WASHINGTON — While U.S. special operators conduct a massive rescue effort after devastating flooding in the Philippines, the Hawaii Air National Guard and U.S. Ingham (FFG 61) are headed to American Samoa to support rescue and humanitarian relief following a massive earthquake and tsunami.

The Hawaii Air Guard is slated to fly two C-17 Globemaster III transport jets into the American Samoa International Airport (FEMA) requests, Air Force Maj. Rose White, a Pentagon spokesperson, reported.

The aircraft will transport cargo and personnel required to support disaster relief efforts, she said. Meanwhile, USS Ingham (FFG 61), homeported at Naval Station Everett, Wash., is on route to provide medical support. White said Ingham is an Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate.

FEMA officials asked the Defense Department to provide medical teams, hazardous material response, mass casualty care and strategic airlift. Officials are identifying the appropriate units to provide this support, White said.

An 8.3 magnitude earthquake struck 120 miles south of American Samoa yesterday afternoon, generating 15-foot waves in some of the territories’ islands that wiped out entire villages. At least 10 people are expected dead in the mass, more than 20 in American Samoa, and at least six in neighboring Tonga.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the people in the affected communities,” White said.

Meanwhile, members of Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines assisted the Philippine armed forces in rescuing 32 people stranded by massive flooding during Tropical Storm Sepat earlier this week.

The storm, known locally as Tropical Storm Ondoy, struck in the Manila area Sept. 25 and 26. The floods displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead delivers remarks during the Department of the Navy Sexual Assault Prevention Summit in Washington D.C.

WASHINGTON — Following closely on the heels of the first Department of the Navy Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Summit hosted by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus in September, Navy is moving forward to eliminate sexual assault.

Key stakeholders were identified and charged in NADDMN 2012-09 to redefine Navy's SAPR program, which was established in 1994 under the same Sexual Assault Victim Intervention.

The name change aligns with the mission of the program, underscoring the importance of both prevention and response.

While Navy was the first service to develop a program of its kind, it is not sitting on past successes but is proactively working to eliminate sexual assault from its ranks.

“We will raise the bar when it comes to sexual assault prevention and response,” said Rear Adm. Dan Holway, director of the Navy’s military personnel, plans and policy division.

“We will call upon the total workforce — active, reserve and civilians — to educate themselves and their shipmates on prevention and response programs, to report crimes, or suspected crimes before they occur, and to speak out when called upon during investigations and prosecutions,” Holway said.

The name change aligns with the executive agent for the sexual assault prevention and response program. The Bureau of Naval Personnel will work closely with other key organizations, including medical, legal, criminal investigations, security, victim advocacy, military commands and civilian resources to redouble their efforts to educate the total force on preventative and response programs.

“Sexual assault is consistent with our Navy Ethics, and our Navy total force will be held to the high standards, which they are expected to maintain as we reinforce a culture intolerant of sexual assault,” said Holway.

The name change aligns with the mission of the program, emphasizing the importance of both prevention and response.

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Nashville's decommissioning ceremony was marked by the conclusion of a ship's active service. During Nashville’s decommissioning ceremony, it lost its lifeblood when the crew disembarked, the watch was secured and the colors were struck for the last time. "It's time for those of us who know her to say goodbye," said keynote speaker, retired Vice Adm. Frank Donovan, commanding officer of the Nashville from 1982 - 1983.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the people in the affected communities," White said.

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NASHVILLE: After 39 years of service, USS Nashville (LPD 13) was decommissioned

Kathryn Coombs, Granddaughter of USS Nashville (LPD 12)’s original sponsor, shows Office-in-Charge Cdr. Brian Petersen and Public Affairs Officer Lt. Lydia E. Beck, memorabilia from the ship’s christening in 1987 following the decommissioning ceremony of Nashville.

This is a very sentimental moment seeing the ceremony and seeing all these guys in their fabulous dress whites — it brings my grandparents back.” At the conclusion of the ceremony, after all good-byes were said, Nashville stands ready to be towed to the Naval Inactive Ships Maintenance Facilities in Philadelphia and will join the fleet of ready-reserve ships standing by in case it is called back to service.

WASHINGTON — The Navy is observing Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October as an opportunity to inform Sailors and Navy spouses about domestic violence prevention efforts as well as reporting options for victims.

Domestic violence cuts across all age groups and social classes. It happens to Sailors as well as spouses, to men as well as women. Domestic violence goes beyond physical abuse. It includes emotional abuse such as threats, isolation, extreme jealousy and humiliation. It also includes sexual abuse. Whenever an adult is placed in physical danger or controlled by threat or use of physical force by their spouse or intimate partner, or he has been abused. The risk for abuse to greatest when victims are separated from supportive networks.

The theme for Domestic Violence Awareness Month this year is, “Have you crossed the line? End domestic violence before it starts.”

“Our goal is to prevent domestic violence by encouraging people to examine their own behavior and take steps to learn and practice more healthy behaviors,” Kathy Turner, of the Fleet and Family Support Program’s Counseling Advocacy and Prevention Program, said.

The Defense Department changed the questions on its long-standing security clearance form reiterating an applicant’s mental health history. As of 2009 and beyond, the Questionnaire for National Security Positions no longer asks for mental health treatment details if the care involved only marital, family, or grief counseling not related to violence by the applicant, unless the treatment was court-ordered.

Another myth is that counseling is only sought by people who have been arrested or are filing for divorce. Through counseling, however, adults and children can learn to avoid future violence and begin to handle their own behavior.

The theme for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October is “Don’t be afraid to speak out.”

The Navy believes as strongly in the importance of the prevention of abusive behavior, Turner said.

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“Sailors who succeed with their careers and their families have the strength to ask for help before a problem gets out of hand,” Turner said.

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IKE Postal Clerk and Storekeeper ratings merge to form Logistic Specialist

Press Release

IKE Post Office, Norfolk, Va. — Logistics in the Navy are taking on a new role today. USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) IKE Postal Clerk and Storekeeper ratings merge to form the new Logistic Specialist (LS) rating.

