

USS LEXINGTON CV16

49 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

JULY 2022

See you in

Gettysburg

PA



2022

REUNION - SEPTEMBER 26TH - SEPTEMBER 30TH



Sunrise Press - Quarterly Publication
USS LEXINGTON ASSOCIATION
CV1, CVA16, CVS16, CVT16, AVT16

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USS LEXINGTON CV 16 ASSOCIATION

Executive Officers:

Interim President: Christopher Hagger

Vice President:

Treasurer: Lance Wagner

Secretary: Greg Plante

Appointed Positions

Chaplain: Christopher Hagger

Sunrise Press Editor, Webmaster, and

Data Base Tech: Greg Plante

Historian: (open)

WEBSITE: www.usslexingtoncv16.org

A Note from Lance...

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 send me your new address.

Office of the Treasurer...

Membership Dues: \$20/year - Due by Dec. 31st.

Make checks payable to: USS Lexington Association.

Send Dues to Lance or Pay Online

MAIL to: Lance Wagner

71 - 21 73rd Place Glendale, NY 11385

PAY ONLINE: website: usslexingtoncv16.org

CLICK: "Dues and Donation"

A Note from the Editor:

Have you read an interesting article or story recently? Or maybe have some memorabilia from your time on the LEX? Share it with your shipmates! Just send them to me and I'll print them in the Sunrise Press, 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

Greg Plante, Editor of the Sunrise Press

Make you Reservations now!!!

See pages 7 - 10 for Reunion Information



PA



2022 Reunion


USS Lexington Association

September 26th - 30th

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

<p><i>Sunset and evening star, And one clear call for me! And may there be no moaning of the bar, When I put out to sea, But such a tide as moving seems asleep, Too full for sound and foam, When that which drew from out the boundless deep Turns again home. Twilight and evening bell, And after that the dark! And may there be no sadness of farewell, When I embark; For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place The flood may bear me far, I hope to see my Pilot face to face When I have crossed the bar.</i></p>	<p><i>In Loving Memory of</i> Gary G. Shorrel</p>  <p>DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH August 7, 1948 La Crosse, Wisconsin</p> <p>DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH March 27, 2022 Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin</p> <p>MEMORIAL SERVICE 11:00 a.m., Friday, April 8, 2022 First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin</p> <p>CLERGY Rev. Barry Boyer</p> <p>MILITARY HONORS Chippewa Falls Patriotic Council</p> <p>INTERMENT Oak Grove Cemetery La Crosse, Wisconsin</p> <p><small>Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel & Cremation Services Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin</small></p>
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Gary G Shorrel, age 73, of Chippewa Falls, WI passed away on March 27th at the Wisconsin Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls under the care of St Joseph Hospice.

Gary was born to Grant and Della (Anderson) Shorrel in La Crosse, WI on August 7th, 1948. As an infant, his family moved to Austin, MN where his father worked for Geo. A Hormel Co. Gary graduated from Austin High School in 1966 and then enrolled in the industrial electronics program at the Austin Vocational Technical School. After graduation he enlisted in the United States Navy serving honorably at the Atlantic Fleet Headquarters, the USS Pocono, the USS Lexington, and the Naval Communications Station in Naples, Italy. He achieved the rate of Electronics Technician Second Class and was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal by the Secretary of the Navy and the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet for his work on the prototype Tactical Satellite Communications program.

Shortly before his discharge from the United States Navy on August 12, 1972, Gary married the love of his life, Barbara Johnson, in Galesville, WI. They would have been married 50 years this August. After marrying, Gary and Barb moved to St Paul, MN where Gary was employed by Sperry Univac Defense Division. He was employed there seven years and continued his education, earning a degree in business administration. After graduating with honors, Gary and Barb, and their young daughter Kelly, moved to

Chippewa Falls, WI where Gary was employed at Cray Research. A year later, their second daughter, Cristina, was born. Gary worked at Cray Research which later became SGI, then Cray, Inc. for 27 years. Gary retired from the corporate world as Director of Engineering from Cray Inc in 2005 and decided to start his own business.

