

49 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOW THE USS LEXINGTON MUSEUM ON THE BAY IN CORPUS CHRISTI,

July 2020

The Pentagon wants to forge ahead with robot warships, but Congress wants to slow the train

By David B Larter, from Navy Times Online

WASHINGTON - Unmanned surface vessels are all the rage in the office of the Secretary of Defense, and the U.S. Navy has lined up behind the effort. But Congress remains skeptical until it sees the Navy make progress on the basics.

In the latest sign of Congressional ambivalence on unmanned surface warships, the House Seapower and Projection Forces subcommittee called for restricting fund-

ing for procurement of any large unmanned surface vessels – LUSVs – until he Navy can certify it has worked out an apprópriate hull, mechanical and electrical system and that it can operate autonomously for 30 days consecutively.

Furthermore, the Navy must demonstrate a reliable operating system and that any systems integrated into the platform - sonars, radars, ect. - are likewise functioning and reliable, according the text of the Seapower subcommittee's mark of the FY21 National Defense Authorization act, Congress's annual defense policy bill, obtained by Defense News. the Cold War. (Image: DARPA)

In short, the language

would mean the Navy could not spend procurement dollars on a large unmanned surface vessel until they have a working model and not try to develop those technologies on the fly.

It's the same kind of subsystem development language that was championed in the Senate Armed Services Committee's mark of the FY21 NDAA, that "requires the Navy to qualify the main engines and generators for certain unmanned surface vessels prior to vessel procurement,' according to a summary of the mark.

The Defense Department, led by Defense Secretary Mark Esper in line with his in-house think tank the Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation office, have been championing a major shift away from large surface combatants. Instead they want to focus on fielding more unmanned platforms with missile cells that can be more expendable in a fight and act as an external missile magazine for larger manned combatants with more exquisite sensors.

But Congress has repeatedly balked at the idea because the Navy has yet to produce a concept of opera-tions or even a coherent public strategy to back up the investments they want to make. Further, Congress is wary of



The Sea Hunter, developed by DARPA, has launched the Navy down a path of developing a fleet of unmanned ships that could upend the way the Navy has fought since

At the time, Congress said it would address the VLS system at a future date. In total, lawmakers appropriated \$209.2 million for the two LUSVs, with another \$50 million for designing the ship without a vertical launching system, in FY2020.

But in yet another sign that Congress is uncomfortable with the pace of autonomous system development, the Seapower mark directs the Navy to set up an office to oversee autonomous systems.

Today, many of the unmanned and autonomous systems fall under the leadership of Rear Admiral Casey Moton Program Executive Officer, Unmanned and Small Combatants. But the HASC Seapower mark directs the Navy to set up a new program executive officer for autonomy.

Not later than February 1, 2022, the Secretary of the Navy shall designate a program executive officer for autonomy who shall be the official within the Department of the Navy with primary responsibility for the development and integration of autonomous technology into weapon systems," the mark reads. The details of what role that office would play in

unmanned surface vessels is not made clear in the language.

caused countless delays to the Littoral Combat Ship's mission modules and held up the construction of the new carrier Ford. No Weapons, New Bureaucrats The language in the mark also restricts the Navy

from putting weapons on the LUSV until "Secretary of the Defense certifies to the congressional defense committees

appropriating money for platforms that rely on technologies

that haven't been fully developed yet, a practice that has

that any large unmanned surface vessel that employs offensive weapons will comply with the law of armed conflict," the language states. "Such certification 20 shall include a detailed explanation of how such compliance will be achieved.'

This is the second such restriction put on weapons systems being integrated into unmanned surface vessels in as many years.

Last yéar, after a fight with Congress over procuring large unmanned surface vessels, Congress blocked the

Navy from integrating the vertical launch system on the LUSV.

NEWSLETTER NOTES & INFORMATION

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Sunrise Press is a quarterly publication of the USS Lexington Association CV, CVA, CVS, CVT, AVT16



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Sunrise Press - EMAIL Version:

The email version is better than the printed, with color graphics & pictures, e-links and more.