“The rating merger will reduce duplication of duties that were impacted SKs across the fleet, particularly in the mid-Atlantic pay grades,” explains Cmdr Rob Dare, IKE’s Supply Officer. “The workload will be more balanced and enable the Supply Department to provide optimal customer service. Former PCs will see new advancement and stable career opportunities allowing IKE to retain the best Sailors.”

IKE’s Supply Department has been working toward this since the merger was announced last year.

“They’ve been afforded a unique opportunity to be stationed aboard a carrier where both the PC and SK ratings see high demand,” said LSC (SW/AW) Nathaniel Mattias, Leading Chief Petty Officer (LPC) for 8th Material Division. “I welcome the challenge and versatility that the LS merger will carry.”

Supply Department got a head start on the transition process by making targeted moves to put PCs and SKs in new jobs to provide a more efficient transition process.

“We started this process by sending PCs and SKs to the IKE Post Office: learning on the job and rotating to more than just reading it out of a book,” said LSC (SW/AW) Kevin Ellis, Leading Petty Officer for the IKE Post Office.

“We started the transition process in the IKE Post Office while we were on deployment. As with any rating merger, IKE Sailors in Supply Department shouldn’t expect a completely seamless transition.

“Some growing pains are only natural,” said LCS (SW/AW) Jose L. Rodriguez, 6th/16th LSPO. “You’ll see the PCs that we sent to larger divisions in Supply having a little steeper learning curve. We’ve also gone to see SKs down in the Post Office that had an adjustment period while they learn the ropes.

Now that we have the time to progress slowly and focus on our training, I think everyone will benefit in the long run.”

ike poster

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“T He merger is a step in our efforts toward the Navy’s future ship repair. In the foreground, NNSY Mechanical Group Superintendent John Walker paints out some work being performed in Building 171, one of the shipyard’s biggest industrial buildings.

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“Logistic Specialist more accurately describes the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the new workforce and further aligns with our future force requirements, according to Rear Adm Adlyn. He also commented that our supply enlisted community plays a vital role in executing the Navy’s Maritime Strategy mission both at home and abroad.”

“We will open up new opportunities for SKs with new billets and a Navy Equal Classification (CEC) for us. I’m looking forward to working with the PCs on the ship,” said LSC (SW/AW) Adley Cooper.

“For me personally, a challenge and the chance to learn new things, but most of all it’s a change in the type of work. This merger will be frustrating at times and it will be rough and as they go down the road.”

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“T The merger has already received orders on LS-01 billets that were former PCs. All will arrive before our deployment and we expect to see additional orders in the next few weeks,” said Dare. "It’s a good opportunity to gain more skills and learn new things. I think it’ll be a big change for the PCs,” said LSC (SW/AW) Alaka Rayovel.

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Virginia Beach — Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek and U.S. Army Garrison Fort Story joined Oct. 1 to form Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek—Fort Story.

The Navy was designated as the lead agent for the new installation with Navy Capt. William Crow as commanding officer and Army Lt. Col. Jayne Jansen as deputy commander.

Navy and Army officials from both installations have actively engaged in developing process and procedures in joining the two services since 2007. The dedication ceremony was the final phase in that process.

“We have worked hand in hand for a seamless transition with no [civilian] job loss affected,” said Jansen.

Although savings can not be estimated so early in the process, Crow remains optimistic with the realignment.

“We anticipate that savings will be derived as efficiencies and best practices are implemented between the two installations,” said Crow.

Affected components of the joint basing include support services, community services, environmental services, fire protection, emergency services, security and law enforcement.

“Management now shifts from Army to Navy for both properties,” said Crow. He gave assurance that specific missions and training will continue to fall under its respective service.

Fort Story was the sub-installation of Fort Eustis, which will begin a similar transition early next year as it joins with Langley Air Force Base to become Joint Base Langley-Eustis at the end of 2010.

The Department of Defense (DoD) and Congress directed the realignments in 2005 as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission decision. Twenty-seven military installations are to be affected by the streamlining which aims to reduce operation costs and future service contracts.

Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek was commissioned Aug. 10, 1945, created out of four existing bases post-WWII, to provide necessary training in methods and techniques for landing troops during an amphibious assault.

Fort Story named after Major General John Patton Story in 1916, provides training in Joint-Logistics-Over-the-Shore and amphibious operations.

With both installations possessing a rich history in the local area, JEB Little Creek—Fort Story does not foresee any interruption for public interest.

“We will continue to work closely with the city of Virginia Beach to ensure the public maintains access to those historical sites,” said Crow.
Seapower Symposium highlights maritime cooperation

By Gerry J. Gilmore

WASHINGTON — Nations working together to solve maritime issues of mutual interest is the focal point of next week’s International Seapower Symposium at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., the Navy’s senior officer said here today.

The 19th ISS at Newport, a biennial event, runs Oct. 7-9. It is “a forum where navies and maritime services from around the world can discuss common interests and propose solutions to the common challenges that are faced on the world’s oceans,” Navy Adm. Gary Roughead, chief of naval operations, told reporters at a Foreign Press Center news conference.

The Newport event began in 1969, Roughead said, noting over the past two years or so he has attended similar maritime-themed symposiums in Italy, Bulgaria, Denmark, Indonesia, and the People’s Republic of China.

“While each of these symposiums is significant,” Roughead said, “the number of navies that will join us in Newport next week is truly remarkable.”

Four years ago, Roughead said, the ISS attracted participation by 72 nations, with 56 chiefs or heads of the services in attendance. At this year’s symposium, the admiral said, 95 nations will be represented and 98 chiefs or heads of service will be in attendance.

Attendance at the Newport symposium has grown, Roughead said, because “there is now broad recognition that the International Seapower Symposium is a platform, a venue for any nation that the International Symposium has grown, Roughead said, because “there is now broad recognition that the International Seapower Symposium is a platform, a venue for any nation that can discuss common interests.”

