

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Officially Summer! 2011
Deposit Balance \$ _____

No more "Joint" in Joint High Speed Vessel?



Airist rendering of a Spearhead class Joint High Speed Vessel marked JHSV-1

The U S Army has signed a memorandum of agreement with the U S Navy to turn over the JHSV vessels under construction to the USN to operate the ships. Of the ten JHSV vessels that were under construction, five were for the U S Navy and five to the U S Army. All will now be operated by the U S Navy, under the Military Sealift Command (MSC). All will now be designated USNS ships. The first will now be designated, *USNS Spearhead JHSV-1* will be delivered sometime this summer. The first four will be operated by MSC mariners, the last six will be operated by contract mariners. I'm not sure if the designation will remain "JHSV" or if it will be changed. The vessels are known officially as the *Vigilant*-class according to an article in *Seapower*, but other sources call it *Spearhead*-class. Look for other U S Army, USAV ships to be turned over to the MSC in the future. Currently, the vessels "owned" by the U S Army, including U S Army Corps of Engineers, makes it the largest Navy in the world. Previous publicity indicated that the Army and Navy were discussing the turnover of most U S Army vessels to the U S Navy. This was mentioned in a previous "Newseyletter" Many of

the U S Army craft are rather large and some very modern. I suspect that most would be manned by civilian crews.

CGAS Clearwater CONA pictorial

Going through the normal process of requesting a pictorial for the CGAS Clearwater, the Postmaster at Clearwater FL did not respond to my initial request. A second letter was sent asking if it was approved several weeks later. Neither letter was acknowledged by the post office there. Since none of the post offices where I have requested pictorials rarely follow USPS publication PO 230 and acknowledge of approval or rejection, this was not unusual.



To further try to get approval of this pictorial, I approached "the caves" in Kansas City and they checked on Key West and Clearwater and assured me both would be issued. But, when covers were submitted to Clearwater, they were returned immediately with a letter from the Officer in Charge at Clearwater FL saying "our office did not participate in the pictorial cancellation of this mail". I have a message in to Kansas City to find out if this can be salvaged or not. It's not really a big deal if the pictorial does not gain approval, but it was the only U S Coast Guard pictorial in the series for the 100th Anniversary of naval Aviation. The USCS is promoted in the Navy sponsored pictorial postmark and CGAS Clearwater is the busiest Coast Guard Air Station in the US and was a

natural for a pictorial honoring the U S Day Coast Guard.

Navy Day 2011 and USS "Connie"



I was reminded recently by Mike Brock that the 50th Anniversary in Commission of the *USS Constellation CV 64* was approaching on Navy Day 2011. Well, with the help of Greg Cielsielski a pictorial postmark is in the planning phase for Brooklyn NY. I will submit this one early to give Brooklyn NY time to think about it.



Constellation at Brooklyn Navy Yard prior to Commissioning

The last pictorial I did at the Brooklyn NY post office was an up hill battle, as they were not receptive to the idea but finally approved it. This time I will cover all bases and possibly they will not find a reason to reject it.



50th Anniversary of
Commissioning and
Navy Day
October 27, 2011
Brooklyn, NY 11256

New cachets donated

The chapter is in the process of shipping new cachet stamps to *USS Ingraham FFG-61* and *USS John C. Stennis CVN 74*.