

## NAVY NEWS WEEK 20-2

14 May 2018

### **Guyanese, Surinamese fishermen dock boats in fear of pirates**

IN the wake of the deadly piracy attacks on 20 fishermen in Suriname, some fisherfolk in the neighbouring country and their counterparts here have docked their boats temporarily out of fear of the high seas criminals. Members of the fishing community are contending that the “sea is unsafe.” Speaking with Surinamese Mark Lall, Secretary of Fisheries Collective Association related that all the boats that were at sea came in and are refusing to go out “Everything that is outside came in”. He continued, that while he understands the rationale behind the actions of the men it will have serious repercussions, since some 6500 persons are directly dependent on the industry for their livelihoods. “We are going to notice the spin-off effects in the coming period. The fish processors will not have fish to process, the workers will have no work, the fish transporters will have no cargo, the buyers will have no products and the local market will not have fish” Lall told the media. The boat owners however are asking for a guarantee that the lives of their crew will be safe as well as their boats and other property protected before they return. To this end, Lall said a meeting was held with the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV) Lekhram Soerdjan, who pledged to look into the concerns raised by the men. He further said assistance will be provided to the next of kin for the missing men, according to Lall. Another meeting was scheduled for Friday evening to work out the issues. Meanwhile, since the men have docked their boats the price for fish has gone up by some 30%, according to reports coming out of Suriname and it is expected to climb more, if the men continue to remain ashore. Authorities in Suriname on Friday afternoon managed to bring two more bodies to shore. Thus far three bodies were brought to land and are currently awaiting identification. This newspaper understands, family members of the missing men turned up in their numbers to get a glimpse with the hope of recognising their loved one but up to press time was unable to do so. The bodies which were brought into Paramaribo by the Suriname Coastguard on Friday morning were previously located, but challenges in the terrain prevented rescuers from retrieving them. Twelve fishermen remain missing. They are: Vickey Persaud, Ramesh Sanchara, Glenroy Jones, Tikaknauth Mohabir, Bobby Ibrahim, Bharat Heralall, Ralph Anthony Couchman, Rajkumar Bissesar, Sunil called “Paddock” and Olenski Maxwell. Five of the initial 20 fishermen have so far emerged alive, while four have been discovered dead. On Friday, the Suriname police invited relatives of the missing fishermen to visit the department Kapital Delicten at Havenlaan Zuid Number 1 and take along identification documents including ID cards and passports in a bid to ascertain the identities of the men. President David Granger on Thursday called the incident a massacre and announced that a day of mourning will be formally observed for the men who were killed. Between Friday night and Saturday morning last weekend, four boats with 16 fishermen were attacked by pirates off the Suriname coast in what is seen as a “revenge attack” masterminded by siblings. The men’s brother was murdered by gunmen late in March and reports are that the siblings, led by one “Sinbad” and his brother Nakool Manohar called “Fyah”, are allegedly behind the attacks since the men, believe that fishermen were behind the murder of their brother.

Source: stluciatimes

### **SM-3 BMD, in from the Sea: EPAA & Aegis Ashore**

Dec 20, 2017 04:55 UTC by Defense Industry Daily staff

**December 20/17: FMS-Cabinet Approval** The Japanese cabinet [has approved a procurement plan](#) for two [Aegis Ashore](#) batteries, to be tasked with intercepting potential ballistic missiles over its airspace. Initial funding for the project will be ring-fenced in the next defense budget beginning in April, but no decision has been made on the radar, or the overall cost, or schedule.

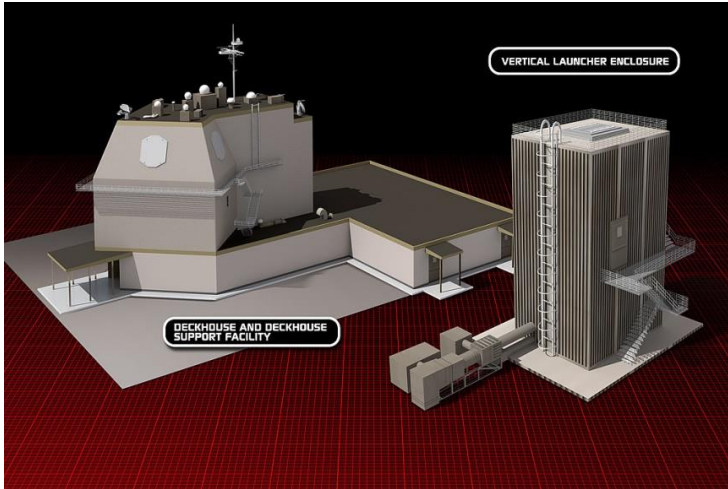


Land-based SM-3 concept

[SM-3 Standard missiles](#) have been the backbone of the US Navy’s ballistic missile defense plans for many years now, and are beginning to see service in the navies of allies like Japan. Their test successes and long range against aerial threats have spawned a land-based version, which end up being even more important to the USA’s allies. In July 2008 the US Missile Defense Agency began considering a land-based variant of the SM-3, largely due to specific requests from Israel. Israel currently fields the medium range [Arrow-2](#) land-based ABM (Anti-Ballistic Missile) system, and eventually elected to pursue the Arrow-3 instead of SM-3s. Once the prospect had been raised, however, the US government decided that basing SM-3 missiles on land was a really good idea.