All three discussion panels at this year’s symposium, Roughead said, will be chaired by non-U.S. participants.

“This aligns, I believe exactly, with President Obama’s vision that the spirit of partnership, the flavor of our foreign policy,” Roughead said. “Denying contemporary maritime problems of international scope such as weapons, narcotics and people trafficking, illegal fishing and oil smuggling, Roughead said, “is only by working together that we can overcome.”

But, for as many challenges there are, there are an equal number, if not more, opportunities for us to work together,” he said.

For example, he said, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are working together that we can overcome.”

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For example, he said, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are working together toward the mutual benefit of all,” the admiral said.

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama announced today that the United States will continue to act aggressively to stop the global spread of the pandemic 2009 H1N1 influenza virus.

The nation also is prepared to make 10 percent of its H1N1 vaccine supply available to other countries through the World Health Organization, he said.

There is broad, international recognition that the 2009 H1N1 pandemic presents a global health risk,” Obama said in an announcement released Sept. 17. “Millions of people around the world have been affected, thousands have died, and the virus continues to spread across international borders.

The United States recognizes that just as this challenge transcends borders, so must our response.

“We invite other nations to join in this urgent global health effort,” the president continued. “Working together, we can ensure that this vaccine limits the spread of the disease, reduces the burden on health care systems, reduces the risk of an even more virulent strain emerging and, most importantly, saves lives — in the United States and around the world. The United States will continue to work aggressively to stop the global spread of the pandemic virus.

The United States will make the H1N1 vaccine available to the World Health Organization on a rolling basis as vaccine supplies become available, in order to help countries that otherwise will not have direct access to the vaccine.

White House officials recommended that the vaccine be given to gestating women, health care workers, people caring for children less than 6 months old and other high-risk populations.
I am excited about the new “Fame” movie that is coming out Oct. 25. For me, it is a bit of nostalgia because I remember the first “Fame” movie and the TV series that followed. I enjoyed those programs because they were relevant to my life then. Teenagers wanting to be famous, to be a “somebody” and struggling to get noticed. Some worked hard, others hardly worked, except by “working” the system to their advantage. And at the end of the day, some made it and some washed out.

I find that, in our Navy, we often see Sailors of all ranks and ratings struggling to “make it.” We as humans, often want, seek and desire fame. Sometimes we work hard and sometimes we just work the system. Regardless, we sometimes achieve fame, even if only for a moment, and yet we also wash out sometimes.

In the New Testament, there were several folks who also struggled for the fame of the world. They were known to many as the disciples of Jesus. One day, while they were walking, they had a discussion about who was first or the best among them. They wanted to know, of the 12, who was Jesus’ favorite; the teacher’s pet, so to speak. Jesus had to remind them that life is not about this world’s fame. Life is a journey, and along that journey there may be moments of fame in the world’s eyes, but there will also be moments of pain and misfortune.

The teaching in this comparison of a very old story and a new-again movie, is the same teaching that we still have a hard time learning. We are called to be faithful. As citizens of this world, as followers of a Divine being, and even as Sailors in the U.S. Navy, we are called to be faithful. Faithful to our oath, faithful to the Sailor’s Creed, faithful to the laws of the land and faithful to the laws of our Divine Being. We are called to be true, honest and faithful, to follow through on all tasks, to carry out our duties, to serve God and country to the best of our abilities.

Will this faithfulness bring us fame? Maybe, maybe not. Will it bring a new ribbon, medal or coin? Who knows? The point is, if you are doing your work, to the best of your ability, in order to gain these items marking moments of fame, then you are not doing them for the right reasons. We are to be faithful in this life, and if we are, there will be fame in the next life – for we will be with our Creator forever, receiving the ultimate medal – life everlasting.

**Driving while drunk? Say your prayers**

Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Thomas O’Flanagan says a prayer during a staged funeral for a driving under the influence (DUI) victim in the chapel of the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4) during a DUI fair. The DUI fair shows Sailors the dangers and consequences of poor decisions when abusing alcohol.
SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Navy parachute demonstration team, known as the Leap Frogs, parachuted onto the USS Midway Museum in San Diego Sept. 26 to help the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) celebrate 100 years of scouting.

Nearly 800 scouts, scoutmasters and friends assembled on the flight deck of the longest-serving aircraft carrier in Navy history to see the performance of the Leap Frogs during the opening ceremony of the scouts’ Midway Overnight Adventure.

There was an air of excitement as the scouts prepared for the night’s activities, but as the Leap Frogs’ aircraft flew toward the ship, all noise and movement stopped momentarily. As soon as the Leap Frogs exited the aircraft, there was a loud roar and a big “hoo-yah” from the scouts.

The parachutists swirled colored smoke above San Diego as they made their way to the 25 by 300 foot bow section of the ship for a precision landing.

A sea of khaki shirts covered in multi-colored patches waited eagerly to shake hands with the Leap Frogs after they landed.

“That was really cool,” said Zachary Dickman, a scout in BSA Troop 446 from Scottsdale, Ariz. “Like many of the scouts, it was the first time Dickman had seen the Leap Frogs perform and he said it was the best part of his day.

The event brought 30 scout troops together from San Diego Imperial County, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Scottsdale. The event, which took two years to organize, was a collaborative effort between the BSA and the USS Midway Museum, said Randy Seefeldt, a scoutmaster and the Midway Overnight Adventure chairperson.

“I knew it would be a great experience for the boys,” said Seefeldt. “They love seeing high-adventure stuff. It was wonderful!”

Several members of the Leap Frogs also began their lives of adventure with the Boy Scouts and were proud to help inspire service among the young scouts.

“It meant a lot to be in San Diego, jumping onto the USS Midway with the Boy Scouts of America,” said James Woods, safety officer for the Leap Frogs. “There are still values in America. In a world where things are being taken away from us constantly, we still have the Boy Scouts of America. We still have a place where we can come and show them that they matter and that they mean something.”

