



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

USS Fort McHenry Enroute to the Black Sea with NATO Allies



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DARDANELLES STRAIT (NNS) -- The Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43), with embarked elements of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), began its north-bound transit of the Dardanelles Strait, en route to the Black Sea, Jan. 6, 2019.

"USS Fort McHenry's transit into the Black Sea reaffirms our collective resolve to Black Sea security and enhances our strong relationships with our NATO allies and partners in the region," said Vice Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti, commander, U.S. 6th Fleet. "Our routine operations in the Black Sea also demonstrate the inherent flexibility and capability of U.S. 6th Fleet naval forces."



The U.S. Navy routinely operates in the Black Sea consistent with international law, including the Montreux Convention.

Homeported at Naval Station Mayport, Fla., Fort McHenry is on a regularly scheduled deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations. While in U.S. 6th Fleet, the ship will conduct operations with allies and partners to advance security and stability in Europe. U.S. 6th Fleet, headquartered in Naples, Italy, conducts the full spectrum of joint and naval operations, often in concert with allied and interagency partners, to advance U.S. national interests and security and stability in Europe and Africa.

Webmaster's Note: **USS Fort McHenry (LSD-43)** is a *Whidbey Island*-class dock landing ship of the United States Navy. She was named for Fort McHenry, in Baltimore, Maryland, the 1814 defense of which inspired *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Fort McHenry was laid down on 10 June 1983 by Lockheed Shipbuilding in Seattle, Washington. She was launched on 1 February 1986 and commissioned on 8 August 1987 in Seattle.