

SEALIFT

Our U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command



SWIFT

preps for

Operation

Martillo

INSIDE the June 2013 Issue — MSC commander writes final thoughts, farewells • MSC delivers for U.S. Marine Corps

Sailing confidently into the future

It's great to join Military Sealift Command! This is a job I've wanted from the moment I graduated from Maine Maritime Academy and began serving our country. Although I genuinely miss sea duty, I assure all of my MSC shipmates that I will visit as many of you as I can – as often as I can.

I try to be judicious in the use of the word "I." As anyone who's been around the waterfront for a while knows, it's all about our mariners and Sailors who operate our Navy's MSC ships. You're out there, around the world, every day, supporting our warfighters, as our Chief of Naval Operations says, "where it matters – when it matters."

Whether you're serving on a fleet replenishment oiler supporting a carrier strike group, or an oceanographic survey ship gathering critical data, you're doing an important job. If your time afloat is spent on a prepositioning ship stocked with the vehicles, gear and ammunition for our Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps, you are making a positive and important difference in our nation's reaction time in contingencies. If you're working on a rescue and salvage ship helping clear wreckage from a harbor or



Rear Adm. Thomas K. Shannon, left, assumes command of Military Sealift Command from Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby during a May 10 ceremony aboard USNS Spearhead (JHSV 1). (U.S. Navy photo by MCSA Jesse Hyatt)

on a chartered float-on/float-off vessel hauling Navy mine hunters to the Middle East, you're part of our global

force for good, supporting our U.S. armed forces with everything they need to maintain readiness, win the

battle or sustain the peace.

Our new joint, high-speed vessels operated by our CIVMAR crews offer fleet and geographical commanders exciting capabilities with their speed, shallow-draft and flexible mission loads, options that could make a difference in tight situations.

The presence of USS Ponce, our interim afloat forward staging base, in the Arabian Gulf brings our Navy a solid sense of confidence as a platform for a multitude of missions and a forward operating base. When USNS Montford Point and our other new mobile landing platform ships and their afloat forward staging base variants reach operational capability, they, too, will support and be part of our great Navy.

When we look at what our Military Sealift Command brings to the fight, we begin to understand the high level of trust we enjoy within our Navy. Our mariners crew our Navy ships that allow our combatant fleet to put warfighting first. MSC ships provide the combat logistics that keep our Navy operating forward, always ready.

Our Navy's civilian mariners and uniformed Sailors are the best on the planet. At MSC we're on top of our game, and that's where we'll stay as we sail confidently into the future.

Thanks for your service,

T.K. Shannon
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander, Military Sealift Command

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Military Sealift Command reports to the Commander, U.S. Transportation Command for defense transportation matters, to the Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command for Navy-unique matters and to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition for procurement policy and oversight matters.



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Remembering the forgotten

Memorial Day is traditionally a time to honor those who not only served our United States of America, but those who in their service made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard: these are our men and women who bear arms and go in harm's way because they are the warriors of our great nation. Each year in May, we remember and honor our warrior heroes.

But there is another important group of men and women who do not wear the uniforms of our armed forces, yet still willingly go in harm's way for our country, and they have done so since our nation was born.

These are our brave, self-sacrificing men and women of our United States Merchant Marine.

More than two centuries ago, it was the merchant mariners of the thirteen united colonies, sailing as privateers under the orders of Gen. George Washington, who led the way to our freedom, capturing the first British vessel in our War of Independence in 1776.

Merchant mariners have been part of our nation's security and prosperity ever since.

One of our Navy's earliest heroes – John Paul Jones – began his career as a merchant seaman before he ever commanded a man-o-war.

From the Civil War to World War I, merchant mariners carried war supplies to ground forces, facing enemy ships and the dangers of the sea itself to complete their missions.

In World War II, merchant mariners manned the heavily laden gasoline tankers, troop transports and cargo ships transiting Torpedo Alley in the Atlantic while hounded by German U-boats. By war's end, more than 8,000 men had paid with their lives to ensure the success of our armed forces across the globe.

In Korea and Vietnam, our merchant mariners travelled to the far side of the world, delivering combat supplies and gear to U.S. and allied troops defending the ideals of democracy and self-determination.

Our merchant mariners unloaded cargo ships in Kuwait harbor under threat of enemy missile attack during the first Gulf War. Today, they support our Navy and our nation in Afghanistan and the Arabian Gulf, delivering life-

saving mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles; Navy patrol boats; fuel and combat supplies to our U.S. forces.

I enjoy the honor of leading our Navy's Military Sealift Command – the world's largest employer of U.S. merchant mariners. Our crews are sea-going professionals who continue to willingly go wherever the mission requires them. Part of the U.S. Navy since 1949, Military Sealift Command supports our Navy, Army, Air Force and Marine Corps with afloat combat logistics for the fleet; special missions including oceanographic survey and undersea surveillance; huge amounts of prepositioned combat cargo for quick delivery in contingency operations; ship towing, rescue and salvage, afloat medical care and other support to Navy combatant ships; and fuel and other Department of Defense cargo for U.S. forces and agencies around the globe.