The Leap Frogs are based in San Diego and perform freefall parachute demonstrations throughout the United States to showcase Navy excellence.

For more information about the Navy Parachute Team, visit www.leapfrogs.navy.mil.
Navy uses video games to gather team dynamics research

STORY AND PHOTO BY MCC (SW) MARIA YAGER

MILLINGTON, Tenn. — The research arm of the Navy recognized two teams of Sailors Sept. 24 for their victories in a Simulated Naval Warfare Competition in Millington, Tenn. The computer-based competition, sponsored by Navy Personnel Research, Studies and Technology (NPRST), required participants to work as a team from their individual stations and take out enemy submarines in a simulated warfare environment.

“It is a great day for the Navy when we can combine research with fun,” said Jacqueline Mottern, institute lead for the Navy’s Institute for Selection and Classification.

“While the Sailors enjoyed playing the submarine hunting game, Navy researchers were busy gathering data on how the teams communicated and interacted. The data will support a larger Navy study to preclude and interact with each other, and to establish a baseline for each participant. The profiles allowed researchers to establish a baseline for each team, to measure the interaction and team dynamics during the gaming portion.

“We were tested on different types of ways to find the subs, and basically what we had to do was try to find them and destroy them. It was a lot of fun,” said Chief Personnel Specialist (SW/AW) Romel Agliam, assigned to Navy Recruiting Command (NRC).

“My partner and I were responsible for flying the helicopters, and we communicated through headsets in trying to coordinate how to place the sensor buoys,” said Agliam. Agliam and three of his teammates from NRC placed second in the competition. The first-place team was from the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

NPRST is an innovative, proactive research facility composed of four research institutes. Each institute conducts research in its area of manpower and personnel development in order to improve Navy processes.

NPRST investigates, develops and validates new technologies, methods and business processes to improve the readiness, performance and quality of life of Sailors and Marines. Currently NPRST is conducting research projects to improve quality of life and increase productivity in the detailing process.

“The Navy works in teams, so the Navy needs team research,” said Josh Cotton, personnel research psychologist from NPRST.

Before the competition, NPRST researchers completed personality and cognitive ability type testing on each participant.

“Sitting through 45 minutes of getting asked questions about your personality was probably the hardest part of the competition,” said Randy Brou, lead personnel research psychologist for the study.

The profiles allowed researchers to establish a baseline for each team, to measure the interaction and team dynamics during the gaming portion.

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PRESS RELEASE

GREENSBORO, NC — A Navy SEAL motivating team, three East coast based Navy SEALs, and the U.S. Navy Parachute Team, also known as the Leap Frogs, participated in the Naval Special Warfare’s diversity outreach program Oct. 2-3 in Greensboro, N.C.

SEALs spoke with students at local high schools and put on a Navy SEAL Fitness Challenge for the youth in the community. A Leap Frog demonstration was also done at a local high school.

The weekend was highlighted when the Leap Frogs parachuted into Aggie Stadium at North Carolina A&T State University and presented the game ball to Vice Adm. Joseph Kernan, a Navy SEAL officer and Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, Harold L. Martin Sr., Chancellor of North Carolina A&T State University, and Mel Watt, U.S. Representative of the 12th District of North Carolina, before the historic rivalry game with North Carolina Central University.

“The purpose of this program is to build awareness of Naval Special Warfare career opportunities,” said Capt. Adam Curtis (SEAL), Director of Naval Special Warfare Recruiting.

Vice Admiral Kernan also pointed out the unique opportunity to engage in outreach with the Greensboro community.

“People know about SEALs through advertisement, but we can tell them what is expected. With active-duty SEALs here, we can answer any questions a kid might have,” said Goines, a graduate of Underwater Demolition Team Replacement Accession (UDTRA) class 17 in 1957.

More than 200 kids participated in the SEAL challenge of a 500-yard swim, 1.5-mile run, push-ups, sit-ups and pull-ups. SEALs also participated and encouraged the participants throughout the entire challenge.

“It really helps to be a good athlete to be a SEAL. Events like the fitness challenge help find kids who could make it physically, and then we give them advice and make them aware what opportunities are available,” said Goines.

“The event was a huge success and it was a great way to promote fitness and challenge kids in a NSW environment,” Curtis said.

“Anybody can be successful in this (NSW) community. As a youth we are all exposed to different opportunities. These events let us expose the NSW community to different groups of people and let it be known that there is an opportunity for them,” Kernan said.
Female Wounded Warriors overcome injuries at VA Summer Sports Clinic

BY MC2 (SW) SHANNON WARNER

SAN DIEGO — Seven female service members who suffered traumatic injuries participated in the National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic held at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif., to prepare for the track and field events. This clinic was so good for me, I know there are so many more things out there I can do.”

For more news from Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, visit www.navy.mil/local/pacensandiego/.


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Accordin g to Brogan, lessons learned during the MRAP integration efforts in Charleston have been valuable in speeding the manufacture, prototyping, testing, integration, installation and quality assurance of advanced electronic communications equipment. “The SSC Atlantic team has extensive experience in the integration and fielding of various Marine mobile radio communications and tactical data radio sets, sensors and various signal intelligence systems that enhance the warfighter’s situational awareness, communications and other capabilities on the battlefield. The team has demonstrated its ability to meet a strict delivery schedule on a high volume of vehicles while maintaining configuration management across multiple C4I variants. SSC Atlantic will utilize many members of the MRAP integration team from various engineering disciplines, including industrial and mechanical engineering, technicians, subject matter experts and support staff. SSC Atlantic’s solid partnerships with small- to mid-sized industry provide the agility required to meet the demands associated with a project of this magnitude. As with the MRAP vehicle system, the M-ATV is responsible for every aspect of the activities, from engineering to receipt and final inspection in theater.”

