

# Decatur Chapter Newseyletter

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## Russian Spy Ship off US East Coast

Posted: Saturday, September 5, 2015 12:00 am. By GORDON JACKSON  
The Brunswick News

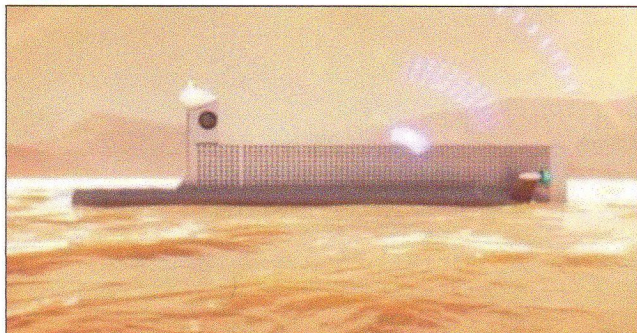
ST. MARYS GA — The Department of Defense is closely monitoring a Russian intelligence-gathering spy ship operating about 300 miles off the coast of Camden County, home of the Navy's Atlantic fleet of ballistic missile submarines.



The presence of the ship was disclosed by officials with the Pentagon, according to a number of news reports. The *Yantar*, commissioned earlier this year, is described as a research vessel about 350 feet long with a crew up to 60 sailors.

The "research" by the Russian ship is what concerns the Navy. The *Yantar* is believed to be trying to identify undersea communications lines, underwater sensors, submarine training areas and transit lanes to Europe. The Russian ship has two deep-water vehicles that can be used for rescue operations. Those unmanned vessels are also believed to have the capability to cut cables and disrupt communications.

## NASA team designing sub to explore Titan's seas



NASA/NIAC photo

A NASA team in Cleveland is working on a submarine for exploring the liquid hydrocarbon sea of Kraken Mare on Saturn's moon Titan. The sub is expected to land on Titan in 2040. I'll hold off sending covers. It is a bit early. I'm not sure what the postage

rates will be. Also not sure what the price tag will be, but I'm thinking scrub the mission and invest in US icebreakers to protect our interests in the Arctic.

## Navy Renames Three Ship Classes

USNI News 9-4-15

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus redesignated three new ship classes to give them more traditional three-letter names.

Whereas Navy ships have previously been named based on root designator letters – C for carrier, F for frigate, G for guided missile-capable – the most recent ship classes to enter the fleet have taken on long and unusual names of their own. In the case of the Littoral Combat Ship – dubbed LCS – the name is actually misleading, given that the L designator is used for amphibious ships, which the LCS is not.

Mabus began to address the issue in January, when he announced the next flight of LCS would be called FF, a frigate.

This week, the secretary announced three more changes: Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) will be called Expeditionary Fast Transport, or EPF; the Mobile Landing Platform (MLP) will be called Expeditionary Transfer Dock, or ESD; and the Afloat Forward Staging Base (AFSB) variant of the MLP will be called Expeditionary Mobile Base, or ESB.

### Editors notes:

So, if I have this correct, clarity is the issue here. Or did I miss something?

### Lets see:

- JHSV (Joint High Speed Vessel) designation changes to EPF (Expeditionary Fast Transport), but designated EPF, not EFT. Right?
- MLP (Mobile Landing Platform) designation falls away and is now ESD designation (Expeditionary Transfer Deck) or ESD, but not ETD?
- The MLP variant AFSB (Afloat Forward Staging Base) becomes ESB designation (Expeditionary Mobile Base) but not EMB?
- Then to clarify the LCS designation, which is confusing since "L" usually means amphibious (and the LCS is not) we will build future LCS ships as FF (Fast Frigate). But we apparently still call those already in service an LCS, but is that still confusing or what?

Oh, I forgot, what about the HST (high-speed transport vessel) designation? Yes, we have that one also. *USNS Guam HST-1* and *USNS Puerto Rico HST-2*. So, will these designations undergo clarity also?

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

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