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Maritime service branch of the U.S. military "USN" redirects here. For other uses, see USN (disambiguation). For civilian military department of the Navy. United States Navy Founded 27 March 1794 (231 years, 2 months) (in current form) 13 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 13 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 13 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 13 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 13 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 13 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 13 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 13 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 14 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (249 years, 2 months) (in current form) 15 October 1775 (2
8months)(as the Continental Navy)[1][2]CountryUnited StatesTypeNavySize334,896 active duty personnel[4]387,637 total uniformed personnel[4
2018[update])[6]PartofArmed forces of the United StatesDepartment of the NavyHeadquartersThe Pentagon Arlington County, Virginia, U.S.Motto(s)Semper Fortis ('Always Courageous'), (unofficial).Non sibi sed patriae ('Not for self but for country') (unofficial)ColorsBlue and gold[7][8]March "Anchors Aweigh" PlayAnniversaries13
October Equipment List of equipment of the United States Navy Engagements See list American Revolutionary War War of 1812 Second Barbary War War Indies Anti-Piracy Operations Seminole Wars African Anti-Slavery Operations Aegean Sea Anti-Piracy Operations First Sumatran
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PuntlandBosnian WarThird Taiwan Strait CrisisKosovo WarInternational Force for East TimorOperation Enduring FreedomAfghanistan (20012014)PhilippinesHorn of AfricaTrans SaharaCaribbean and Central AmericaIraq WarOperation Department FrostOperation Ocean ShieldOperation Odyssey Dawn2014 Intervention against ISILOperation Inherent
 ResolveWar in Afghanistan (20152021)2017 Shayrat missile strikeOperation Prosperity Guardian 2024 missile strikes in YemenWebsitenavy.milnavy.comCommander-in-Chief President Donald TrumpSecretary of Defense Pete HegsethSecretary of the Navy John PhelanChief of Naval Operations ADM James W. Kilby (acting) Vice Chief of
Naval Operations ADM James W. KilbyMaster Chief Petty Officer of the Navy MCPON James HoneaInsigniaFlagEnsignJackPennantLogoMilitary unitUnited StatesArmed ForcesExecutive department of Defense Depa
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Defense Threat Reduction Agency National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency National Security Agency Central Security Agency Central Security Service Ships of the United States NavyShips in current service Current ships Ships grouped alphabetically ABCDFGHIKLMNOPQRSTVWZShips grouped by typeAircraft carriers Airships Amphibious warfare
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retrievers Unclassified miscellaneous Yard and district craftvte The United States Navy (USN) is the maritime service branch of the United States Department of Defense. It is the world's most powerful navy with the largest displacement, at 4.5 million tons in 2021.[9] It has the world's largest aircraft carrier fleet, with eleven in service, one undergoing
trials, two new carriers under construction, and six other carriers planned as of 2024. With 336,978 personnel in the Ready Reserve, the U.S. Navy is the third largest of the United States military service branches in terms of personnel. It has 299 deployable combat vessels and about 4,012 operational aircraft as of 18 July
2023.[10][11] The U.S. Navy is one of six armed forces of the United States and one of eight uniformed services of the United States. The United States are entity shortly thereafter. After suffering
significant loss of goods and personnel at the hands of the Barbary pirates from Algiers, the United States Congress passed the Navy Played a major role in the American Civil War by blockading the Confederacy and seizing control of its rivers. It
played the central role in the World War II defeat of Imperial Japan. The United States Navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy in the world. The modern United States Navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy in the world. The modern United States Navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy in the world. The modern United States Navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy in the world. The modern United States Navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy in the world. The modern United States Navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy in the world. The modern United States Navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy in the world. The modern United States Navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy in the world. The modern United States Navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy in the world. The modern United States Navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy in the world. The modern United States Navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy in the world. The modern United States Navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy in the world. The modern United States Navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy in the world. The modern United States Navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy in the world war II as the most powerful navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy emerged from World War II as the most powerful navy emerged from World War II as the mo
navy with the ability to project force onto the littoral regions of the world, engage in forward deployments during peacetime and military policy. The United States Navy is part of the Department of the Navy, alongside the United States Marine Corps, which is its
coequal sister service. The Department of the Navy is headed by the civilian secretary of defense, which is headed by the Secretary of the Navy is itself a military department of the Department of the Navy is headed by the secretary of defense, which is headed by the secretary of defense. The Department of the Navy is itself a military department of the Navy is itself a m
recruit, train, equip, and organize to deliver combat ready Naval forces to win conflicts and wars while maintaining security and deterrence through sustained forward presence. Mission statement of the United States Navy. [13] The Navy's three primary areas of responsibility are: [14] The preparation of naval forces necessary for the effective
prosecution of war. The maintenance of naval aviation, including land-based naval aviation, air transport essential for naval operations, and all air weapons, military tactics, technique, organization, and equipment of naval combat and service
elements.U.S. Navy training manuals state that the overall mission of the armed forces is "to be prepared to conduct prompt and sustained combat operations in support of the national interest." The Navy's five enduring functions are: sea control, power projection, deterrence, maritime security, and sealift.[15]Main article: History of the United
States NavyIt follows then as certain as that night succeeds the day, that without a decisive naval force we can do nothing definitive, and with it, everything honorable and glorious. George Washington 15 November 1781, to Marquis de Lafayette [16] Would to Heaven we had a navy able to reform those enemies to mankind or crush them into non-
existence. George Washington 15 August 1786, to Marquis de Lafayette [17] Naval power . . . is the natural defense of the United States. John Adams [18] The Navy was rooted in the colonial seafaring tradition, which produced a large community of sailors, captains, and shipbuilders. [19] In the early stages of the American Revolutionary War,
Massachusetts had its own Massachusetts Naval Militia. The rationale for establishing a national navy was debated in the Second Continental Congress. Support from foreign countries. Detractors countered that challenging the British Royal Navy, then
the world's preeminent naval power, was a foolish undertaking. Commander in Chief George Washington resolved the debate when he commissioned the ocean-going schooner USS Hannah to interdict British merchantmen and reported the captures to the Congress. On 13 October 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the purchase of two
vessels to be armed for a cruise against British merchantmen; this resolution created the Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the first establishment of the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the U.S. Navy.[20] The Continental Navy and is considered the U.S. Navy.[20] T