Gary and Barb were avid boaters on the Mississippi River, leading Gary to pursue a second career as a marine surveyor. He attended the marine surveying program at the Chapmans School of Seamanship in Stuart, Florida and eventually worked his way up the ladder to Accredited Marine Surveyor, the highest rating in the marine surveying industry. After 7 years, Gary fully retired. Gary and Barb then spent part of each winter in Jensen Beach, FL renting a condo on the ocean. After his retirement, they also began attending the annual USS Lexington CV16 Association reunions. Eventually Gary was elected to President of the USS Lexington CV16 Association. The USS Lexington CV16 is now a museum in Corpus Christi, TX.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, an infant sister, and cousins. He is survived by his wife Barbara of 49 years, two daughters, Kelly (Rob) Kress and Cristina (Scott) Wildenberg, and five grandchildren, Jackson, Layna, Cooper, Alexander, and James.

Memorial contributions may be given to the First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls or to the USS Lexington CV16 Association.

Donnell, Clyde R.
Onboard: 1942 - 1944

Shorrel, Gary G
03/27/2022 - Chippewa, WI
Onboard: 1969 - 1971
<https://www.pedersonvolker.com/obituary/Gary-Shorrel>

Scott, Charles G
02/20/2022 - Aumsville, OR
Onboard: 1954 -19658
<https://www.statesmanjournal.com/obituaries/ssj061404>

Yunker, Paul
02/12/2022 - Marshfield, MA

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.

Email notifications to: editor@usslexingtoncv16.org
Snail Mail to: Greg Plante, 23428 College Ave, Robertsdale, AL 36567



IN MEMORIAM

The USS Lexington Association offers their sincere "Thank You" for the following donations...

The family of Clyde R. Donnell: \$200 in memory of Clyde - Onboard: 1942 - 1944

Barb Shorrel: \$800 in memory of her husband Gary - Onboard: 1969 1969 - 1971



WELCOME ABOARD: NEW MEMBERS

Ronald G. Davis
Onboard: 12/1941 - 05/1942
Son of C. Davis

Pierce, Frankin E
Onboard: 1967
NAV

Schauer, Robert S.
Onboard: 11/1961 - 01/1963
Fox

Ernsberger, Lawrence
Onboard: 05/1958 - 10/1961
OR DIV

Roy, Walter R
Onboard: 09/1974 - 06/1978
Naval Reserve Unit Pensacola

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

Dues paid by mail: **Make checks payable to :USS Lexington Association**

Send your dues to: Lance Wagner, 71-21 73rd Place , Glendale, NY 11385

INTERIM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My brothers and sisters of the USS Lexington CV 16 association and shipmates. I write this letter with some sadness in my heart. As each of you know we lost our brother, our friend, our President, Gary Shorrel this year. I was his right hand and now I am your interim president. I ask you to keep me lifted up in prayers as I seek the guidance of God to attempt to fill his shoes. This association is comprised of great men and women from all walks of life, each uniquely having something to offer to make this a great association. There are many associations within the United States Navy however, we want the Lady Lex to stand head and shoulders higher in representing her greatness. So, how do we accomplish this?

Well, our last president shared some profound words and I would like to piggy-back on those words. He shared that "an association cannot survive without sufficient attendance," I want to add that an association cannot survive without growth. This year let us reach out to shipmates that we know, that somehow have forgotten who they are. I know life gets in the way and sometimes we forget exactly who we are. My brothers and sisters we are Navy men and women who gave our commitment many years ago to the United States Navy as well as to our shipmates that stood with us, and beside us. Let us remind those who somehow refuse to come and be a part of this association that we are still one. I am looking forward to seeing each of you at Gettysburg. I want to see my family, my friends, my brothers and sisters so we can break bread together. I want to remember together; I want to share together. When I was child growing up in Port Arthur Texas when my siblings and I had a disagreement, our grandmother would always say; "look each of you are all you have." The men and women that have walked across the deck of Lady Lex, we are all we have. Let's grow our association.