The European Phased Adaptive Approach to missile defense is being built around this concept, and other regions could see similar deployments.

**EPAA & The SM-3 Option**



Aegis Ashore

The European Phased Adaptive Approach aims to use a combination of naval and land-based missile defense systems, which hope to share a common architecture and missile set. The core physical component is a “deckhouse” enclosure, containing the

command and control center and a BMD-enhanced SPY-1(D) radar that’s similar to those aboard US Navy destroyers and cruisers. The software will be taken from the Aegis combat system on US Navy ships, beginning with version 5.0.1 and upgrading over time. A connected vertical launching system building will contain 24 SM-3 missiles, which will become more advanced as newer variants are fielded.

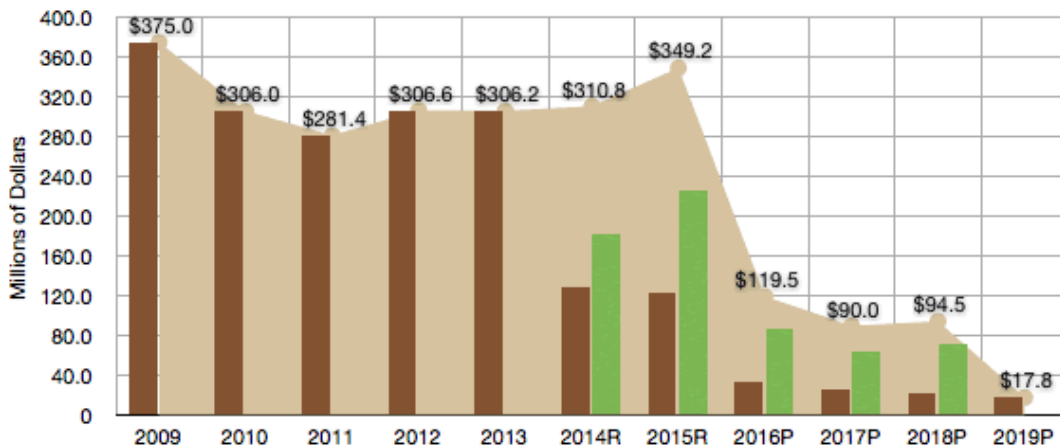
**AEGIS Ashore BMD Budgets**

Fiscal Yr.	TL \$2,557.0	RDT&E \$1,927.7	Proc. \$629.3	Notes
				Missiles are bought separately
2009	\$375.0	375.0		EPAA: GMD plan for Europe replaced with SM-3s.
2010	\$306.0	306.0		
2011	\$281.4	281.4		
2012	\$306.6	306.6		
2013	\$306.2	306.2		
2014R	\$310.8	129.4	181.4	
2015R	\$349.2	123.4	225.8	Romania site to activate.
2016P	\$119.5	32.6	86.9	
2017P	\$90.0	26.3	63.7	
2018P	\$94.5	22.9	71.6	Poland site to activate.
2019P	\$17.8	17.8	0.0	

*DID 2014. Sources: Pentagon, MDA.*

The USA is

N.B. The US Missile Defense Agency’s shifting categories make it hard to be certain of these figures; we have tried to include all relevant categories each year.



<http://www.defenseindustrydaily.com/>

Source: Pentagon budget documents

■ RDT&E \$1,927.7    ■ Proc. \$629.3    ■ TL \$2,557.0

building 3 Aegis Ashore sites: one test site in Barking Sands, Hawaii, USA, and sites in Deveselu Air Base, Romania and Redzikowo, Poland. The GAO estimates that building these sites and bringing them to operational status will cost the USA about \$2.3 billion. Our own tracking includes R&D into land-based SM-3 options, and tracks obviously related categories in MDA's shifting budget lines.

### The European Phased Adaptive Approach

Table I. Versions of Aegis BMD System

EPAA Phase	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	
<b>Version of Aegis BMD system</b>	<b>3.6.X</b>	<b>4.X</b>	<b>5.0/5.0 CU</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Certified for use	2006	2012	2014/2015	2018
OTE assessment	2008	2014	2016	2020
<b>SM-3 missile variants used for exo-atmospheric intercepts</b>				
SM-3 Block IA	X	X	X	X
SM-3 Block IB	X <sup>a</sup>	X	X	X
SM-3 Block IIA				X
<b>SM-2 and SM-6 missile variants used for endo-atmospheric (terminal) intercepts</b>				
SM-2 Block IV	X		X	
SM-6 Increment 1		X	X	X
SM-6 Increment 2				X
<b>Types of ballistic missiles that can be countered</b>				
SRBM	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MRBM	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IRBM	Yes (Limited)	Yes	Yes	Yes (Enhanced)
ICBM	No <sup>b</sup>	No <sup>b</sup>	No <sup>b</sup>	No <sup>b</sup>
<b>Capability for launch on remote or engage on remote</b>				
Launch on remote	Yes (Initial)	Yes (Enhanced)	Yes (Enhanced)	Yes (Enhanced)
Engage on remote	No	No	No	Yes

Source: Table prepared by CRS based on MDA FY2015 budget briefing.

