

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USS MAKIN ISLAND (LHD 8)

AROUND THE ISLAND

JUNE 22, 2012

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Dignitaries Commemorate War of 1812's Declaration

By MC1 Patrick Gordon, Navy Operational Support Center Baltimore

BALTIMORE -- Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, and other dignitaries commemorated the U.S. declaration of war against England, beginning the War of 1812, during a ceremony at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, June 18.

The ceremony, titled "From Enemies to Allies: 200 Years of Peace," included performances by the U.S. Navy Band, Her Majesty's Royal Marine Band, and the Fort McHenry Guard Fife and Drum Corps.

In addition to Mabus, speakers included the Canadian and British Ambassadors to the United States, Gary Doer and Sir Peter Westmacott, respectively.

Fort McHenry served as the backdrop for Francis Scott Key's poem, "Defense of Fort McHenry," which would later become the national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner." During the Battle of Baltimore in 1814, it was Fort McHenry's flag that Key saw from offshore and wrote, "Whose broad stripes and bright

stars thru the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?"

Guests spoke about the unique relationship between the U.S., Canada and Great Britain during and after the War of 1812, as well as the enduring symbols and traditions of the United States that were forged during the conflict.

"The lasting impact of this war is in many ways greater than the actual war. Many of the symbols and successes of America, and especially of the United States Navy, were born in that conflict," said Mabus. "Those early battles in 1812, in which our fledgling fleet met and mastered the previously invincible royal navy, were defined by American ingenuity and boldness, traits that live on today in our Sailors and Marines."

Mabus commented that Great Britain and Canada, our bitter enemies during the war, fought against us with great tenacity

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Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus, delivers remarks during a ceremony commemorating the War of 1812 in Baltimore, June 18. [Photo by MC1 Patrick Gordon]

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ON THE COVER:

An imagining of the USS Makin Island's return to San Diego, a combination of two images - an aerial photo of the San Diego skyline and an aerial photo of the Makin Island at sea.

[Photos by MCC(SW/AW) John Lill, Layout by MC1(SW/AW) Douglas Bedford]

USS Makin Island Returns from Historic Maiden Deployment

By MCCS(SW/AW) Donnie Ryan, Public Affairs Officer

The amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) returned to its homeport of San Diego June 22 following completion of the ship's historic maiden deployment.

During the seven-month deployment, the ship's hybrid-electric propulsion system saved more than four million gallons of fuel resulting in an estimated cost savings in excess of \$15 million.

The ship's hybrid-electric propulsion system is designed to run on auxiliary propulsion motors at low speeds and on gas turbines at higher speeds. This technology allows the Department of the Navy to reduce the use of fossil fuels which leads to overall cost savings.

"Our Sailors and Marines successfully met every mission during our historical maiden deployment in support of the nation's maritime strategy," said Capt. Cedric Pringle, Makin Island's commanding officer. "As the Navy's first operational test platform for this hybrid-electric propulsion system, our fuel efficiency directly enhanced the ability to operate forward for longer. Additionally, our significant fuel cost savings, coupled with our lessons learned, will serve as a solid foundation for optimizing this ship, as well as current and future ship designs. The value of our first deployment will continue to increase, as we assess required refinements in engineering subsystems, training, and logistics



Sailors and Marines, along with their family members and friends taking part in the "Tiger Cruise," watch as USS Makin Island (LHD 8) departs Pearl Harbor, June 14. [Photo by MC1(AW) Andrew Wiskow]

support."

Pringle said that while the equipment did play an important role during the deployment, it was the people serving aboard Makin Island who made sure the ship successfully executed all missions with precision.

"Our teamwork and commitment to excellence allowed us to exceed all expectations," said Pringle. "Makin Island Sailors and Marines were also excellent ambassadors for the United States during every port visit we made during the deployment."

While deployed, the more than 2,100 Sailors and Marines from the embarked 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) serving aboard Makin Island conducted maritime security operations (MSO) and theater security cooperation (TSC) exercises and events in the

U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet areas of responsibility.

Makin Island also served as the platform for the first operational deployment of the four-blade AH-1Z Viper helicopter. When deployed with the UH-1Y helicopter, the "Yankee-Zulu" package replaces the older two-blade Marine Corps AH-1W and UH-1N helicopters.

The new helicopters can carry an addition 2,000 to 4,000 pounds, travel faster and conduct combat operations from a safer distance. The AH-1Z and UH-1Y also share an 85 percent parts commonality, which streamlines training and maintenance.