For 237 years, our nation has benefited from the professionalism and expertise of our American merchant mariners. Whenever – wherever – when duty calls, they deliver, keeping our Navy on station, forward deployed and ready to face any aggressor.

In 1933, Congress set aside May 22 as a special day of recognition for the U.S. Merchant Marine. On that date in 1819, SS Savannah steamed out of Savannah, Georgia, bound for England, becoming the first steam-powered ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

Our Navy is proud of our civilian mariners, and on May 22 each year, we honor our shipmates who have "crossed the bar" for the last time. In ceremonies held all over the world, we offer our prayers, our respect and our honor to the memory of our departed shipmates, acknowledging the great debt we owe them.

In this month of remembrance, as we honor all who have fallen in service to our nation, please remember the men and women of our U.S. Merchant Marine.



U.S. Merchant Mariners practice hoisting the sails on board a training ship in June 1918. (Photo courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command)

Super Servant delivers USS Pioneer

By MC2 Rosalie Garcia
Naval Surface Force,
U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The Avenger-class mine countermeasures ship USS Pioneer (MCM 9) was off-loaded from heavy-lift ship MV Super Servant 3 at Naval Base San Diego, May 5, after completing an eleven-month deployment to U.S. 5th Fleet.

"Pioneer performed superbly throughout the deployment, completing every assigned mission as tasked, and attained the highest operational availability of any MCM throughout the period of deployment," said Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron 3, Capt. Steve Mucklow.

Along with mine countermeasure ships USS Sentry (MCM 3), USS Devastator (MCM 6), and USS Warrior (MCM 10), Pioneer was transported from San Diego to Bahrain June 2012, to support a U.S. Central Command request for additional MCM assets in U.S. 5th Fleet.

While in U.S. 5th Fleet, Pioneer conducted mine warfare operations and exercises, including the first International Mine Countermeasures Exercise (IMCMEX) Sep-



Mine countermeasure ships USS Pioneer (MCM 9) and USS Warrior (MCM 10) rest atop merchant vessel Super Servant III as it slowly rises to the surface during a heavy-lift operation in February. Super Servant III delivered Pioneer to San Diego May 8. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Scichilone)

tember 2012, and training mine-shape recovery operations in the Gulf of Aden.

"They were tremendous ambassadors. In their execution of IMCMEX '12, they not only integrated smoothly with partner nations at sea, but during the in-port phase, they hosted the entire international officer delegation to dis-

cuss U.S. mine warfare capabilities," said Mucklow. "It was truly an outstanding deployment by an outstanding MCM crew."

Pioneer will remain in San Diego to prepare to meet U.S. 3rd Fleet mine warfare mission requirements. Sentry and Devastator remain deployed to U.S. 5th Fleet for participation in

IMCMEX, May 13-22. Warrior completed a U.S. 5th Fleet deployment, departing Bahrain in March. Warrior was delivered to her new homeport, Sasebo, Japan, as the replacement for the decommissioned USS Guardian (MCM 5) and is assigned to commander, U.S. 7th Fleet in support of mine warfare missions.

MSC recognizes superior food service

The following story initially appeared on Military Sealift Command's official blog, <http://mscsealift.dodlive.mil>.

Congratulations to the food service teams aboard USNS Washington Chambers (T-AKE 11), USNS Robert E. Peary (T-AKE 5), USNS Kanawha (T-AO 196) and USNS Walter S. Diehl (T-AO 193) for earning this year's Captain David M. Cook Food Service Excellence Awards! Presented annually, the awards showcase the best of the best in food preparation and service aboard the Navy's Combat Logistics Force and Service Support Program ships.

While at MSC, Capt. David Cook

worked for restaurant quality foods on the menu to improve the quality of life for crews. MSC established a food service award in 1992 – renamed for Cook in 2002 – to formally recognize the civil service mariners responsible for outstanding management of food service operations.

Roberta Jio, MSC Foodservice Community Manager: For this year's competition, some ships participated and won that never competed for this award before. It was a pleasure to evaluate all ships because all were serving excellent meals and providing outstanding customer service. The difference between the winning

ship and coming in 2nd place was in most cases only by a 1-2 point margin. That shows the truly great food service professionals we have serving with MSC.

Chief Steward Derrick Piercy, USNS Kanawha: It felt very good to receive the award back to back; it is very rare because MSC ships pride themselves on providing the crew with the best healthy, nutritious meals available, and the competition is very fierce. We were confident about winning here on the Kanawha because we push ourselves each day to improve. The cooks who I have here with me take great pride in their work, and settling for

average is not an option. The Supply Utilities go out of their way to provide the most courteous, helpful customer service possible.