For those receiving the email version of the Sunrise Press: You will receive an email stating that the Press is available for viewing on the website. Follow the link to the Association website where you can view or download the current issue of the Sunrise Press.

www.usslexingtoncv16.org



A Note from the Editor:

If anyone has articles to include in the newsletter, please send them to me and I'll put them in, space permitting, including a byline to credit you with the submission.

My postal address is: 23428 College Ave. Robertsdale, AL 36567 For electronic submissions, email me at:

> editor@usslexingtoncv16.org Grea Plante, Editor of the Sunrise Press

amazonsmile

If you order from Amazon.com change to smile.amazon.com and select your charity as the

Lady Lex Museum on the Bay Association.

Amazon donates .5% of every purchase to the museum if you select it as your charity. This can really add up over time and it helps support the ship.

smile.amazon.com CHECK IT OUT!

Only purchases at smile.amazon.com support charity.



A Word from Lance Wagner:

If you know someone who served on the LEX, let me know and I'll send them information about our group. If you move, please remember to send me your new address. Membership Dues: \$20/year - Due by Dec. 31st. Make checks payable to: USS Lexington Association. Send Dues to: Lance Wagner 71 - 21 73rd Place

Glendale, NY 11385

PAY ONLINE:

Association members can now pay their annual dues online. Just go to our website: usslexingtoncv16.org and press the "Dues and Donation" button.

> 2020 LEX REUNION September 28th - October 1st



🗘 TAPS

Buttrum, Howard Theo

03/28/2020 - Pensacola, FL https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pensacolanewsjournalobituary.aspx? n=howard-theobuttrum&pid=195852795&fhid=10283

Yeutter, Philip 07/26/2019 - Alexandria, MN Onboard: 1960-61; 1977-79 https://www.andersonfuneral.net/obituary/Philip-Yeutter **Young, Dale** 01/20/2011 - Bakersfield, CA Onboard: 1955-1959

Help us keep our "TAPS" records up to date...

We need your help. Our only way of knowing our members have passed, is if someone tells us.

We ask that you please notify us of any members who are no longer with us so we can update our records and honor our deceased shipmates in the Sunrise Press.

Please email notifications to: editor@usslexingtoncv16.org

WELCOME ABOARD: NEW MEMBERS

Adams, John S Onboard: 06/1962 - 04/1964 Navigation

Covington, Anthony D Onboard: 01/1984– 08/1987 Deck Dept, 3rd DIV **(Labs) Woodard, Thomas** Onboard: 01/1976 - 01/1978 Supply, S-3

Mayer, Grant A. Onboard: 08/1989 - decom Arresting Gear Naker, Randy V. Onboard: 09/1967 - 08/1969 A

Patterson, John W. Onboard: 08/1968 - 01/1970 S-1 Supply

USS Lexington CV16 Association: Membership

The Association welcomes all shipmates, navy, marines, Ships Company, air group personnel who served at some time on a USS Lexington CV 16 (all her designations) or on the USS Lexington CV 2. Dues are \$20/year, and due at the end of each year. **Dues can be paid online at:** *www.usslexingtoncv16.org* or pay by mail: **Make checks payable to :USS Lexington Association** Send your dues to: *Lance Wagner, 71-21 73rd Place , Glendale, NY 11385*



43rd Annual Reunion of the USS Lexington CV16 Association September 28th - October 1st, 2020 Ramada Plaza by Wyndham - Omaha, Nebraska

遺 Presidents Message



... As of now, the reunion is a go

Fellow USS Lexington Association members, shipmates and friends. We are in uncertain times. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us. Never the less, we are a great nation and a very great group of veterans who served on the USS Lexington. With this Presidents letter I hope and pray

that you and all of your family are well and tolerating the hardships that this invisible enemy has brought us. God bless you all. As I am sure you know, our annual reunion is scheduled from September 28 to October 1st. Our host and historian Howard Canup has organized a great reunion with tours and of course the usual social gatherings. As of today the Executive Board remains optimistic that the reunion will be held as planned. If circumstances change we will make a decision by mid August on how to proceed. I am so looking forward to the reunion in Omaha as I am told it is a very veteran friendly city. Our memorial service will be special as it will be held at Freedom Park. A tribute to all veterans. Please note that you can now complete the registration form and pay online at our web site, usslexingtoncv16.org. Our Treasurer Lance says this method is working well. I hope to see many of you in Omaha and between now and then stay safe my shipmates and friends.