Notes: OTE is operational test and evaluation. SRBM is short-range ballistic missile; MRBM is medium-range ballistic missile; IRBM is intermediate-range ballistic missile; ICBM is intercontinental ballistic missile. Launch on remote is the ability to launch the interceptor using data from off-board sensors. Engage on remote is the ability to engage targets using data from off-board sensors.

- Capability for using SM-3 Block IB added through capability, maintenance, and inventory update for the 3.6.3 version.
- Cannot intercept ICBMs, but the system has a long-range search and track (LRS&T) capability—an ability to detect and track ballistic missiles at long ranges. In the FY2014 budget submission, the 5.1 version was described as having “some limited” capability against ICBMs.

The European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) currently envisions 4 phases:

#### EPAA Phase 1, 2011-2015

In 2011, the US Navy expected to have naval SM-3 Block 1A missiles and ships fully in place, on more BMD-capable ships than the 2 Atlantic Fleet destroyers available in 2009, to pair with land-based AN/TPY-2 radars that are also used in the THAAD system. Another 4 destroyers are being forward-deployed to Rota, Spain in FY 2014-2015. Unfortunately, naval SM-3 Block 1 missiles cannot cover the Czech Republic at all, and can offer only limited coverage for Poland. The Obama administration bowed to Russian pressure and picked the THAAD system's AN/TPY-2 radar as the system's ground accompaniment, to limit the distance they could see into Russian airspace. The Russians simply saw weakness, and kept up the pressure, but couldn't make any more headway. Turkey agreed to host the AN/TPY-2 radar near Diyarbakir in SE Turkey, though they added conditions that the data must not be shared with Israel. This will be the only EPAA option until 2015, which is beyond the Obama administration's current term of office. During that interim period, THAAD continues to receive upgrades. At sea, AEGIS BMD system 4.x is being rolled out beyond USS Lake Erie [CG 70], offering some capability improvements on board ship, and laying an open architecture foundation for future upgrades. In parallel, NATO has fielded an initial version Active Layered Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence (ALTBMD) command and control architecture. They declared an “interim” BMD capability in May 2012, after a successful multinational test. ALTBMD will also have European components to draw upon, including the national early-warning system under development by France. In August 2012, Poland announced that it was pursuing its own national BMD system, which may mirror many of France's components. France (11 systems) and Italy (6 systems) can also contribute with their land-based SAMP/T Mamba and its Aster-30 missile, which is designed to address threats in the SRBM (<1,000 km) class. On the naval front, the Netherlands is upgrading its 4 top-tier air defense frigates with ballistic missile tracking capability, and its ships are compatible with SM-3 missiles if they decide to purchase some. Elsewhere, Aster-30s are already found on advanced air defense destroyers: the Franco-Italian Horizon Class, and Britain's Type 45 Daring Class. The naval system hasn't been tested against ballistic missiles yet, but the systems could all be upgraded to do so.

#### EPAA Phase 2, 2015-2018

If progress continues per plan, 2015 would see advances on 2 fronts. One front involves improved SM-3 Block 1B missiles, which will expand the range of coverage for American ships. Serious orders for the Block 1B missile began in 2011, but

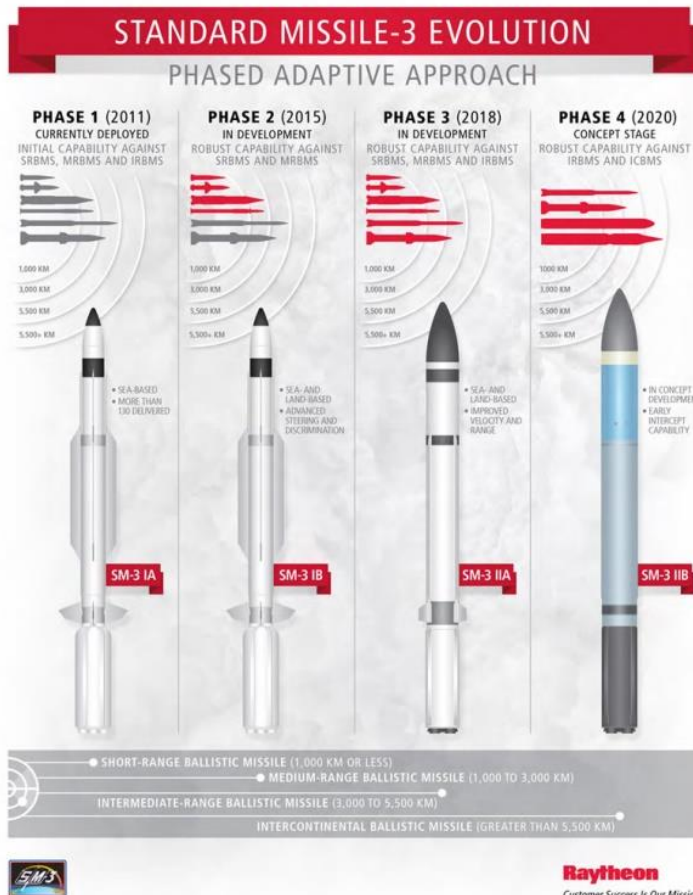
technical issues have delayed full production. That delay means that US Navy ships based in Europe will be competing with other priorities in Asia and around the USA, as they seek to host the new missiles. A slower phase-in that extends to 2018 now looks most likely.