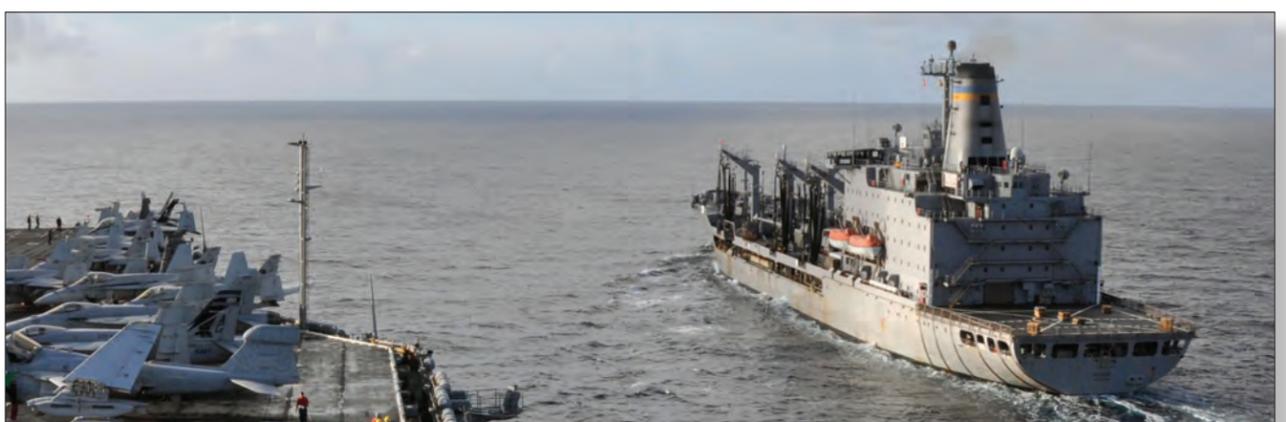
Providing excellent food and customer service is essential to our crew members. Having to deal with the rigors of day-to-day work, and being away from love ones, it provides a pleasant, relaxing atmosphere for long stressful days. It is a form of stress relief for most mariners who deal with work in climate changing situations. It is also a means to continue to help keep our mariners healthy and energized to be able to provide service to our fighting men and women of the military."

Navy presents awards for shipboard safety

The following story initially appeared on Military Sealift Command's official blog, <http://mscsealift.dodlive.mil>.

The Navy recognized fleet replenishment oiler USNS Patuxent (T-AO 201) with a second consecutive CNO Afloat Safety Award in early April. The crews of Emory S. Land (AS 39) and USNS 2ND LT John P. Bobo (T-AK 3008) also received the award for significant achievements in creating and maintaining a safe work environment while performing their respective missions. The award earns these vessels the right to display the Navy's green safety "S" on the ship's bulwark until the next competitive cycle.

Chief Mate Joseph Guenzel, USNS Patuxent: All hands on board USNS Patuxent are honored to have received the CNO



USNS Patuxent (T-AO 201), seen here in March 2013, earned a CNO Afloat Safety Award for significant achievements in creating and maintaining a safe work environment. (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Rob Rupp.)

Afloat Safety Award for the second time in two years. Crew members of the Patuxent have fostered a proactive safety culture aboard, providing valuable feedback to department heads regarding ways and means to

prevent mishaps. They have displayed an overall high interest in their well-being as individuals and as a crew, with a mission-ready posture at all times. In addition, Naval Safety Center Norfolk safety newsletters, in

conjunction with Military Sealift Command's near-miss reporting system, have been an integral part of the safety dialogue on board Patuxent, allowing Patuxent to benefit from the lessons learned throughout the fleet.



A testbed for

NEW T

By MC1 Sean Allen
U.S. 4th Fleet Public Affairs

High-speed vessel Swift (HSV 2) completed testing of the TIF-25K Aerostat unmanned blimp and a Puma unmanned aerial vehicle, departing Key West May 1 for Operation Martillo, a countering transnational organized crime mission in U.S. 4th Fleet.

The Aerostat and UAV demonstrated their unique capabilities to Commander, U.S. 4th Fleet, Rear Adm. Sinclair Harris, as they could serve as future platforms to conduct counter illicit trafficking operations in the area of responsibility.

“In the current fiscal environment, U.S. 4th Fleet is exploring innovative, cost effective solutions that can address the capability gaps caused by budget cuts. Aerostats and unmanned aircraft systems are platforms that warrant more research due to the benefits of enhanced fuel efficiency, payload capacity, and persistence,” said Harris. “By leveraging the unique capabilities each platform has to offer, we can bring low-cost, high-tech tools to maintain a robust detection and monitoring mission for Operation Martillo.”

The tethered Aerostat provides an aerodynamically stable, reliable and cost effective aerial platform for surveillance, monitoring and detection. The standard system configuration can fly 2,000 to 3,000 feet above Swift and can deploy rapidly and safely.