Gary Shorrel, President USS Lex Assoc.

Our Predecessor hard at work

Sources:Dick Malloy and John S. Ott, *The Tacoma Public Utilities Story -- The First 100 Years: 1893-1993* (Tacoma: Tacoma Public Utilities, 1993), 90-93; "U.S.S. Lexington," U.S. Navy Historical Center Website (http:// www.history.navy.mil); Caroline Denyer Gallacci, *The City of Destiny and the South Sound* (Carlsbad, CA: Heritage Media Corp, 2001), 61. Submitted by shipmate Gary Shorrel

TIME CAPSULE

Beginning on about December 17, 1929, the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier U.S.S. *Lexington* (CV-2) ties up to the Baker Dock and supplies electricity to Tacoma for a month to meet a power crisis

month to meet a power crisis. In the 1920s, Tacoma received most of its electrical energy from dams on the Nisqually and Skokomish Rivers. Supplemental energy came from the Dock Street steam plant (1922). A drought in 1929 severely cut the power from the hydroelectric sources. The shortage became so critical that Superintendent Ira S. Davisson (1860-1951) had to cut power to Cascade Paper Company. Cascade laid off

300 employees. Fort Lewis turned the lights out in the barracks at 4:00 p.m.

Tacoma appealed to President Herbert Hoover, who bumped the matter to the Navy. At first the Secretary of the Navy refused the request, but negotiations resulted in a message to the *Lexington's* captain to go to Tacoma, then to wait, then to go to Tacoma.

The request for the Lexington was opposed by Puget Sound Power & Light and by Seattle City Light, which claimed that the drought did not affect their

> operations. After the *Lexington* left Tacoma in January 1930, Seattle requested that the ship help out there. The Navy declined.

The "Lady Lex" arrived at Tacoma's Baker Dock in the rain to the sounds of a brass band and the applause of City Light customers.

The *Lexington's* boilers supplied a quarter of Tacoma's power for about 30 days, leaving on January 17, 1930.

That month, the skies opened and rain filled Tacoma's reservoirs.

Tacoma enjoyed a special relationship with the carrier until its loss at the Battle of the Coral Sea on May 8, 1942.



🗘 CHAPLAINS CORNER



Transitions in Life

By: Chaplain Christopher Hagger

In the first chapter in the book of Joshua around the second verse, God gives directions to the now leader of Israel. Joshua is given to un-

derstand that Moses the original leader has died, and now it is time for a transition. It is time for God's people to arise and cross over into Canaan the promise land. However, what separates the people from the promise land is the Jordan river, so God is giving instruction and encouragement to begin the process of transitioning.

Transitioning is hard because It causes you to come out of your comfort zone. It makes you leave the area you have become accustomed to. It guides you into your tomorrows when you don't even know what tomorrow holds for you or your family. It seems to always happen when you are not prepared to transition. This could come in the form of losing a love one, or getting laid off from your job of ten or more years. It could arrive in your life as an illness, or a sudden divorce. But God in His wisdom has a plan for those he has called to move forward. Even if you don't see it or even believe you are worthy, God encouraged Joshua to prepare to move because the promise that God made was waiting on the other side of Jordan.

God ministered to Joshua to stay encouraged and believe; believing gives one strength to stand in the midst of adversity. He said to Joshua to be of good courage, don't be afraid, don't give up.

When we allow God to move us from our comfort zone, He teaches us again. When our steps guide us into unfamiliar places, we seek direction. God gently guides us, Psalms 23:2 reads us such: He make me lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside the still waters. In other words, he teaches me again how to rest in him. As we prepare for the elections in November, as we prepare for the holidays in July. Let us prepare for a transition in our lives, let us transition closer together as fellow Americans. Abandoning our comfort zone of private dislikes, hidden prejudices. Leaving behind the hurt of yesterday, and angers of last month. Our promise lies on the other side of our transition.

