

BRANCHES

Navy in Review

NEW CLASS OILER

In July, the Navy christened a new class of replenishment oiler — ships designed to restock fleets with fuel and dry cargo while they are at sea. The **U.S. naval ship John Lewis** is the first in a fleet that will honor prominent civil rights leaders and activists. “This majestic vessel will be instrumental in shaping the future of our nation,” says Dave Carver, president of General Dynamics NASSCO shipbuilders.



U.S. naval ship John Lewis

SARAH BURFORD



Fast in-shore attack craft

STANDOFF AT SEA

U.S. Navy forces reported a too-close-for-comfort encounter with 13 Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy fast in-shore attack craft (FIAC) — small speedboats armored with machine guns — in the Strait of Hormuz on May 10. According to a Navy statement about the incident, the FIACs conducted maneuvers in an “unsafe and unprofessional manner” and “failed to exercise due regard for the safety of U.S. forces as required under international law.” U.S. naval ships issued verbal warnings and fired warning shots during the incident.

U.S. NAVY



Joint Task Force Haiti

AID TO HAITI

Sailors and Marines aboard the **USS Arlington** provided humanitarian support and disaster relief in **Haiti** after the devastating 7.2-magnitude earthquake that struck that country on Aug. 14. The crew played a central role in supporting United States Agency for International Development efforts to deliver thousands of pounds of food, water and medical supplies to Haitian communities affected by the natural disaster.

CPL. ALIZE SOTELO/U.S. MARINE CORPS

BRANCHES

HIGH-TECH REFUELING

In September, the Navy successfully refueled an F-35C Lightning II aircraft using an unmanned aircraft. The **Unmanned Carrier Aviation (PMA-268) program** is part of the U.S. Navy's efforts to build a fleet of Boeing MQ-25 aircraft — dubbed Stingray — that, once fully operational, will be able to refuel every type of receiver-capable, carrier-based aircraft in the fleet. "Stingray's unmatched refueling capability is going to increase the Navy's power projection and provide operational flexibility to the carrier strike group commanders," Capt. Chad Reed, the Navy's PMA-268 program manager, said in a press release announcing the successful drone refueling.



Boeing MQ-25 T1 Stingray refueling

U.S. NAVY/PROVIDED BY BOEING



Lt. Bradley Foster

Lt. Paul Fridley

Naval Air Crewman
2nd Class
James BuriakHospital Corpsman
2nd Class
Sarah BurnsHospital Corpsman
3rd Class
Bailey Tucker**LOST SAILORS**

Five U.S. Navy sailors died when their helicopter crashed in the Pacific Ocean roughly 60 nautical miles off the coast of San Diego on Aug. 31. A U.S. Navy investigation of the incident — which caused the deaths of Lt. **Bradley Foster**, 29; Lt. **Paul Fridley**, 28; Naval Air Crewman 2nd Class **James Buriak**, 31; Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class **Sarah Burns**, 31; and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class **Bailey Tucker**, 21 — is still ongoing. Despite an immediate search and rescue effort, helicopter wreckage and the bodies of the fallen sailors were not recovered until October.

U.S. NAVY



Carlos Del Toro

NEW LEADERSHIP

Carlos Del Toro was sworn in as the 78th secretary of the Navy on Aug. 9. Born in Havana, Cuba, Del Toro immigrated to the U.S. in 1962. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and Naval War College and served 22 years as a naval officer before founding his own tech company in 2004. "I come back as someone who loves the Navy," Del Toro said at his swearing-in. "Serving you as your 78th secretary of the Navy is a high honor that carries grave responsibilities to which I will dedicate all my skill and devotion."

— Robin Roenker

MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS FORD WILLIAMS/U.S. NAVY