



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

USS Ross Conducts Bilateral Exercise with Turkish Navy



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BLACK SEA (NNS) -- The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer **USS Ross (DDG 71)** participated in maritime interoperability training and replenishment-at-sea with Turkish maritime counterparts April 27th in the Black Sea.

After receiving fuel from the Turkish Navy Akar-class replenishment oiler TCG Yarbay Kudret Gungor (A 595), Ross completed a series of tactical communications and maneuvering exercises with the Turkish Navy Yavuz-class frigate TCG Turgutreis (F-241) and a Turkish Maritime Patrol Aircraft before sailing in formation for a group photo exercise.

"It was an absolute pleasure operating with the Turkish Navy today," Cmdr. Dave Coles, commanding officer of USS Ross, said. "They are steadfast and reliable partners who routinely operate with the utmost professionalism, and today was no different. It is imperative that we continue to hone our interoperability through exercises like these."



BLACK SEA (April 27, 2019) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ross (DDG 71) refuels from the Turkish Navy Akar-class replenishment oiler TCG Yarbay Kudret Gungor (A 595) during a replenishment-at-sea in the Black Sea, April 27, 2019

The U.S. Navy routinely practices high-end warfare with allies and partners in the Black Sea. Multinational training improves capabilities and operational effectiveness, thereby enhancing regional maritime stability, combined readiness and naval capability with our NATO allies and partners.

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, in order to advance U.S. national interests and security and stability in Europe and Africa.



Webmaster's Note: **USS Ross (DDG-71)** is an *Arleigh Burke*-class guided-missile destroyer in the United States Navy. She is the second Navy ship to be named *Ross*, the first Navy ship named for Medal of Honor recipient Donald K. Ross.

During the December 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, *Nevada* was badly damaged by bombs and torpedoes. Ross distinguished himself by assuming responsibility to furnish power to get the ship underway — the only battleship to do so during the Japanese attack. When the forward dynamo room where he was stationed filled with smoke and steam, he ordered his men to leave and continued servicing the dynamo himself until being blinded and falling unconscious. Upon being rescued and resuscitated, he went

back to secure the forward dynamo, then worked in the aft dynamo room until losing consciousness a second time due to exhaustion. After waking, he again returned to his duties until *Nevada* was beached. His actions kept the ship under power, preventing it from sinking in the channel and blocking other ships in the harbor.

Despite his impaired eyesight, Ross refused hospitalization and instead helped with rescue efforts. He entered a hospital three days after the attack, and his vision returned to normal after three weeks. He returned to *Nevada*, December 17, 1941, remaining in the ship's company for the duration of the war. For these actions, he was presented with the Medal of Honor by Admiral Chester Nimitz on April 18, 1942, becoming the first person to receive the medal in World War II.

Ross was promoted to chief warrant machinist in March 1942 and was commissioned an ensign in June 1942. Later in the war, he also served on *Nevada* during the landings at Normandy and Southern France.

He rose steadily in temporary rank to lieutenant commander by the end of the war, reverting to lieutenant at its conclusion. He again received promotion to lieutenant commander in 1949 and to commander in November 1954. Upon his retirement from active duty in July 1956, after twenty-seven years' of service aboard every type of surface ship then afloat, he was promoted to captain on the basis of his combat awards.

