

Decatur Chapter #4 Newseyletter

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HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH has obsolete Microsoft XP operating system

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When reporters were recently being given tours of the Royal Navy's new "supercarrier," HMS Queen Elizabeth, some were surprised to see a distinctive logo on several computer screens on the bridge and in control rooms. The logo was for Windows XP, the Microsoft computer operating system introduced in 2001. The ship itself was under construction for over eight years and the many of the procurement lead times were even longer. The reporters were told that the software was ordered in 2004, when XP was the latest and greatest version of the operating system. Other than being slightly embarrassing that the brand new £3.5 billion aircraft carrier is running outdated software, why is this a problem? The problem is that the older operating systems are much more vulnerable to security breaches.

Ed. Note: I'm still using Microsoft XP and I have been advised that Mozilla FireFox will no longer support it this fall. I need to start saving my pennies for a new PC. My Dell Inspiron 530 has been a workhorse, but woefully also out of date.

Hurricane HARVEY strikes Texas and Hurricane IRMA hits Florida

Only a week apart, two cat 4 hurricanes made landfall, one in Texas and one in Florida. I have sent covers for HARVEY deployments to the following ships:

USCGC Barbara Mabrity WLM 559, USCGC Hatchet WLIC 75309, USCGC Clamp WLIC 75306, USNS William McLean T-AKE 12, TS Empire State VI T-AP 1001, TS Kennedy T-AK 5059, TS General Rudder T-AGOR 2, USS Kearsarge LHD 3 and USS Oak Hill LSD 51.

Covers were also sent to ships deployed for Hurricane IRMA:

USCGC Valiant WMEC 621, USCGC Yellowfin WPB 87319, USCGC Joseph Tezanos WPC 1118, USCGC Donald Horsley WPC 1117, USCGC Oak WLB 211, USS Wasp LHD 1, USS Oak Hill LSD 51, USS New York LPD 21, USS Kearsarge LHD 3, USS Farragut DDG 99,

USS Abraham Lincoln CVN 72, USS Iwo Jima LHD 7, USS San Jacinto CG 56 and USCGC Heriberto Hernandez WPC 1114.

What to do with the USS LING SS 297



Many years have passed since the late USCS and Decatur Chapter member Budd Arrington was involved with the USS LING as a member of the Sub Vets of WW II. Those years have brought about some sobering changes. Veterans of WW II are passing in record numbers. Support for historic ships such as the USS LING has diminished or have been completely lost. The folks who brought the LING to Hackensack NJ are gone. Their heirs sold the property and the new owners want the sub removed. Problem is, the sub is sitting in mud, and the river has not been dredged so the sub can't be towed away. The U S Navy has denied ownership of the sub. I doubt that claim can be truthful. No plan has yet been offered for the removal of the diesel boat. My opinion is that when and if the submarine begins to leak oil into the river (and the hull is not sound) the EPA and the USCG will come up with a plan. Most likely, the sub will be pumped out and perhaps a heavy crane would lift it for removal by land or onto a barge. Only time will tell.

Hurricane MARIA piles on to the damage to several Caribbean islands and Puerto Rico

Many additional Navy and USCG assets have been shifter to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane MARIA. The following are in the vicinity to give assistance after both Hurricane IRMA and Hurricane MARIA. I have been looking for news that a U S Navy hospital ship would be dispatched, but so far none have.

USCGC Vise WLIC 75306
USCGC Hamilton WMSL 753
USCGC Maria Bray WLM 562
USCGC Forward WMEC 911
USCGC Joseph Napier
USCGC Joshua Appleby WLM 556
USCGC Elm WLB 204