NORFOLK (NNS) -- Sailors serving aboard amphibious assault ship USS New York (LPD 21) and USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44) departed Oct. 2-3 for NATO-led exercise Trident Juncture 18 in Norway, Iceland and Finland.

New York is homeported at Naval Station Mayport, Florida.

“Exercises like Trident Juncture 18 provide and reinforce security measures; maritime and amphibious capability development and presence; synchronized operational planning; and better options for political-military decision making.” said Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 2, Rear Adm. Brad Skillman.

Exercise Trident Juncture 18 will take place in Norway, U.S. forces will conduct training in Iceland, host a Marine assault landing rehearsal, cold-weather training, a Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO pre-sail conference, and a commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic, which took place during World War II.
USS New York (LPD-21), the fifth San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock, is the fifth ship of the United States Navy to be named after the state of New York. A symbolic amount of steel salvaged from the World Trade Center after it was destroyed in the September 11 attacks was used in her construction.

Shortly after 11 September 2001, Governor of New York George E. Pataki wrote a letter to Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England requesting that the Navy bestow the name “New York” on a surface warship involved in the War on Terrorism in honor of the victims of the September 11 attacks. In his letter, the Governor said he understood state names were reserved for submarines but asked for special consideration so the name could be given to a surface ship. The request was approved 28 August 2002.

The ship commissioning of USS New York took place on 7 November 2009, in New York City.