



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

USS Anchorage Strengthens Partnerships in Visakhapatnam, India



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INDIAN OCEAN (NNS) -- Amphibious transport dock USS Anchorage (LPD 23), with the embarked 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) arrived in Visakhapatnam, India, for a port visit Dec. 22. During the visit, Sailors and Marines will hold professional exchanges with their Indian Navy counterparts and have opportunities to explore the local area while on liberty over the holiday season.

U.S. Consul General Katherine Hadda greeted the ship's arrival. "It is an honor to welcome to India the captain and crew of the USS Anchorage. I would like to express my gratitude and the thanks of the U.S. Mission in India for the service of our Sailors and Marines, who are serving far from home this holiday season," said Hadda.



India and the United States are global partners on defense and security, committed to assuring a free and open Indo-Pacific. Anchorage's port visit to Visakhapatnam, and Dec. 12 visit by Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer, commander of U.S. 7th Fleet to New Delhi, are the latest examples of a growing naval partnership. Rear Adm. Brad Cooper, commander, Amphibious Force U.S. 7th Fleet, lauded the work of both navies to strengthen partnerships.

During the visit, more than 100 Indian distinguished visitors, naval officers and sailors, as well as 25 local students will tour Anchorage to learn about the ship's amphibious capabilities. Additionally, Sailors and Marines will conduct subject-matter expert exchanges on humanitarian aid and disaster relief as well as maritime logistics.

Anchorage, which is part of the Essex Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), and the 13th MEU are deployed to the 7th fleet area of operations to support regional

stability, reassure partners and allies and maintain a presence postured to respond to any crisis ranging from humanitarian assistance to contingency operations.



An Indian Navy UH-3H helicopter is secured to the deck of USS Anchorage (LPD-23) in the foreground during a cooperative deployment in the Indian Ocean with Indian Navy guided-missile destroyer INS Rajput (D51) in the background.

An Indian Navy UH-3H helicopter touched down on San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock USS *Anchorage* (LPD-23) in late December, marking the first such cross-decking between the two navies and the realization of an agreement made more than a year ago.

Webmaster's Note: USS *Anchorage* (LPD-23) is a *San Antonio*-class amphibious transport dock and the second ship of the United States Navy to be namesake of the U.S. city of Anchorage, Alaska. In early August 2014, *Anchorage* participated in *Underway Recovery Test 2*, rehearsing scenarios for recovering an Orion space capsule.