The ship received a number of awards during the deployment including the 2012 Ney Award

Homecoming *Continued on Page 9*



HM2 Krystal Way recites the "Corpsman Oath" in the medical ward during the hospital corpsman birthday celebration. [Photo by MC2(SW) Dominique Pineiro]

MKI Celebrates Hospital Corpsman Birthday

By MC2(SW) Dominique Pineiro, Around the Island Staff

Sailors and Marines deployed aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) commemorated the 114th birthday of the U.S. Hospital Corps with a cake-cutting ceremony in the ship's medical ward, June 17.

Hospital Corpsmen assigned to the ship, as well those assigned to the embarked 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), gathered to honor the Navy Hospital Corps and mark 114 years of service, providing lifesaving care to Sailors and Marines around the world.

"Our history is our strongest foundation because it dictates who we are, how we operate today and it points us in the direction we need to go in the future," said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Jose Romero, guest speaker and medical planner assigned to the 11th MEU. "It's important for our young guys to realize that as corpsmen in today's Navy, they are founded by that

history. The expectation that our history sets is above and beyond what a lot of Sailors experience."

Romero also spoke about Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Kyler L. Estrada, who died in a training accident in Djibouti during the deployment and how he fits in to the history of the Hospital Corps.

"The Sailors and Marines who served with him understand the selfless commitment to service we go through on a day-to-day basis," said Romero. "It really hits home when someone you know is affected, but Petty Officer Estrada is part of our Hospital Corps history. I think it's significant if we can tie that history specifically to someone we served with because when you do that, you realize you are part of history."

The ceremony also featured a traditional cake-cutting with Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Joseph Luspian and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Thomas Tellis, the oldest

and youngest corpsmen on board, getting the first pieces.

"It's good to celebrate these things. I believe it's important," said Luspian. "To have this ceremony while we're still on deployment doing the work of our country means a lot."

The Hospital Corps is the largest and most decorated branch in the Navy with 22 Medal of Honor recipients.

To conclude the ceremony, Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Krystal Way led the group in reaffirming the "Corpsman Oath," a pledge they took upon completion of Hospital Corpsman "A" School to serve their fellow service members faithfully.

Following the ceremony seven hospital corpsmen assigned to the 11th MEU were pinned with their Enlisted Aviation Warfare breast insignia by family members and friends who are embarked aboard the ship for its Tiger Cruise.

Makin Island Celebrates Father's Day

By MCSN Daniel Walls, Around the Island Staff

Sailors and Marines celebrated Father's Day aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), June 16.

Fathers were served a special dinner and several took part in a cake-cutting ceremony. The smoking lamp was also lit on the ship's fantail where fathers were able to smoke cigars together.

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Michael A. Ferrara, a father of two

children, a six year-old daughter and a two year-old son, was one of many Sailors who took part in the Father's Day meal.

"It was awesome, a definite morale boost and it showed that the ship really cares," said Ferrara.

Ferrara said that being underway on deployment with children can be difficult to bare.

"Being away from my kids was especially rough at first, but then

I remember that I'm out here for them," said Ferrara.

"The hardest part of being away from them is knowing that I'm missing a lot of very special moments," added Ferrara.

It's been more than seven months since most Makin Island Sailors have seen their children.

"I can't wait until we pull into Pier 13 and see them and how much they've grown," said Ferrara.



Capt. Cedric Pringle, commanding officer of USS Makin Island (LHD 8), along with three fathers of Makin Island Sailors and Marines on board for "Tiger Cruise," cuts the cake during a special Father's Day celebration held June 16 on the ship's mess decks. [Photo by MCSN Daniel Walls]



TIGER ATTACK!

Photos and Layout by MC2(SW) Dominique Pineiro





SN Derek Bouman, from USS Makin Island's (LHD 8) Deck Department, stands the forward lookout watch on the ship's 07 level. [Photo by SN Matthew Hill]

Deck Watches Integral to Ship's Mission

By SN Matthew Hill, Around the Island Contributor

There is much about seamanship that has changed over the last few centuries, but there are some customs that never fail to link us to the past. Of these customs, and this is true of all ships, there will always be the underway deck watch.

On board USS Makin Island (LHD 8), there are six positions held by enlisted sailors on the deck watch bill: helmsman, lee-helmsman, messenger, forward lookout, aft lookout, and the boatswain's mate of the watch.

The helmsman steers the ship through waters both rough and calm by shifting the ship's massive rudders to the left and right as ordered by the conning officer, who directs the ships' course and speed.

When the helmsman is relieved, after an hour of steering and obtaining permission from the conning officer, he will then take

over the role of lee-helmsman. The lee-helmsman controls the throttle and the speed of the ship.

Next in the watch rotation is aft lookout on the fantail, followed by forward lookout on the 07 level of the ship. The lookouts have the dual purpose of watching the horizon for contacts and closely monitoring the waters flowing near the stern of the ship for any personnel that may have fallen overboard. The lookouts are important to the safety of the crew. The human eye can see small craft and other objects that cannot be picked up by radar. Lookouts are necessary to ensure the ship is protected from accidental collisions and attacks from small crafts, and the aft lookout is the best chance an overboard Sailor has at being spotted, reported and tracked until rescue.