at one point was reduced to two in active service. [22] In August 1785, after the Revolutionary War had drawn to a close, Congress had sold Alliance, the last ship remaining in the Continental Navy due to a lack of funds to maintain the ship or support a navy. [23][24]In 1972, the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, authorized the Navy
to celebrate its birthday on 13 October to honor the establishment of the Continental Navy in 1775.[20][25]See also: Union NavyThe United States was without a navy for nearly a decade, a state of affairs that exposed U.S. maritime merchant ships to a series of attacks by the Barbary pirates. The sole armed maritime presence between 1790 and the
launching of the U.S. Navy's first warships in 1797 was the U.S. Revenue-Marine, the primary predecessor of the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service conducted operations against the pirates, the pirates and Congress passed the Naval Act of 1794 that established a
permanent standing navy on 27 March 1794.[26] The Naval Act ordered the construction and manning of six frigates and, by October 1797,[21] the first three were brought into service: USSUnited States, USSConstitution. Due to his strong posture on having a strong standing Navy during this period, John Adams is "often
called the father of the American Navy".[27][28] In 179899 the Navy was involved in an undeclared Quasi-War with France.[29] From 1801 to 1805, in the First Barbary ports and executed attacks against the Barbary fleets. The U.S. Navy saw substantial action
in the War of 1812, where it fought numerous engagements with Royal Navy. It emerged victorious in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from becoming a threat to American operations in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from becoming a threat to American operations in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from becoming a threat to American operations in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from becoming a threat to American operations in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from becoming a threat to American operations in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from becoming a threat to American operations in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from becoming a threat to American operations in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from becoming a threat to American operations in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from becoming a threat to American operations in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from becoming a threat to American operations in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from becoming a threat to American operations in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from becoming a threat to American operations in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from becoming a threat to American operations in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from becoming a threat to American operations in the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from the Battle of Lake Erie and prevented the region from the Battle of Lake Erie and Prevented the Region from the Battle of Lake Erie and Prevented the Region from the Battle of Lake Erie and Prevented the Region from the Battle of Lake Erie and Prevented the Region from the Battle of Lake Erie and Prevented the Region from the Battle of Lake Erie and Prevent
of the Thames. Despite this, the U.S. Navy could not prevent the British from blockading its ports and landing troops. [30] But after the War of 1812 ended in 1815, the U.S. Navy primarily focused its attention on protecting American shipping assets, sending squadrons to the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, where it participated in the Second Barbary
War that ended piracy in the region, South America, Africa, and the Pacific.[21] From 1819 to the outbreak of the Civil War, the Africa Squadron operated to suppress the slave ships, although its contribution was smaller than that of the much larger Royal Navy. After 1840 several secretaries of the navy were southerners who
 advocated for strengthening southern naval defenses, expanding the Mexican Mar the U.S. Navy blockaded Mexican ports, capturing or burning the Mexican fleet in the Gulf of California and capturing all major
 first large-scale amphibious joint operation by successfully landing 12,000 army troops with their equipment in one day at Veracruz, Mexico. When larger guns were needed to bombardment and capture of the city. This successful landing and capture of
 Veracruz opened the way for the capture of Mexico City and the end of the war.[30] The U.S. Navy established itself as a player in United States foreign policy through the actions of Commodore Matthew C. Perry in Japan, which resulted in the Convention of Kanagawa in 1854. Naval power played a significant role during the American Civil War, in
 which the Union had a distinct advantage over the Confederacy on the seas.[30] A Union blockade on all major ports shut down exports and the coastal trade, but blockade runners provided a thin lifeline. The Brown-water navy components of the U.S. navy control of the river systems made internal travel difficult for Confederates and easy for the
 Union. The war saw ironclad warships in combat for the first time at the Battle of Hampton Roads in 1862, which pitted USSMonitor against CSSVirginia.[32] For two decades after the war, however, the U.S. Navy's fleet was neglected and became technologically obsolete.[33] The Great White Fleet demonstrating U.S. naval power in 1907; it was
 proof that the U.S. Navy had blue-water capability. A modernization program beginning in the 1880s when the first steel-hulled warships stimulated the American steel industry, and "the new steel navy" was born. [34] This rapid expansion of the U.S. Navy and its decisive victory over the outdated Spanish Navy in 1898 brought a new respect for
 American technical quality. Rapid building of at first pre-dreadnoughts, then dreadnoughts brought the U.S. in line with the navies of countries such as Britain and Germany. In 1907, most of the Navy's battleships, with several support vessels, dubbed the Great White Fleet, were showcased in a 14-month circumnavigation of the world. Ordered by
 President Theodore Roosevelt, it was a mission designed to demonstrate the Navy's capability to extend to the global theater. [21] By 1911, the U.S. had begun building the super-dreadnoughts at a pace to eventually become competitive with Britain. [35] 1911 also saw the first naval aircraft with the navy [36] which would lead to the informal
 establishment of United States Naval Flying Corps to protect shore bases. It was not until 1921 US naval aviation truly commenced. During World War I, the U.S. Navy spent much of its resources protecting and shipping hundreds of thousands of soldiers and marines of the American Expeditionary Force and war supplies across the Atlantic in U-boat
 infested waters with the Cruiser and Transport Force. It also concentrated on laying the North Sea Mine Barrage. Hesitation by the senior command meant that naval forces were not contributed until late 1917. Battleship Division Nine was dispatched to Britain and served as the Sixth Battle Squadron of the British Grand Fleet. Its presence allowed
 the British to decommission some older ships and reuse the crews on smaller vessels. Destroyers and U.S. Naval Air Force units like the Northern Bombing Group contributed to the anti-submarine operations. The strength of the United States Navy grew under an ambitious ship building program associated with the Naval Act of 1916. Naval
construction, especially of battleships, was limited by the Washington Naval Conference in history. The aircraft carriers USSSaratoga(CV-3) and USSLexington(CV-2) were built on the hulls of partially built battle cruisers that had been canceled by the treaty. The New Deal used Public Works Administration
 funds to build warships, such as USSYorktown(CV-5) and USSEnterprise(CV-6). By 1936, with the completion of USSWasp(CV-7), the U.S. Navy possessed a carrier fleet of 165,000 tonnes to comply with treaty limitations. Franklin Roosevelt, the number two official in the
Navy Department during World War I, appreciated the Navy and gave it strong support. In return, senior leaders were eager for innovation and experimented with new technologies, such as magnetic torpedoes, and developed a strategy called War Plan Orange for victory in the Pacific in a hypothetical war with Japan that would eventually become
reality.[37]Main articles: United States Navy in World War II and Naval history of World War II, with battleship production being restarted in 1937, commencing with USSNorth Carolina(BB-55). Though ultimately
unsuccessful, Japan tried to neutralize this strategic threat with the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. Following American entry into the war, the U.S. Navy grew tremendously as the United States was faced with a two-front war on the seas. It achieved notable acclaim in the Pacific Theater, where it was instrumental to the Allies
