

# A Day in the Navy

## April 20, 2009

(LINKS ARE TO ASSOCIATED PHOTOS)

- On April 20th, 331,871 Active Duty Officers, Sailors and Midshipmen; 66,885 Reserve Component Sailors, with 6,653 Reserves mobilized, and 186,683 civilians are serving in the Department of the Navy.
- 283 active ships are in service. 89 (31%) including four carriers and two large-deck, amphibious ships are underway.
- 9,902 Individual Augmentees, 4,986 of which are mobilized Reserves, are deployed on the ground around the world in support of the War on Terrorism.
- [Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations](#); Vice Adm. John M. Bird, Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet and [USS Fitzgerald \(DDG 62\)](#) represent the U.S. Navy in Qingdao, China, for the International Fleet Review. The review is a celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the [People's Liberation Army \(PLA\) Navy](#). Approximately 40 warships from more than 20 nations are participating in the event.
- Carrier Air Wing 7 embarked on aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) flies 62 sorties in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and coalition forces on the ground in Afghanistan.
- USS Gettysburg (CG 64) operates as part of Combined Task Force 151 off the coast of Somalia. CTF 151 is a multinational task force that conducts counter-piracy operations in and around the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and the Red Sea. The Singapore Navy joins CTF 151 in the Gulf of Aden.
- USS Nashville (LPD 13) arrives in Port Gentil, Gabon, in support of Africa Partnership Station. The embarked APS team will conduct training on port security planning, small boat maintenance, maritime law, and search and rescue.
- Maritime Civil Affairs Team 203 visits with Domoni village elders and headmaster in Comoros for a dedication ceremony for the completed refurbishment of its primary school.
- USS Robert G. Bradley (FFG 49) is underway in the Mediterranean in preparation for Exercise Phoenix Express 2009. PE09 is a two-week exercise focused on building maritime interoperability for North African and European nations.
- USS Florida (SSGN 728) (Gold) is underway from Souda Bay in the 6th Fleet Area of Responsibility while completing its maiden forward deployment.

- Norfolk-based USS James E. Williams (DDG 95) deploys to the 5th and 6th Fleet Areas of Operations to conduct maritime security operations and work with international maritime forces.
- [Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command](#) and U.S. 4<sup>th</sup> Fleet welcome participants from 11 partner nations to Jacksonville, Fla., during the opening ceremony for UNITAS Gold. This year's exercise is the 50<sup>th</sup> iteration of the longest-running annual multinational exercise.
- USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) is en route to Dominican Republic for Continuing Promise 09 following a successful port visit to Haiti where the CP09 team treated 7,361 patients, made 30,586 medical encounters and performed 161 surgeries.
- Task Group 40.9 and training teams from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Navy's Expeditionary Training Command are in Port Antonio, Jamaica, aboard High Speed Vessel Swift instructing members of the Jamaica Defense Force on junior enlisted leadership, physical security, small boat repair, search and rescue planning and armed sentry duties.
- Destroyer Squadron 26, USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81) and USS Hawes (FFG 53) support the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago. The squadron and two ships provide a detailed maritime security picture and protection for the President of the United States.
- Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11 participates in operation "Beyond the Horizon" in Jamaica where they will build a community center.
- USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) completes Fleet Replacement Squadron Carrier Qualification with Carrier Air Wing 14.
- USS Champion (MCM 4), [USS Devastator \(MCM 6\)](#) and [USS Pioneer \(MCM 9\)](#) depart Naval Station Ingleside en route to their new homeport of San Diego, Calif. The change of homeport is in accordance with the Defense Base Relocation and Closure Commission's directed closure of Naval Station Ingleside.
- USS Decatur (DDG 73) conducts Unit Level Training Assessment Engineer Training in the U.S. 3rd Fleet Area of Responsibility. Approximately every two years, ships undergo ULTRA-E to validate the ship's ability to self-assess, train and certify the ship's ability to perform required missions to a set standard.
- USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) conducts flight operations in the South China Sea as the crew prepares to host 20 Vietnamese governmental, military and media personnel from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Guests fly out to the carrier for a one-day embark where they have the unique opportunity to observe flight operations and interact with the crew.

- Amphibious Squadron Eleven, including USS Essex (LHD 2), USS Tortuga (LSD 46) and the embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, join the Armed Forces of the Philippines for Balikatan 2009, an exercise designed to increase the interoperability and collective security efforts between U.S. and Philippine forces.
- USS Michigan (SSGN 727) conducts a forward-deployed voyage repair period in Guam. Michigan is on her first Western Pacific deployment following an extensive conversion to a conventional strike and naval special warfare command and control platform.
- One hundred Reserve Sailors from Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 3 support the Navy Expeditionary Medical Support Command rotation of prepositioned fleet hospital assets in Okinawa, including off loading and back loading containers, civil engineering support equipment and vehicles.
- [Des Moines Navy Week begins](#) in conjunction with the Drake Relays. Navy weeks are designed to show Americans the investment they have made in their Navy and increase awareness in cities that do not have a significant Navy presence.
- Researchers at the Naval Medical Research Center, Silver Spring, Md., perform surgery in support of the Office of Naval Research's effort to develop innovative new approaches for healing combat wounds through tissue regeneration.
- Five hundred fifty students at Naval Special Warfare Center train for SEAL and Special Warfare Combatant Crewmember qualifications. Fifty-five SEAL candidates in Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL school conduct closed-circuit Draeger LAR-V diving training.
- The Office of Naval Research and Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division test a prototype degaussing coil onboard USS Higgins (DDG 76), utilizing superconducting ceramic materials instead of traditional copper cables to neutralize the ship's magnetic signature. Higgins produces a "full coil effect" as the ship completes a pass over the U.S. Navy Magnetic Silencing Range in San Diego, Calif.
- Naval Facilities Engineering Command awards its first contracts in support of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects. These projects, which will total nearly \$1.9 billion in ARRA funding, will modernize Navy and Marine Corps shore infrastructure, enhance America's energy independence and sustain a steady and robust maritime force for decades.
- Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific host 20 students of Semester-at-Sea, a shipboard program for study abroad administered by the Institute for Shipboard Education. Activities include a tour of the USS Crommelin (FFG 37).
- Naval Hospital Bremerton (NHB) starts its "Navy Earth Day 2009 - Partnering for the Planet" celebration including the planting of 1,130 tree saplings on NHB's forested area and nature trail and a pharmaceutical 'Take Back Event' where any eligible beneficiary can drop/deposit unwanted and unused pharmaceuticals; and a beach clean-up on NHB's shoreline.