

A Day in the Navy

December 7, 2009

(LINKS ARE TO ASSOCIATED PHOTOS)

- On Dec. 7, 330,035 active duty officers, Sailors and midshipmen: 108,655 ready reserve Sailors, with 6,362 reserves mobilized, and 194,562 civilians are serving in the Department of the Navy.
- 285 active ships are in service. 134 (47%) including two carriers and six large-deck, amphibious ships are underway.
- 10,975 Individual Augmentees, 5,615 of which are mobilized Reserves, are deployed on the ground around the world in support of overseas contingency operations.
- [Commander, Navy Region Hawaii](#) and the [National Park Service](#) host a memorial ceremony on Naval Station Pearl Harbor to commemorate the [68th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor](#). [USS Lake Erie \(CG 70\)](#) initiates a moment of silence with its ship's whistle and renders honors to the [USS Arizona Memorial](#) and the 45 survivors of the bombing in attendance at the ceremony.
- Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1, in Dili, Timor Leste, complete work on the Camea Rai-Hun School near Dili and a clinic renovation. The Seabees partner closely with Timor Leste Defense Forces and the Australian-led international support force.
- USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54), USS Lassen (DDG 82), USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62), Destroyer Squadron 15 and three ships from the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force participate in Ship Anti-Submarine Warfare Readiness Measurement (SHAREM 163), a semi-annual exercise designed to assess undersea warfare readiness.
- USS Mustin (DDG 89) conducts operations in the South China Sea after departing Langkawi, Malaysia, where she participated with 93 other warships and vessels and 24 participating countries in the annual Langkawi International Maritime & Aerospace Exhibition.
- [USS Nimitz \(CVN 68\) launches](#) 28 combat sorties in support of coalition forces in Afghanistan. [Carrier Air Wing 11](#) has flown 1,649 sorties for [Operation Enduring Freedom](#) and 9,666 cumulative flight hours since arriving on station in September.
- The E-2C Squadron VAW-117 Wallbangers fly four five-hour combat missions over the skies of Pakistan and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom while deployed on board USS Nimitz (CVN 68). They provide coordination between fixed-wing attack aircraft and Coalition airborne tankers in Afghanistan.

- 30th Naval Construction Regiment continues to lead joint engineering efforts in southern Afghanistan. Naval Mobile Construction Battalions 22 and 74, two Army Engineer battalions, an Air Force Red Horse Group and various engineering planning teams work jointly to execute missions, including construction and repair of SWA Hut berthing, command and control facilities, and construction and expansion of combat outposts.
- USS Chosin (CG 65) investigates a suspected pirated fishing vessel and practices visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) techniques for vessels with different levels and compartments. Chosin is the flagship for Combined Task Force 151 conducting counter piracy operations in the Somali Basin.
- The Bonhomme Richard Amphibious Ready Group and 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit operate in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility. Sailors and Marines aboard the command platform USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) conduct routine training, a gun shoot and a frocking ceremony while in the Gulf of Aden.
- USS Benfold (DDG 65), assigned to Combined Task Force 152, supports Maritime Security Operations by conducting bridge-to-bridge queries of four vessels in the Arabian Gulf.
- USNS Grapple (T-ARS 53), one of the Navy's four rescue and salvage ships, begins its first day of Africa Partnership Station activities in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. While in port the embarked Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit will conduct training and exercises with Tanzanian navy divers to help build their capacity and ability to conduct sustained dive operations.
- Aircraft from Task Force 67 fly operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as well as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions throughout the area of responsibility.
- USS Nicholas (FFG 47) enters the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility to participate in the first major Africa Partnership Station mission with an international staff on the East Coast of Africa.
- The Joint Medical Group provides first-class medical care to detainees at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. The JTF conducts safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees, including those convicted by military commission and those ordered released by a court.
- Sailors and Marines of the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) are en route to their homeports following a successful seven-month deployment to US Central Command in the Middle East. USS Bataan (LHD 5) and USS Ponce (LPD 15) will arrive at Norfolk Naval Station and USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) will return to Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek – Ft. Story, Va. Tuesday, Dec. 8.

- Fixed Wing Patrol Squadron (VP) 10 returns from deployment to the Middle East. Approximately 300 personnel return stateside; 135 continued to their final destination in Jacksonville, Fla. The Sailors flew a total of 4,412 hours and over 700 sorties over the past seven months to areas including Al Udeid Qatar, Djibouti Africa, Kadena Japan, and numerous detachments throughout the 5th Fleet.
- The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded posthumously to Retired Reserve Chief Radioman Walter T. Brown Sr. at the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ceremony at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story. The award is presented for Brown flying 51 combat missions during World War II, including one where his B-24 engine was shot out and another where the crew assisted in sinking the German submarine U-971.
- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West holds an All Hands Call at Naval Health Clinic New England and visits with Sailors at the Senior Enlisted Academy in Naval Station Newport, R.I.
- Naval Surface Warfare Center, Ship Systems Engineering Station engineers wrap up a final technical design review for DDG-51 Hybrid Electric Drive Proof of Concept demonstrator. Implementation of this technology should mean a nine percent improvement in fuel savings for the ship class.
- Commander Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Honor Guard personnel participate in 44 funerals throughout the region, encompassing Maine through North Carolina.
- Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center produces weather forecasts for eight U.S. and coalition submarines, 25 high-resolution weather forecast regions and 300 flight plans for Navy and joint aviators in support of global U.S. Navy operations and exercises.
- Naval Oceanography is finishing integrated Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) operations as part of a harbor survey in Yokosuka, Japan.
- As part of ongoing alternative bio-fuel tests, 16,500 gallons of Camelina-derived, hydro-processed, renewable jet fuel from Naval Supply Systems Command's Naval Operational Logistics Support Center – Petroleum, is delivered to Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md., for specialized testing.
- Crews are removing asphalt and vegetation to restore a 3.1 acre stretch of road to wetlands at Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu. The restored area is part of the 2500 acres of southern California's largest coastal wetlands at Point Mugu.