



Richmond Navy League Rolls On

On April 28, for the first time ever on a Navy League trip, our bus rolled on and off a Ro-Ro. The USNS WATSON (T-AKR-310) is a 950-ft roll-on, roll-off vehicle transport vessel of Military Sealift Command (MSC). These ships are owned by the Navy but staffed by civilians to provide logistical and other support. Your Richmond Council had worked since last fall to arrange a tour of the hospital ship USNS COMFORT but it was repair-delayed. Instead, MSC's unfaltering Public Affairs Office Lashawn Sykes arranged a tour of not one, but two ships.

We arrived at the CSX coal piers where the location, location, location at the tip of Newport News showed the wisdom of Collis Huntington in 1881. Docked there was the USNS WATSON which we toured. Next, we crossed Hampton Roads to Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story (JEBLCFS) for lunch at The Galley, followed by an eye-opening exploration of the new 337- ft expeditionary fast transport USNS BRUNSWICK (T-EPF-6). Think of a 40 knot gargantuan aluminum catamaran and you have some idea.

On both ships we visited the bridge, weather deck, hangar deck, ready room, engine room, and more. Our gift to the crew of both ships was a heartfelt appreciation of what they do, and what they do for us. We are delighted to have this newly-established relationship with MSC and plan to see more of their ships in the future.