



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

USS Fort McHenry Conducts Amphibious Operations in the Baltic Sea



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BALTIC SEA (NNS) -- The Whidbey Island-class amphibious dock landing ship **USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43)** participated in an amphibious landing on the Estonian coast while participating in exercise Baltic Operations (BALTOPS) 2019, June 12. U.S. Marines and Spanish Marines disembarked Fort McHenry on a landing craft utility (LCU) and landed on the shores of Estonia. More than 30 Spanish Marines embarked Fort McHenry in Kiel, Germany prior to the exercise start date June 9th.



This marked the first multinational amphibious operation of BALTOPS 2019. Fort McHenry is scheduled to conduct multiple amphibious landings to display the importance of interoperability between partner nations.

BALTOPS is the premier annual maritime-focused exercise in the Baltic Region, designed to enhance flexibility and interoperability among the 18 participating allied and partner nations.

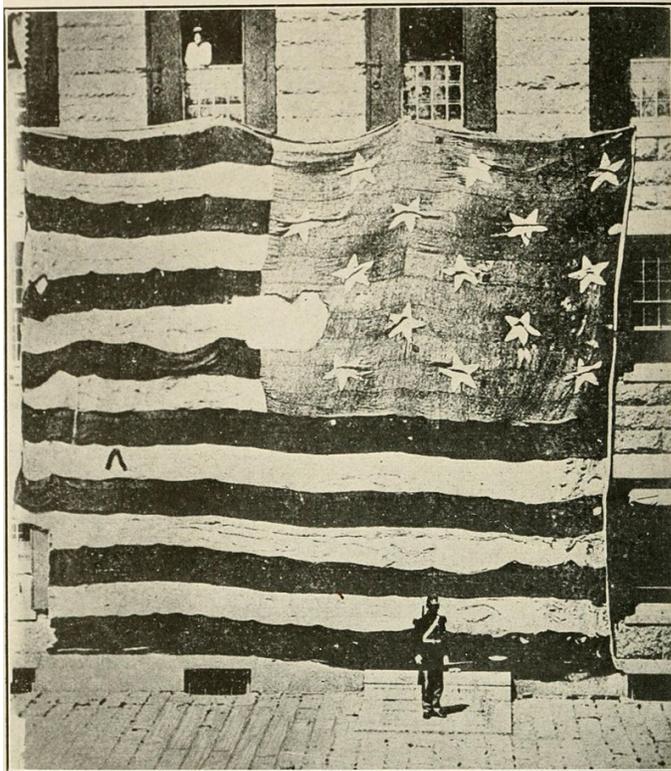
Fort McHenry is on a regularly scheduled deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations.

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.

The **Star-Spangled Banner**, or the **Great Garrison Flag**, was the garrison flag that flew over Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor during the naval portion of the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812. Seeing the flag during the battle inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem "Defence of Fort M'Henry", which, retitled with the flag's name from the closing lines of the first stanza and set to the tune of "To Anacreon in Heaven" by John Stafford Smith, later became the national anthem of the United States.

More broadly, a garrison flag is a U.S. Army term for an extra-large national flag that is flown on Sundays, holidays, and special occasions. The U.S. Navy term is "holiday colors".



Flag that flew over Fort McHenry in 1814, photographed in 1873 in the Boston Navy Yard by George Henry Preble