The UAV delivers flexibility, endurance and a payload capability unmatched in its vehicle class. With a wingspan of 8.5 feet, this lightweight, hand-launched UAV provides aerial observation at line-of-sight ranges up to 10 kilometers. The Puma can be recovered in very tight areas using vertical descent auto land, and is currently

undergoing sea landing trials.

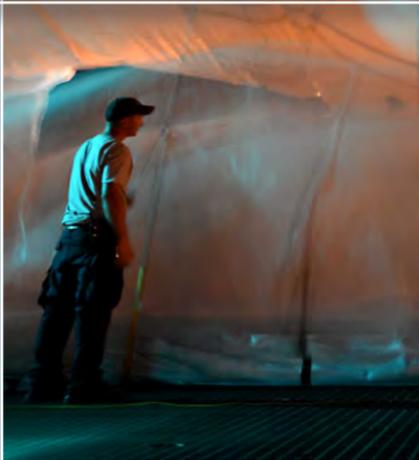
Operation Martillo - Spanish for “hammer” - is a United States, European and Western Hemisphere partner nation effort targeting illicit trafficking routes in coastal waters along the Central American isthmus. U.S. military participation is being led by Joint Interagency Task Force South.

Operation Martillo is part of the U.S. government’s coordinated regional security strategy in support of the White House strategy to combat transnational organized crime and the U.S. Central America Security Initiative.

Swift belongs to Military Sealift Command’s Prepositioning Program as a command-chartered, non-combatant high-speed vessel, providing Navy-specific service support on a variety of missions, including Southern Partnership Station, its final mission before going off-hire in 2013.

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet support U.S. Southern Command joint and combined full-spectrum military operations by providing principally sea-based, forward presence to ensure freedom of maneuver in the maritime domain, to foster and

sustain cooperative relationships with international partners and to fully exploit the sea as maneuver space in order to enhance regional security and promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the Caribbean, Central and South American regions.





TECHNOLOGY

RIGHT: Swift, with a tethered TIF-25K Aerostat, gets underway from Key West to conduct a series of at sea capabilities tests. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr. Corey Barker)



LOWER RIGHT: A crane lifts a tethering apparatus aboard Swift. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr. Corey Barker)



COVER: Chartered vessel HSV 2 Swift serves as the platform when commander of U.S. 4th Fleet Navy Rear Adm. Sinclair Harris launches a Puma unmanned aerial vehicle during the at-sea demonstration and flight testing for counter-transnational organized crime operations. (U.S. Navy photo by MASN Brandon Norman)

BACKGROUND: High above chartered vessel HSV 2 Swift, a Puma unmanned aerial vehicle soars past a TIF-25K Aerostat attached to the ship. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Ashley Hyatt.)

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: Swift's Sonar Technician 1st Class Justin Weidlich points out range rings and contacts displayed on the TIF-25K Aerostat radar system. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Ashley Hyatt.)

A tethered TIF-25K Aerostat is positioned on Swift for testing and evaluation at sea. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr. Corey Barker)

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Chris Kell and Lt. Cmdr. Jason McCoy, operations planners for U.S. 4th Fleet, inspect a Puma AE unmanned aerial vehicle that will be tested aboard Swift as a potential detection and monitoring platform. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr. Corey Barker)

LOWER LEFT (two photos): Swift's contract mariners and the Raven Aerostar team inflate a tethered TIF-25K Aerostat. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Ashley Hyatt)

ATLANTIC • LINES

Military Sealift Command Atlantic changed command during a ceremony April 12 at Naval Station Norfolk, Va. Navy Capt. **Dean M. Vesely** relieved Navy **Capt. Samuel R. Norton** during a morning ceremony aboard dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS William McLean (T-AKE 12).

Vesely last served as ballistic missile defense division head and executive agent representative for Aegis Ashore at U.S. Fleet Forces Command. Vesely, a Colorado native, was commissioned through Officer Candidate School in 1988 and commenced training in the nuclear power program. His education includes a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering from the University of Colorado, a master's degree in business and administration from City University, and a master's degree in engineering management from Old Dominion University.

Norton transitions to service as executive officer for commander, Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Atlantic, located at Joint Ex-

peditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Va. EWTGLANT conducts training in the doctrine and tactics of naval expeditionary warfare to support military power projection from the sea.

At MSCLANT's port office in Charleston, S.C., **Tom D'Agostino**, director of ship operations, coordinated the discharge of nearly 81,000 barrels of fuel from USNS Lawrence H. Gianella (T-AOT 1125) on April 3-4. Additionally, D'Agostino conducted anti-terrorism/force protection spot checks on USNS PFC Dewayne T. Williams (T-AK 3009) and USNS Zeus (T-ARC 7).

