

# "Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Richard F. Hoffner, USCS # H-4456, Chapter Cachet Director  
415 Moyer Road, Souderton, PA 18964-2319

Phone: 215-622-0139

e-mail: pauscg@gmail.com

## Decatur Chapter #4 Sponsors USCS Regional Spring Coverfest

We are hosting a **USCS Regional Spring Coverfest at PNSE.**

Date: **April 5, 6, and 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Location: Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition in Oaks, PA at the Expo Center.

We will have a hospitality room for USCS members on Friday and Saturday evenings at a near-by hotel, The Homewood Suites in Audubon, PA We will also have a table at the show. I have asked Paul and Becky Huber "Fairwinds", to attend and Doug Weisz is also a regular at the show as well as Geezer's Tweezers (Dr. Phil Sager) another USCS member and dealer will all have lots of naval covers. Will you be there?

**News Flash: USPS will hold a First Day Ceremony ay PNSE for the Flower Seed Packet pane. on Apr. 5.**



★ PNSE 2013  
★ Salutes WWII  
Oaks PA  
19456



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Pictorial cancels for PNSE 2013 above related to WW II 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events with each ship on each date.

## USN - reef misplaced?

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The US Navy issued a news release stating that the investigation to assess the circumstances surrounding the *USS Guardian (MCM 5)* grounding that occurred in

Philippine waters will include information on faulty navigation chart data that misplaced the location of Tubbataha Reef. *Guardian* remains aground on the reef. Salvage operations and investigation into the cause of the grounding continue.



*USS Guardian* hard aground on reef  
Meanwhile, the Navy expressed its regret for the grounding and emphasized its cooperation with the Philippine government in the response effort. (1/18/13).

## USS Guardian MCM-5 Grounding Investigation To Include Faulty Chart Data

From U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs  
Posted January 18, 2013



*USS Guardian* in better times  
PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii - A U.S. Navy investigation to assess the circumstances surrounding the *USS Guardian (MCM 5)* grounding that occurred in Philippine waters will include information on faulty digital navigation chart data that misplaced the location of Tubbataha Reef. On Friday, the U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) provided the Navy preliminary findings of a review on Digital Nautical Charts (DNC) that contain inaccurate navigation data and may have been a factor in the *Guardian* grounding that

occurred in the Sulu Sea on Jan. 17 Philippine time. NGA has reviewed data from more than 150,000 square nautical miles in the surrounding area and found no additional errors. Since DNC mapping is used for safe navigation by *Guardian* and other U.S. Navy ships, Navigator of the Navy Rear Adm. Jonathan White on Friday released precautionary guidance to all Fleet and ship commanders. White's message states, "initial review of navigation data indicates an error in the location of Tubbataha Reef" on the digital map. "While the erroneous navigation chart data is important information, no one should jump to conclusions," said U.S. Pacific Fleet spokesman Capt. Darryn James. U.S. 7th Fleet ships are on scene along with several support vessels to conduct salvage operations that minimize environmental effects to the reef.



*Guardian* dismantling underway in March  
**Bloggers contend:**

Some bloggers have posted opinions that officials of the national parks system of the Philippines Government radioed the *USS Guardian MCM-5* to change course to avoid the reef. The bloggers contend that the Captain of the vessel, LCDR Mark Rice ignored the warning and was heading to a location near the reef so crew members could enjoy R&R on the reef. The above was posted on *Stars and Stripes*.