

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Largest Ever Australian Warship Enters Fleet

USNI News 11-29-14



RAN photo of HMAS Canberra L02

The first of two 27,000-ton amphibious warships was commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy on Friday, according to information from the service. *HMAS Canberra (L-02)* entered the RAN fleet on Friday during a ceremony at the service's Fleet Base East in Sydney. *Canberra* and sister ship *HMAS Adelaide* will be the two largest ships in RAN history as part of about a \$2.5 billion (USD) shipbuilding program. The ship's design is based on a Spanish amphibious assault ship *Juan Carlo I* and built and designed by Spanish shipbuilder Navantia and BAE Systems Australia. The pair will be the first ships since the 1980s capable of operating short takeoff/vertical landing (STOVL) fighters, but the Australian government said it has no plans to buy the STOVL variant of the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter (JSF).

USS Anchorage Departs on Spacecraft Recovery Mission

Times of San Diego 12-2-14

The San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship *USS Anchorage* left Naval Base San Diego Monday on a mission to retrieve NASA's new [Orion spacecraft](#) after it's first test flight.



Sailors from the amphibious transport dock ship *USS Anchorage* and Navy divers participate in a recovery test for the NASA

Orion program in September. Navy photo by Corey Green



The Orion, which is designed for flights beyond Earth orbit, is scheduled to be launched Thursday morning atop a Delta IV Heavy rocket, currently the largest in the world. During the four-hour flight the Orion will orbit twice and then re-enter the atmosphere at 20,000 miles per hour to test its heat shield. Anchorage will use its amphibious capabilities to conduct an at-sea recovery of the Orion space capsule. "It is a very complex, highly-integrated team of Navy divers, meteorologists, flight crews, the well-deck personnel and the bridge watch standers on Anchorage," said Lt. Keith Tate, operations officer. "All of this will hopefully culminate with the historic capsule recovery, which is something the Navy hasn't been involved with for almost 40 years." The launch window for this NASA mission terminates Dec. 19. The Orion is being designed to carry a crew of four astronauts on long-duration missions to an asteroid, the Moon or Mars. The unmanned test next week will use the largest rocket currently available, but future manned flights will use NASA's giant Space Launch System currently under development.

Ed. Note: Anyone cover this? This is a test leading up to our next space mission with Navy ship recovery of the *Orion* space capsule.

Ice Capable Research Vessel R/V Sikuliaq Delivered NSF

The Research Vessel *Sikuliaq* will replace the more than 40-year old *R/V Alpha Helix* that is now retired and was owned by the National Science Foundation. The need for a more capable ship to operate in the coastal and open ocean waters of the Alaska region was first recognized by marine scientists in the U.S. in 1973. In 2001, Congress appropriated \$1M for a design study.



R/V Sikuliaq

Sufficient ice strengthening will allow the *R/V Sikuliaq* to work safely in moderate seasonal ice, operating over a longer period than formerly possible in the North Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Alaska, and the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas. Owned by NSF, and operated by University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, *R/V Sikuliaq* was built by Marinette Marine and will be homeported in Seward, Alaska. *Sikuliaq*, named after the Inupiaq word for "young sea ice"

USPS Offers postmark, better late than never



Commissioning Station
San Francisco
CA 94188

After months of debate, the above depicted postmark will be issued by the USPS. It appeared in the Postal Bulletin (9-18-14), but the USPS dumped the design without cause. It was submitted before the blue flag postmark of the USS America Commissioning Committee (June 22, 2014), but now the design is in the process of being manufactured. Twice the design of the postmark was requested from me by the USPS, and apparently transmitted electronically to the manufacturer. The manufacturer notified they could not get a good photo of the design to make it. Problem was the electronic version was not clear enough and the USPS was advised to mail the original artwork to the manufacturer so the design was clear. It seems like the USPS is adverse to using the mail to send things. Covers may be sent to:

USPS
P&DC San Francisco
Attn: Elton E. Harrtzog
1300 Evans Suite 300
San Francisco CA 94188-9998

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

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