander
Naval Surface Force
U.S. Pacific Fleet**

The U.S. Navy: Around the World, Around the Clock

Status of the Navy

Navy Personnel

Active Duty: 376,925 **Ready Reserve: 147,299** [As of 31 July]
-- Officers: 55,242 -- Selected Reserves: 82,670
-- Enlisted: 317,320 -- Individual Ready Reserve: 64,629
Midshipmen: 4,363 **Reserves currently mobilized: 3,762**

Personnel on deployment: 39,142

Navy Department Civilian Employees: 182,100 [as of 31 July]

Ships: 296

Ships

Ships Underway (away from homeport):

145 (49% of total)

On deployment:

105 ships (35% of total)

Ships Underway

Command Ships:

USS LaSalle (AGF 3) -
Mediterranean Sea
USS Coronado (AGF 11) -
East China Sea

USS Wasp (LHD 1)[22 MEU] -
port visit, Tarragona, Spain
USS Shreveport (LPD 12) -
port visit, Valletta, Malta
USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41) -
Mediterranean Sea

Amphibious Ships:

USS Nassau (LHA 4) - Atlantic Ocean
USS Essex (LHD 2) - East China Sea
USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) - Atlantic Ocean
USS Austin (LPD 4) - Atlantic Ocean
USS Juneau (LPD 10) -
Gulf of Thailand
USS Rushmore (LSD 47) -
Pacific Ocean
USS Ashland (LSD 48) - Atlantic Ocean
USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) -
Gulf of Thailand

Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) Three

11th Marine Expeditionary Unit
USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3) -
Persian Gulf
USS Denver (LPD 9) - Gulf of Aden
USS Comstock (LSD 45) -
Persian Gulf
USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) -
Persian Gulf

Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) Two

22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit

USS Hopper (DDG 70) - Gulf of Oman
USS Preble (DDG 88) - Persian Gulf

New Leaders to Sea Alumni

The following LTS guests embarked USS Chosin (CG 65) in August 2004:

BARBARA BASHEIN, VICE PRESIDENT, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
CAL-STATE UNIVERSITY - SAN MARCOS
MIKE BERK, VICE PRESIDENT, A.G. EDWARDS & SONS
STEVE BOCK, SERGEANT, TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT
DAVE BOOKER, OWNER, FLOORSOURCE/DIRECT CARPET, INC.
STEVE D'ANJOU, SERGEANT, TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT
LEON DARLEY, SERGEANT, TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT
BRENDA FELT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT,
TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT
JOHN ILLGEN, VP, NORTHROP GRUMMAN SIMULATION
TECHNOLOGIES GROUP
KANDACE ILLGEN, COMPUTER SCIENTIST
WAYNE LEE, COMPUTER ENGINEER, CORONA INC.
PETER LLOYD, VICE PRESIDENT, RREEF REAL ESTATE
MICHAEL MAUNO, CITY COUNCILMEMBER, TORRANCE, CA
JOHN NEWMAN, POLICE SERVICES OFFICER,
TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHRIS PASCALE, SENIOR VP, C.B RICHARD ELLIS, INC.
SONIA PERRY, SENIOR PROPERTY MANAGER, RREEF REAL ESTATE
BURT PRESSMAN, BRANCH MANAGER, A.G. EDWARDS & SONS
JOHN PRINS, SERGEANT, TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT
JILL SHANAHAN, VICE PRESIDENT, RREEF REAL ESTATE
DAVE SMITH, LIEUTENANT, TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT
BRAD WILSON, LIEUTENANT, TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT
HOPE WITKOWSKY, CITY COUNCILMEMBER, TORRANCE, CA

THE GATOR NAVY

Click on each photo to find out more about the evolution of Navy amphibious ships and operations since WWII.



WWII - 1944

World War II: USS LST 477
Vietnam: USS Iwo Jima (LPH 2)
Gulf War: USS Tarawa (LHA 1)
Future: LHA (R)



Vietnam - 1967



The Future - ?



Gulf War - 1991

Amphibious Assault Ships: Past, Present and Future

Modern U.S. Navy amphibious assault ships project power and maintain presence by serving as the cornerstone of the Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG). These ships transport and land elements of the Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) with a combination of aircraft and landing craft. They are able to sail in harm's way and provide a rapid buildup of combat power ashore in the face of opposition. Because of their inherent capabilities, these ships have been and will continue to be called upon to also support humanitarian and other contingency missions on short notice. The United States maintains the largest and most capable amphibious force in the world. The Wasp-class are currently the largest amphibious ships in the world. The lead ship, USS Wasp (LHD 1) was commissioned in July 1989 in Norfolk, Va. LHA Replacement or LHA(R) is the next step in the incremental development of the "Big Deck Amphib." She is being designed to accommodate the Marine Corps' future Air Combat Element (ACE) including F-35B Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) and MV-22 Osprey, provide additional vehicle and cargo stowage capacities and enable a broader, more flexible command and control capability.

Who is eligible for Leaders to Sea?

How can I nominate someone?

Upcoming Leaders to Sea embarks are scheduled for the following ships/dates:

USS MUSTIN (DDG 89)	26-29 OCTOBER
USS HOWARD (DDG 83)	TBD NOVEMBER
USS BELLEAU WOOD (LHA 3)	24-28 JANUARY 2005
USS MOBILE BAY (CG 53)	22-25 FEBRUARY 2005
USS DECATUR (DDG 73)	21-25 MARCH 2005

This program is designed for people who are active and influential in business, government or the community, as well as people who are active communicators and opinion leaders. Follow the link below to download the nomination form (64KB Microsoft Word file) or e-mail us if you need more information:

joseph.s.navratil@navy.mil
david.w.mcbride@navy.mil

Download nomination/application form
www.surfpac.navy.mil/html/docs/lts_nomination_form.doc

Surface Navy In the News...

Click the headlines for the rest of the story

Crommelin Trains to Neutralize Threats Against Panama Canal
ABOARD USS CROMMELIN, At Sea (NNS) -- While patrolling the Caribbean approaches of the Panama Canal training with U.S. Coast Guard, Colombian and Argentinean forces, the Pearl Harbor-based frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) intercepted and boarded two cargo vessels "suspected" of posing a threat to the Panama Canal as part of the PANAMAX 2004 training scenario in August.

Bonhomme Richard Embarks Harriers, Prepares for Deployment
ABOARD USS BONHOMME RICHARD (NNS) -- USS Bonhomme Richard embarked AV-8B Harriers from Aug. 10-13 for the second time since serving as one of two harrier carriers during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

USS Lake Erie Deploys
ABOARD USS LAKE ERIE, At Sea (NNS) -- USS Lake Erie (CG 70) got underway for its first deployment in almost five years Aug. 23.

New Navy Ship Named
WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England has named the Navy's next amphibious transport dock ship in honor of the city of Anchorage, Alaska.

Revolutionary Gator Welcomes New Commanding Officer
ABOARD USS BONHOMME RICHARD (NNS) -- Capt. Jeffery Scott Jones relieved Capt. Jon Berg-Johnsen as commanding officer, USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) ("Revolutionary Gator") Aug. 5 at Naval Station Everett, Wash.