BY LOOMIE COWART

The first shipment of integrated vehicles has been flown to SSC Atlantic for C4I integration. The vehicles have started to flow from the vendor to SSC Atlantic. The first shipment of integrated vehicles has been flown to warfighters in Afghanistan this week.

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WASHINGTON — The Navy is merging its information technology, intelligence and communications operations into an organization to better address Information Age challenges, including threats to computer networks, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said at the National Harbor in Maryland. It is at the Air Force Association conference "Do, do," Gates said during a Sept. 16 speech at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

The Navy must capitalize on its ability to access, filter, analyze and then disseminate information to warfare commanders for action in real time, Roughead said, it's consolidating its intelligence directorate, communications networks and related information technology capabilities to form a single new organization: the deputy chief of naval operations for information dominance.

The reorganization is slated for completion by year's end.

"The Navy also is standing up Fleet Cyber Command, Roughead said, to be operated by the reconstituted U.S. 10th Fleet. The 10th Fleet was involved in efforts to thwart enemy submarines during World War II. The Air Force and Army also are standing up organizations in efforts to thwart enemy submarines, which "have really caused us to sub-optimize our ability to aggregate combat capability and the movement of information in ways that can maximize the effectiveness of a fleet, of a unit or of an individual," Roughead said, and that's why the Navy needs "from exploitation to defense," to "overlay the right place -- really over the last few weeks -- to counter pirates in their attempts to hijack ships," Dorsett said.

"And, what we've seen is fairly significant successes in putting forces in the right place -- really over the last few weeks -- to counter pirates in their attempts to hijack ships," Dorsett said.

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead delivers remarks for "Information Dominance: The Navy's Initiative to Maintain the Competitive Advantage In The Information Age" at the Center for Strategic & International Studies.
FEMA officials ask DoD to provide
medical supplies, officials respond, working with Philippines Disaster Management Services.

Kathryn Coombs, Granddaughter of USS Nashville (LPD 12)‘s original sponsor, shows Office-in-Charge Cdr. Brian Petersen and Public Affairs Officer Lt. Lydia E. Beck, personnel and equipment from the ship’s charity in 1987 following the decommissioning ceremony of Nashville. Coombs has followed Nashville’s deployments over the years, and was emotional about being at the decommissioning ceremony. “This is a very sentimental moment seeing the ceremony and seeing all these guys in their fabulous dress whites … it brings my grandparents back.” At the conclusion of the ceremony, after all good-byes were said, Nashville stands ready to be towed to the Naval Inactive Ships Maintenance Facilities in Philadelphia and will join the fleet of ready-reserve ships standing by in case it is called back to service.

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serve Domestic Violence Awareness month in October as an opportunity to inform Sailors and Navy spouses about domestic violence prevention efforts as well as reporting options for victims.

Domestic violence cuts across all age groups and social classes. It happens to Sailors as well as spouses, to men as well as women.

Domestic violence goes beyond physical abuse. It includes emotional abuse such as threats, isolation, extreme jealousy and humiliation. It also includes sexual abuse. Whenever an adult is placed in physical danger or controlled by threat or use of physical force by their spouse or intimate partner, or he or she has been abused. The risk for abuse is greatest when victims are separated from supportive networks.

The theme for Domestic Violence Awareness Month this year is, “Have you crossed the line? End domestic violence before it starts.”

“Our goal is to prevent domestic vio-
By encouraging people to examine their own behavior and take steps to learn and practice more healthy behaviors. Kathy Turner, of the Fleet and Family Support Program’s Counseling Advocacy and Prevention Program, said. Much is misunderstood about what happens when a sailor or spouse seeks help for their relationship before do-

"The Navy knows this, which is why we provide places to get help." Turner said.

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Members of Navy SEAL Teams 12 and 20, and U.S. medical teams attached to the Philippines task force responded, working with the local and national government to rescue people from rooftops, deliver food and distribute medical supplies, officials said.

Joint special operations teams in the region included two F-470 Zodiaks as boats in the flood waters and worked through the night transporting people to schools, churches and evac-

ation shelters. The teams also helped to rescue a woman and her two children, ages 3 and 6, in a flood-out house.

In addition, task force teams delivered 500 pounds of food to a high school Sept. 27 and con-

tracted a civilan helicopter to the following day to deliver 4,200 pounds of food and water in Cainta, northeast of Pasig city.

“The people lost their houses [and] cars and might still be living in the family members,” said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Porter, a joint special opera-
tions task force medic who provided medical care. “I wanted to do anything and everything I could to help the Filipino people. I was glad I could be a part of the rescue efforts.”

Local officials praised the response. “The work the U.S. military did was ter-
rific,” said Roman Bumalo, Pasig City congressman. “I was very thankful for U.S. support. Your teams were able to successfully go to Santa Lucia High School to help deliver food. It was a real boost that your people were helping us.”

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By LT.C. THERESA DONNELLY

MANILA, Philippines — Members of Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) assisted the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) with the rescue of 12 people affected by mass flooding during Tropical Storm Ondoy, (known as internationally as Ketsana) in Cainta, Metro Manila, Sept. 27-28.

Members of Navy SEAL teams and Naval Special Warfare Teams 12, 20, and U.S. medical personnel attached to JSOTF-P took part. They worked directly with the AFP and the Philippines National Disaster Coordination Council, rescuing people from rooftops, delivering food, and giving out medical supplies. 

Sailors working with Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines rescue Manila residents after flooding destroyed homes and displaced thousands of people. Two boats assisted more than 52 people, including pregnant Filipino woman in labor, stranded in a flooded-out house. 

“People lost their loved ones. I wanted to do my family today,” Culinary Specialist 1st Class DeWolfe H. Miller III, was one of the first crew members. He worked directly with new Sailors assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Cole (DDG 67) prepare to board an abandoned sailboat found drifting in the Atlantic Ocean. Cole is scheduled to participate in Exercise Joint Warrior 09-2, designed to improve interoperability between allied navies as well as to prepare for a role in combined operations during upcoming deployments. 