The last position in the watch

rotation (if the watchstander started on the helm) is the messenger. The underway messenger is not unlike the messenger of the watch in port in that his job is to carry out necessary errands and is a proven method of communication.

The individual in charge of all the enlisted watchstanders on the bridge is the boatswain's mate of the watch. The boatswain's mate is also responsible for making announcements on the 1MC.

It takes many people working together to keep the ship running, including the quartermasters who track the ship's course on navigational charts and the engineers deep within the hull of the ship. But whenever a Sailor lays his head down to rest, he can be sure that a deck seaman is there, ensuring his safety and steering the ship on its course.

War of 1812 (cont.) from Page 2

and spirit, but would eventually become two of our greatest allies in the years to follow.

"Today, we stand together as inseparable friends. We work together, we advance together, we fight together, and we do the same with our brothers and sisters to the north in Canada," said Mabus.

Doer echoed that sentiment of camaraderie following the war.

"Since that time, we have become allies and friends to work together around the world to fight for democracy wherever it exists,"

said Doer. "Canada, the U.S. and U.K., since the end of the War of 1812, have worked together in World War I, World War II, Korea and even today in the war on terrorism."

The ceremony concluded with a proclamation, presented by Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, commemorating the anniversary of the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the continued cooperation between the U.S., Canada and Great Britain.

Navy Week Baltimore is one

of the signature events around the country commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the Star-Spangled Banner. The Navy week is part of Baltimore's Star Spangled Sailabration and commemorates the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the writing of "The Star Spangled Banner." The United States Navy and its partners will commemorate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 from 2012 to 2015, honoring all who fought and continue to defend safe passage on the sea.

Homecoming (cont.) from Page 3

for Excellence in Food Service. Makin Island also achieved a 42% advancement rate during the most recent enlisted advancement cycle, 12% higher than the Navy-wide average of 30%.

In addition, Sailors and Marines from Makin Island participated in a variety of community relations activities in three different countries during the deployment. These projects include spending time with needy children and the elderly, making improvements to local schools and orphanages, and taking care of abandoned cats and dogs at animal shelters.

During the deployment, Makin Island made port visits to Singapore, Bahrain, Jordan, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

More than 200 family members joined the Sailors and Marines on the final leg of the deployment, from Hawaii to California, as part of a scheduled

Tiger Cruise.

Makin Island served as the flagship for the three-ship Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), which also included the

"In addition to the MSO mission, Amphibious Ready Groups bring flexible assets into the theater that allow fleet commanders the ability to deliver combat forces, support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions as well as noncombatant evacuations," said Capt. Donald Cuddington, commander, Amphibious Squadron 5. "During this deployment, the Sailors and Marines of thWe Makin Island ARG took part in a number of exercises and TSC events in support of our nation's maritime strategy."

Cuddington said a key component of the U.S. maritime strategy is building regional partnerships to ensure security, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Our deployment is proof of just that, and that we are a professionally trained fighting force also capable of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief if needed," said Cuddington.

"...we are a professionally trained fighting force also capable of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief if needed."
Capt. Donald Cuddington, CPR-5

amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans (LPD 18) and the amphibious dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52).

**OPINION
ISLAND**

What is the first thing you'll do after returning to California?



"I'm going to In-n-Out."

-ACAN Philippe Lazoore

"I'll go to the beach."

-LCpl. Andrew Shelly



"I want to spend time with my wife."

-SH3 Terrance Hill



"I'm going to watch the Heat vs. Thunder game with my wife."

-Cpl. Barron Thomas



**MKI
MWR CORNER**

**Welcome
back!**

Now that you're returning to San Diego, be sure to take advantage of all the great programs available for military personnel and their families!

Get info on events, movies, recreation, fitness, dining, and much more!

For more information on what's available close to where you live, check out the San Diego Metro Community Support Programs website at:

<http://navylifesw.com/sandiego>

**MAKIN ISLAND'S
UPCOMING EVENTS**

SAT. 23 JUNE

2nd POM Leave Period Begins
Duty Section 2

SUN. 24 JUNE

Duty Section 3

MON. 25 JUNE

Duty Section 1

TUE. 26 JUNE

Duty Section 2

WED. 27 JUNE

Duty Section 3

THU. 28 JUNE

Duty Section 1

FRI. 29 JUNE

Duty Section 2

SAT. 30 JUNE

Duty Section 3

IF YOU DRINK,
DON'T DRIVE!



USE YOUR 511 CARD
AND ARRIVE ALIVE!