successful "island hopping" campaign. [22] The U.S. Navy participated in many significant battle of the Battle of the Battle of Winawa. By 1943, the navy's size was larger than the combined fleets of all the other
 combatant nations in World War II.[38] By war's end in 1945, the U.S. Navy had added hundreds of new ships, including 18 aircraft carriers and 8 battleships, and had over 70% of the world's total numbers and total tonnage of naval vessels of 1,000 tons or greater.[39][40] At its peak, the U.S. Navy was operating 6,768 ships on V-J Day in August
1945.[41]On Navy Day, 27 October 1945, the U.S. Post Office issued a commemorative stamp in honor of the Navy and the end of WW2.Doctrine had significantly shifted by the end of the war. The U.S. Navy had followed in the footsteps of the navies of Great Britain and Germany which favored concentrated groups of battleships as their main
 offensive naval weapons. [42] The development of the aircraft carrier and its devastating use by the Japanese against the U.S. at Pearl Harbor, however, shifted U.S. thinking. The Pearl Harbor attack destroyed or took out of action a significant number of U.S. Navy battleships. This placed much of the burden of retaliating against the Japanese on the
small number of aircraft carriers.[43] During World War II some 4,000,000 Americans served in the United States Navy.[44]See also: 1989 United States Navy order of battleUSSGeorge Washington, a ballistic missile submarineThe potential for armed conflict with the Soviet Union during the Cold War pushed the U.S. Navy to continue its
technological advancement by developing new weapons systems, ships, and aircraft. U.S. naval strategy changed to that of forward deployment in support of U.S. allies with an emphasis on carrier battle groups. [45] The navy was a major participant in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, blockaded Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and, through the
use of ballistic missile submarines, became an important aspect of the United States' nuclear strategic deterrence policy. The U.S. Navy conducted various combat operations in the Persian Gulf against Iran in 1987 and 1988, most notably Operation Desert
 Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Deliberate Force, Operation Allied Force, Operation Allied Force, Operation Southern Watch. The U.S. Navy has also been involved in search and rescue/search and rescue/search and operation Southern Watch. The U.S. Navy has also been involved in search and rescue/search and rescue/search and rescue/search and salvage operations, sometimes in conjunction with vessels of other countries as well as with U.S. Coast Guard ships. Two examples are the
1966 Palomares B-52 crash incident and the subsequent search for missing hydrogen bombs, and Task Force 71 of the Seventh Fleet's operation in search for Korean Air Lines Flight 007, shot down by the Soviets on 1 September 1983.U.S. Navy officers aboard the aircraft carrier USSAbraham Lincoln monitor defense systems during early 2010s
 maritime security operations exercises. The U.S. Navy continues to be a major support to U.S. interests in the 21st century. Since the end of the Cold War, it has shifted its focus from preparations for large-scale war with the Soviet Union to special operations and strike missions in regional conflicts. [46] The navy participated in Operation Enduring
 Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and is a major participant in the ongoing War on Terror, largely in this capacity. Development continues on new ships and weapons, including the Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier and the Littoral combat ship. Because of its size, weapons technology, and ability to project force far from U.S. shores, the current
 U.S. Navy remains an asset for the United States. Moreover, it is the principal means through which the U.S. maintains international global order, namely by safeguarding global trade and protecting allied nations. [47] In 2007, the U.S. Navy joined with the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard to adopt a new maritime strategy called A
 Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower that raises the notion of prevention of war to the same philosophical level as the conduct of war. The strategy was presented by the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Commandant of the Coast Guard at the International Sea Power Symposium in Newport, Rhode
 Island on 17 October 2007.[48]The strategy recognized the economic links of the global system and how any disruption due to regional crises (man-made or natural) can adversely impact the U.S. economy and quality of life. This new strategy charts a course for the Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps to work collectively with each other and
 international partners to prevent these crises from occurring or reacting quickly should one occur to prevent negative impacts on the U.S. Navy must rely even
 more on international partnerships.[49]In its 2013 budget request, the navy focused on retaining all eleven big deck carriers, at the expense of cutting numbers of smaller ships and delaying the SSBN replacement.[50] By the next year the USN found itself unable to maintain eleven aircraft carriers in the face of the expiration of budget relief offered
by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and CNO Jonathan Greenert said that a ten ship carrier fleet would not be able to sustainably support military requirements.[51] The British First Sea Lord George Zambellas said that[52] the USN had switched from "outcome-led to resource-led" planning.[53]One significant change in U.S. policymaking that is
 having a major effect on naval planning is the Pivot to East Asia. In response, the Secretary of the Navy's most recent 30-year shipbuilding plan, published in 2016, calls for a future fleet of 350 ships to meet the challenges of an
 increasingly competitive international environment.[52] A provision of the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act called for expanding the naval fleet to 355 ships "as soon as practicable", but did not establish additional funding nor a timeline.[55]Main article: Structure of the United States NavyOrganization of the United States Navy within the
Department of DefenseThe U.S. Navy falls under the Administration of the Navy, under civilian leadership of the Navy, under civilian leadership of the Navy. At the same time, the Chief
of Naval Operations is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), though the JCS plays only an advisory role to the President and does not nominally form part of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations are responsible for organizing, recruiting, training, and equipping the Navy so that it is ready for operation
under the commanders of the unified combatant commands. Main article: List of units of the United States Navy Further information: Structure of the United States Navy Further information in
 shown. There are eight components in the operating forces of the U.S. Navy:[56][57] The United States Fleet Forces Command (formerly United States Naval Forces Europe The Naval Network Warfare Command The Navy Reserve The
 United States Naval Special Warfare CommandOperational Test and Evaluation Forces Command, and Naval Information Forces. The United States Navy has seven active numbered fleets Second, Third, Fifth, Sixth,
 Seventh and Tenth Fleets are each led by a vice admiral, and the Fourth Fleet is led by a rear admiral. These seven fleets are further grouped under Fleet Forces Command, whose commander also doubles as Commander Fifth Fleet; the first
three commands being led by four-star admirals. The United States First Fleet existed after World War II from 1947, but it was redesignated the Third Fleet in early 1973. The Second Fleet was deactivated in Norfolk, Virginia, with
responsibility over the East Coast and North Atlantic.[59] In early 2008, the Navy reactivated the Fourth Fleet to control operations in the area controlled by Southern Command, which consists of US assets in and around Central and South America.[60] Other number fleets were activated during World War II and later deactivated, renumbered, or
merged.USSKitty Hawk docking at the U.S. Navy base in Yokosuka, JapanShore establishments exist to support the mission of the shore establishment, as of April2011[update], are the Naval Education and Training Command, the Navy Installations Command, the Naval
Meteorology and Oceanography Command, the Naval Information Warfare Systems Command, the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, the Naval Sea Systems Comman
Office of Naval Intelligence, the United States Naval Observatory, [61] Official Navy websites list the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and the United States Naval Observatory.