As directed by the U.S. Coast Guard, Cole’s Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Edward Devinney praised his crew for their quick response. “These people lost their loved ones. It is an unsafe and abandoned vessel,” Devinney said. 

Sailors of the USS Prevail (TSV-1) completed its American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) mandated 5-year docking inspection recently, at Cold Bay, Alaska.

The USS Prevail (TSV-1) is used by Naval forces to conduct important training for Sailors such as Visit, Board, Search and Seizure and Maritime Interdiction Operations.
Everyone has some comic reality to look back and laugh about.

BY LINDA PORT

Linda Port has been an active Navy spouse for most of her 25-year career together, she and her husband have raised four children as they moved around the United States. "I am sure everyone has some comic reality to look back and laugh about," she says. "If you have friends who are Navy, ask them if they have any funny stories to share."

photo by MC2 Mandy Hunsucker

Every fall school systems across the United States send home what is referred to as Federal Survey Cards. These cards are extremely valuable to local school systems and it is important that they be completed correctly. Impacted Aid is a federal cares program that is designed to compensate local school districts for the cost of students who are absent due to military presence in their areas.

School districts lose revenue when military bases are closed. They are required to be compensated for this loss.
for everything you do,” said Williams.

“I want to let you know the hard work they put in to make sure Wasp is ready for deployment. What they have done so well as a team.”

Williams also talked about how the approximately 9,000 Sailors and Marines who comprise Second Fleet must be ready to deploy to almost anywhere in the world in support of the Navy’s mission.

“When you are under way, you engage with our allies and partners, includ ing other services such as the Coast Guard, to uphold the rule of law,” said Williams.

Williams also discussed the public’s perception of the Navy, and how it has grown more positive since he joined up right after the end of the Vietnam War.

“I see the difference in people’s attitudes,” he said. “They can now see that we are serving in an honorable profession whose purpose is to defend the nation’s freedom. Someone has to do it, and that job falls to us.”

Some of the junior Sailors who listened to Williams’ speech said they were encouraged by his recognition of their hard work in support of the Navy’s mission.

“It made us feel that he appreciates everything that we do, and I am grateful for that,” said Aviation Administra tionman Airman John Peak.

“The speech let us know that what we do is important to the nation,” said Aviation Electronics Technician 3rd Class Lamoute Stanfield.
Two maritime operational commands, Maritime Civil Affairs Group (MCAG) and Expeditionary Training Command (ETC), came together Oct. 1 to become Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training (MCAST) Command.

Capt. Claudia Risner, former Commander, MCAG, assumed command of MCAST and remarked on the history and creation of Maritime Civil Affairs.

"From day one, our mission has been 'deploy, stand up and train-as-you-go',' said Risner. "It took a number of individual thinkers with guidance and a passion for civil affairs to deploy with minimal training and successfully perform the mission. We flew the plane as it was being built, and we didn’t crash."

Since MCAG’s commissioning in 2006, Sailors have conducted civil-military operations and established and enhanced relations between military forces, governmental and non-governmental organizations and the civilian populace. Along with MCAG, ETC has also deployed Sailors worldwide, but with a focus on military-to-military training. Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) deployed for two- to six-week training missions around the world. With the creation of MCAST, former ETC Sailors will continue as security force assistance (SFA) MTTs and train partner nations in naval construction, maritime security, ordnance disposal and diving and salvage missions.

"It was a great opportunity to command ETC Sailors," said current MCAST SFA operations officer Lt. Cmdr. Scott Chafian. "I got to work with Sailors with no background in security. We established the procedures for conducting a conventional force in Navy security assistance."

Sailors have participated in such missions as Southern Partnership Station and Continuing Promise in South America, Africa Partnership Station and Pacific Partnership. Today, Sailors are currently supporting Combined Task Force 151 in the Horn of Africa, Joint Special Operations Task Force in the Philippines and Joint Task Force Bravo in Central America.

"Each command has built an outstanding reputation by the accomplishments achieved by our extraordinary Sailors," said Risner. "Today, we merge two forces and two commands to become one.”

Alongside Risner during the ceremony was Commander, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, Rear Adm. Carol Pottenger.

Pottenger challenged MCAST Sailors to look toward the future and make a difference in the world.

"Prevent and deter. That’s what we’re all about,” Pottenger said. “Stand tall and be proud. You have made a difference to our nation’s security and helped people from different countries live a better life.”
PRESS RELEASE
USS Wasp (LHD 1) Public Affairs

ATLANTIC OCEAN — The multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) departed Naval Station Norfolk, Oct. 4, for a three month deployment to U.S. Naval Southern Command's area of focus as part of Southern Partnership Station (SPS).

The crew of approximately 1,100 Sailors and 365 embarked Marines will work alongside Mayport-based Destroyer Squadron Four Zero to build and instill interoperability and cooperation between U.S. and partner nation naval forces through a variety of exercises, theater security cooperations (TSC), military-to-military engagements, and other positive engagement opportunities.

"Having this opportunity to show what WASP is all about is important on a number of levels," said Wasp Commanding Officer, Capt. Lowell D. Crow. "We've trained hard, we've worked hard in preparing, and now it's time to let it show. I'm proud of the work that we've accomplished in such a short period of time, and I'm excited at the prospects we have ahead of us with this deployment."

The Wasp-SPS mission is to continue to strengthen U.S. and 4th Fleet's commitment to the region by fostering partnerships, building relationships and improving partner nation capabilities.

"I have no doubt in my mind that it will be a success, and that once again we're going to exceed the expectations that have been set," said Crow. "The sense of pride and accomplishment is apparent throughout the ranks of the crew, and mixing that with anticipation for a successful deployment makes for a positive environment."

USS Wasp deploys for Southern Partnership Station

Photos by MC1 (SW/AW) Andrew J. McCord

USS Wasp (LHD 1) Dental Officer James Corbett plays the bagpipes as the ship pulls away from the pier on a deployment. Wasp will report to the 4th Fleet Area of Responsibility where it will participate in a variety of operations and exercises.
WASHINGTON — In recognition of the Navy's 234th birthday on October 13th, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West released the following message to the fleet:

"Very recently I had the honor of visiting Mrs. Ima Black. For those of you who don't know, she is the widow of our first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Del Black.