Marine Transportation Specialist **Jack Davis, Jr.** – from MSCLANT's Beaumont, Texas office – traveled to the piers in Amelia, La., April 23 for tug and barge operations. Davis coordinated the loading of patrol boat P-312 on board a barge for tow by tug during the journey's first leg from Amelia to Beaumont. Heavy-lift vessel MV Ocean Titan is chartered to transport the patrol boat to Iraq.



Chartered vessel MV Ocean Titan gets ready to transport Patrol Craft 312 in late April from Beaumont, Texas, to Iraq. (U.S. Navy photo)

COMPASS • HEADING

Chief mate and first assistant engineer promotion boards were convened during the week of April 15. Among the civil service mariner applicants, 15 mates and 15 engineers were selected for promotion.

The master and chief engineer promotion board results have been announced. Permanently promoted to master are: **Anthony Boudouin**, **Troy Bruemmer**, **Steven Burnette**, **Robert Foor**, **Gerald Hickney**, **Jason Ivey**, **Jonathan Keffer**, **Timothy Kelly**, **Aleana Lytle**, **Edward Santillan**, **Joseph Sidel** and **Guy Ziccardi**. Those permanently promoted to chief engineer are: **George Bentley**, **George Hairston**, **Senjamin Tai** and **Chris Uptegrove**.

MSC recruiters held hiring events throughout the month of April at maritime academies to include the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Maine Maritime Academy, State

University of New York Maritime College, Texas A&M University at Galveston, and California Maritime Academy. Seeking applicants for third officer and third assistant engineer positions, recruiters finished their academy events with a visit to Massachusetts Maritime Academy May 2.

Fair winds and following seas to **Second Cook Rosauro Abeto**, **Junior Supply Officer Proceso Delos Santos**, **Able Seaman Paul Katz**, **Chief Steward Orlando Josafat**, **Chief Radio Electronics Technician Ronald Parker**, **Purser Michael Klein**, and **Able Seaman Juan Santillan** as they retire.

MSC regrets to announce the passing of **Third Assistant Engineer George Burden** and sends condolences to his family.

For more civil service mariner news view the on-line newsletter at www.msc.navy.mil/msfsc/newsletter.

DC • HIGHLIGHTS



Command Master Chief Kevin Blade looks through the "big eyes" while on deployment on USS Hue City (CG 66) in 2010. (U.S. Navy photo)

Military Sealift Command welcomes new Command Master Chief Kevin Blade, MSC's senior enlisted leader and principal advisor to Rear Adm. Thomas Shannon for policies concerning morale, welfare, job satisfaction, discipline and training of Sailors. Blade previously served as the command master chief at Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev. The following story, originally published on MSC's Sealift blog, shares a few thoughts from Blade on joining MSC:

How has your Navy experience prepared you to be MSC's command master chief?

I believe that my experience with MSC in 2001-2002 – along with many years of serving Sailors at sea – has prepared me for the challenges that are ahead of me in this position. Having an understanding of the MSC organization and the mission of the command is vital to being prepared for this job. It is an honor to be back at

MSC in Washington bids fair winds and following seas to Navy **Capt. Andrew Cully**, **Renee Desrosiers**, Navy **Lt. Lloyd Regas** and **Destiny Pinson**, maritime forces, manpower and management; **Philip Palmer**, command, control, communication and computer systems; **Alexander Podlozhenov**, engineering; **Jay Lee**, office of the

MSC in this capacity, and I look forward to working for and serving all the active duty Sailors, CIVMARs and our Navy civilians who are assigned at MSC.

As a Navy leader, who is your role model and why?

My role model has always been my grandfather, Mr. Earl Hirons. He was a hard-working blue collar worker who worked in a Chevrolet plant in Muncie, Ind., for over 40 years. His work ethic and his passion for his job and the people he worked with were always very inspirational. Unfortunately, he passed away at the age of 94 in 2008.

What would people be surprised to learn about you?

People would be most surprised to learn that I love to play just about any sport, but I am most fond of getting on the ice and playing some ice hockey.

comptroller; **Brad Taylor**, strategic planning; and **David Baer**, contracts and business management.

The command welcomes **Johanna O'Neill**, Sealift Program; **Krystopher Skyler**, maritime forces, manpower and management; **Cmdr. Tim Fontana**, operations; and **Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Crowder**, logistics.

CENTRAL • CURRENTS

Military Sealift Command Combat Logistics Force ships operating in U.S. Fifth Fleet provided 102 underway replenishment evolutions in April, including 60 with coalition, European Union and NATO ships. The ships of Commander Task Force 53 provided this vital logistical support to enable U.S. 5th Fleet combatants to stay at sea and focused on their missions.

USNS Bruce C. Heezen (T-AGS 64) completed its dry dock period at a repair facility in Qatar on April 24. In total, Heezen spent 49 days completing repairs and facilitated multiple crew swap-outs.

