



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

## USS Gonzalez Conducts Combined Operations in Italy



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By Ensign Monica Prioleau, USS Gravelly (DDG 66) Public Affairs

ATLANTIC OCEAN (NNS) -- Guided-missile destroyer USS Gonzalez (DDG 66) conducted combined operations with multi-purpose Italian frigate ITS Alpino (F594), May 16-17.

The operations were designed to collaborate and train alongside our NATO partners and build operational professionalism.

Alpino is currently on its naval campaign in North America and plans on making several stops along the east coast with Norfolk, Virginia, being the first.



"The crew exchange was highly beneficial to both Gonzalez's crew and Alpino's, giving rare insight into each other's daily routine, said Cmdr. Les Sobol, the commanding officer of USS Gonzalez. "The [passing exercise] was an invaluable opportunity to flex multiple skillsets with our NATO partners at sea."

In addition to the passing exercise, Gonzalez and Alpino conducted visit, board, search, and seizure exercises and flashing light communication drills off the coast of Virginia, allowing both crews to gain familiarity and proficiency in tactical maneuvering and communications.

"ITS Alpino's high-end technology and air asset, the SH-90, was stunning to view and discuss," said Operations Specialist 1st Class Caitlin N. Cannon. "I truly enjoyed our collaboration and I feel training events like this should be encouraged more often; building relationships with our allies, training alongside each other, and most importantly coming together as a war fighting team, is vital to NATO operations."

Gonzalez is currently underway conducting basic phase exercises in preparation for a future deployment.

For more news from U.S. Fleet Forces Command, visit [www.navy.mil/local/clf/](http://www.navy.mil/local/clf/).

## Webmaster's Note:

**USS Gonzalez (DDG-66)** is an *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyer in the United States Navy. She is named for Sergeant Alfredo Gonzalez, a Medal of Honor recipient in the Vietnam War.

**Alfredo Cantu "Freddy" Gonzalez** (May 23, 1946 – February 4, 1968) was a United States Marine Corps sergeant who posthumously received the Medal of Honor for service in the Battle of Huế during the Vietnam War.

