

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Late April 2013

Deposit Balance \$ _____

Finally docked in Souderton



These two event covers have been "on deployment" for a long time. Efforts to get them back to "home port" have been frustrating, but they finally returned. Our covers aboard the *USS Fort Worth*, are still "at sea" with no word on their return. The *CGC Hamilton Keel Laying* cover was apparently delayed due to the misplaced "Flagship City" hand cancel at Pascagoula MS. Glad it was finally located. As for Galveston TX and the commissioning covers for *USS Ft. Worth*, somehow they put the pictorial in the Postal Bulletin, but did not order the cancel. It took some arm twisting to get them to admit something went wrong, and finally the pictorial was supplied by the chapter to get them off square one.

Navy Renews Case To Retire Cruisers

Defense Daily, April 29

Despite recent opposition in Congress, the Navy is making a second push for the early decommissioning of seven Ticonderoga-class (CG-47) cruisers, saying Friday that the declining fiscal environment makes doing so now even more critical than when the idea was

originally proposed last year. The Navy this week sent shipbuilding plans to Congress that show plans to retire the seven CG-47s in fiscal 2015, a plan that quickly came under questioning on Capitol Hill. The Navy wanted to initiate decommissioning the cruisers in fiscal 2013, but lawmakers thwarted those plans and weeks ago restored funding for the modernization and maintenance required to keep the ships going. Vice Admiral William Burke, the deputy chief of naval operations for warfare systems, told House lawmakers that reduced budgets coupled with the impact of sequestration, which took effect March 1, further enhances the need to decommission the Ticonderogas. "This was an extremely difficult choice for us to make but the fiscal situation has not changed for the better, it's actually changed for the worse," he told the House Armed Services Committee panel for readiness. "So we are even more challenged today than last year." Burke noted that the cruisers have 10 years of life left in the ships, that some are plagued by cracking in aluminum superstructures, and that all them are in need of "an awful lot of" maintenance and modernization. He said the money would be better spent on newer ships in the fleet that have been heavily burdened by a high operational tempo over the last 10 years and are also in need of maintenance. "We would be better off using that money to buy back life on ships that have 25 or 30 years left in them than on those ships that have 10 years left on them," Burke said. The newer ships are also facing a maintenance backlog and are "more capable going forward than those cruisers." The Navy

had not made plans to begin modernization on the cruisers because the funding was only provided by Congress a month ago, Burke said. "I would expect that we will operate those ships as normal for the next couple of years and then we would decommission those ships." "We have to balance our books," he said.

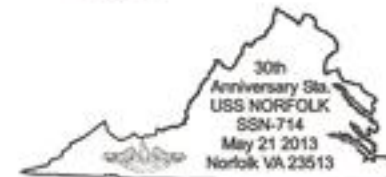
Various pictorials in progress



10th Anniversary
In Commission Sta.
Norfolk VA
23513



10th Anniversary
In Commission
NAS North Island Sta.
San Diego 92110



30th
Anniversary Sta.
USS NORFOLK
SSN-714
May 21 2013
Norfolk VA 23513



Memorial Station
Lost May 22 1968
USS SCORPION SSN-589
May 22 2013
Norfolk VA 23513



30th Anniversary Sta.
USS ALBUQUERQUE SSN-706
May 21 2013
Groton CT 06340

Thanks to Greg C for his fine work and an assist from Wolfgang Hechler.