entities effectively sit superior to the Other organizations, playing a coordinating role. [62] Main article: United States Marine F/A-18 from VMFA-451 preparing to launch from USSCoral SeaIn 1834, the United States Marine F/A-18 from VMFA-451 preparing to launch from USSCoral SeaIn 1834, the United States Marine F/A-18 from VMFA-451 preparing to launch from USSCoral SeaIn 1834, the United States Marine Corps came under the Department of the Navy. [63] Historically, the Navy has had a unique relationship with the
USMC, partly because they both specialize in seaborne operations. Together the Navy and Marine Corps form the Department of the Navy and report to the Secretary of th
Marine Corps depends on the Navy for medical support (dentists, doctors, nurses, medical technicians known as corpsmen) and religious support (dentists, doctors, nurses, medical technicians known as corpsmen) and religious support (dentists, doctors, nurses, medical technicians known as corpsmen) and religious support (dentists, doctors, nurses, medical technicians).
otherwise, they wear Navy dress uniforms unless they opt to conform to Marine Corps grooming standards. [62]In the operations, Marines often embark on Navy ships to conduct operations from beyond territorial waters. Marine units deploying as part of a Marine Air-
Ground Task Force (MAGTF) operate under the command of the existing Marine units routinely operate from amphibious assault ships, the relationship has evolved over the years much as the Commander of the Carrier Air Group/Wing (CAG) does not work for the carrier commanding officer, but coordinates with
the ship's CO and staff. Some Marine aviation squadrons, usually fixed-wing assigned to carrier air wings train and operate alongside Navy squadrons; they fly similar missions and often fly sorties together under the cognizance of the CAG. Aviation is where the Navy and Marines share the most common ground since aircrews are guided in their use
of aircraft by standard procedures outlined in a series of publications known as NATOPS manuals. Main article: United States Coast Guard Helicopter preparing to land on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USSWaspThe United States Coast Guard V.S. Coast Guard Helicopter preparing to land on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USSWaspThe United States Coast Guard Helicopter preparing to land on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USSWaspThe United States Coast Guard V.S. Coast Guard Helicopter preparing to land on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USSWaspThe United States Coast Guard Helicopter preparing to land on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USSWaspThe United States Coast Guard Helicopter preparing to land on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USSWaspThe United States Coast Guard Helicopter preparing to land on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USSWaspThe United States Coast Guard Helicopter preparing to land on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USSWaspThe United States Coast Guard Helicopter preparing to land on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USSWaspThe United States Coast Guard Helicopter preparing to land on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USSWaspThe United States Coast Guard Helicopter preparing to land on the flight deck of the flight deck of
its law enforcement and rescue role in the maritime environment. It provides Law Enforcement Detachments (LEDETs) to Navy vessels, where they perform arrests and other law enforcement duties during naval boarding and interdiction missions. In times of war, the Coast Guard may be called upon to operate as a service within the Navy. [65] At
other times, Coast Guard Port Security Units are sent overseas to guard the security of ports and other assets. The Coast Guard also jointly staffs the Navy's naval coastal warfare groups and squadrons (the latter of which were known as harbor defense efforts in foreign littoral combat and inshore
areas. Main article: Personnel of the United States NavyNavy SEALs at one of the entrances to the Zhawar Kili cave complexThe United States Navy has over 400,000 personnel, approximately a quarter of whom are in ready reserve. Of those on active duty, more than eighty percent are enlisted sailors and around fifteen percent are commissioned
officers; the rest are midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy and midshipmen of the Naval Reserve Officer Candidates at the Navy's Officer Candidates at the Navy's Officer Candidates at the Naval Reserve Officer Candidates at the Navy's Officer Candidates at the Naval Reserve Of
 individual careers.[66]Sailors prove they have mastered skills and deserve responsibilities by completing Personnel Qualification", which denotes a journeyman level of capability in Surface Warfare, Aviation Warfare, Information Dominance Warfare,
 Naval Aircrew, Special Warfare, Seabee Warfare, Seabee Warfare or Expeditionary Warfare. Many qualifications are denoted on a sailor's uniform with U.S. Navy have evolved gradually since the first uniform regulations for officers were issued in
 1802 on the formation of the Navy Department. The predominant colors of U.S. Navy uniforms are navy blue and white. U.S. Navy uniforms were based on Royal Navy uniforms of the time and have tended to follow that template. [67] Main article: United States Navy officer rank insignia USDoDpay grade Special grade [a]O-10O-9O-8O-7O-6O-5O-4O-3O
20-1NATO codeOF-100F-90F-80F-70F-60F-50F-40F-30F-20F-1InsigniaUniform insigniaUniform insignia
only. Navy officers serve either as a line officer or as a staff corps officer wear unique designator insignias that denotes their occupational specialty. [68] [69] Type Line officer wear unique designator insignias that denotes their occupational specialty.
