



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

# USS John P. Murtha Underway for NASA Orion Mission Testing



Story Number: NNS181101-06 Release Date: 11/1/2018 12:25:00 PM

From U.S. 3rd Fleet Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock USS John P. Murtha (LPD 26) is underway to conduct Underway Recovery Test (URT) 7 in conjunction with NASA off the coast of Southern California. URT is part of a U.S. government interagency effort to safely practice and evaluate recovery processes, procedures, hardware and personnel in an open ocean environment that will be used to recover the Orion spacecraft upon its return to Earth.

This will be the first time John P. Murtha will conduct a URT mission with NASA. Throughout the history of the program, a variety of San Antonio-class LPD ships have been utilized to train and prepare NASA and the Navy, utilizing a Boiler Plate Test Article (BTA). The BTA is a mock capsule, designed to roughly the same size, shape and center of gravity as the crew module which will be used for Orion.



NASA plans to conduct two more URT missions before EM-1 takes place.

John P. Murtha is homeported in San Diego and is part of Naval Surface Forces and U.S. 3rd Fleet.

Commander, U.S. Third Fleet leads naval forces in the Pacific and provides realistic and relevant training necessary for an effective global Navy. They coordinate with Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet to plan and execute missions based on their complementary strengths to promote ongoing peace, security, and stability.

**Webmaster's Note:** **USS John P. Murtha (LPD-26)**, is the 10th *San Antonio*-class amphibious transport dock ship of the United States Navy and is named in honor of Congressman John Murtha (1932–2010) of Pennsylvania. LPD 26 is the first amphibious ship to be named for a PERSON rather than a city or location.