



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

# Mitscher, Gunston Hall Complete Task Force Exercise

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NORFOLK (NNS) -- Sailors from the guided-missile destroyer USS Mitscher (DDG 57) and the dock landing ship USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44) completed Task Force Exercise (TFEX) 18-2 this past weekend.

Over the past three weeks Carrier Strike Group FOUR (CSG 4) evaluated the crews' warfighting abilities through multiple training scenarios meant to test the ships in a Composite Warfare Commander structure and push them to the limits so they are fully prepared for the challenges they may face during upcoming deployments.



"Gunston Hall entered TFEX unsure of what to expect, but eager to take on its many challenges, and I am extremely proud of the crew's performance from start to finish. We are ready to carry out this ship's motto: Defending the Constitution!" said Cmdr. Fiona Halbritter, commanding officer of Gunston Hall.

The crews of these ships have demonstrated proficiency in areas from maritime security operations and amphibious operations to integrated defense, ensuring the ships and their crews are ready to operate forward and perform whatever missions tasked.

"TFEX was an incredible exercise for Mitscher. The level of realism made us think and fight through many problems at the same time, which shaped us into an even more effective team," said Cmdr. Ian Scaliatine, commanding officer of Mitscher. "I am extremely proud of how the Mitscher team performed, and grateful for the professionalism, dedication and passion that the entire CSG 4 team had in training us. I am confident we can meet any tasking the nation asks us to do on our upcoming deployment."



Upon completion of TFEX, CSG-4 makes a recommendation to U.S. Fleet Forces Command on whether the ships are ready to deploy and operate both individually and integrated with Navy, Joint, and partner nation forces.

"The CSG-4 team tested Mitscher and Gunston Hall across the warfighting spectrum and they rose to meet the challenges presented," said Rear. Adm. Kenny Whitesell.

Commanded by Rear Adm. Kenny Whitesell, CSG-4 is a team of experienced Sailors, government civilians and reservists, who mentor, train and assess Atlantic Fleet

combat forces to forward deploy. CSG-4's experts shape the readiness of Atlantic Fleet CSGs, Expeditionary Strike Groups (ESG), Amphibious Ready Groups (ARG) and Independent Deploying ships.

For more information, visit [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil), [www.facebook.com/usnavy](https://www.facebook.com/usnavy), or [www.twitter.com/usnavy](https://www.twitter.com/usnavy).

For more news from Carrier Strike Group 4, visit [www.navy.mil/local/csg4/](http://www.navy.mil/local/csg4/).

### Webmaster's Note:

USS *Mitscher* (DDG-57) became the second United States Navy warship named to honor Admiral Marc A. Mitscher (1887–1947), famed naval aviator and World War II aircraft carrier task force commander.

USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44) She was the second Navy ship to be named for Gunston Hall, the Mason Neck, Virginia estate of George Mason, one of Virginia's renowned Revolutionary figures, and "Father of the Bill of Rights"