God Bless my brothers and sisters of the Lexington community..

Chaplain Chris Hagger

He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousnes For His name's sake.

Chaplain Hagger pastors All People Worship Center in Odessa, Texas . He also overseas the operation at All People Hospice and Healthcare.

Contact: Address: 4745 N. Sierra Ave, Odessa, TX 79764Phone: 432-258-7751 / FAX: 432-381-5272 / Cell: 832-312-0892Chaplain Hagger can be reached anytime......no matter what the time.

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JOIN US IN OMAHA RAMADA PLAZA BY WYNDHAM

Experience comfort and convenience at Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Omaha. Ideally located off I-80 just a few miles from the city's top attractions, including The Old Market District. The hotel features the Coco Key Indoor Water Park (additional fees apply) on site and you can join us at the bar for refreshing cocktails. You'll also appreciate complimentary breakfast, the fitness center, and our large, guest-friendly indoor plaza. Each non -smoking guest room features an HDTV, microwave, mini-refrigerator, and work area.

RAMADA PLAZA BY WYNDHAM



Book Your Rooms:

RAMADA PLAZA by WYNDHAM 3321 SOUTH 72ND STREET, OMAHA, NE 68124 PHONE: 1-402-393-3950 (MENTION GROUP RATE: \$84/USS LEXINGTON ASSOCIATION) HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY: August 28, 2020

🕆 2020 REUNION: SEPTEMBER 28TH - OCTOBER 1ST

Tuesday: Our day will begin with a City Tour of Historical Omaha. We'll enjoy lunch at the highly recommended Upstream Brewing Company, located in the downtown Historic Market. To complete our tour we will honor our former shipmates with a Memorial Service at Freedom Park.

Encompassing a thirty-block radius in midtown Omaha, the Gold Coast Historic District contains the large mansions and single-family homes of the city's early middle and upper-class residents. The area's distinction as the Gold Coast emerged when Omaha's wealthy citizens first settled the area in the 1880s. The variety of architectural styles found in the area reflects aesthetic trends and changing economies of the areas diverse residents.

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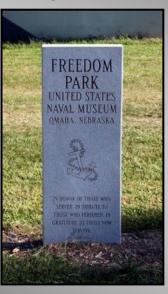
Upstream Brewing Company is well known for its great food and terrific atmosphere. They offer an extensive menu of new American pub fare including hand-cut "Omaha Steaks", fresh fish, hearty sandwiches, pasta dishes, and more! They are known for their fresh-brewed handcrafted beers and their own root beer on tap.



Memorial Service: Honoring our Shipmates who have passed away this past year.



Freedom Park is an outdoor park and United States Naval Museum located along the Missouri River.





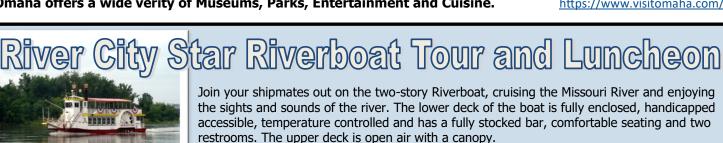
Major exhibits are a USS Marlin SST-2 and USS Hazard AM-240. The park also has a collection of jets, helicopters, rocket launchers, missiles, a Captain's Gig and more.

🕆 2020 Reunion: September 28th - October 1st

 Wednesday is your Free-Day to go out and enjoy the city... Sightseeing, Shopping, Touring and More!

 Omaha offers a wide verity of Museums, Parks, Entertainment and Cuisine.

 https://www.visitomaha.com/



You must pre-register (on the LEX Registration Form) for this Boat Tour

This park features more than 100 larger-than-life sized bronze sculptures that tell the story of the pioneer's westward journey.



PIONEER COURAGE PARK



https://www.firstnationalcampus.com/fnc/html/en/ sculpture_park/pioneer.html

Visitors can walk among wagons, oxen, horses and pioneers. This unique art display stretches through six city blocks.





