

"Newseyletter" Stephen Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Deposit Balance: \$ _____

Naval Aviation Centennial pictorial ship cancels

While publicity has not been released yet, the U S Naval Air community, the Centennial of Naval Aviation (CONA) has approved special pictorial postmarks to be used aboard U S Navy aircraft carriers to celebrate the Centennial of Naval Aviation. The kick off date for the postmarks will be on 8 May 2011. The postmarks have been shipped to the carriers from San Diego. Each supply officer aboard the carriers will be officially notified of the use of the postmarks and also will get a DVD produced by the USPS titled "Pictorial Postmark Program" so that mail clerks (LS rating) will have a better understanding on the use of a pictorial cancel, including proper placement of the cancels on covers. Below is the final design chosen for use. Additionally, the new U S Navy dry-cargo and ammunition ship, *USNS Washington Chambers T-AKE-11* will also use this postmark, but is use will be limited, probably to thirty days, as the ship does not have a post office aboard.



Initial plans had all the carrier cancels being used with the May 8th date only, but the final decision will have the postmark available until December 31, 2011, with the May 8 date being approved with a grace period of 120 days. Because of that, collectors will notice a different style dater used in the aircraft carrier cancels, daters that can be changed from day to day. Additionally ten naval air related bases will also have a similar cancel, but these will only be available for thirty days after the date of issue unless there are any grace periods granted. Cancels include eight Naval Air Stations, One Marine Corps Air Station (Cherry Point) and one U S Coast Guard Air Station (Clearwater) if approved. Some carrier cancels have been used before 8 May.

Cancel Size

While the cancel size is quite large, it appears it was necessary so that all of the small font used in the lettering in the postmarks would be readable.

Postmark overall size is approx. 3 1/4" x 1 1/2". The design seems to be based on the style used for the Great White Fleet cancels during 2008. Keep the size in mind if you are planning on doing your own cancels for this celebration.

Pictorials requested for Centennial

The following postmarks have been requested from the post offices shown in the postmarks. Approvals have been received for all but one. The post office at Clearwater FL is the exception, hopefully they will come through. Mailing address for the cancels may differ from the zip in the cancel. Check the Postal Bulletin online. Thanks go to USCS members Greg Ciesielski and Wolfgang Hechler for their work on getting these designs together.



US Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater
May 8, 2011 Clearwater, FL 33762



Naval Air Station Whidbey Island
May 8, 2011 Oak Harbor WA 98278



Saluting Mercury, Gemini and Apollo Missions
May 8, 2011 Cape Canaveral FL 32920



Naval Air Station Key West
May 8, 2011 Key West FL 33040



Naval Air Station Oceana
May 8, 2011 Virginia Beach VA 23460

Centennial of Naval Aviation Post Office Station



Naval Aviation Week
May 8, 2011 Pensacola FL 32508

Centennial of Naval Aviation Post Office Station



"Gateway to NCAS Cherry Point"
May 8, 2011 Havelock NC 28532

Centennial of Naval Aviation Post Office Station



United States Navy
May 8, 2011 Washington DC 20066

Send to Kansas City MO 64144 for DC cancel

Centennial of Naval Aviation Post Office Station



Naval Air Station Jacksonville
May 8, 2011 Jacksonville FL 32212

Send to Postmaster, Altn: E. M. Yancey, Business Mail Entry, 3650 Southside Blvd, Jacksonville FL 32216-9651

Centennial of Naval Aviation Post Office Station



Naval Air Station North Island
May 8, 2011 San Diego CA 92113

Chapter covers will be available at \$2.25 each for the NAS and \$2.50 for the carrier cancels.

Pictorial cancel management moved to Kansas City MO

Management of the USPS pictorial cancel program has been moved from Washington DC to Kansas City MO. With the retirement of the current manager of the program, the duties of the program will now move to the Cancellation Division of the USPS, in Kansas City MO aka "The Caves" due to their location in a cave below ground in Kansas City. But the move has proven very good for pictorials, because their influence motivated both Clearwater FL and Key West FL to get their cancels in place. Key West cancel will be late and will have a grace period.

Check out the naval items on eBay. Proceeds go to Decatur Chapter. Seller: CGCOVERGUY

Information published here is not guaranteed.

Visit the International Ship Cancellation Society web site at: www.uscs.org/

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