

Mid-July 2010

Deposit Balance \$ _____

A bit of fresh air

When requesting pictorial postmarks, anything can go wrong, and most times it does. But, my letter of request to Frank T. Schwab, Customer Services at the Brooklyn NY post office for the 50th Anniversary of the *USS Constellation* was greeted warmly and with some suggestions. Mr. Schwab suggested that we might want to use the zip code that was in the vicinity of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The proposed pictorial postmark was adjusted to show that zip code. He further suggested that covers for the event should be sent to the Pratt Station, the postal branch located closest to the site of the navy yard. He also advised that he would let them know of the upcoming pictorial, and that most likely "management personnel" would be applying the postmarks. Well, an early "BZ" is due to Mr. Frank Schwab of the USPS in Brooklyn.

Austal Awarded Construction Contract for JHSV 6 and 7

Austal Media Release

July 01, 2011

The U.S. Navy has exercised contract options funding the construction of the sixth and seventh Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV), as part of a ten-vessel program potentially worth over \$1.6 billion. The construction contract for both vessels is valued at approximately \$313 million. Austal Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Bellamy, noted that this contract demonstrates the U.S. Navy's confidence in Austal as a leading defense prime contractor. "With options remaining for a further three vessels, the JHSV program is expected to deliver a predictable

revenue stream of AUD\$330 million per annum from 2012 to 2015, which is approximately 60 per cent of Austal's historical revenue." As prime contractor, Austal was awarded the construction contract for the first 103-metre JHSV in November 2008, with options for nine additional vessels between FY09 and FY13. The Austal JHSV team includes platform systems engineering agent General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems who is responsible for the design, integration and testing of the ship's mission systems, including internal and external communications, electronic navigation, and aviation and armament systems.



Austal received authorization from the Navy to start construction on the first vessel of the contract, *USNS Spearhead (JHSV 1)*, in December 2009 after completing the rigorous design over a 12-month period. *USNS Spearhead* is scheduled for launch in August 2011 and delivery in December 2011. Construction on *USNS Vigilant (JHSV 2)*, began at Austal's Mobile, Alabama, USA shipyard on September 13, 2010.

One Philly Sub To Go:

USS Philadelphia holds inactivation ceremony at NNSY

Thirty-three years of service came to an end as the Los Angeles-class attack submarine *USS Philadelphia's (SSN 690)* inactivation ceremony was held

June 29 (the 33rd Anniversary of her Commissioning) at Norfolk Naval Shipyard. The 63 members of the boat's crew stood on the pier and watched as the colors were lowered and the final watch was relieved. Soon after the sub was transferred to Shipyard Commander, Rear Adm. Joseph F. Campbell, for completion of the final inactivation stages, due to finish in mid-August. During the ceremony, Campbell said, "From Scotland to Bahrain to Gibraltar, members of this crew have served the United States as ambassadors and have done our country proud."



USS Philadelphia at Soude Bay 2006, U S Navy photo

USS Philadelphia's final Commanding Officer, Cmdr. David Soldow, explained his feelings about the day. "It's heart wrenching," he said. "There are no words to describe seeing your ship taken out of service for the last time."

PCU California successfully passes Sea Trials

PAO Naval Sea Systems Command, July 5, 2011

PCU California SSN 781 returned to Newport News on July 2 after completing her "Alpha" Sea Trials successfully. *PCU California*, the Navy's newest Virginia-class nuclear submarine is commanded by Cdr. Dana Nelson, a native of Clinton, CT. 781 will be commissioned in the fall of 2011 in Norfolk.