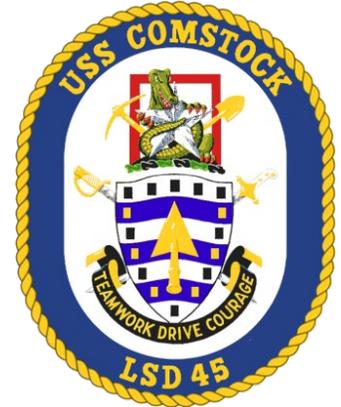




Another example of a mission ready ship because of a U.S. Navy Port Engineer

USS Comstock Arrives in Kodiak, Alaska for Arctic Expeditionary Drills



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From Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet Public Affairs

KODIAK, Alaska (NNS) -- The amphibious dock landing ship **USS Comstock (LSD 45)** arrived in Kodiak, Alaska, Sept. 10 for a port visit in conjunction with Arctic Expeditionary Capabilities Exercise (AECE) 2019.

The US Navy and Marine Corps have deployed some 3,000 service members for the Arctic Expeditionary Capabilities Exercise (AECE) 2019 in areas of the Aleutian Islands, Southcentral Alaska and Southern California from Sept. 1-28.

AECE is one in a series of US Indo-Pacific Command exercises in 2019 that prepares joint forces to respond to crises in the Indo-Pacific.



The exercise will specifically test joint expeditionary force logistical transfer capabilities in the Arctic environment, including wet logistics over the shore, expeditionary mine countermeasures, mobile diving and salvage and an offshore petroleum discharge system.

Navy and Marine Corps participants will conduct operational and tactical actions to validate the littoral operations in a contested environment (LOCE) and the expeditionary advanced base operations (EABO) concepts.

Major participating units include US Pacific Fleet, Marine Corps Forces Pacific, US 3rd Fleet, Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 3, and I Marine Expeditionary Force. Afloat units include USS Somerset (LPD 25) and USS Comstock (LSD 45).

Ashore units include Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group 1, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Expeditionary Support Unit 1, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 1, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 3, and Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 1.

U.S. 3rd Fleet leads naval forces in the Indo-Pacific and provides a realistic and relevant training necessary for an effective global Navy. U.S. 3rd Fleet works

constantly with U.S. 7th Fleet to complement one another and provide commanders capable, ready assets across the spectrum of military operations in the Pacific.

For more news from Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet, visit www.navy.mil/local/c3f/.

Webmaster's Note: **USS Comstock (LSD-45)** is a *Whidbey Island*-class dock landing ship of the United States Navy. She was the second Navy ship to be named for the Comstock Lode in Nevada, the first being *Comstock* (LSD-19), commissioned in 1945 and decommissioned in 1976. The Comstock Lode was discovered in 1859, and was one of the richest deposits of precious metals known in the world.

The **Comstock Lode** is a lode of silver ore located under the eastern slope of Mount Davidson, a peak in the Virginia Range in Virginia City, Nevada (then western Utah Territory), which was the first major discovery of silver ore in the United States and named after American miner Henry Comstock.

After the discovery was made public in 1859, it sparked a silver rush of prospectors to the area, scrambling to stake their claims. The discovery caused considerable excitement in California and throughout the United States, the greatest since the California Gold Rush in 1849. Mining camps soon thrived in the vicinity, which became bustling commercial centers, including Virginia City and Gold Hill.

The Comstock Lode is notable not just for the immense fortunes it generated and the large role those fortunes had in the growth of Nevada and San Francisco, but also for the advances in mining technology that it spurred, such as square set timbering and the Washoe process for extracting silver from ore. The mines declined after 1874, although underground mining continued sporadically into the 1920s.