In honor of our 234th birthday as a service, I'd like to tell you a little bit about this amazing lady because she represents so much that is right about our Navy and her life so closely parallels our history.

Ima's eighty-eight-year-old, an honorary master chief, a proud chief petty officer's wife and an amazing supporter of the American Sailor. From the minute we sat down to lunch she asked about you, about our men and women at sea and about the Sailors serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other dangerous places around the world.

I told her that I'd never seen so many men and women in uniform with so much passion to serve, so much enthusiasm to represent our nation. We talked about today's Navy and she told me some stories about the Navy she joined in 1943.

Mrs. Black lives in a retired community down in Florida, in a small apartment overlooking a little lake. She's surrounded by friends and is quick to point out that every once in a while a few Sailors drop by to see how she's doing. Her apartment is a tribute to our first MCPON...

[Image of Mrs. Ima Black and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick West.]

that you remember MCPON Black and you consider that there are thousands of men and women just like his wife Ima who keep our Navy's history alive. Seek them out. Talk with them and your lives will be richer for it.

Happy birthday shipmates. You are part of a legacy that grows stronger each day due to your effort, your initiative and your willingness to serve.

HOOYAH Navy.
A cake cutting ceremony was held on board the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), in celebration of the new Logistics Specialist (LS) rating. The former Navy Storekeeper and Postal Clerk ratings merged Oct. 1, and will be recognized as L.S. A photo was taken to commemorate the occasion with the oldest and youngest SRPC Sailors with Cmdr. Michael Thomas, Supply Officer on board Kearsarge, identified from the left. LS Seaman Timothy Taylor, Chief LS Jeramly Prisco, LS 3rd Class Nathan Thurlow, and Chief LS Charles Moore. Kearsarge is currently undergoing a 10-month Dry Docked Planned Maintenance Availability at NNSY and is scheduled to get back underway this fall.

USS Kearsarge welcomes Logistic Specialist rating

STORY AND PHOTO BY MC1 EMMITT HAWKS
Public Affairs Office

PORTSMOUTH — The number of ratings in the Navy’s Supply workforce will shrink by one when the new Logistics Specialist (LS) rating merges the Postal Clerks (PC) with the Storekeepers (SK) Oct. 1. As with all major changes, the merger will call upon all Sailors involved to be flexible and open to learning new ways of getting the job done, but it is a challenge the Storekeepers and Postal Clerks on board the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD-3) are looking forward to meeting head-on.

“The rating merger is a great idea,” said Postal Clerk 2nd Class SWF Ashley Fudge. “The merger of specialties increases our knowledge of Navy logistics and improves advancement opportunities.”

One of the oldest Navy Ratings, Storekeepers are tasked with maintaining ship supply stores. Their responsibilities generally include purchase and procurement, shipping and receiving, and issuing of equipment, tools, consumable items or anything else obtained through the Navsup Supply System. In November 2008, the Navy announced the merger of the Storekeepers and Postal Clerk ratings to become the Logistics Specialist rating, effective beginning October 2009. This is the second merger for the Storekeepers on board the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD-3) looking forward to merging head-on.

The two ratings have a long history of working together,” said Cmdr. Michael Thomas, Supply Officer on board Kearsarge. “The Logistics Specialist rating will define our future, increasing the efficiency of the Navy Supply program and enhancing customer service.”

Kearsarge prepares offensive against H1N1

PORTSMOUTH — The amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge’s (LHD-3) Medical Department Sailors have outlined procedures to educate and protect service members and their families against the H1N1 flu virus.

“The 2009/2010 flu season is upon us,” said Lt. Cmdr. Terrence Taylor, Senior Medical Officer on board Kearsarge. “This year’s flu season began earlier than last year because of the need to begin protecting against seasonal influenza before a similar effort is undertaken to protect against H1N1 flu. Early vigilance is required to ensure Kearsarge maintains the required levels of operational readiness and provide healthcare guidance to their families.”

2009 H1N1 flu is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. Most people do not have immunity to this virus, so it spreads quickly through communities.

“Prevention is key to suppress a flu pandemic,” said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Donald Harrington, Preventive medicine technician on board Kearsarge. “The symptoms of seasonal and 2009 H1N1 flu virus in people include fever, cough, and sore throat. In addition, symptoms of the flu can include runny nose, body aches, headache, muscle pain, and gastrointestinal issues. Like seasonal flu, H1N1 may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions.

Personalized fit the flu spread the virus through coughing or sneezing near others. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their eyes, mouth, or nose. Preventative measures to help control the spread of H1N1 include: Frequent washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available; avoiding hand contact with the nose, mouth and eyes; covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, or upper sleeve; and disin- ing of tissues in nostrils trash receptacles, keep frequently touched public surfaces clean. For example, telephones, and computer equipment. Try not to use other people’s phones, desks, offices or other work tools and equipment. If you use is absolutely necessary, consider cleaning them first with a disinfectant. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle by paying attention to rest, diet, exercise and relaxation helps maintain physical and emotional health.

“I applaud the medical team for provid- ing us with the necessary training to prepare ourselves,” said Quartermaster Seaman Apprentice Ashley Dorsett. “There was a wide variety of information given to us and this knowledge was passed to our loved ones easily.”

According to the Center for Disease Control, these currently at higher risk of serious influenza complications from 2009 H1N1 in- clude children younger than five years old, pregnant women, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions (asthma, diabetes, heart disease), adults and children who have a weak immune system, residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facili- ties and persons 65 years or older.

