Commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812
• 200 years ago, England and Napoleonic France were engaged in a war that enveloped Europe.

• The British Royal Navy ruled the seas with over one hundred Ships of the Line that were engaged in fighting the French in the seas around Europe.

• The British sent smaller ships, mostly frigates, to raid merchant vessels and protect their commerce in the Atlantic and Caribbean.
• The British Navy’s effort to contain the French crippled the US export economy by…
  
  • Restricting US free trade with Europe
  
  • Interdicting US merchant vessels
    • Stealing US cargos of goods and merchandise
    • Impressing US citizen-sailors into involuntary service on British warships
    • Commandeering American merchant vessels
  
  • Attacking US Navy ships without provocation
US Declares War on Great Britain

- 18 June, 1812: Congress and President Madison supported a declaration of war against England.
- The newly formed United States was poorly prepared for war in many ways; fortunately President Washington and others made wise decisions that contributed to a capable Navy;
  - The building of six exceptional US Navy frigates (Naval Act of 1794)
  - The recruitment of US merchant men who volunteered to serve in the fledgling US Navy
  - A cadre of outstanding Naval Leaders who were ready to challenge the British navy.
US Navy, Then & Now

1812

- Warfighting First:
  - An Officer Corps of exceptional warfighters mentored by senior leadership and combat tested along the Barbary Coast
  - Highly motivated, experienced volunteer Sailors, with a diverse background

2012

- Warfighting First:
  - Today our Officers and Sailors are the best educated and most technically advanced in the world
  - Our Sailors are highly professional volunteers that are a reflection of the United States of America
US Navy, Then & Now

1812

- **Operate Forward**
  - US Navy Frigates sailed and fought the British from the coast of England to the Caribbean to the southern tip of South America.

2012

- **Operate Forward:**
  - Today the US Navy maintains a global maritime presence
  - Forward Deployed Naval Forces
  - Projects power ashore in Iraq and Afghanistan
  - Dominates the undersea environment and provides the nation’s strategic deterrent
  - Premier Naval Special Forces winning the Global War on terrorism
US Navy, Then & Now

1812

- **Be Ready:**
  - Well trained and highly motivated volunteer Sailors out fought impressed crews on British warships
  - Commodore Preble’s Lieutenants mentored in battles along the Barbary Coast proved superior leaders in 1812; Porter, Bainbridge, Stewart, Lawrence, Decatur and Perry
  - Young nation dedicated significant resources to fund the frigates despite much political resistance.
  - Talented ship designers and a skilled maritime labor force created superior fighting ships

2012

- **Be Ready:**
  - Our all volunteer Navy is the best educated, most professional & diverse in the world
  - Our nation’s navy is the largest, most lethal and technically advanced force at sea
  - Today Sailors are deployed globally executing the full spectrum operations:
    - Combat operations on the ground and in the skies of Afghanistan
    - Counter piracy and counter terrorism in the Indian Ocean
    - Forward presence and deterrence in the Pacific theater
Why Celebrate the War of 1812?

• In 1812 a young nation used a small but effective Navy to deter the era’s predominant naval power.

• The Navy’s celebration of the War of 1812 Bicentennial will provide a significant opportunity to focus on our National and Naval Heritage.

• In 2012 and beyond, we will use examples from the War of 1812 to communicate the value of our Navy to our great nation today.
Our National Heritage

• “Star Spangled Banner” - Shelling of Baltimore’s Fort McHenry led Francis Scott Key to write the “Star-Spangled Banner”

• “Old Ironsides” – Superior Live Oak planking from trees in South Carolina and Florida repelled cannon balls shot from HMS Guerriere earned USS Constitution the nickname!

• “Don’t Give Up the Ship” – CAPT James Lawrence, USS Chesapeake

• “We have met the enemy, and they are ours!” – Oliver Hazard Perry at the Battle of Lake Erie
The 2012 Bicentennial

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Signature Events
The Great Lakes Bicentennial

Combined Annual Canadian Great Lakes Cruise

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<td>Hamilton</td>
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Commemoration Event

- Parade of Sail
- Parade of Warships
- Community Outreach
- Air Show with Blue Angels
- Education Programs
Tall ships from 17 nations will take part

- Two War of 1812 veterans: CONSTITUTION and NIAGARA
- Parades of Sail in Norfolk and Boston

LIBERTAD (Argentina)
CISNE BRANCO (Brazil)
ESMERALDA (Chile)
DANMARK (Denmark)
GUAYAS (Ecuador)
AMERIGO VESPUCCI (Italy)
CUAUHTEMOC (Mexico)
MIRCEA (Romania)
SEDOV (Russia)
JUAN SEBASTIAN ELCANO (Spain)
URANIA (The Netherlands)
Brig NIAGARA (USA)
USS CONSTITUTION (USA)
USCGC EAGLE (USA)