The Durham Museum Travel back to a time when riding the rails was a popular mode of transportation. Climb aboard a steam train, see one of the world's rarest coin collection, and enjoy the region's rich history. <u>https://durhammuseum.org/</u>









The Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium 160 acres of exhibits including a big cat complex, an indoor jungle, rainforest & much more!





Shopping and more...

Omaha is filled with one-of-a-kind Boutiques, Art Galleries, offbeat Shops, expansive Malls and quaint Shopping Centers.

https://www.visitomaha.com/things-to-do/shopping/

The Old Market is located in downtown Omaha. The neighborhood features a collection of unique shops offering art, fashion, jewelry, and gifts. The area retains its brick paved streets from the turn of the century, horse-drawn carriages and covered sidewalks. It is not uncommon to see a variety of street performers, artists, and other vendors.

https://oldmarket.com/



REGISTRATION FORM

2020 REUNION OF THE USS LEXINGTON CV-16 ASSOCIATION, Omaha, Nebraska

Please Note: This form does not include your hotel reservation. Hotel reservations must be done separately by you. Ramada Plaza by Windham, 3321 South 72nd Street ,Omaha, NE 68124 Phone: 1-402-393-3950 Mention the Lexington Association - Group Rate (\$84/per night) Hotel Reservations must be made before August 28, 2020

The Registration Form is also available on our website, with the ability to pay using your Debit or Credit Card. www.usslexingtoncv16.org

NAME	SPOUSE/GUEST		
(Additional guests - ple	ease list below and include in the final numb	bers below.)	
ADDRESS:	CITY	STATEZIP	
PHONE	EMAIL		
DATES ON BOARD	DIVISION		
Additional Guests:			
Register me for the followir Reunion Registration Fee (not o	ng: optional)Number of attendees	x \$45 each = \$	
Tuesday, September 29th		v ¢CO open t	
	iceNumber of attendees	x \$00 each = \$	
Wednesday, September 30th River Boat Tour and Lunch	Number of attendees	x \$50 each = \$	
Choice of Entrée: A.) Chicken Florentine	Number of attendees		
If not completing online, mail registra			
form and check payable to:	Lance Wagner	-	
Cut-off Date: August 28, 2020	71-21 73 Place, Glendale, New York 11385		

ITINERARY for the 43rd ANNUAL REUNION - Omaha, Nebraska

September 28th – Monday: Hotel Check-in/Reunion Registration

- 1200 Hospitality Suite opens for check in
- 1600 Hospitality Suite Closes for Reception
- 1700 Opening Reception: Finger Foods & Cash Bar

September 29th – Tuesday: City Tour, Memorial Service & Lunch

- 0815 Meet in Hotel Lobby for Scheduled Tour
- 0830 Bus departs for the City Tour of historical Omaha
- 1300 Lunch at Upstream Brewing Co.
- 1430 Memorial Service at Freedom Park
- 1600 Hospitality Suite Opens
- 2000 Hospitality Suite Closes

September 30th – Wednesday: free day for Sight Seeing, River Boat Tour

- 1045 Meet in Hotel Lobby for Scheduled Tour
- 1100 Depart for River City Star River Boat Tour and Lunch
- 1300 Hospitality Suite Opens
- 2000 Hospitality Suite Closes

October 1th – Thursday: Business Meeting and Banquet

- 1000 Business Meeting; All members and guests welcome
- 1200 Hospitality Suite Opens
- 1600 Hospitality Suite Closes
- 1800 Banquet

Social Hour (Doors will open at 1800) Cash Bar

Group Picture (Coat and Tie suggested)

Presentation of Colors / Dinner Served / Entertainment

October 2th – Thursday

Checkout – Safe travels home.... 2021 Reunion: Gettysburg

Veterans Memorial Park, New Prague, Minnesota

Recently, we were up in Minnesota tending to family matters, and Theresa remembered the park of her childhood and our need to highlight a veterans memorial park this issue, so here we are. The town is New Prague, MN, and interestingly, I spent several summers up there as a child because my mom was from there as well. Who knows, Theresa and I could have played at the park together and not even known it. I say that to make it understandable when I tell you that the plaque in the center is a relative of mine, Grandma's cousin, Law-rence Cihlar, a 3rd class pharmacists mate, who died aboard and is entombed in the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor.