See you in Gettysburg.

Christopher Hagger

Rev. Christopher Hagger Th.M.
4745 N. Sierra Ave.
Odessa, Tx 79764
832-312-0892 Cell

CHAPLAINS CORNER



Chris Haggger, Chaplain
USS LEXINGTON CV 16 ASSOCIATION

Coping with a loss can be daunting in our everyday life. So, I would like to share with each of you, how you can cope and continue to live through the loss you have experienced.

First, let me give a clear understanding of grief and mourning. Grief is what one feels or thinks in the inside because of their lost. Rabbi Earl Grollman states: "*Grief is not a disorder, a disease, or a sign of weakness. It is an emotional, physical, and spiritual necessity; the price you pay for love. The only cure for grief is to grieve.*"

Grief is not just feeling sadness, it often involves shock, denial, disorganization, confusion, anger, fear, and panic. It can include regret and sometimes relief. It may be physical pain and social discomfort. Grief is all of this and more.

Mourning is the expression of those thoughts and feelings outside of ourselves. Mourning is how we heal our grief.

So, when we find ourselves grieving because of a loss, there are some symptoms that we might experience and wonder, "are we still normal?" You are normal... The symptoms are as follows:

Physically lethargy, sleep deprivation, cognitive memory loss, polyphasic sleep, emotional roller-coasters, energy loss, questioning one's spiritual will to live (questioning your spiritual

walk), and all of the various "why" questions that arise.

What we attempt to do is quickly get through our grief process. This cannot be done and your body will not allow you to do it. This is why one experiences physical lethargy – your body and your soul need time to heal. Sometimes our hurt flows so deep within our existence we forget how bad we are hurt. Grief reminds us.

Sleep deprivation – disruptions in normal sleep patterns are very common in the first weeks and months of grief. You go to sleep finding yourself waking up a few hours later tired and exhausted. This is normal. **Cognitive memory loss** – you start doing something around the house then remember you have not made your bed. You stop whatever you are doing to go and make your bed, start that, and then remember you have not finished another task you started. **Emotional roller-coaster** – one minute you are fine the next minute you feel you want to cry, run, or just get away from it all. This is normal. **The questioning of your spiritual walk** – You have had a prayer life as well as a life of worship. Now you are good just to say "Jesus wept." You are normal. This is a growing process, and you are learning to grow, to cope, to move now without the assistance of your loss.

Our country has been programed to not mourn long. As a Chaplain, I have attended funerals where I have offered the eulogy and there was not a body present. Just a picture. To properly mourn we want to spend time with our loved one even if it is within our heart of hearts. Retelling the story of how we loved, how they were dear to you and made the difference in your life.

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 79764 — Phone: 432-258-7751 / FAX: 432-381-5272 / Cell: 832-312-0892

Chaplain Hagger can be reached anytime.....no matter what the time.

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 will include it in the newsletter.

NAME: Bob Melegh **EMAIL:** bmelegh@hotmail.com

Subject: Looking WWII Photos

My Stepfather was an airman on the Lexington in WWII. He had a photo of him standing on the wing of an airplane nicknamed "Duck Butt" in his flight gear. The picture was lost 45 years ago after his death. Are there any surviving airman that may have a copy of that picture?

NAME: Mona Cunningham **EMAIL:** RachaelRuth1964a@aol.com

Subject: 1989-1990 Crew book pages 103 and 104

I am a decommission crew member of the USS Lexington AVT16, I would like to get a copy of the crew book pages 103 & 104. I would gladly pay for a new copy of the crew book if needed. This is very important to me.