The MSC Central staff prepared for the return of chartered cargo ship BBC Seattle (T-AK 5272) on its quarterly mis-

sion to U.S. 5th Fleet and U.S. 6th Fleet, delivering supplies to the forward deployed warfighters in the region. Navy **Capt. Glen Leverette**, commander, MSCCENT, and commander, CTF-53, facilitated the delivery process by visiting and engaging key leaders.

MSCCENT and CTF 53 bid fair winds and following seas to Navy **Cmdr. Jeffrey Gottlieb**, **Petty Officer 1st Class James Dipinto** and **Petty Officer 2nd Class Namon Richardson**.

The command welcomes **Chief Petty Officer Chris Nawrocki**, **Petty Officer 1st Class Andrew Gonzales**, and **Petty Officer 2nd Class Seth Piper** to the MSCCENT team.



USS Ponce (AFSB(I) 15), bottom, transits the Arabian Gulf with USS San Antonio (LPD 17). (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Terah L. Mollise)

FAR EAST • HAILS

Reserve Sailors from Bronx, N.Y.-based Expeditionary Port Unit 102 and Wilmington, Del.-based EPU 105, visited children at the Mie Wan orphanage in Busan, Republic of Korea, April 7. Deployed to the Korean peninsula in support of the Combined Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore exercise, Sailors sponsored a party that included pizza and soft drinks. The children challenged Sailors to play traditional Korean games.

"Seeing the smiles and hearing the laughter from the children was truly rewarding," said Navy **Lt. Cmdr. Jessica Brick** of EPU 102.

Navy **Rear Adm. Jonathan Yuen**, commander, Naval Supply Systems Command, Global Logistics Support, based in San Diego, Calif., visited MSC Far East headquarters April 30. Navy **Capt. James Hruska**, commander, MSCFE, briefed Yuen on

MSC operations in U.S. 7th Fleet.

Hospital Corpsman Senior Chief Donald Pangalangan, Ship Support Unit Singapore fleet medical liaison, retired from naval service during a May 3 ceremony at Singapore's Sembawang Wharves.

SSU Singapore officer-in-charge Navy **Lt. Cmdr. Victor Cirilo** presented Pangalangan with the Meritorious Service Medal recognizing his three years of superior service to MSC in the Far East.

Cirilo also presented Pangalangan with a Certificate of Appreciation for Service in the Armed Forces, signed by President Barack Obama, for 25 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Navy. More than 60 guests attended the ceremony including MSC Far East staff members and Navy **Rear Adm. Tom Carney**, commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific and

commander, Task Force 73.

MSC Far East welcomes **Lt. j.g. Toy Hinds** who relieves Navy **Lt. Todd Duerhemier** as staff support officer. Marine Corps **Master Sgt. James D'Errico** relieves Marine Corps **Master Gunnery Sgt. John Grose** as U.S. Ma-

rine Corps Aviation Ordnance Manager.

Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron Three welcomes **Damage Controlman 1st Class Zachary Nicholas**, who relieves **Damage Controlman 1st Class Travis Huff** as assistant materiel officer.



Sailors from USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) work on a community service project at American Legion Post 4 in the Philippines. (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Andrew Lavin)



A helicopter drops pallets on USNS Henry J. Kaiser (T-AO 187) during an underway replenishment with USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Dean M. Cates)

PACIFIC • BRIEFS

Military Sealift Command Pacific staff provided a Combat Logistics Force capabilities and familiarization brief to 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit Logistics staff. The brief came in preparation for the unit's deployment with the USS Boxer Amphibious Ready Group.

USNS Navajo (T-ATF 169) arrived in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, April 16 to support Mobile Dive and Salvage Unit 1 training. Navajo provided a dive training platform for MDSU-1 at anchorage and at the pier throughout the month of April, completing operations May 3.

USNS Bridge (T-AOE 10) completed support to the USS John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group and returned to San Diego in late April. Before arriving in San Diego, Bridge conducted an ammunition download in the Pacific Northwest. Bridge will support Southern California logistics services while in San Diego.

MSCPAC welcomes its new com-

mander, Navy **Capt. Mike Taylor**. Taylor joins the MSC team following a tour of duty as the deputy commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron One in San Diego. Taylor relieves Navy **Capt. Sylvester Moore** during a change of command ceremony April 19 at Naval Submarine Base, Point Loma, Calif. Moore received the Legion of Merit award for his outstanding performance as commander of MSCPAC from Navy **Capt. Sidney Kim**, Assistant Chief of Staff, Logistics for U.S. 3rd Fleet. Moore, who assumed command of MSCPAC in July 2011, reports to the Southwest Regional Maintenance Facility in San Diego, where he will serve as executive officer.

Best wishes to **Matt Mueller**, a marine transportation specialist with the MSCPAC operations directorate, as he transitions to his new position as force protection specialist with MSC Europe and Africa in Naples, Italy.