In Parallel:  
SAMP/T launch

The other element was to be a land-based “Aegis Ashore” site at Deveselu Air Base, Romania, hosting SM-3 missiles instead of Boeing’s longer-range, fixed-location GMD system. Aegis Ashore designs appear to have shifted from an easily-deployable configuration, toward high-investment fixed sites that are similar to the GMD program they replaced. The Romanian deployment would use SM-3 Block 1B missiles from an emplaced Mk.41 VLS launcher, and be controlled by a SPY-1D radar and AEGIS BMD 5.0.1 combat system. An interim setup was formally commissioned in October 2014. If successfully deployed, this is a defense against short and medium range missiles (SRBMs & MRBMs), with some capability against intermediate range missiles in the 1,850-3,500 mile class (IRBMs). On the other hand, the location of these defenses still leaves central Europe mostly unprotected. During Phase 2, NATO’s Active Layered Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence (ALTBMDB) command and control network will be operational at an initial level. France, Italy, and possibly Poland will have armed land-based BMD systems of their own deployed, and it’s likely that ALTBMDB compatible BMD-capable ships will be fielded. The Netherlands is already preparing its vessels for missile tracking and SM-3 hosting, and the Aster-30/ PAAMS combination is fielded on British, French, and Italian ships.

**EPAA Phase 3, 2018-**



SM-3: EPAA phases

Around 2018, America expects to deploy the longer-range, 21" diameter SM-3 Block II missile, on ships and (if deployments have been accepted) on shore. The US MDA would add Redzikowo, Poland to its list of land-based sites, defending Northern Europe with SM-3 Block 1B & Block IIA missiles, controlled by an AEGIS BMD 5.1 combat system. This system would be intended to kill SRBM, MRBM, and IRBM threats, with some

capabilities against full intercontinental range missiles (ICBMs). Gen. Cartwright has stated that just 3 SM-3 Block II locations would be able to cover all of Europe, but that missile is an earlier-stage R&D effort, with all the expected implications for dates and certainty of capabilities.

#### **EPAA Phase 4, 2020+**

Effectively cancelled.

The USA was going to deploy a new Next-Generation Aegis Missile (SM-3 Block IIB) design, to improve performance and begin to field a credible anti-ICBM capability. Technical issues became a serious problem, once experts concluded that the initial sites picked for EPAA aren't all that helpful for defending the USA. A liquid-fuel booster could be used to boost interceptor speeds, but that isn't safe to use on ships. Even though the best place to defend the USA against an ICBM launched from Iran is from the middle of the North Sea. Now throw in a planned development schedule defined by a wild-guess political promise, rather than solid information. The whole thing was a mess, and in March 2013, it was "restructured" into an R&D program by the Pentagon.

#### **Aegis Ashore**



AN/TPY-2

Making these things happen requires a number of additional steps. AN/TPY-2 radars will provide initial services during Phase 1, and will continue to play a supplemental role thereafter in both EPAA and NATO's ALTBMD. Beyond

Phase 1, the USA has shifted to a larger and more permanent basing structure, which removes some of the benefits of switching away from GMD. The US Missile Defense Agency is building an "Aegis Ashore" test complex near Moorestown, NJ, and another at its missile defense testing center at Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii. The Hawaiian complex is hosting a land-based Mark 41 launcher, a 4-story building with a SPY-1 radar, and three 125-foot tall test towers. Poland is being considered for Aegis Ashore deployment in 2018, but the country is beginning to diversify its options. The September 2011 agreement with the USA is still in force, but Poland is determined to have its own missile defense infrastructure, and may choose to place their bets on a parallel NATO/ European system. Their other option would likely involve American PATRIOT and/or THAAD systems.

#### **Beyond Europe**

Aegis Ashore may spread beyond Europe. In the Pacific, Japan is already deploying SM-3s at sea, and may find land-based counterparts useful. Its neighbor South Korea shares Japan's worries about North Korea's evil and semi-stable regime; the ROK intends to load shorter range SM-6 missiles on its AEGIS destroyers, is buying and deploying Patriot PAC-2 GEM+ missiles, and has [contracted with Israel](#) for "Green Pine" air and missile defense radars. Its cruiser-size [KDX-III AEGIS destroyers](#) could be modified for a ballistic missile defense role, but land-based SM-3s linked to air and naval systems offer an option that doesn't require naval upgrades. The other country that has been linked to land-based SM-3s had a more complicated set of choices, and possible rationales. See [Appendix A's](#) coverage of Israeli deliberations, which ended with a decision to deploy their own Arrow technology instead.

