



# RHUMB LINES

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## Combat Logistics – T-AKEs Deliver

*“The spirit of discovery that characterized the men and women who inspired the naming of this class of vessels continues in the brave men and women who operate the T-AKE ships.”*

– **The Honorable Susan Davis, House of Representatives (D-Calif.)**

The Navy’s newest class of underway replenishment ships was introduced in 2006 to replace aging combat stores and ammunition ships. Today, two dry cargo/ammunition (T-AKE) ships are operational; two more are in post-delivery tests and trials, and a total of 14 ships are planned. The newest T-AKE, USNS Amelia Earhart (T-AKE 6), was christened in San Diego April 6, 2008. A photo of the christening is available [here](#).

### T-AKEs designed to deliver

T-AKE ships deliver ammunition, stores and fuel to carrier and expeditionary strike groups and other naval forces worldwide. These new ships keep combatant ships at sea, on station and combat-ready. Specifically, T-AKEs provide:

- One stop shopping – replenishment at sea with three types of cargo: ammunition, stores and fuel.
- More cargo room – the 689-foot T-AKE has the largest cargo-carrying capacity and the largest flight deck of any U.S. combat logistics ship afloat.
- Efficiency – on-board cargo-handling design and equipment simplifies loading and saves time.
- Interoperability – T-AKEs are designed to operate with all Navy and NATO ships capable of underway replenishment.
- Innovative design – built to commercial standards, T-AKEs take advantage of industry best practices and can be cost-effectively maintained using commercial, off-the-shelf technology.
- Environmental stewardship – the ships have built-in environmental protections such as industry-leading “green” waste-management facilities that decrease pollutants by 95 percent.

### Enabling forward presence and combat readiness

The ability to maintain forward presence at sea is dependent on the Navy’s ability to replenish at sea, a lesson learned from the Great White Fleet. T-AKEs enable the Navy to execute the Maritime Strategy by providing the ability to maintain an effective force anywhere in the world.

- Maximum availability – T-AKEs, like all combat logistics ships, are available for at-sea operations an average of 270 days each year.
- Reliability – like all of Military Sealift Command’s naval fleet auxiliary ships, T-AKEs are crewed by experienced civil service mariners. The 124 civil service mariners aboard must meet rigorous U.S. Coast Guard credentialing standards. In addition, each T-AKE has an 11-person Navy detachment that provides supply coordination.

Find more information about dry cargo/ammunition and other combat logistics ships at [www.msc.navy.mil](http://www.msc.navy.mil).

### Key Messages

- Sailors at sea around the world will have what they need when they need it because of the combat logistics power of dry cargo/ammunition ships.
- The versatility of these ships provides critical capabilities in today’s dynamic maritime environment.
- Our ability to remain the preeminent naval power is enabled by our forward presence – our combat logistics ships are critical to this capability.

### Facts & Figures

- T-AKEs are named after famous explorers. USNS Lewis and Clark (T-AKE 1), returned from its first deployment in the Persian Gulf in January.
- Contracts or options have been awarded for eleven T-AKEs. In FY08, Congress provided advance procurement funding for three additional T-AKEs.
- T-AKEs are among more than 110 ships operated by the U.S. Navy’s Military Sealift Command.