CorpsNurse CorpsMedical Service CorpsJudge Advocate General's CorpsInsigniaDesignator11XXX210X220X290X230X250XChaplain Corps(Buddhist Faith)Chaplain Corps(Christian Faith)Chaplain Corps(Devish Faith)Chaplain Corps(Muslim Faith)Chaplain Corps(Devish Faith
Officer)410X410X410X410X410X310X510X655XMain article: Warrant officer 4Chief warrant officer 3Chief warrant officer 3Chief warrant officer 1AbbreviationCWO-5CWO-4CWO-3CWO-2WO-1InsigniaUniform insigniaTitleChief warrant officer 3Chief warrant officer 3Chief warrant officer 3Chief warrant officer 1AbbreviationCWO-5CWO-4CWO-3CWO-2WO-1InsigniaUniform insigniaTitleChief warrant officer 3Chief warrant officer 3Chief
1Warrant and chief warrant officer ranks are held by technical specialists who direct specific activities essential to the proper operation of the ship, which also require commissioned officer should not be confused with the limited duty officer (LDO) in
 the Navy. Warrant officers perform duties that are directly related to their previous enlisted service and specialized training. This allows the Navy to capitalize on the experience of warrant officers without having to frequently transition them to other duty assignments for advancement.[71] Most Navy warrant officers are accessed from the chief petty
officer pay grades, E-7 through E-9, analogous to a senior non-commissioned officer in the other services, and must have a minimum 14 years in service, and List of United States Navy ratingsSailors in pay grades E-1 through E-3 are considered to be in
apprenticeships.[73] They are divided into five definable groups, with colored group rate marks designating the group to which they belong: Seaman, Fireman, Airman, Constructionman, and Hospitalman. E-4 to E-6 are non-commissioned officers (NCOs), and are specifically called Petty officers in the Navy.[74] Petty Officers perform not only the
duties of their specific career field but also serve as leaders to junior enlisted personnel. E-7 to E-9 are still considered Petty Officers, but are considered a separate uniforms, and perform separate duties. After attaining the rate of Master
Chief Petty Officer, a service member may choose to further their career by becoming a Command Master Chief Petty Officer (CMC). A CMC is considered to be the senior-most enlisted service member within a command, and is the special assistant to the Commanding Officer in all matters pertaining to the health, welfare, job satisfaction, morale
use, advancement and training of the command's enlisted personnel. [75][76] CMCs can be Command level (within a single unit, such as a ship or shore station), Fleet level (consisting of a separate community within the Navy, such as
 Subsurface, Air, Reserves).[77]CMC insignia are similar to the insignia are similar to
 Additionally, CMCs wear a badge, worn on their left breast pocket, denoting their title (Command/Fleet/Force).[76][78]USDoDpay gradeSpecialE-9E-8E-7E-6E-5E-4E-3E-2E-1NATO codeOR-9OR-8OR-7OR-6OR-5OR-4OR-3OR-2OR-1Sleeve insigniaNo insigniaTitleSenior Enlisted Advisor to the ChairmanMaster Chief Petty Officer of the NavyFleet/force
master chief petty officerCommand master chief petty officerCommand senior chief petty officerSenior chief petty officerSe
on both active and reserve duty in the United States Navy. Most naval aviation insignia are also permitted for wear on uniforms of the United States Marine Corps. As described in Chapter 5 of U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations, [79] "badges" are categorized as breast insignia (usually worn immediately above and below ribbons) and identification badges
 (usually worn at breast pocket level).[80] Breast insignia are further divided between command and warfare and other qualification.[81]Insignia come in the form of metal "pin-on devices" worn on formal uniforms and embroidered "tape strips" worn on work uniforms. For the purpose of this article, the general term "insignia" shall be used to describe
the many badges maintained by the Navy. The rest can be seen in the article cited at the top of this section: Naval Aviator BadgeSubmarine Officer badgeSubmarine Officer InsigniaMain article: List of United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bases in the United States Navy installationsMap of naval bas
Navy requires a large number of navy installations to support its operations. While the majority of bases are located inside the United States itself, the Navy maintains a significant number of facilities abroad, either in U.S.-controlled territories or in foreign countries under a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). The second largest concentration of
 installations is at Hampton Roads, Virginia, where the navy occupies over 36,000 acres (15,000ha) of land. Located at Hampton Roads are Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek; and Training Support Center Hampton Roads as well as a number of Navy
and commercial shipyards that service navy vessels. The Aegis Training and Readiness Center is located at the Navy's Test Pilot School. Also located in Maryland is the United States Naval Academy, situated in Annapolis. NS
 Newport in Newport, Rhode Island is home to many schools and tenant commands, including the Officer Candidate School, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, and more, and more, and tenant commands, including the Officer Candidate School, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, and more, and more, and tenant commands, including the Officer Candidate School, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, and more, and more, and tenant commands, including the Officer Candidate School, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, and more, and tenant commands, including the Officer Candidate School, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, and more, and tenant commands, including the Officer Candidate School, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, and more, and tenant commands, including the Officer Candidate School, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Center, and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Center
which reside the Nuclear Field "A" Schools (for Machinist Mates (Nuclear), and Electronics Technicians (Nuclear), Nuclear Power Training Unit 'Prototype' schools. The state of Florida is the location of three major bases, NS Mayport, the Navy's fourth largest
in Jacksonville, Florida; NAS Jacksonville, a Master Air Anti-submarine Warfare base; and NAS Pensacola; home of the Naval Education and Training Command, the Naval Air Technical Training Command, the Naval Flight Officers
and enlisted Naval Aircrewmen. There is also NSA Panama City, Florida which is home to the Center for Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Diving (CENEODIVE) and the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division (NAWCTSD). The main U.S. Navy
submarine bases on the east coast are located in Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut and NSB Kings Bay in Kings Bay, Georgia. The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard near Portsmouth, New Hampshire, [84] which repairs naval submarines. [5] NS Great Lakes, north of Chicago, Illinois is the home of the Navy's boot camp for enlisted
sailors. The Washington Navy Yard in Washington, DC is the Navy's oldest shore establishment and administrative center for the U.S. Navy, home to the Chief of Naval Operations and numerous commands. Underwater Demolition Team members using the casting technique from a speeding boat The U.S. Navy's largest
complex is Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California, which covers 1.1 million acres (4,500km2) of land, or approximately one-third of the U.S. Navy's total land holdings. [5] Naval Base San Diego, California is the main homeport of the Pacific Fleet, although its headquarters is located in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. NAS North Island is located on
the north side of Coronado, California, and is home to Headquarters for Naval Air Forces and 
boat units. NAB Coronado is also home to the Naval Special Warfare Center, the primary training center for SEALs. The other major collection of naval bases and the navy states that it is its most modern facility. [85] NAS Fallon, Nevada serves as the
primary training ground for navy strike aircrews and is home to the Naval Strike Air Warfare Center. Master Jet Bases are also located at NAS Lemoore, California, and NAS Whidbey Island, Washington, while the carrier-based airborne early warning aircraft community and major air test activities are located at NAS Point Mugu, California. The naval
presence in Hawaii is centered on NS Pearl Harbor, which hosts the headquarters of the Pacific Ocean, maintains a sizable U.S. Navy presence, including NB Guam. The westernmost U.S. territory,
it contains a natural Deepwater harbor capable of harboring aircraft carriers in emergencies. [citation needed] in 1995 and its flight activities transferred to nearby Andersen Air Force Base. Puerto Rico in the Caribbean formerly housed NS Roosevelt Roads, which was shut down in 2004 shortly
after the controversial closure of the live ordnance training area on nearby Vieques Island.[5]The largest overseas base is the United States Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan, which serves as the home port for the navy's largest forward-deployed fleet and is a significant base of operations in the Western Pacific.[citation needed]European operations
revolve around facilities in Italy (NAS Sigonella and Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Naples) with NSA Naples as the homeport for the Sixth Fleet and Command Naval Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia (CNREURAFSWA), and additional facilities in nearby Gaeta. There is also NS Rota in Spain and NSA Souda Bay in Greece.In
