



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

# USS Pearl Harbor Assists Distressed Vessel



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PACIFIC OCEAN (NNS) -- The Harpers Ferry-class amphibious dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) assisted a distressed vessel in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Southern California April 20.

The civilian vessel, Mahana, reported it was taking on water at approximately 10:33a.m.

Pearl Harbor, approximately nine nautical miles away from the vessel at the time, coordinated with Coast Guard Sector San Diego and Mission Bay lifeguards during the rescue.



San Diego MH-60T helicopter assists a distressed vessel off the coast of Southern California.

"Both the tradition and law of the sea is that mariners assist other mariners in distress," said Cmdr. Ben Miller, from Mobile, Alabama, Pearl Harbor's commanding officer. "As a U.S. Navy warship, we have a highly trained team of damage controlmen and medical specialists that are able to respond to any emergency at sea. Pearl Harbor was in the right place at the right time to assist the Coast Guard."

The Sailors aboard Pearl Harbor loaded their rigid-hull inflatable boat (RHIB) with de-flooding equipment and medical gear and launched within 10 minutes of receiving the call.

"We had line in hand, our team geared up, and were ready to receive orders from the bridge," said Chief Boatswain's Mate Frank Jimenez, from Miami, Florida. "We had eight members manning the RHIB, including the boat team and the rescue and assistance team that were well trained and prepared for this kind of situation."

A Coast Guard Sector San Diego MH-60T helicopter was the first on scene and deployed a search and rescue swimmer to assess the vessel and stabilize the water levels. Coast Guard Sector San Diego requested Pearl Harbor's response team to stand by for further assistance.

"We grabbed all the necessary equipment, manned the RHIB and lowered the vessel as soon as we could," said Damage Controlman 3rd Class Quinn Connelly, from Las Vegas. "The Coast Guard was in the process of assisting the vessel when we arrived, so we were standing by for further instruction. They were there with pumps at the ready. We were there as back up."

The Mission Bay lifeguard vessel escorted Mahana and crew back to shore safely.

Pearl Harbor, part of U.S. 3rd Fleet, is currently underway in the Pacific Ocean conducting routine training operations.

U.S. 3rd Fleet leads naval forces in the Pacific and provides the realistic, relevant training necessary for an effective global Navy. Third Fleet constantly coordinates with U.S. 7th Fleet to plan and execute missions that promote ongoing peace, security, and stability throughout the Pacific.

For more news from Expeditionary Strike Group 3, visit [www.navy.mil/local/esg3/](http://www.navy.mil/local/esg3/).