



RHUMB LINES

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The Future Force – Naval Expeditionary Warfare

“Today’s expeditionary warfare ships are serving as Partnership Stations around the world; our SEALs are in the mountains of Afghanistan and many other locations; our Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams are defeating improvised explosive devices, and mine countermeasure ships continue clearing global commons at sea. Across the globe, our Navy’s expeditionary capabilities are making a difference in an irregular world.”

– Rear Adm. Sinclair Harris, Director Expeditionary Warfare

The Navy continues to build the future expeditionary force to support U.S. global interests. These investments support combatant commander requirements and provide a foundation for peacetime forward deployments and rapid response to worldwide crises and protection for U.S. citizens, allies and interests.

Programs underway to build the Future Expeditionary Force

To carry out the range of capabilities required by the Maritime Strategy, the Navy is building an array of platforms that, along with other multi-purpose naval forces, will prevail in the current fight and comprise the future fleet.

- **LPD 17 - class amphibious warfare ships** – LPD 17-class ships are multi-mission capable and represent the Navy’s commitment to a modern, expeditionary, power-projection fleet that will enable our naval force to operate across the spectrum of warfare. Five of the LPD 17-class ships have been delivered and four are currently under construction.
- **LHD 8** - As the Navy builds the future fleet, energy efficiency is a primary consideration. Makin Island (LHD 8) is the first in the USS Wasp class to have a gas turbine-electric hybrid propulsion system which will result in savings of more than \$250 million over the ship’s life cycle.
- **LHA 6** - The first ship of the LHA (Replacement) program, America (LHA 6), is a modified variant of LHD 8 with increased air capacity including the ability to integrate with the Joint Strike Fighter. It will also have a gas turbine-electric hybrid propulsion system.
- **Joint High Speed Vessel** - JHSV is an Army-Navy program to deliver a high-speed, shallow draft surface ship capable of rapid transport of cargo and personnel to areas without port infrastructure. Construction of the first JHSV will start in Fall 2009. Delivery of the first vessel will be to the Army and is expected in 2012.
- **Organic mine countermeasures** - The MH-60S helicopter with AQS-20A sonar will bring organic mine countermeasure capability to the fleet. Mines remain a significant threat that can present anti-access challenges to the fleet. Continued development of unmanned vehicles and sensors will reduce timelines, increase capacity and minimize mine threats.
- **Riverine platforms** - Riverine Group One has received two of six Riverine Command Boats (RCBs). The RCB is a high speed, medium draft vessel capable of day and night operations. A versatile craft, the RCB is capable of transporting ground troops or can be configured as a command and control platform. It is armored to withstand small arms fire and has both manned and remote operated crew-served weapons mounts.

Key Messages

- The Navy is transforming naval expeditionary forces – ships, aircraft, weapons and systems – to carry out the full spectrum of roles, missions and tasks of the 21st century in keeping with the Maritime Strategy.
- Investments such as Littoral Combat Ship, Joint High Speed Vessel and Riverine Command Boats increase the Navy’s capability to address littoral challenges and irregular warfare.
- Affordability is critical for all shipbuilding programs. Navy and industry teams are working to reduce total ownership costs and achieve steady production.

Facts & Figures

- Makin Island (LHD 8) will be commissioned in San Diego, Calif. on October 24.
- New York (LPD 21) will be commissioned in New York City on November 7.
- In 2009, Navy procured almost 220 combatant craft.
- Maritime Expeditionary Security Force’s 34-foot Force Protection-Large boats will reach Full Operational Capability in May 2010.