ASSOCIATION:

An organization of persons having a common interest

Let's Get
together in **Gettysburg**

2022 Reunion of the USS Lexington Association

September 26th - 30th

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

Let's Get Together in Gettysburg

The USS Lexington Association will have its 2022 reunion in the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. We will be staying at the Wyndham Hotel, which is next to the battlefield. Our tour will take us to the site of the Union Army's positions. We will tour Little Round Top and look down on the field that cost Lee's forces a total defeat. We will also go to the site of Lee's army and see the open field and the challenges that they faced. We will visit the Seminary Ridge Museum and the National Visitors Center and the site where President Lincoln gave the Famous Gettysburg Address. We will have lunch at the Historic Dobbin House Restaurant & Tavern - one of the oldest restaurants in the country. This reunion will give us a sense of what these men endured and bring history alive. You do not want to miss this opportunity to relive one of the greatest battles in American history.



Wyndham-Gettysburg



Lobby



Lounge

HOTEL INFORMATION - WYNDHAM GETTYSBURG

Address: 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA 17328

Phone: 717-339-0020

September 26th - 30th, 2022 (\$128/Night)



GETTYSBURG

Things to Do

<https://destinationgettysburg.com/>



<https://destinationgettysburg.com/things-to-do/>



<https://destinationgettysburg.com/places-to-eat/gettysburg-dining/>



<https://destinationgettysburg.com/things-to-do/gettysburg-shopping/>

For your information:
The Hospitality Room (located in Salon B) is open during specific times throughout each day (see Itinerary for times) , This is a great place to gather with your fellow shipmates, reminisce with old friends, meet new friends, and just enjoy some time to relax. Snacks and Drinks are provided



USS LEXINGTON CV16 43RD ANNUAL REUNION, GETTYSBURGE, PA

ITINERARY

September 26th – Monday: Hotel Check-inWelcome!

1200 Hospitality Room opens, Registration Begins - **Salon B**

1600 Executive Board Meeting - Stars and Stripes Room

1800 Hospitality Suite Closes

1800 Opening Reception: Heavy Hors D'oeuvres, Cash Bar - **Salon A**

September 27th – Tuesday: Battlefield Tour, Lunch, Memorial Service

0830 Meet in Hotel Lobby for Battlefield Tour

0845 Bus departs for Battlefield Tour, Lunch, Memorial Service

TBA Bus returns to Hotel, Hospitality Room opens

September 28th – Wednesday: Free day for Sight Seeing & Socializing

1000 Hospitality Room opens

September 29th – Thursday: Business Meeting and Banquet

1000 Business Meeting - All members and guest welcome. - **Salon A**

1200 Hospitality Room opens (will close at 1800)

1845 Gather in Banquet Room for Group Pictures (outside Salon A&B)

1900 Invocation and Presentation of the Colors

Opening Remarks by Association President

Dinner and Entertainment - Cash Bar

September 30th - Friday: Check Out

Have a safe trip home! - See you in Corpus Christi - 2023

For your information:

The Hospitality Room (located in Salon B) is open during specific times throughout each day (see Itinerary for times) , This is a great place to gather with your fellow shipmates, reminisce with old friends, meet new friends, and just enjoy some time to relax.

Snacks and Drinks are provided

REGISTRATION FORM

2022 REUNION OF THE USS LEXINGTON CV-16 ASSOCIATION, Gettysburg, PA

**Please Note: This form does not include your hotel reservation. Hotel reservations must be done separately by you.
Wyndham Gettysburg - Address: 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA 17328 - Phone: 717-339-0020
Mention the Lexington Association - Group Rate (\$128/per night)
September 26th - September 30th**

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 - please list below and include in the final numbers below.)

ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

DATES ON BOARD _____ DIVISION _____

Additional Guests: _____

Register me for the following:

Reunion Registration Fee (not optional).....Number of attendees _____ x \$35 each = \$ _____

Tuesday, September 27th
Battlefield Tour/Lunch/Memorial Service.....Number of attendees _____ x \$65 each = \$ _____

Thursday, September 29th
Farewell Banquet.....Number of attendees _____ x \$60 each = \$ _____

Choice of Entrée:

A.) Pan Seared Filet of Salmon with Provencal Vegetables Ratatouille, Rice, Basil Blanc _____

B.) Sautéed Breast of Chicken with Sauce Puttanesca, Goat Cheese, Baby Spinach _____

C.) Hand Carved whole Roast Prime Rib of Beef with Garlic Potatoes, Vegetable Medley _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Mail Registration form and check payable to: **USS Lexington CV 16 Association**
Lance Wagner
71-21 73 Place, Glendale, New York 11385

Cut-off Date: August 31, 2022

Name:

Michael Naya, Jr.

