

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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USS Fort Worth LCS-3 covers finally return



Missing in action for 10 months, the USS Fort Worth finally returned covers with their fancy commissioning cancel

A note was enclosed with the covers from the COB of *Fort Worth Crew 103* and is partially reproduced here: "The reason for these not being mailed on the day of Commissioning was that our mail was in turmoil during our sail around from Marinette Wisconsin to San Diego. We unfortunately did not receive a mail hit until Panama well after our Commissioning. I was unable to place them in the mail on the date of Commissioning in Texas... Thank you for the support of you and your organization are providing and again thank you for your patience while we resolve this issue." (Note from LCS(SW) Moore)

US spy ship captured in 1968 to go on display (again) in North Korea

South China Morning Post



If there was ever any doubt about what happened to the only US Navy ship that is being held by a foreign government, North Korea has cleared it up. It is in Pyongyang. And it looks like it is there to stay. With a fresh coat of paint and a new home along the Pothong River, the *USS Pueblo*, a spy ship seized off North Korea's east coast in the late 1960s, is expected to be unveiled as the centerpiece of a renovated war museum to commemorate what North Korea calls "Victory Day", the 60th anniversary today of the signing of an armistice that ended the fighting in the Korean war. The ship is North Korea's greatest cold war prize. It hopes the *Pueblo* will be a potent symbol of how the country has stood up to the power of the United States, once in an all-out ground war and now with its

push to develop the nuclear weapons and sophisticated missiles it needs to threaten the US mainland. Many of the crew who served on the vessel, then spent 11 months in captivity in North Korea, want to bring the *Pueblo* home. Throughout its history, they argue, the navy's motto has been "don't give up the ship". The *Pueblo*, in fact, is still listed as a commissioned US Navy vessel. But with relations generally fluctuating in a narrow band between bad to dangerously bad, the United States has made little effort to get back its ship. At times, outsiders were not even sure where North Korea was keeping the ship or what it planned to do with it. The planned display of the ship by North Korea hangs over the heads of the crew members who have long campaigned for its return.

U.S. Navy To Scrap Submarine *USS Miami*, Repairs Too Costly due to Sequestration

Defense News, Aug. 6



WASHINGTON In a move that will sadden and anger many submariners, the U.S. Navy has concluded the cost to repair the nuclear attack submarine *Miami*, severely damaged last year by an arsonist, is more than it can afford in an era where repair and maintenance funds are being slashed by mandated budget cuts. "The decision to inactivate *Miami* is a difficult one, taken after hard analysis and not made lightly," Rear Adm. Rick Breckenridge, the Navy's director of undersea warfare at the Pentagon, said in a statement released Tuesday evening. The Navy last year estimated that repairs to the Los Angeles-class submarine would cost at least \$450 million, and at least \$94 million has been spent to plan the repair work. But after what a Navy official termed a "comprehensive damage assessment" conducted over the past year, the estimated repair costs have risen dramatically. "The increased cost estimate and scope means that without \$390 million in additional funding in fiscal 2014, funding the repairs would require cancellation of dozens of remaining availabilities on surface ships and submarines," Breckenridge said in the statement. He noted that the cost would compound pressures from sequestration in 2014. "The Navy and the nation simply

cannot afford to weaken other fleet readiness in the way that would be required to afford repairs to *Miami*," Breckenridge said. A key factor in the heightened cost estimate, the Navy official said, was the effect of "environmentally-assisted cracking" in the steel piping and fasteners used in the air, hydraulic and cooling water systems aboard the submarine, meaning much more equipment would have to be replaced than previously thought. The official added that a review of other recent repair efforts on submarines suffering from major damage "revealed that planned contingency funds were insufficient." The *Miami* was devastated by a fire that broke out late in the work day on May 23, 2012, while the submarine was in drydock at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. Casey James Fury, 24, a civilian painter and sand blaster at the shipyard, was arrested after a three-week investigation and charged with arson. The blaze burned for about 12 hours inside the submarine, which was only a few weeks into a planned 20-month overhaul. Fire teams from as far away as Boston and Connecticut battled intense fires throughout the night and into the next morning. The conflagration heavily damaged or destroyed the submarine's control room, combat systems and torpedo room. Navy officials have repeatedly said the ship's nuclear reactor was not threatened by the inferno.

Covers back from the USS RONALD REAGAN CVN-76 for her 10th Anniversary.



For those who have covers on hand for the USCS Cover Service, the above cover was recently serviced aboard the carrier for those with covers with me. If you don't have covers with me, feel free to send up to 10 covers. A filler card of post card thickness must be inside each envelope. Do not seal your envelopes. Include a post card to be notified when covers run low.



Cancels from San Diego the for same event were a disaster.

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

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