Veteran's Memorial Feature:

We want to showcase Veteran's Memorials from all across the United States. Send photos and information of your local Memorials or those you come across while traveling. We'll share them in the Sunrise Press. Snail Mail to: Greg Plante: 23428 College Ave, Robertsdale, AL 36567 - Email to: <u>editor@usslexingtoncv16.org</u> SHIPMATES LOOKING FOR...

Looking for an old shipmate? Looking for a cruise book from a particular cruise? Maybe filling in the gaps of memory while writing some memoirs? Let us know what you're looking for and we'll include it in the newsletter.



NAME: Robert L. Duncan Jr EMAIL: robertduncan0@me.com

Subject: Boxing aboardnLexungton

I have photos of my Dad, Robert Lee Duncan, boxing aboard the Lexington. Appears to be a below deck Ring set up for recreational boxing matches. Does anyone remember my Dad? Or are there additional photos? Muster shows him aboard at the end of WW2.

NAME: John Harrell EMAIL: h3j2c2t1a@sbcglobal.net

Subject: LEX visits to New Orleans

Looking for any info on the USS Lexington port visit(s) to New Orleans, and if launch of a jet aircraft in the Mississippi River.

NAME: Cesar Horta EMAIL: cesar.horta@gmail.com

Subject: VIPs Invited to 1963 exercise off Kingsville, TX

Looking for 1963 CV16 exercise off Kingsville with large number of Reserves (I think) invited to Kingsville and then flown to carrier staying overnight to watch Grumman Cougars VT-21 and VT-22 land/go round/launch in 1963 - not sure but could have been in September.

NAME: Tara Thomas EMAIL: tara21271@gmail.com

Subject: Pictures

I'm writing in hopes to find anyone who might have pictures of USS Lexington (CVS-16) from the years 1960-1964. I'm hoping I can find pictures of when my father (Walter Joseph Bina) served. He has recently passed away along with his stories. I would love to have them to pass along to my boys who as well served. I truly hope that someone can help. Thank you for your time.

NAME: Jim Fink **EMAIL:** jwbaf4@gmail.com

Subject: Looking for former Legal Officer

Does anyone have a recollection of a Female Legal Officer on the ship during 1984-1987 time frame. I worked in the Brig during that time and worked with the Legal Dept of the LEX. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

NAME: Gary Shorrel **EMAIL:** shorrel@charter.net

Subject: Looking for Shipmate

Looking for John T. Marten, ETN2 1969-? TACSATCOM installation, test and evaluation technician.

NAME: Chuck Carswrll EMAIL: chuckgardenbee@gmail.com

Subject: Looking for Officer

Looking for an officer that was a great influence to me (1974) Name: LTJG Blanks (or Blank?)

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION:

To place a notice in the "Looking For" section of the newsletter, go to the website and click on "Contact CV 16" and fill out the form. Or send an email to editor@usslexingtoncv16.org Written submissions can be sent to: Greg Plante, 23428 College Ave, Robertsdale, Alabama 36567

🗘 Memories from the LEX

Received from Tim Jones

U.S.S. LEXINGTON



EASTER SUNDAY

···· APRIL 9, 1944 ····

CAPTAIN FELIX B. STUMP, U.S.N. COMMANDING

COMMANDER B. W. WRIGHT, U.S.N. EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ORDER OF SERVICE

SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 9, 1944 - 1000

The Prelude - Largo -

U.S.S. Lexington Band - J.G. Schall, Bandmaster

Morning Prayers - Followed by the Lord's Prayer

HYMN: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" - Hymn No. 62

The Story of the Resurection - Mark, Chapter 16

HYMN: "The Old Rugged Cross" - Hymn No. 67

Sermon - "The Victorious Christ" Chaplain Joseph C. Canty

HYMN: "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" - Hymn No. 128

Benediction -

Recessional - "Onward Christian Soldiers" U.S.S. Lexington Band

Organist: K. E. Scutt.

TIMELY TOPICS FOR ALL LEXINGTON MEN.

