

August 2, 2023

Greetings, Shipmate!

Congratulations on receiving orders to the Blue Crew of Pre-Commissioning Unit JOHN L. CANLEY (ESB 6), the fourth ship in the LEWIS B. PULLER class of Expeditionary Mobile Sea Bases. Our unique mission is vital to the United States' national military strategy and you are vital to our success in that mission!

Expeditionary Mobile Sea/Staging Bases are large hybrid vessels, with navigation, seamanship, deck-handling, and engineering functions handled by civilian mariners, and the aviation, operations, communications, security, and supply functions handled by two military crews, Blue and Gold. After commissioning and certification, these ships are forward-deployed around the world and remain on station long-term, with the civilian and military crews swapping out every few months. Because of the nature of our missions supporting US Marine Corps aviation or special operations forces, ESBs were permanently shifted from USNS vessels under the Military Sealift Command to USS warships under Expeditionary Strike Group command.

The eventual USS JOHN L. CANLEY (ESB 6) is named after USMC Sergeant Major John L. Canley, Medal of Honor recipient for his heroic deeds leading combat operations and saving Marines under fire in the Battle of Hué City during the Vietnam War in February of 1968. Currently under construction in San Diego at General Dynamics National Steel & Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO), CANLEY delivered to the US Navy in March of 2023 and is homeported in San Diego, deploying later to the Commander Seventh Fleet (C7F) area of operations in the Western Pacific. Answers to many of your questions about the ship, the mission, the Pre-Com Unit, or the San Diego area can be found at our website (https://www.surfpac.navy.mil/esb6/), Military OneSource (https://www.militaryonesource.mil/), and/or the San Diego Fleet & Family Support Center (https://sandiego.navylifesw.com/).

Please contact the Sponsor Coordinator, BMC(SW/AW/IW) Rauschenburg at e-mail: catherine.a.rauschen@esb6.navy.mil / catherine.a.rauschenburg.mil@us.navy.mil or my Command SEL, CMDCS(SW) Green via e-mail: julius.c.green@esb6.navy.mil / julius.c.green.mil@us.navy.mil at your earliest opportunity. We look forward to assigning your sponsor, assisting your move/transition, and supporting you and your family during your pre-arrival training track. Take care!

Sincerely um THOMAS A. MAYS CAPT USN