Email:

swaneyb4@aol.com

Subject:

USS Lexington (CV-2) Veterans

Message:

To whom it may concern, My name is Michael Naya, Jr. and I am a nineteen year old Kean University sophomore from Kenilworth, New Jersey. For over five years I have been interviewing Great Depression survivors, World War II and Korean War veterans. I have been doing this because I love history and one day I would like to write a book on the men and women that served in World War II. I recently saw your association and was wondering if you might know of any USS Lexington (CV-2) veterans. I understand the Lexington was sunk nearly eighty years ago however, I do know that there might be a few survivors living today. I would also like to provide some background on myself. I am pursuing my B.A. in history-education in the hope of becoming a high school history teacher. I am an honorary member of the 5th Marine Division Association, the 7th Armored Division Association, and of the Kenilworth Rotary Club. I would appreciate any and all help. Thank You -Michael Naya, Jr.

Name:

David Lane

Email:

d.c.lane@henley.ac.uk

Subject:

USS Lexington CV-16 video

Message:

I wonder if I might ask for your help, please. I am Prof David Lane, an academic researcher at the University of Reading in England. You may find me here: Prof David C Lane BSc MSc DPhil FORS | Chair in Business Informatics Whiteknights Campus | Reading | RG6 6UD d.c.lane@henley.ac.uk www.henley.ac.uk/people/person/professor-david-lane/ I work in the area of System Dynamics Modelling, created at MIT by Prof Jay Forrester. One of my research interests is the history of the field and I have published previously on this subject. I am currently working on a paper in part of which I am clarifying Forrester's role in bringing into active service during WWII a servomechanism device that helped control the radar on USS Lexington (CV-16). Forrester was onboard the vessel during the retaking of the Marshall Islands in late 1943. I think that I have managed to sort out the history from a range of sources – not least your own. However, whilst I have been able to find many online photographs of CV-16 that I can link readers to, I cannot find any video that I could publish links to. There is a newsreel of the launch but I cannot find anything of Lexington at sea, in battle etc. This is a shame as one of my aims is to clear up current widespread confusion with USS Lexington CV-2 – and for this ship online footage is easily available. For scholarship and personal reasons I want to get my facts right. I also want to make this part of the paper as vivid and compelling as possible. My question, therefore, is a simple one: Is there any footage of USS Lexington CV-16 during WWII that is available on the net? I will happily provide further contextual information, or bona fides if you wish. Thank you in advance for any help that you feel able to offer. David Lane



Have you read an interesting article or story recently? Or maybe have some memorabilia from your time on the LEX? Share it with your shipmates! Just email them to us and we'll print them in the Sunrise Press. Email: editor@usslexingtoncv16.org

FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION OPERATIONS RISE IN 2021

The U.S. military conducted so-called “freedom of navigation” operations, or FONOPs, against excessive maritime claims by more countries in fiscal 2021 than it did the year before, according to the Pentagon’s annual report on such missions.

China again saw the most challenges of its territorial claims, the report stated. U.S. forces conducted FONOPs against five claims in fiscal 2021, down from seven in FY 2020.

In all, U.S. forces challenged 37 excessive claims from 26 countries last year, up from 28 such claims by 19 countries in fiscal 2020.

China’s territorial claims in the South and East China seas dominated the list, but such actions were also taken against two claims each by Russia and Iran.

Excessive claims by India, Italy, Japan and Korea were also challenged.



INTEGRATED WARFIGHTING

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS FORCES BLEND FOR AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS

By Megan Eckstein

meckstein@militarytimes.com

The expeditionary warfare community is eyeing ways to use all its forces in future operations, with fleet experiments looping special operations forces, mine countermeasures sailors, Seabees and more into traditional naval operations.