#### **The Missiles**



View of target just prior to impact.  
Photo is seen from interceptor missile

SM-3 seeker: target!

With a maximum range of about 300 miles/ 500 km, the Standard Missile 3 Block I (SM-3) has just 1/5th to 1/6th the reported reach of GMD's Ground Based Interceptors, but a longer reach than current mobile land options like [THAAD](#). SM-3 has 4 stages. The booster motor and initial stage launch the missile, and take it out of the atmosphere. Once it goes "exo-atmospheric," the 3rd stage is used to boost the missile higher, and also corrects its course by referencing GPS/ INS locations. The final stage is the LEAP kill vehicle, which uses infrared sensors to pick out the target,

then guides itself in to ram it. That target is expected to be an enemy ballistic missile, but America's shoot-down of its own ailing satellite in 2008 showed that the same technology can be used against any low earth orbit object. The introduction of Raytheon's SM-3 Block II variant will widen the missile's diameter from 13.5" to 21", greatly extending its range and speed. That means better performance against longer range missiles that move faster, and offer different trajectories. Block II

weapons will add the ability to handle longer-range, higher-flying IRBM (Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles, usually 3,000-5,000 km range), and even offer some hope against global-strike threats like ICBM (Inter Continental Ballistic Missile) warheads. SM-3 Block IIA is currently expected to debut around 2015, but testing and other requirements mean it won't be part of EPAA until 2018 or later.

Source: [www.defenseindustrydaily.com](http://www.defenseindustrydaily.com)

### Department of Defense.: Class of Navy ships could be vulnerable to hackers

A new report from the Department of Defense indicates that U.S. Expeditionary Fast Transport Vessels, a class of Navy ships, could be vulnerable to hackers -- among other other issues. The report states that the ships aren't living up to their design -- and aren't able to travel the speed or distance that they were expected to. The report says cybersecurity on board the ships is a major concern. It suggests hackers could disable or take control of systems on the ship, preventing them from carrying out missions. The Navy says it's working to fix all the issues specified in the report.

Source: **WKOW**

### Northern Fleet submarine Kursk's sister will sail through Scandinavian waters

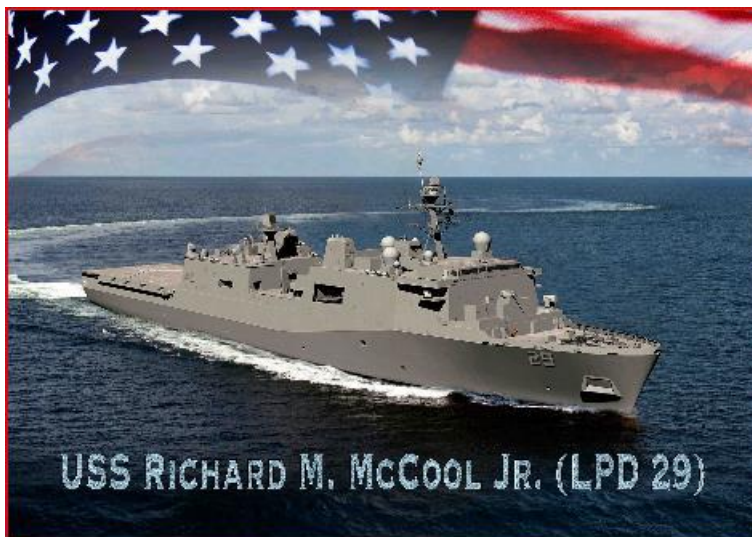
**For the second year in a row a giant Russian nuclear powered submarine will sail to the naval parade in St. Petersburg.**

By Thomas Nilsen

The submarine, which can carry 24 cruise missiles and is powered by two reactors, will participate in Russia's annual naval parade on July 29. A total of 40 navy vessels will line up for the parade, most surface warships like the newest frigate "**Admiral Makharov**" and the missile cruiser "**Marschal ustinov**", TASS reports. Last year, the only remaining Typhoon submarine "**Dmitry Donskoi**" sailed from the White Sea, via Severomorsk, to the St. Petersburg parade. Being the world's largest submarine, the voyage made headlines in most Scandinavian media as the vessel sailed in surface position all way. Also under the Great Belt bridge in Denmark where people lined up to take photos. The Northern Fleet has three Oscar-II submarine sin still in service, "**Voronezh**", "**Smolensk**" and "**Orel**". It is not said which of them will sail to St. Petersburg. The three subs are from 26 to 29 years old. On August 12th, 2000, the Oscar-II class submarine "**Kursk**" sank in the Barents Sea, killing all 118 on board. The submarine sank after a torpedo exploded inside it's tube, triggering a larger fire and explosion blowing up the entire front part of the submarine. Russia's military TV channel Zvezda in February reported about a planned replacement of the cruise missiles on the Oscar-II submarines from Granit to the more modern Kalibr.