the Middle East, naval facilities are located almost exclusively in countries bordering the Persian Gulf, with NSA Bahrain serving as the headquarters of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and U.S. Fifth Fleet.NS Guantanamo Bay in Cuba is the oldest overseas facility and has become known in recent years as the location of a detention camp for
suspected al-Qaeda operatives.[86]Main article: Equipment of the United States NavyUSS George Washington carrier strike group sails in formation, 29 April 2006. As of 2018 [update], the navy operates over 460 ships (including vessels operated by the Military Sealift Command), 3,650+ aircraft, 50,000 non-combat vehicles and owns 75,200 buildings
on 3,300,000 acres (13,000km2). Main articles: United States Navy Ships and Future of the United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently active United States Navy See also: List of currently united States Navy 
 "USS", designating "United States Ship". [87] Non-commissioned, civilian-manned vessels of the navy have names that begin with "USNS", standing for "United States Naval Ship". The names of ships are officially selected by the secretary of the navy, often to honor important people or places. [88] Additionally, each ship is given a letter-based hull
classification symbol (for example, CVN or DDG) to indicate the vessel's type and number. All ships in the Navy List" (required by article 29 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea). [dubious discuss] The register tracks data such as the current status of a
ship, the date of its commissioning, and the date of its decommissioning. Vessels that are removed from the register prior to disposal are said to be stricken from the register prior to disposal are said to be stricken from the register. The navy also maintains a reserve fleet of inactive vessels that are maintained for reactivation in times of need. The U.S. Navy was one of the first to install nuclear reactors
aboard naval vessels.[89] Today, nuclear energy powers all active U.S. aircraft carriers and submarines. In early 2010, the U.S. Navy had identified a need for 313 combat ships but could only afford 232 to 243 ships.[90] In March 2014, the Navy started counting self-deployable support ships such as minesweepers, surveillance craft, and tugs in the
 "battle fleet" to reach a count of 272 as of October 2016,[91][92] and it includes ships that have been put in "shrink wrap".[93] The number of ships generally ranged between 270 and 300 throughout the late 2010s.[94] As of February 2022, the Navy has 296 battle force ships, however analyses state the Navy needs a fleet of more than 500 to meet
its commitments.[95][96]Main article: List of aircraft carriers of the United States NavyAerial view of USSGerald R. Ford (bottom), a ship of the previous Nimitz classAircraft carriers act as airbases for carrier-based aircraft. They are the largest vessels in the Navy fleet and
all are nuclear-powered. [94] An aircraft carrier is typically deployed along with a host of additional vessels, forming a carrier strike group. The supporting ships, which usually include three or four Aegis-equipped cruisers and destroyers, a frigate, and two attack submarines, are tasked with protecting the carrier from air, missile, sea, and undersea
threats as well as providing additional strike capabilities themselves. Ready logistics support for the group is provided by a combined ammunition, oiler, and supply ship. Modern carriers are named after American admirals and politicians, usually presidents.[97]The Navy has a statutory requirement for a minimum of 11 aircraft carriers.[98] All 11
carriers are currently active, ten Nimitz-class and one Gerald R. Ford-class. Aircraft Carriers have the ability to house 5,000 people. This is the size of a small town floating in the ocean. Aircraft carriers also have up to 90 aircraft on the ship at one time. Main article: List of United States Navy amphibious warfare
shipsUSSBataan, a Wasp-class amphibious assault shipAmphibious assault ships are the centerpieces of US amphibious warfare and fulfill the same power projection role as aircraft carriers except that their striking force centers on land forces instead of aircraft carriers except that their striking force centers on land forces instead of aircraft carriers except that their striking force centers on land forces instead of aircraft carriers except that their striking force centers on land forces instead of aircraft carriers except that their striking force centers on land forces instead of aircraft carriers except that their striking force centers on land forces instead of aircraft carriers except that their striking force centers on land forces instead of aircraft carriers except that their striking force centers on land forces instead of aircraft carriers except that their striking force centers on land forces instead of aircraft carriers except that their striking force centers on land forces instead of aircraft carriers except that their striking force centers on land forces instead of aircraft carriers except that their striking force centers on land forces instead of aircraft carriers except that their striking force centers on land forces instead of aircraft carriers except that their striking force centers of a support aircraft carriers except that the same power projection forces instead of aircraft carriers except that the same power projection force centers of a support aircraft carriers except that the same power projection force centers of a support aircraft carriers except that the same power projection force centers of a support aircraft carriers except that the same power projection force centers of a support aircraft carriers except that the same power projection force centers of a support aircraft carriers except that the same power projection force centers of a support aircraft carriers except that the same power projection force centers of a support aircraft carriers except that the same power 
Marine Expeditionary Unit in an amphibious assault using both air and amphibious vehicles. Resembling small aircraft operations. They also contain a well deck to support the use of Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) and other amphibious
assault watercraft. Recently, amphibious assault ships have begun to be deployed as the core of an expeditionary strike group, which usually consists of an additional amphibious transport dock and dock landing ship for amphibious warfare and an Aegis-equipped cruiser and destroyer, frigate, and attack submarine for group defense. Amphibious
assault ships are typically named after World War II aircraft carriers. Amphibious transport docks are warships that embark, transport, and land Marines, supplies, and equipment in a supporting role during amphibious warfare missions. With a landing platform, amphibious transport docks also have the capability to serve as secondary aviation
support for an expeditionary group. All amphibious transport docks can operate helicopters, LCACs, and other conventional amphibious vehicles while the newer San Antonio class of ships has been explicitly designed to operate all three elements of the Marines' "mobility triad": Expeditionary Fighting Vehicles (EFVs), the V-22 Osprey tiltrotor
aircraft, and LCACs. Amphibious transport docks are typically named after U.S. cities. The dock landing ship is a medium amphibious transport that is designed specifically to support and operate LCACs, though it is able to operate other amphibious transport that is designed specifically to support and operate LCACs, though it is able to operate other amphibious transport that is designed specifically to support and operate LCACs, though it is able to operate other amphibious transport that is designed specifically to support and operate LCACs, though it is able to operate other amphibious transport that is designed specifically to support and operate LCACs, though it is able to operate other amphibious transport that is designed specifically to support and operate LCACs, though it is able to operate other amphibious transport that is designed specifically to support and operate other amphibious transport that is designed specifically to support and operate other amphibious transport that is designed as a specific 
component of an expeditionary strike group's amphibious assault contingent, operating as a secondary launch platform for LCACs. All dock landing ships are named after cities or important places in U.S. and U.S. Naval history. [97] The Navy operates 32 amphibious warfare ships, eight Wasp class and two America class amphibious assault ships, four
Harpers Ferry class and six Whidbey Island class dock landing ships, and 12 San Antonio class amphibious transport dock ships. Main article: List of cruisers are large surface combat vessels that conduct anti-air/anti-missile warfare, anti-submarine warfare
and strike operations independently or as members of a larger task force. Modern guided missile cruisers were developed out of a need to counter the anti-ship missile threat facing the United States Navy. This led to the development of the AN/SPY-1 phased array radar and the RIM-67 Standard missile with the Aegis combat system coordinating the
two. Ticonderoga-class cruisers were the first to be equipped with Aegis and were put to use primarily as anti-air and anti-missile defense in a battle force protection role. Later developments of vertical launch systems and the Tomahawk missile defense in a battle force protection role.
