

UNREP ON USNS WILLIAM McLEAN

Four lucky Navy Leaguers spent three days in late April at sea aboard **USNS WILLIAM McLEAN**, a Military Sealift Command dry cargo/ammo and fuel supply ship. Captain James White treated his guests like royalty as they went from NS Norfolk 60 miles offshore to perform UNREP (underway replenishment) by refueling the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer **USS BAINBRIDGE** on the 1st day, and the Wasp-class amphibious assault **USS KEARSARGE** on the 2nd day.

There were first class private state-rooms, meals in the officer's mess and lounge, and a free run of the ship alone or with guides ranging from third mate to the MSC-equivalent of the XO, to the Master (Captain) himself for hours ranging from the engine room to the bridge to the weather deck. The last day started early at 0430 with 12 ft seas. The 3rd refueling at 0700 was possible, but called off because of conditions.

On return, there was sunshine and multiple F-18s from Oceana NAS roaring overhead. The harbor pilot boat rendezvoused near Cape Henry and two pilots scrambled up the rope ladder. Helicopters buzzed overhead from NAS Norfolk. Turning up the Elizabeth River was a great view of the new carrier **FORD**, to be commissioned this summer. Reaching Craney Island Fuel depot, the ship was expertly docked. The Captain and his four guests had a van waiting to return them to their cars at Pier 8 on the east side of the Elizabeth River. Navy League members Jim Carleton and Steve Kramer, and Navy League Board Members Jay Fiedler and Harvey Lankford topped off their fuel tanks on the way home at Pierce's Pit Barbecue.

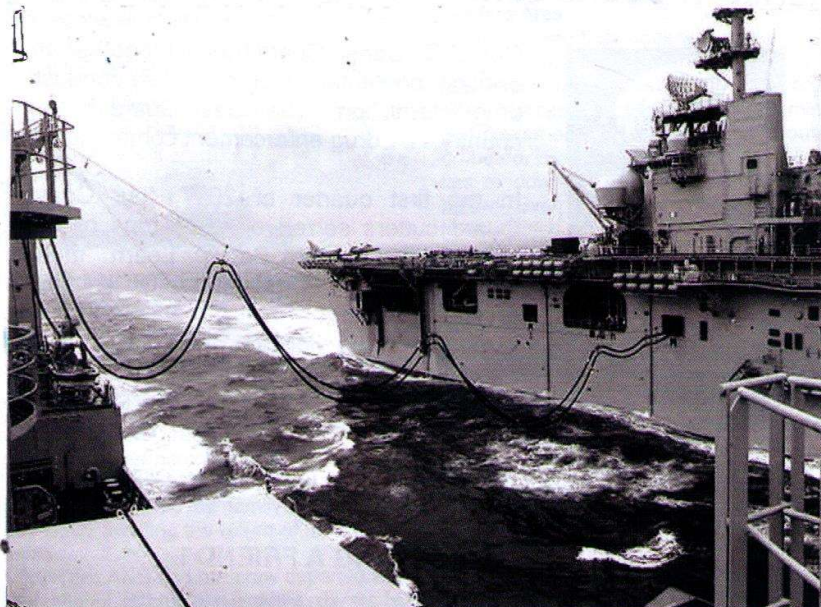
This underway trip far exceeded *anything* we had imagined. It was made possible for Navy Leaguers by the ever-helpful MSC Public Affairs Officer Lashawn Sykes, and by Captain James White and crew of **USNS WILLIAM McLEAN** for whom we have the greatest appreciation and thanks.



Host, CAPT James White MSC (second from left) and Navy Leaguers; Jim Carleton, Steve Kramer & Harvey Lankford. Photo by Jay Fiedler.



UNREP Ship, USNS WILLIAM McLEAN, refueling USS BAINBRIDGE (DDG 96)



UNREP Ship, USNS WILLIAM McLEAN, refueling USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)