Brig. Gen. David Odom, the director of expeditionary warfare on the chief of naval operations’ staff, told Navy Times in a recent interview there’s an ongoing sea services campaign of learning drawing from every training event, exercise and experiment the Navy and Marine Corps conduct.

Many of these events are beginning to combine forces that — in the last two decades, at least — haven’t traditionally operated together.

This was demonstrated in the February 2021 Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group pre-deployment certification event, which — through a combination of live forces and simulated forces piped into the training scenario on the carrier’s combat systems — allowed the carrier strike group admiral to command SEAL platoons, special boat detachments, and Marines conducting Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations focused on surface-to-air and surface-to-surface strike missions.

Odom said that event was just the beginning of these pairings.

In mid-March, the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group and elements of the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command worked together on a fleet battle problem that integrated Marines and Navy special warfare units — each able to conduct distributed operations in austere environments — with a single battle staff commanding both groups’ operations at sea and ashore.

Odom said the entire range of expeditionary forces would be affected by — and could contribute to the success of — the Distributed Maritime Operations concept that’s increasingly shaping Navy and Marine Corps acquisition, training and operations.

Odom, the lone Marine general serving on the chief of naval operations’ staff, said seamlessly integrated naval warfighting is a top goal for the sea services. Achieving that will require pairing Marines with all arms of the expeditionary navy: mine countermeasures sailors to assure maritime access in the littorals; naval special warfare sailors to prepare the battlefield; and NECC to ensure continued access to ports and beaches.

To that end, OPNAV N95 is working to field not only the mine countermeasures mission package on littoral combat ships, but to integrate the mission package with the expeditionary sea base ship and other potential “vessels of opportunity.”

It’s also growing the expeditionary mine countermeasures companies so the Navy is positioned to clear waterways and allow naval operations to resume quickly.

Elsewhere in NECC, he said, the Navy is eyeing an expeditionary reloading capability for vertical missile launchers — something typically done at the pier — to increase the Navy’s lethality forward under Distributed Maritime Operations.

The naval construction battalions, or Seabees, are bolstering their port and airfield damage repair capability, also in support of DMO, in remote locations.

Odom noted the Marines’ Combat Development and Integration directorate is assessing NECC capabilities, which “would certainly have a key role in force design, expeditionary advanced base operations, [littoral operations in a contested environment] and fleet operations.”

“So, that’s ongoing,” he said, as the Navy and Marines continue to plan exercises that pair different communities and see how they integrate to support these new concepts.

“You see the synergies” in the fleet today, with Marines connecting to new types of ships at sea and with expeditionary sailors ashore to extend their ability to see and strike, Odom said.

Harkening back to the Swiss army knife nickname for amphibious warships, Odom said these exercises prove Marines on amphibians can provide “these multi-option capabilities that integrate together with our special ops or expeditionary forces.”



30-YEAR SHIPBUILDING PLAN OFFERS 3 OPTIONS FOR GROWTH

By Diana Stancy Correll
dcorrell@navytimes.com

The Navy has unveiled its new 30-year shipbuilding plan that offers three different proposals for building up the fleet — but only one carves a pathway to 355 ships, which has been the sea service's goal since 2016.

The proposals, which do not differ until fiscal 2028, offer two scenarios for procurement under "a budget with no real growth," while the third provides options for an unconstrained budget.

The Navy would reach 316 ships by 2052 under the first plan, but would build nine more under the second, reaching 327 ships within the same time frame. In the unconstrained plan, the service would reach a fleet size of 367 ships in 2052 — crossing the 355-ship threshold in 2043. Although Navy officials believe the industrial base can support the third option, the report said no independent assessment has been conducted yet.

"The further away in years you get from 2022, the less certain the future is," Vice Adm. Scott Conn, deputy chief of naval operations for warfighting requirements and capabilities, told reporters. "And there's uncertainty that continues to increase over time — uncertainty in terms of the fiscal budgets that we're going to have to deal with, and uncertainty with respect to what China and Russia may be doing and be able to produce."