and defensive battle operations. The Ticonderoga class is the only active class of cruisers in this class are named after battles. [97] Main article: List of destroyers are multi-mission medium surface ships capable of sustained performance in anti-air, an
submarine, anti-ship, and offensive strike operations. Like cruisers, guided missile destroyers are primarily focused on surface strikes using Tomahawk missiles and fleet defense through Aegis and the Standard missile destroyers additionally specialize in anti-submarine warfare and are equipped with VLA rockets and LAMPS Mk III Sea Hawk
helicopters to deal with underwater threats. When deployed with a carrier strike group or expeditionary strike group, destroyers and their fellow Aegis-equipped cruisers are primarily tasked with defending the fleet while providing secondary strike group, destroyers and their fellow Aegis-equipped cruisers are primarily tasked with defending the fleet while providing secondary strike group or expeditionary strike group or expeditionary strike group or expeditionary strike group or expeditionary strike group.
Guard heroes.[97]The U.S. Navy currently has 75 destroyers, 73 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and two Zumwalt-class stealth destroyers, with a third (the USSLyndon B. Johnson) expected to enter service sometime in 2024.[99]Main articles: List of frigates of the United States Navy and Littoral combat shipUSSIndependence, a littoral combat
shipModern U.S. frigates mainly perform anti-submarine warfare for carrier and expeditionary strike groups and provide armed escort for supply convoys and merchant shipping. They are designed to protect friendly ships against hostile submarines in low to medium threat environments, using torpedoes and LAMPS helicopters. Independently
frigates are able to conduct counterdrug missions and other maritime interception operations. As in the case of destroyers, frigates are named after U.S. Navy retired its most recent class of traditional frigates in favor of the littoral combat ship (LCS), relatively small vessels designed
for near-shore operations that was expected to assume many of the duties the frigate had with the fleet. The LCS was "envisioned to be a networked, agile, stealthy surface combatant capable of defeating anti-access and asymmetric threats in the littorals",[100] although their ability to perform these missions in practice has been called into question.
[101] The Navy has announced it plans to reduce procurement of the LCS and retire early examples of the type. In the future, the Navy plans to purchase up to 20 of the Constellation-class frigate, based on the FREMM multipurpose frigate, early examples of the type. In the future, the Navy plans to purchase up to 20 of the Constellation-class frigate, based on the FREMM multipurpose frigate, already in service with European navies. The U.S. Navy currently has 23 littoral combat ships, eight Freedom-
class and 15 Independence-class ships. USS Constitution, firing a 17-gun salute in 2014Main article: List of mine warfare vessels are a combination of minehunters, a naval vessel that actively detects and destroys individual naval mines, and minesweepers, which clear mined areas as a whole,
without prior detection of the mines. MCM vessels have mostly legacy names of previous US Navy ships, especially World War II-era minesweepers. The Navy operates eight Avenger-class mine countermeasures ships, with four expected to be retired in 2024. Main article: Submarines in the United States NavyUSSKentucky, an Ohio-class ballistic
missile submarineThe U.S. Navy operates three types of submarines are nuclear-powered, as nuclear propulsion allows for a combination of stealth and long-duration, high-speed, sustained underwater movement. Attack
submarines typically operate as part of a carrier battle group, while guided missiles submarines generally operate independently and carry larger quantities of cruise missiles, gathering intelligence, and assisting in special operations. Ballistic
missile submarines operate independently with only one mission: to carry and, if called upon, to launch the Trident nuclear missile. The Navy operates 69 submarines with 14 configured as ballistic missile submarines and four configured as guided missile
 submarines, three Seawolf class attack submarines, and 19 Virginia class attack submarines. A special case is the USSConstitution, commission at the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston. She occasionally sails for commemorative events such as
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Independence Day. The Navy operates a class of small tugboats, called barrier boats. Main article: List of united States Navy aircraft designations (pre-1962) Four Navy F/A-18E/F Super Hornets Carrier based aircraft are able to strike air, sea, and land targets far from a carrier strike group while protecting friendly forces from enemy aircraft, ships, and submarines. In peacetime, aircraft's ability to project the threat of sustained attack from a mobile platform on the seas gives United States leaders significant diplomatic and crisis-management options. Aircraft additionally provide logistics support to

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maintain the navy's readiness and, through helicopters, supply platforms with which to conduct search and rescue, special operations, anti-submarine warfare (ASW), and anti-surface warfare, including the U.S. Navy's premier Maritime Strike
 Wing.The U.S. Navy began to research the use of aircraft at sea in the 1910s, with Lieutenant Theodore G. "Spuds" Ellyson becoming the first naval aviation fully came of age in World War II, when it became clear following the
attack on Pearl Harbor, the Battle of the Coral Sea, and the Battle of Midway that aircraft carriers and the planes that they carried had replaced the Grumman F4F Wildcat, the Grumman F4F Wildcat, the Chance Vought F4U Corsair, the Douglas SBD
Dauntless, and the Grumman TBF Avenger. Navy aircraft also played a significant role in conflicts during the following Cold War years, with the F-4 Phantom II and the F-14 Tomcat becoming military icons of the era. The navy's current primary fighter-attack airplane is the multi-mission F/A-18E/F Super Hornet. The F-35C entered service in 2019.