source : **Barents Observer**

### SECNAV Names Ship after WWII Medal of Honor Recipient Who Fought Off Kamikaze Attacks



A graphic illustration of the future San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship **USS Richard M. McCool Jr. (LPD-29)**. US Navy Photo

The 13th San Antonio-class amphibious warship will be named after a World War II sailor who received the Medal of Honor for actions off Okinawa in 1945, the service announced on Wednesday. The future San Antonio-class amphibious warship **Richard M. McCool Jr. (LPD-29)** will be named for

Capt. Richard McCool, who commanded a landing craft support ship and saved several lives following an Imperial Japanese kamikaze attack on U.S. ships operating off the coast of Okinawa. "*Lt. McCool aided materially in evacuating all survivors from a sinking destroyer which had sustained mortal damage under the devastating attacks,*" read his MoH citation. "*When his own craft was attacked simultaneously by two of the enemy's suicide squadron early in the evening of 11 June, he instantly hurled the full power of his gun batteries against the plunging aircraft, shooting down the first and damaging the second before it crashed his station in the conning tower and engulfed the immediate area in a mass of flames.*" McCool retired from the Navy as a captain after serving in the Korean and Vietnam wars. "*Capt. McCool served his nation with honor, distinction and an unparalleled sense of duty,*" Spencer said in a Navy statement. "*His exemplary service in defense of our nation spanned 30 years and three wars. His legacy will live on in the future **USS Richard M. McCool**, and his heroic actions will continue to inspire sailors and Marines for decades to come.*" The decision to name the ship after a war hero comes as a break in tradition, with the rest of the LPD-17 ships being named after U.S. cities. In February, the Navy signed a \$1.4-billion contract with Huntington Ingalls Industries for the construction of the future **McCool**. With the Navy moving into

an LPD Flight II design to replace the aging Whidbey Island-class LSDs, the future **McCool** will be built with many but not all of the features of the Flight II design as the shipyard eases into the new design. **Source: USNI News**

### **New Zealand wargames Pacific intervention in Vanuatu**

**New Zealand is staging one of its largest exercises of the year to test its capabilities to respond to violent unrest and natural disasters in the Pacific island states.**

This exercise, hosted by Vanuatu, involves a fictitious scenario where there has been a breakdown of law and order on Epi



Island, prompting the Vanuatu Government to request New Zealand's support to restore stability. The exercise will not only test New Zealand's military personnel in their peacekeeping abilities but also the Vanuatu Police Force and other elements of the local government in their ability to work together in a coordinated manner. RNZN Captain Garin Golding, Commander of the Joint Task Force, said the exercise was designed to test a range of contingency capabilities in a tropical environment and therefore was ideally

placed to contribute to New Zealand support to the response effort if requested by the Vanuatu Government. Multi-role warship **HMNZS Canterbury** sailed from Auckland on Sunday, accompanied by offshore patrol vessel **HMNZS Wellington**, and will spearhead the operation. The remainder of the task force will join them in Vanuatu after flying in by Hercules. "The contingent includes New Zealand Army units, including a light infantry platoon, medical, dental and emergency health teams, as well as divers and mine clearance teams," Captain Golding said. "It possesses a similar capability to the forces New Zealand deployed for events such as Cyclone Pam, Cyclone Winston and the Kaikoura earthquake in New Zealand." In addition to their peacekeeping exercises, the contingent will also deliver and distribute 50 tonnes of aid to communities on Ambae Island that have been impacted by ongoing volcanic eruptions. A RNZAF P-3K Orion aircraft will support efforts by conducting an aerial reconnaissance of the volcano for local authorities. Regional security missions and humanitarian and disaster relief operations make up two of the critical pillars of capability for the New Zealand Defence Force. In recent years New Zealand has worked with regional partners, such as Australia, on interventions in the Solomon Islands, Bougainville and Timor-Leste following civil unrest and undertaken numerous disaster relief operations. Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, Major General Tim Gall, said the NZDF was always ready to assist its Pacific neighbours if asked for help. "New Zealand has a long history of engaging collaboratively with our South Pacific colleagues and partners on matters of defence, security and protection of resources," Major General Gall said, noting that "supporting the South West Pacific has always been a key focus for the NZDF because of the geographical proximity and cultural links with New Zealand."

**Source: UK Defence Journal**

### **Navy Increases Tour Lengths for First Time Forward Deployed Sailors**



Sailors man the rails aboard the amphibious assault ship **USS Wasp (LHD-1)**. **US Navy Photo**

THE PENTAGON — The Navy is extending initial tour lengths for forward deployed enlisted sailors in an attempt to cut down on the constant churn of personnel passing

through ships based overseas. First-term sailors being sent to sea duty billets in forward deployed locations – Japan, Guam, and Spain – will be assigned to tours of up to 4 years if accompanied or unaccompanied. If a sailor's family is not given command sponsorship, a maximum of two years unaccompanied orders will be issued, according to a Navy announcement released Tuesday. Previously, sailors assigned to these locations during their first commitment received 3-year orders to their duty station, according to the stated policy of the Navy Personnel Command. This policy change appears designed to provide some continuity of service aboard forward-deployed ships and address the Navy's pressing need for more sailors serving on ships. "The discussion among senior Navy leaders about extending DNF sea duty tour lengths started in