The Navy also provided multiple scenarios that take into account some of the ambiguity regarding a hybrid force of manned and unmanned vessels, and the resulting technical questions that remain unknown, Conn said. Once those answers are nailed down, the ranges will become more definite.

At the same time, the options provide a "floor," and show leaders where the Navy would like to head should more resources become available, said Jay Stefany, who is performing the duties of assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition.

The biggest difference between the first two plans is the composition of the fleet due to unmanned systems, Conn said. In the event of no real budget growth, the Navy anticipates having 89 to 149 unmanned platform systems by FY45, according to the report.

The Navy would also procure five new aircraft carriers between FY28 and FY52 under the first two proposals, whereas the third plan accommodates the acquisition of seven carriers in that timeframe.

The shipbuilding plan also sheds light on what vessels the Navy will seek to decommission next. Specifically, the plans call to decommission the Independence-variant littoral combat ships Jackson and Montgomery in FY24. The Navy is pushing to decommission nine Freedom-variant littoral combat ships in the FY23 budget.

Additionally, the proposal calls for decommissioning the Ticonderoga-class cruiser fleet by FY27.

Under the Navy's budget proposal for FY23, the fleet would reach a size of 280 by FY27. All told, the budget requests to decommission 24 ships from the fleet — 16 of which would retire prior to the end of their service lives. Included in that group are the nine Freedom-variant LCSs, one cruiser and two expeditionary transfer docks.

Some lawmakers have cautioned that they will challenge the proposal. Members of Congress have frequently criticized the Navy not only for failing to expand the fleet to counter China's growing power but also for a lack of maritime strategy.

Lawmakers are not expected to get on board with the Biden administration's proposal to decommission 24 ships.

"President Biden's shipbuilding plan is a blueprint for American weakness," said Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., in a statement. "For years, our Navy fleet has suffered from underinvestment and a lack of planning to meet our nation's 355-ship requirement. President Biden's plan would worsen this trend by ending the production of critical ships early, without a plan to replace their capabilities.

Reps. Rob Wittman, R-Va., and Mike Rogers, R-Ala., voiced similar sentiments and said that attempting to "save a couple dollars" now jeopardizes U.S. warfighters' safety amid China's growing naval presence.

"It takes years to build a ship, and we no longer have the industrial strength we had during WWII to nearly instantaneously produce thousands of ships in times of conflict," Wittman and Rogers said in a statement.

But Conn countered that decisions have to be made based on "fiscal reality." Buying back the ships the Navy wants to retire before their service life ends would cost billions, he noted.

"We believe that there's better use of those taxpayer resources to prevent a war, and if we find ourselves in war, to be able to fight and win that," he said.



Word Search The words in this puzzle are found throughout this issue of the Sunrise Press

G	T	G	U	I	D	A	N	C	E	T	H	D	C	B	U	R
T	N	E	M	T	I	M	M	O	C	M	A	H	D	N	Y	W
W	Y	T	R	E	C	E	P	T	I	O	N	T	T	S	R	S
S	E	T	R	R	U	S	S	I	A	S	S	R	N	T	O	K
E	G	Y	I	D	I	T	Y	T	R	H	P	O	O	I	H	I
M	B	S	L	L	O	T	S	T	I	A	I	W	I	R	R	H
I	T	B	L	E	A	B	O	P	I	E	H	L	T	D	R	W
N	S	U	C	I	U	T	B	R	T	S	S	I	A	Y	U	I
A	T	R	R	F	T	U	I	I	I	A	R	N	G	N	E	T
R	A	G	A	E	I	T	L	P	N	A	A	E	I	A	R	B
Y	I	O	T	L	T	L	O	H	S	H	L	K	V	M	N	A
R	L	S	D	T	E	S	T	R	B	O	O	V	A	I	I	N
I	C	I	B	T	T	R	E	E	A	T	H	U	N	C	N	Q
D	N	H	A	A	T	R	Y	R	S	L	C	U	S	S	T	U
G	G	S	I	B	R	N	E	G	R	A	S	R	A	E	K	E
E	I	S	E	N	H	O	W	E	R	O	A	L	U	R	I	T
M	V	E	N	T	A	L	L	I	I	O	F	N	I	I	M	L