MASS FOR EASTER SUNDAY:

Early Catholic Mass will be said at 0645 and again following the General Service. Catholic Confessions will be heard on Saturday evening in the library.

A LETTER TO THEM:

At Easter time we feel closer drawn to our homes and our loved ones. Let us pray for them and ask them to remember us in their prayers. Write at least once a week and ask them to write often to you. A letter means so much.

OUR HEROES:

Let us not forget those who have given their lives in the service of our country. Let us ask God to give us the strength to follow faithfully in their footsteps. Let us always remember them in our prayers.

Share your LEX stories! Do you have special memories or sea stories from your days on the LEX. Feel free to share them with us. Just send an email (or snail mail) with your stories and/or pictures so we can include them in the next issue of the Sunrise Press. email: *editor@usslexingtoncv16.org* snail mail: 23428 College Ave, Robertsdale, AL 36567

Share it with your shipmates! Just email them to us and we'll print them in the Sunrise Press.

Have you read an interesting article or story recently?

Email: editor@usslexingtoncv16.org

FROM MY EMAIL

Contributed by: Shipmate Gary Shorrel Naval Warfare Pentagon

Navy Rushes to Get F-35s on USS JFK; Other Ford Carriers Wait Their Turn

The service's aircraft boss says the COVID economic slow down hasn't affected building new carriers...yet. By: Paul McLeary on April 22, 2020 at 4:46 PM

WASHINGTON: The Navy's rushed effort to retrofit its newest aircraft carrier to operate the F-35 will create a testbed for the service's other Ford carriers — which have not been built to fly the fifth generation aircraft — as the Navy juggles work on the remaining three big decks.

The \$11 billion USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79)

was designed and christened without the capability to fly the 5th generation fighter because of cost caps and the aircraft's infamously delayed development. Those schedule slippages forced the Navy to design and build the ships while the messy F-35 was still undergoing development. In

the 2020 NDAA Congress indicated it had had it's fill of delays to the carrier and ordered the Navy to get to work refitting the Kennedy before it sets sail in 2024, forcing the Navy to improvise and refit the just-christened ship.

Speaking with reporters today, Rear Adm. James Downey, head of the Navy's carrier programs, said those changes are forcing him to hold off on some early work on the forthcoming USS Enterprise (CVN 80), the third Ford-class carrier, and the USS Doris Miller (CVN 81) to ensure the Kennedy retrofits are done correctly before incorporating them on the other ships which have just started their build cycles.

Downey said he's working to accelerate the integration of the F-35 on the JFK and prove out the upgrades in operational testing before doing similar work on the next Ford carrier to be built, the

> USS Enterprise. That way, all of the bugs will be ironed out on the JFK.

The original plan to incorporate the F-35 on the four Fordclass ships was to phase the capability in after the ships were declared operational, and then to refit them as they came into port for overhaul.

But Congress, frustrated that the nation's newest class of carrier couldn't operate the nation's newest fighter plane, told the Navy to speed things up. The namesake of the class, the \$13.2 billion USS Gerald R. Ford, is currently acting as a training asset off the East Coast, where air wings get carrier certified as the ship continues to iron out remaining issues with its weapons elevators. Simply put, the Ford won't fly the F-35 for years to come.





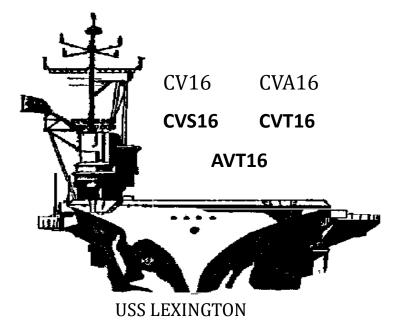


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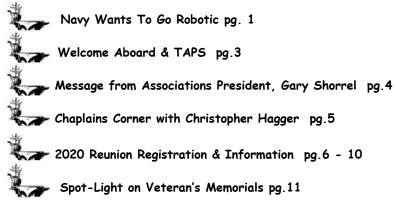
USS Lexington CV 16 Association

P. O. Box 16

Lexington, IL 61753



**** IN THIS ISSUE ****





SP 20-03