[103] The Navy is also looking to eventually replace its F/A-18E/F Super Hornets with the F/A-XX program. The Aircraft Investment Plan sees naval aviation forces to half of all procurement funding over the next three decades. [104] Main article: List of United States Navy weapons Aviation Ordnancement Plan sees naval aviation forces to half of all procurement funding over the next three decades.
 loading GBU-12 bombs in 2005Current U.S. Navy shipboard weapons systems are almost entirely focused on missiles, both as a weapon and as a threat. In an offensive role, missiles are intended to strike targets at long distances with accuracy and precision. Because they are unmanned weapons, missiles allow for attacks on heavily defended targets
 without risk to human pilots. Land strikes are the domain of the BGM-109 Tomahawk, which was first deployed in the 1980s and is continually being updated to increase its capabilities. For anti-ship strikes, the navy's dedicated missile is the Harpoon Missile. To defend against enemy missile attack, the navy operates a number of systems that are all
coordinated by the Aegis combat system. Medium-long range defense is provided by the Standard Missile 2, which has been deployed since the 1980s. The Standard missile defense. Short range defense against missiles is provided by the Standard missile defense against missiles is provided by the Standard missile defense.
by the Phalanx CIWS and the more recently developed RIM-162 Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile. In addition to missiles, the navy employs Mark 46, Mark 48, and Mark 50 torpedoes and various types of naval mines. Naval fixed-wing aircraft employs much of the same weapons as the United States Air Force for both air-to-surface combat. Air
engagements are handled by the heat-seeking Sidewinder and the radar guided AMRAAM missiles along with the M61 Vulcan cannon for close range dogfighting. For surface strikes, navy aircraft use a combination of missiles along with the M61 Vulcan cannon for close range dogfighting. For surface strikes, navy aircraft use a combination of missiles along with the M61 Vulcan cannon for close range dogfighting.
the GPS-guided JDAM and the laser-guided Paveway series. Unguided munitions such as dumb bombs and cluster bombs make up the rest of the weapons deployed by fixed-wing aircraft. Rotary aircraft weapons are focused on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and light to medium surface engagements. To combat submarines, helicopters use Mark 46
and Mark 50 torpedoes. Against small watercraft, they use Hellfire and Penguin air to surface missiles. Helicopters also employ various types of mounted anti-personnel machine guns, including the M60, M240, GAU-16/A, and GAU-17/A. Nuclear weapons in the U.S. Navy arsenal are deployed through ballistic missile submarines and aircraft. The
Ohio-class submarine carries the latest iteration of the Trident II (D5) version is expected to be in service past 2020.[105] The navy's other nuclear weapon is the air-deployed B61 nuclear bomb. The B61 is a thermonuclear device that can be
dropped by strike aircraft such as the F/A-18 Hornet and Super Hornet at high speed from a large range of altitudes. It can be released through free-fall or parachute and can be set to detonate in the air or on the ground. U.S. naval jackFirst navy jackThe current naval jack of the United States is the Union Jack, a small blue flag emblazoned with the
stars of the 50 states. The Union Jack was not flown for the duration of the War on Terror, during which Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly the First Navy Jack. While Secretary England directed all U.S. naval ships to fly 
of the September 11, 2001 attacks. The Union Jack, however, remained in use with vessels of the U.S. Coast Guard and Atmospheric Administration. A jack of similar design to the Union Jack was used in 1794, with 13 stars arranged in a 32323 pattern. When a ship is moored or anchored, the jack is flown from the bow of the
ship while the ensign is flown from the stern. When underway, the ensign is raised on the mainmast. Before the decision for all ships to fly the First Navy Jack, it was flown only on the oldest ship in the active American fleet, which is currently USSBlue Ridge. U.S. Navy ships and craft returned to flying the Union Jack effective 4 June 2019. The date
for reintroduction of the jack commemorates the Battle of Midway, which began on 4 June 1942.[106]For a more comprehensive list, see List of United States have served in the U.S. Navy.Notable officers include: John P. Jones John Barry (Continental Navy officer and first flag officer
of the United States Navy),[107]Edward PrebleJames Lawrence (whose last words "don't give up the ship" are memorialized in Bancroft Hall at the United States Naval Academy)[108]Stephen Decatur Jr., David Farragut, David D. Porter, Oliver H. Perry, Commodore Matthew C. Perry (who, under the direction of President Millard Fillmore, forced the
opening of Japan)[109]George Dewey (the only person in U.S. history to have attained the rank of Admiral of the Navy)[110]William F. Halsey Jr.[111]The first American President who served in the U.S. Navy was John F. Kennedy (who commanded the famous PT-109 in World War II); he
 was then followed by Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and George H. W. Bush. Some notable former members of the U.S. Navy
include; astronauts (Alan B. Shepard, Walter M. Schirra, Neil Armstrong, John Young, Michael J. Smith, Scott Kelly), entertainers (Johnny Carson, Mike Douglas, Paul Newman, Robert Stack, Humphrey Bogart, Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon, Jack Benny, Don Rickles, Ernest Borgnine, Harry Belafonte, Henry Fonda, Fred Gwynne), authors (Robert Stack, Humphrey Bogart, Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon, Jack Benny, Don Rickles, Ernest Borgnine, Harry Belafonte, Henry Fonda, Fred Gwynne), authors (Robert Stack, Humphrey Bogart, Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon, Jack Benny, Don Rickles, Ernest Borgnine, Harry Belafonte, Henry Fonda, Fred Gwynne), authors (Robert Stack, Humphrey Bogart, Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon, Jack Benny, Don Rickles, Ernest Borgnine, Harry Belafonte, Harry Bel
Heinlein, Marcus Luttrell, Thomas Pynchon, Brandon Webb), musicians, (John Philip Sousa, MC Hammer, John Coltrane, Zach Bryan, Fred Durst), professional athletes (David Robinson, Bill Sharman, Roger Staubach, Joe Bellino, Bob Kuberski, Nile Kinnick, Bob Feller, Yogi Berra, Larry Doby, Stan Musial, Pee Wee Reese, Phil Rizzuto, Jack Taylor),
business people (John S. Barry, Jack C. Taylor, Paul A. Sperry), and computer scientists (Grace Hopper). During World War I the first U.S. government post offices were established aboard Navy ships, managed by a Navy postal clerk. Prior to this, mail from crew members was collected and at the first opportunity was dropped off at a port of call where
it was processed at a US Post Office. Before the arrival of email and the internet, hand stamped mail was considered almost as valuable to crew members at sea could communicate with their family, friends and others. Mail was considered almost as valuable to crew members at sea could communicate with their family, friends and others. Mail was considered almost as valuable to crew members at sea could communicate with their family, friends and others.
 historians and collectors as postal history), is directly associated with naval history.[113] Letters and other correspondence sent by commanders, officers and locations of naval ships and crew members during various battles or
 other naval operations. As such, naval mail can serve as a source of information to naval historians and biographers. Among the more notable examples of Naval postal history include letters sent from the USS Arizona, 10 October, 1941, 30 days before the attack on
Pearl Harbor Cover mailed from USS Oklahoma, signed by Admiral John Wainwright, US Navy, postmarked 5 March 1932There is a US naval post office aboard nearly every US Navy ship, each with its own postal officer and postmark bearing the ship's name. United States portal Bibliography of early United States naval history List of undesignated
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