EUROPE/AFRICA • NEWS

USNS Kanawha (T-AO 196) continued to provide regular replenishment at sea support to U.S. Navy ships throughout the Mediterranean Sea. Customers during April included USS Robert G. Bradley (FFG 49), USS Carter Hall (LSD 50), USS Mahan (DDG 72), USS Barry (DDG 52), USS Gravelly (DDG 107) and French ship FS Jean Bart (D615). As part of its regularly scheduled deployment, Kanawha delivers mission-essential food, fuel and cargo to keep forward-deployed U.S. Navy and partner nation ships operating and on station.

U.S. 6th Fleet flagship USS Mount

Whitney (LCC 20) completed a two-month maintenance period at San Giorgio del Porto shipyard, April 15. After nearly 60 days of engineering upgrades and extensive steel replacement on the main super-structure, Mount Whitney got underway to conduct sea trials, a step toward certifying as a mission-ready platform.

Civil service mariner **Chief Mate Kevin Farrin** said the shipyard's repair work was well managed and on par with any stateside shipyard.

"My expectations for an on-budget and timely execution of a large project like this were fully met by the San Giorgio team," said Farrin.



Crew members from USNS Kanawha (T-AO196) stage cargo to send to USS Mahan (DDG 72) in the Mediterranean Sea. (U.S. Navy photo by Nicholas Petrone)



Electronics Technician 2nd Class Christopher Croucher, left, receives marksmanship training aboard USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20). (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Collin Turner)

Navy ships complete CJLOTS exercise

By Lt. j.g. Livy Coe
Maritime Prepositioning
Squadron 3

Navy Maritime Prepositioning Force ships USNS 1ST LT John P. Bobo (T-AK 3008) and USNS Pililaau (T-AK 304) departed the port of Pohang, Republic of Korea, May 8.

The departure marked the conclusion of a month-long deployment in support of the Combined Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore exercise held jointly with forces from the Republic of Korea.

As part of the larger Foal Eagle 2013 exercise, CJLOTS involved 2,200 Navy, Marine Corps, Army and Coast Guard personnel and partners from the ROK military, who trained to deliver and redeploy military cargo from ships anchored two miles off Pohang's Dogu beach.

"We experienced solid coordination from all participants culminating in a successful and safe offload and backload of hundreds of Marine Corps principal end items," said Navy Capt. Richard Rainer, commander of Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron 3.

Owned by Military Sealift Command and operated by commercially-contracted merchant mariners, Bobo and Pililaau served as supporting platforms for cargo-handling Battalion One Sailors and Marines from Okinawa-based III Marine Expeditionary Force who safely loaded and backload the vessels.

Offshore petroleum distribution system ship USNS VADM K.R. Wheeler (T-AG 5001) also partici-

pated in this year's exercise as the only ship of its kind in either military or commercial use. During CJLOTS, Wheeler tested its primary mission to deliver fuel to deployed troops ashore in the event of a contingency operation.

More than 50 Reservists from five MSC Expeditionary Port Units joined Sailors from the Strategic Sealift Officer Program and permanent staff members from MSC Of-



Above: An M1A1 Abrams tank is off-loaded April 19 from USNS 2ND LT John P. Bobo (T-AK 3008) off the shore of Pohang, South Korea, as part of Combined Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cp. Mark Stroud)

Left: Vehicles and equipment are loaded April 30 aboard Bobo off the coast of Pohang. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Saeah Wood)

merce Korea, providing support to the ships throughout the exercise. MSC Reserve Sailors also staffed the exercise Joint Operation Center working side-by-side with ROK military personnel.

"Ultimately, our units are here for the ships," said Lt. Jason Rooney of Little Rock, Ark.-based EPU 112 deployed to the port for the exercise. "We make sure they get everything they need to support the mission."

The Improved Navy Lighterage System, stowed aboard both MPF ships, was used throughout the

exercise as hundreds of vehicles and containerized cargo holding everything from meals-ready-to-eat to medical supplies, were delivered ashore.

The INLS is comprised of a roll-on/roll-off discharge facility, or RRDF, a large floating platform the size of two U.S. regulation basketball courts, used to stage cargo, and mechanized watercraft used to deliver cargo to shore.

"We experienced real-world challenges of moving equipment from ships to shore which pre-

pare us all for the day, if, possibly, this might not be a drill," said COMPSRON Three operations officer Navy Lt. Emmitt Dempsey.

The final phase of CJLOTS included the reconstitution of cargo and the INLS back aboard both ships.

Bobo, Pililaau and Wheeler are all part of MSC's MPS Squadron Three based principally in Guam and Saipan. These ships deliver military cargo ashore even if a port is damaged, destroyed or nonexistent.