September 2017,” said Lt. Rick Moore, a spokesman for Chief of Naval Personnel. The formal exception to policy request was submitted in November. Staffing shortages were cited as a contributing factor leading to the series of deadly 2017 ship collisions in the Pacific, according to the Comprehensive Review ordered by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson, and released in November. The Comprehensive Review found manning levels had been declining aboard forward-deployed ships for years. The problem was caused by a variety of factors, the review found, including, “by underfunded manpower total ownership costs, a high number of apprentice level enlisted rolling ashore after increased manning of sea duty assignments in 2013-2014, a lower number of accessions in 2016 (and for all FDNF-Japan, Rota, and Bahrain ships) due to unaccompanied/accompanied tour length policies and sea duty and overseas screening processes.” Another problem was commanders pulled sailors from other duties to temporarily fill open billets aboard ships. Doing so allowed sailors to gain proficiency at sea but came at a cost. “This practice can also impact the temporarily assigned sailor by reducing the opportunity to complete school or training while in port. Additionally, this practice reduces the overall number of sailors remaining on the in-port ship to complete daily tasks while in maintenance and places additional stress on affected sailors and families,” the Comprehensive Review stated. The Navy is already facing a tough recruiting and retainment environment and is currently short the number of sailors it says are needed to properly staff ships, as previously reported by USNI News. The service is about 11,000 sailors short of its near-term required manpower level, based on a USNI News analysis of stated Navy recruiting, retainment, and staffing needs. As the Navy seeks to increase the size of its fleet, up to a proposed 355 ships, the need for more sailors at sea will only increase. Extending the length of initial overseas tours is only the latest policy change designed to keep sailors onboard longer. During the past several months, the Navy has cancelled early retirement programs and changed its Physical Readiness Program separation policies. Sailors who fail their physical readiness tests can remain in the Navy but will not be able to advance in rank until they pass the test, or their commitment is over. The Navy also sweetened the pot to encourage sailors already forward deployed to extend their tours up to four years. In February, the Navy announced sailors who volunteer to extend their overseas tours to at least 4 years will have any remaining sea time left on their prescribed sea tour waived and be allowed to rotate to shore duty for their next assigned tour. Sailors extending their tours by at least 12 months will receive preferential consideration for announced billets during detailing. “Our goal is to reward those Sailors who volunteer to extend to meet the demands from the fleet,” said a release from Rear Adm. John Meier, the director of the Career Management Department in Millington, Tenn., when the incentives were unveiled.

Source: USNI News



The British destroyer **D37 HMS Duncan** has just led a meeting of the NATO Maritime Group 2 in the Aegean Sea. The other ships were from Germany, Turkey, Spain and Greece.  
photo : Raymond Wergan, Newton Ferrers ©

### Indian Navy ship in Jeddah as part of seven-month voyage to 13 countries

Traditional and basic sailing with the wind and sails, overcoming challenges and learning to get their sea legs the old way still lives on in the tall ships in every naval fleet. “It provides the core theme of seamanship that not only enhances professional sailing skills but provides sailors a chance to face the basic realities of the seas to make them a real sailor in every sense of the word,” said visiting Indian navy officials along with top Indian diplomats here Saturday. **INS Tarangini**, a Sail Training Ship of the Indian Navy, is on three-day visit to Jeddah as part of a seven-month long voyage to 13 countries including Saudi Arabia with the theme ‘**Sailing through Different Oceans and Uniting Nations**’. The visit is aimed at enhancing defense cooperation and interaction between important navies of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Indian Ambassador Ahmad Javed, speaking to media, along with ship commanding officer Cdr. Rahul Mehta and Consul General Noor Rahman Sheikh, onboard **INS Tarangini**, which arrived in Red Sea Port in Jeddah, said that learning sailing skills on board the high mast sailing ship is adventurous part of training. “It also trains them to get their ‘sea sense’ in every sense of the word,” Javed said in emphasizing the role of a Tall ship in the naval fleet in the modern times. Indian Ambassador said the arrival of this ship is another facet of the growing ties with the Kingdom, with the Indian Navy nurturing its ties with its counterpart in Kingdom in recent years. “Besides naval cadets other cadets of defense forces are also being trained in India.” “Building upon the rich and longstanding relations that have existed between India and Saudi Arabia, both nations have developed warm relations in several spheres. The current visit seeks to underscore India’s peaceful presence and



