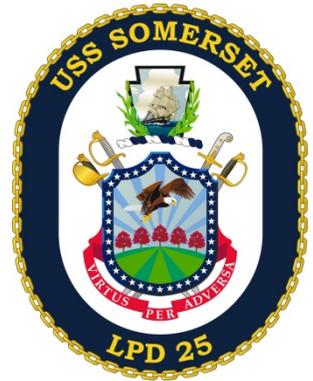




Another example of a mission ready ship because of a U.S. Navy Port Engineer

US Navy Ship Trains with Western Hemisphere Partners



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From U.S. 4th Fleet Public Affairs

MAYPORT, Fla. (NNS) -- In support of U.S. Southern Command's (USSOUTHCOM) Enduring Promise Initiative, amphibious transport dock USS Somerset (LPD 25) will conduct interoperability and partnership exercises in Ecuador, Peru and Chile. Somerset has approximately 300 U.S. Marines and Sailors with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Peru that will conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training with Peruvian naval forces.

Wayne E. Meyer will conduct an information sharing exercise with the Ecuadorian navy to increase capacity in countering illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. After the exercise is complete, USS Somerset will navigate to Chile with to participate in celebrations of the Chilean navy's 200th anniversary and EXPONAVAL 2018.

EXPONAVAL 2018 is the 11th Chilean International Naval & Maritime Exhibition and Congress for Latin America. It will take place Dec. 4-7 at Base Aeronaval Concon, Valparaiso in Chile. Sponsored by the Chilean Ministry of Defense and the Chilean navy, it is the major naval exhibition for Latin America on the Pacific coast. The four-day event comprises an exhibition, conference, senior staff delegations and visiting warships and will focus exclusively on naval defense and maritime security issues and equipment procurement. Eighty-two nations from across the globe have been invited to attend the event.

The Enduring Promise initiative reaffirms U.S. Southern Command's longstanding commitment to the nations of the Western Hemisphere with a series of operations, activities and events to increase partner nation capacity and build interoperability. Southern Command's engagement in the region reflects the United States' enduring promise of friendship, partnership and solidarity with the Americas - united in shared responsibility as defenders of the Inter-American values of human rights, freedom, respect for the rule of law and commitment to peace.

For more news from U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command & U.S. 4th Fleet, visit www.navy.mil/local/cusns/.

Webmaster's Note:



This ship was named specifically for Somerset County Pennsylvania, in honor of the passengers who died on [United Airlines Flight 93](#), hijacked during the [terror attacks of September 11, 2001](#). The passengers prevented the plane from reaching its intended target by forcing it to crash in [Stonycreek Township](#) in Somerset County, [Pennsylvania](#).

In the words of Secretary of the Navy [Gordon R. England](#);

“The courage and heroism of the people aboard the flight will never be forgotten and USS *Somerset* will leave a legacy that will never be forgotten by those wishing to do harm to this country.”

Approximately 22 tons of steel from a crane that stood near Flight 93's crash site have been used to construct *Somerset's* stemhold.

The stemhold – the leading edge of the ship.