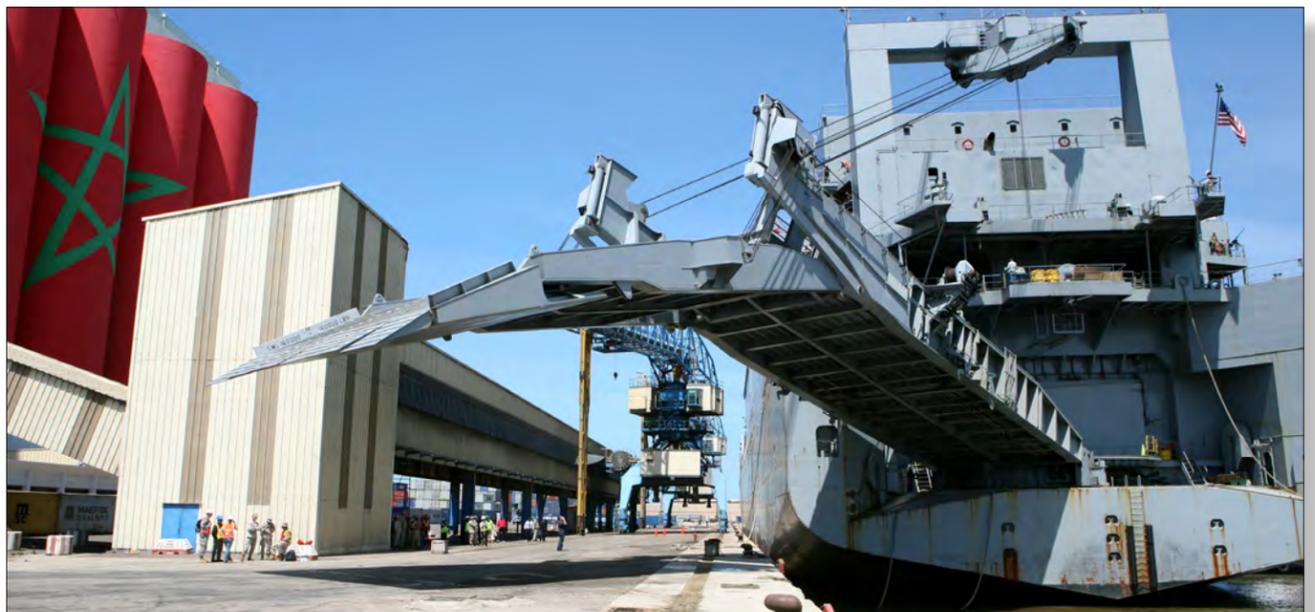
Dahl completes objectives for African Lion 2013

USNS Dahl (T-AKR 312) and members of Navy Reserve Expeditionary Port Unit 107 – assigned to Military Sealift Command Europe and Africa – participated in Exercise African Lion 13, a U.S. Africa Command-directed, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Africa-led bilateral exercise, April 1-27, in Agadir, Morocco.

African Lion is designed to improve the interoperability and mutual understanding of U.S. and Moroccan armed forces, helping both partners understand each other's military tactics, techniques and procedures.

Dahl delivered more than 250 short tons of equipment off-loaded for use by U.S. Marines in executing military-to-military engagements such as a command post exercise, live-fire and maneuvering, peace keeping operations, an intelligence capacity-building seminar, humanitarian and civic assistance, amphibious operations, aerial refueling and low-level flight training. Although main elements of the exercise were canceled, Dahl and EPU 107 completed their exercise objectives.

EPU 107, based in Raleigh, N.C., operated as part of the Joint Task Force – Port Opening unit responsible for the offload and distribution of the equipment carried in Dahl.



USNS Dahl (T-AKR 312) sits in Agadir, Morocco, to begin a Rapid Port Opening for Exercise African Lion 13. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Tatum Vayavananda)

The JTF-PO also comprised elements from the U.S. Army's 839th Transportation Battalion and 688th Rapid Port Opening Element.

JTF-PO is a joint-force service element commanded by U.S. Transportation Command with the capability to rapidly establish and initially operate a port of debarkation and distribution, facilitating ship-to-shore support for regional combatant commanders.

"JTF-PO is very well suited to a

fast port entry situation like we have here in Agadir," said Maj. Joseph M. Borovicka, an operations officer for JTF-PO. "The habitual joint relationships, rapid port opening skill sets, and cargo distribution experience in the JTF-PO are serving us well in this environment, and I believe we're bringing real value-added to the entry stage of this exercise."

Navy Cmdr. Eric Gunn, the EPU 107 commander, attested to the importance of this annual bilateral

exercise with the Moroccan military. "The Moroccans have been great to work with. It's been gratifying to work with Moroccan civilians and military members alike, and know that both the U.S. and Morocco are benefiting from this outstanding training opportunity."

After leaving Agadir, Dahl conducted a port visit to Rota, Spain.

Compiled from stories by Marine Corps forces Africa.