solidarity with friendly countries of the Indian Ocean and, in particular, to strengthen the existing bonds between India and Saudi Arabia," he said. "Ship visits by the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard are symbolic of our desire to enhance our cooperation with the Kingdom in matters of defense. The visit of these Naval Ships will assist in promoting understanding and furthering interoperability between the two Navies," he added. Cdr. Rahul Mehta, while stressing the role traditional sailing plays in making a sailor, said that naval cadets go through a unique and hands on experience of sailing on this ship. They learn to face the elements and sail through rough and calm seas and are ready for any sailing challenges. Cdr. Mehta said that **INS Tarangini** their practical seamanship and navigation skills. He said that he was one of the cadets who learned about seas on this ship 18 years ago. "Today, I am at the helm," he smilingly added. **INS Tarangini** is a three-masted barque, commissioned in 1997 as a sail training ship for the Indian Navy. She was constructed in Goa shipyard and launched on Dec. 1, 1995. In 2003-04, she became the first Indian naval ship to circumnavigate the globe. Unlike modern and advanced ships of the Indian Navy, it has a steel hull with aluminum deck house and teak wood deck and interiors and ropes for traditional sailing and wind navigation. The ship earlier visited Jeddah in 2015 and this was her second visit. The ship, which was flagged off from Kochi Naval base on April 10, is on her second leg, docking in Saudi Arabia after Oman and it is scheduled to visit another 15 ports in 13 countries, covering more than 20,000 KM. It will also participate in the culmination of the Biscay Tall Ship race at Bordeaux, France, and also a 'Tall Ship race' starting from Sunderland, UK. It is Navy's first sail training ship. It carries 20 sails, with a total sail area of almost 10,000 sq. ft. It has excellent endurance and can remain at sea continuously for over 20 days. It has a crew of five officers and 43 sailors and 13 cadets. It can accommodate and impart sail training to 30 cadets in each trip between port visits. Over the years, the ship has been extensively deployed over long periods away from her base port and has participated in 'Tall Ship races' on four occasions. During the races, it has brought laurels to the country by winning the class races, first amongst all participating naval ships and being awarded a special award for traveling the farthest from the home port to participate in Lokayan-04. Indian Naval assets have been increasingly deployed in recent times to address the main maritime concerns of the region. In addition, the Indian Navy has also been involved in assisting countries in the Indian Ocean Region with Hydrographic Survey, Search and Rescue and other such capacity building and capability-enhancement activities. The current deployment into the Mediterranean will contribute towards the Indian Navy's efforts to consolidate Inter Operability and forge strong bonds of friendship across the seas. The ship earlier welcomed members of the Indian community and schoolchildren on board and briefed them on life and times at sea.

Source : [saudigazette](#)

### **HMS Blyth, HMS Ledbury and RFA Cardigan Bay visit Qatar**

By [George Allison](#)  
May 9, 2018



**RFA Cardigan Bay** and minehunters **HMS Blyth** and **Ledbury** of the UK's Gulf mine warfare force spent a few days in Qatar this week.

According to the Royal Navy, the crews of Blyth and Ledbury are drawing to the end of their time in the Gulf, preparing to return to

Faslane and Portsmouth respectively after nearly six months on operations. The visit was designed to advertise the significant mine warfare skills and equipment they bring to bear. "It's always a pleasure to open our ships up to visitors, and our time in Doha proved an ideal opportunity," said Lt Cdr Louise Ray, Blyth's Commanding Officer. "We hosted and provided in-depth tours for MCM experts from the Qatar Emirati Navy – we're proud to work with our Qatari friends to help provide security at sea." According to the Royal Navy website: "British sailors discussed joint operations with their Qatari counterparts, in particular mine warfare. The Qatari Emiri Navy operates well over 70 vessels – mostly patrol craft, although it is investing in a helicopter assault ship and – to safeguard its 350-mile coastline and territorial waters, but doesn't possess any minehunters, a branch of warfare in which the RN is widely-regarded as a world leader."

Source: <https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk>

### **Navy boat sinks, crew rescued**

A Kuwaiti Navy vessel with 11 crewmen on board sank in territorial waters in the Arabian Gulf on Friday evening, the Kuwaiti Army General Staff said. All the crewmen of the capsized vessel, which was on a military mission, were rescued, and the accident caused only material damage, it added in a press release. Investigations were underway to find the cause of the accident, it added.

Source : **KUNA**

## **Boka Vanguard to Ship 90,000-ton FPSO**



Boskalis' mega lift ship **Boka Vanguard** the world's largest semi-submersible heavy lift vessel -- is preparing to load a truly enormous cargo: a 90,000-ton floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) platform. The FPSO is equivalent to the weight of approximately 300 Boeing 747s, making this the heaviest cargo ever to be transported by a semi-submersible heavy lift ship, according to Boskalis. Until recently, the **Boka Vanguard** was known as the **Dockwise Vanguard**. Boskalis acquired Dockwise in 2013, and the renaming and subsequent rebranding of the vessel marks the start of the process to present the company's integrated service portfolio for the offshore energy sector under the Boskalis brand name, the company said. The vessel has been used in a number of high-profile projects, including the transport of **Costa Concordia** in 2014.

Source : Marinelink

**This vessel can transport each of the largest warships on earth, excluding the Nimitz-class aircraft carriers.**

## **Workhorses of the sea**



The **Despina** enroute IJmuiden Photo : Flying Focus Aerial Photography [www.flyingfocus.nl](http://www.flyingfocus.nl) ©