

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

© Stephen Decatur Chapter #4, U.S.C.S.

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

Phone: 215-721-8606

e-mail: pauscg@gmail.com

Mid-June 2015

Deposit Balance \$ _____

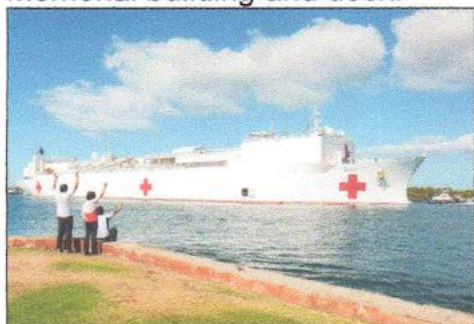
U.S. Navy Hospital Ship Strikes USS Arizona Memorial

May 27, 2015 by Mike Schuler



Photo by unidentified wife of a Navy sailor.

Visitor tours have been suspended at the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor for several days after a U.S. Navy hospital ship struck the Memorial's dock, causing damage. A statement from the National Park Service confirmed that the floating dock at the Memorial was damaged Wednesday morning as the hospital ship USNS Mercy was underway. "Initial reports indicated that a tug boat hit the Memorial, but an investigation is underway," the NPS statement said. Divers have determined no damage was done to the USS Arizona itself. The incident was first reported by Military.com, which obtained a photo taken by a witness of the incident showing the stern of the USNS Mercy within just a few yards from the Memorial building and dock.



USNS Mercy arriving May 25. U S Navy photo.

The report said that tugboats were maneuvering the hospital ship from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam at around 7 a.m. local time when the collision

occurred. "It went right over the dock," the witness told Military.com. "You could hear the metal crunching. My husband said you could see mud and water being kicked up. It backed up to within feet of hitting the white memorial building."

Pentagon Pledges \$18 million To Hanoi For Metal Shark Patrol Boats



(Reuters) May 31 U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter pledged \$18 million on Sunday to help Vietnam buy U.S. patrol boats, shortly after touring a Vietnamese coast guard vessel that was hit by a Chinese ship during a skirmish in the South China Sea. Carter, who has been focusing on maritime security during an 11-day trip to the Asia-Pacific, visited the Vietnamese Navy headquarters and Coast Guard headquarters before boarding the ship.



Carter aboard a Vietnamese Coast Guard vessel

Carter is on his second visit to Asia since becoming defense secretary earlier this year. He said he planned to sign a "vision statement" on Monday with his Vietnamese counterpart to guide the expansion of bilateral military ties. "We need to modernize our partnership," Carter told

reporters during a visit to the northern city of Hai Phong. "After 20 years, there is more we could do together." As part of that effort, he said Washington would provide \$18 million to help Vietnam buy U.S.-made Metal Shark patrol boats to help Hanoi improve its maritime defense capabilities. U.S. and Vietnamese navies had been "building habits of cooperation" by working together, he said. In April they conducted exercises under rules laid out in the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea, a set of regulations approved by multiple maritime nations last year at a meeting in China.

HMS Queen Elizabeth next to the 2nd largest British warship



HMS Queen Elizabeth next to the current largest ship in the fleet HMS Illustrious. Royal Navy Photo

At 280 m (920 ft) LOA and displacing 70,600 tonnes the HMS Queen Elizabeth is the lead ship of the Queen Elizabeth-class of aircraft carrier and the largest warship ever built for the Royal Navy and capable of carrying up to forty aircraft. She was named by Queen Elizabeth II on 4 July 2014, and is scheduled to commission in 2016, with initial operational capability from 2020. Her first Commanding Officer is to be Commodore Jerry Kyd, the former captain of HMS Ark Royal and HMS Illustrious.