

The latest up-to-the-minute US Navy images from the service's finest photojournalists

# Your NAVY

BY HOWARD CARTER



Sailors assigned to the *Arleigh Burke*-class guided-missile cruiser USS *Michael Murphy* (DDG-112) conduct rigid-hull inflatable boat operations with French Navy frigate FNS *Vendemiaire* sailors during a passing exercise on 4 March in the South China Sea as part of the build-up against possible North Korean aggression. *Michael Murphy* is part of the *Carl Vinson* Carrier Strike Group. (USN/Jasen MorenoGarcia)



*Henry J. Kaiser*-class fleet replenishment oiler USNS *Patuxent* (R-AO-201) on the left transits alongside the *Harpers Ferry*-class dock landing ship USS *Oak Hill* (LSD-51) during a replenishment-at-sea in the Mediterranean Sea on 3 March. *Oak Hill* is homeported in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and is conducting Naval operations in the US 6th Fleet area of operations. This photograph illustrates two of the US Navy's lesser-known vessels that provide a vital service to the Fleet's capabilities. (USN/David Holmes)

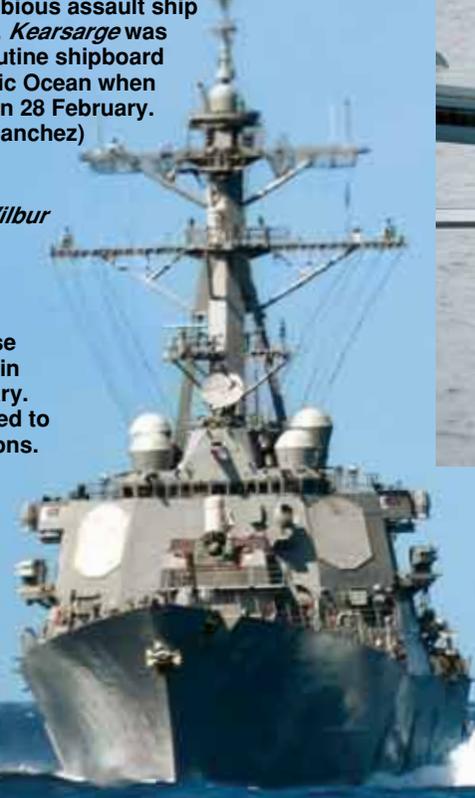


*Ohio*-class ballistic-missile submarine USS *Louisiana* (SSBN-743) arrives home at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor on 2 March following a routine strategic deterrence mission. (USN/Nancy deBenedetto)

Crewman signals an MV-22 Osprey as it prepares to land on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS *Kearsarge* (LHD-3). *Kearsarge* was underway conducting routine shipboard certifications in the Atlantic Ocean when photographed on 28 February. (USN/Michael Sanchez)



*Arleigh Burke*-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Curtis Wilbur* (DDG-54) on the left sails in formation with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force *Akizuki*-class destroyer US *Fuyuzuki* (DD-118) during a close quarters maneuvering exercise in the Philippine Sea on 28 February. *Curtis Wilbur* is forward-deployed to the US 7th Fleet area of operations. (US/Benjamin Dobbs)



Sailor assigned to Coastal Riverine Squadron 3 (CRS-3) mans an M240 weapon aboard a Mark VI patrol boat during a maritime infrastructure protection training exercise off the coast of Long Beach, California, on 28 February. (USN/Nelson Doromal)