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Banquet | Gettysburg | Satellite |
| Battlefield | Guidance | Scholarship |
| China | Hospitality | Seminary Ridge |
| Commitment | Kearsarge | Shipbuilding |
| Cray | Kenilworth | Territorial |
| DobbinHouse | Littorals | University |
| Dynamics | Navigation | Wyndham |
| Eisenhower | Reception | |
| Forrester | Russia | |

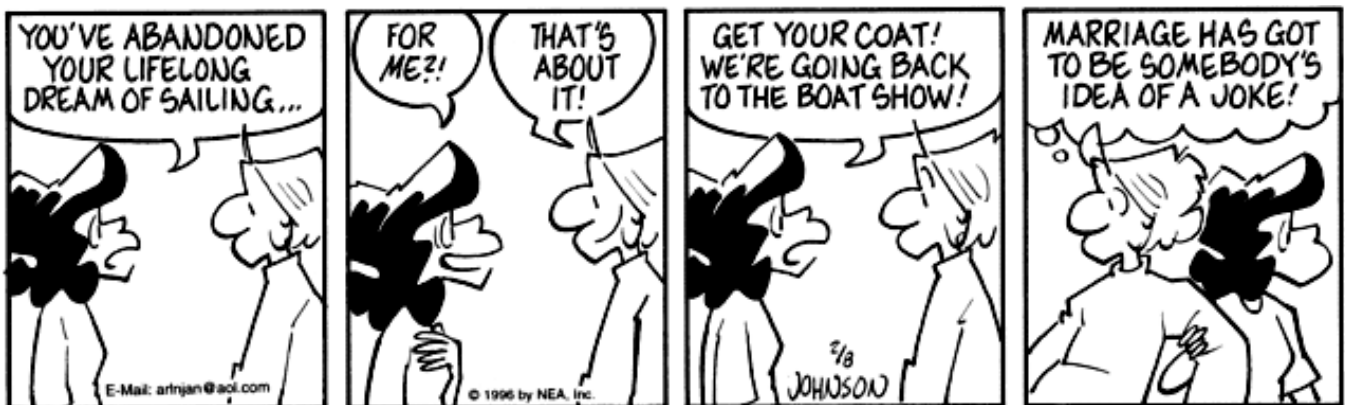


Arlo and Janis

BY: Jimmy Johnson



Online viewers, can't get enough of these characters? Click the Arlo and Janis logo, and it'll take you to the artists personal blog page.

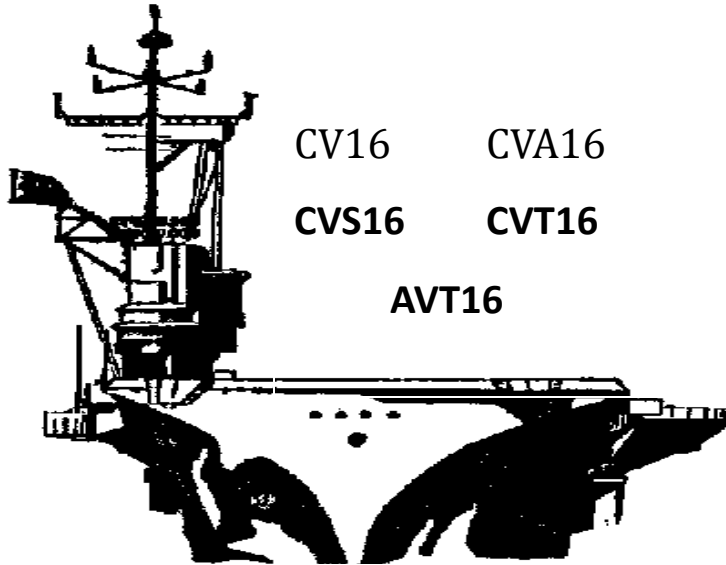


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