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Benjamin Farmer gives Aviation Machinist’s Mate Airman Recruit Charles Cuthall a vaccination on board the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD-3).
STORY AND PHOTOS BY MCSN CHRIS WILLIAMSON

USS Nassau Public Affairs

ATLANTIC OCEAN — Sailors aboard USS Nassau (LHA 4) enjoyed some well-deserved leisure time during a swim call and steel beach picnic in the Atlantic Ocean Saturday.

Nassau left Norfolk Sept. 15 to conduct operations off the Florida coast. On the return trip, approximately 130 Sailors took part in a swim call, and for some, it was the opportunity of a lifetime. Nassau's Executive Officer, Cmdr. David Stracener, was the first to jump in the water and was welcomed by a gauntlet of Sailors in the well deck.

"In my 20 years of being in the Navy, this was my first time ever," said Stracener. "Not many people get to do these in their career. It provided the crew with an opportunity to enjoy themselves at sea and I believe it was a great success."

After Stracener dove in, he welcomed everyone to jump in with him. One of those swimmers was Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handling Airman Kalli McCrary.

"This is something I had to experience in my Navy career," said McCrary. "I worked all night and stayed up all day just to be able to jump in the ocean. Who else in the world gets to do this?"

Also enjoying the unique occasion was Nassau's Command Master Chief (AW/SW) Stanley Kopiczak.

"Although I didn't get to go into the water, I believe the swim call was still a great Morale, Welfare and Recreation event," said Kopiczak. "It's been a tradition since the Navy's inception, and will continue to be a success for years to come."

Safety observers, small boats with shark watch personnel and Search and Rescue (SAR) swimmers were also there to provide safety procedures and rescue assistance, said Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Jonathan Flemming.

"Even though the people in and out of the water were listening and following our safety directions, we still had to rescue some sailors due to the strong current," said Flemming, one of the certified SAR swimmers aboard Nassau. "Other than that, everyone had a good time and things went smoothly."

Following swim call, crew members lined up for hamburgers, hot dogs, wings and all the fixings during a steel beach picnic on the hangar bay. The crew also enjoyed an afternoon in the hangar bay filled with music, basketball and the 'American Gladiator' event of joust.

"These events create lasting memories," said Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Nicholas Roby, who participated in the swim call. "Doing the same thing over and over again at work tends to get tedious. I'm glad everyone, including myself, got to take time out of their busy schedules to do this once in a lifetime event."
**RESCUE:** Philippine government grateful

I could do help to the Filipinos people. I was glad I could be a part of the rescue efforts,” said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (HM2) Jonathan Porter. Porter was a 505TH medical personnel on scene to provide direct medical care.

According to Philippines Disaster Management Services, the floods displaced hundreds of thousands of people and the most recent reports indicate that nearly 100,000 people have been relocated.

“The work the U.S. military did was terrific,” said Roman Ronallo, Pasig City congressman. “I was very thankful for U.S. support. Your teams were able to successfully go to Santa Lucia High School to help deliver food. It was a big boost that your people were helping us.”

On Sept. 26, JSOTF-P teams delivered 300 pounds of food to Santa Lucia high school. Additionally, the following day, a civilian helicopter contracted by JSOTF-P unloaded and distributed an additional 4,200 pounds of food and water in Cainta, northeast of Pasig City.

The response to Ondoy was a collaborative effort among Philippine civilian government agencies, the AFP, the people affected, and assistance from Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines.

“I don’t think we could have done anything without the help of the Filipinos. They were just great in helping us. They had translators, guides,” said Porter.

“They were able to tell us where to go. When we were looking for a house, the police and local citizens would help us and the rescue was a collaborative effort among government agencies and the people affected,” he said.


**PREVAIL:** Civilian mariners train Sailors

Preval is crewed by 12 citizen professionals/mariners. During training exercises Naval Reservists augment the crew to ensure Preval has a large enough crew to carry out training missions. The crew plays the part of pirates, smugglers or a variety of other roles to ensure the training received by the strike groups is as realistic as possible.

“We continue to change based on the feedback we get from the warfighters,” said Gittelman regarding Preval’s role in the fleet. The dry dock availability was contracted and supervised by MidAtlantic Regional Maintenance Center (MARCOC). Repairs and maintenance included hull blasting and painting, piping repair, tank and void inspection and the installation of a new fathomometer and speed log. Preval was also fitted with Interlock underwater ball cooling. Interlock ball cooling helps to reduce sea growth and improves fuel efficiency while preserv ing the environment.

“I’m proud my crew, working side-by-side with shipyard workers, were able to complete this availability on time with no accidents or injuries,” said Capt. George Flick, Master of TNSV Preval.

“We’re looking forward to getting back to sea and helping to train the Fleet.”

For more news from Commodore, U.S. 2nd Fleet, visit www.navy.mil/local/csej.

**COLE:** Teamwork is key for timeliness

Sailors aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Cole (DDG 67) take advantage of a break during flight quarters to repair a hole in the safety netting around the flight deck.

“Our entire team reacted immediately,” said Dominy. “The deck division conducted small boat operations and performed rapid assessments of security. Meanwhile, the bridge watch team provided security for the boarding team and gave a visual play-by-play account to the DESRON Staff Tactical Action Officer.”

DESRON 24 Commander, Capt. John Kersh, addressed the crew after the event to thank them for their support to civil maritime security.

“I think incredibly highly of the USS Cole. You put the RHIB in the water quick ly, maneuvered the ship smartly and got all the reports off the ship to keep the Fleet fully informed,” said Kersh. “The demonstration of great teamwork that I saw in Cole was truly magnificent. That is a tribute to each and every one of you and your readiness, and you ought to be very proud.”

**BONE:** 15 minutes could save a life

“I took a week kit home to not only save my husband and get him registered but for my neighbors as well.” Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Amanda Soehren said. “I figured what if the person needing the bone marrow was a loved one or even me? I would want to have the best chance of finding a match.”

For more news from USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), visit www.navy.mil/local/cvn77.

The MV-22B Osprey assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 263 (Reinforced) lands aboard the multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) during routine flight operations.

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