Background on USS Iwo Jima and Continuing Promise

Continuing Promise 2010 – Partnership of the Americas

Biographies
Background
Key Points

BACKGROUND

Continuing Promise 2010 Leadership Biographies
Mission Information
USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) Information

Captain Thomas Negus, USN
Commodore, Continuing Promise 2010

Captain Thomas Negus, USN, is a Northern Virginia native and a 1984 graduate of Virginia Tech. He was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer via Officer Candidate School in 1985.

Capt. Negus' sea assignments include Main Propulsion Assistant onboard USS FRESNO (LST 11a82), Chief Engineer onboard USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48), and Squadron Material Officer/N-4 with PHIBRON SIX. He has commanded USS DEFENDER (MCM 2) and USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD 44). In 2005, USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD 44) was the only LSD in the Navy to earn the Battle Efficiency "E" Award. Captain Negus commanded the US Navy's Amphibious Relief Mission during Operation UNIFIED RESPONSE in the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake.

Capt. Negus's shore assignments include an intelligence tour at the Office of Naval Intelligence and at the Joint Chiefs of Staff during DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM; as the Surface Warfare Afloat Department Head Detailer at the Bureau of Naval Personnel; as Head, Surface Warfare Plans and Policy for the Surface Warfare Directorate (N86) on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations; and most recently at Joint Forces Command as an SJFHQ team leader, where he deployed to Afghanistan to create and command the NATO Counter-Improvised Explosive Device organization for the International Security Forces (ISAF) in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Capt. Negus holds a Masters of Science degree in National Security Studies from the National War College, and a Masters of Arts degree in International Affairs from King's College, London.

Personnel decorations include the Joint Meritorious Service medal (two awards), the Meritorious Service medal (three awards), the Joint Commendation Medal, and the Navy Commendation medal (four awards).

Captain William J. Tanner
Medical Corps, United States Navy
Joint Medical Group Commander, Continuing Promise 2010

Captain William J. Tanner, USN, joined the Navy through the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland. He graduated with a Degree in Medicine in May 1991 and completed a surgical internship in 1992.

His first operational assignment was to Commander, Destroyer Squadron (COMDESRON) 9, Long Beach, California, as a General Medical Officer. During this assignment he earned the Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer designation. He then transferred to Naval Hospital, Jacksonville, Florida and completed his residency in Family Medicine in December, 1997.

In January 1998, he was assigned to MCAGCC, 29 Palms, California, as a Family Medicine staff physician. He served in several roles including Senior Medical Officer for the Military Medicine clinic, Department Head, Family Medicine Clinic, and acting Director of Medical Services.

Captain Tanner was then assigned in a dual role with Naval Hospital, Camp Lejuene North Carolina and 2nd Medical battalion, 2nd FSSG. From November 2000 to January 2003, he performed as staff physician providing full scope Family Medicine services at the Naval Hospital while additionally serving as training support for quarterly Medical Augment Personnel exercises (MAPEX) with 2nd Medical Battalion. He also was involved in development of the Family Medicine Residency program. He deployed to Kuwait from January 2003 through July 2003 with 2nd Medical Battalion in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) I.

Captain Tanner served as staff physician at the Naval Health Clinic Quantico, Virginia. He was the Senior Medical Officer for Military Medicine during this tour, and served as the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff and Chief of Professional Services.

His next tour was as Clinical Programs Officer for the Medical Officer of the Marine Corps, where he became the USMC subject matter expert for traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. This positioned Captain Tanner to become the first Regimental Surgeon for the USMC Wounded Warrior Regiment which stood up in 2007. He is currently assigned as the Officer-in-charge of Fleet Surgical Team-2 out of Norfolk, Virginia and deployed on board the USS Iwo Jima as the Joint Medical Group Commander for Operation Continuing Promise 2010.

Captain Tanner was promoted to his present rank in Jun 2009. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Captain Tanner is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Richie
Commanding Officer
Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force
Continuing Promise 2010

Lt. Col. Chris Richie, USMC, was commissioned in 1992 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Auburn University. He is a native of Longview, Texas and holds a Business Management degree from Auburn, an MBA from Regis University, and a Masters Degree in Military Operational Art and Science from Air University.

Second Lieutenant Richie attended the Air Defense Control Officers Course following completion of The Basic School in 1993 and was subsequently assigned to Marine Air Control Squadron (MACS)-5 at Beaufort, South Carolina from 1994 to 1997. While assigned to MACS-5, he attained the designation of Senior Air Director.

In June 1997, Captain Richie was transferred to U.S. Army Forces Command, Joint Interoperability Division, Ft McPherson, Georgia where he served as the Marine Detachment OIC and senior Marine Instructor. During this tour, Captain Richie assisted in the establishment of the Joint Interface Control Officer (JICO) and served in Korea and Saudi Arabia as part of a Joint Theater Air and Missile Defense Organization, Tactical Digital Information Link improvement team. Captain Richie also deployed to Aviano Air Base, Italy to support Operation Allied Force as a JICO.

From August 2000 to June 2001, Captain Richie attended the Marine Corps Command and Control Systems Course at Quantico, Virginia. Following career level school, Captain Richie was transferred to MACS-2, Cherry Point where he commanded the Tactical Air Operations Center (TAOC) Detachment. After completing Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) Course 1-02, he served as the Squadron WTI, Operations Officer, and Executive Officer. In March 2002, Captain Richie Commanded a TAOC (Rein) Detachment that deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). In June 2003, Major Richie was assigned to the Marine Air Control Group (MACG)-28 staff to serve as the Assistant Operations Officer. During this time, he participated in the planning for numerous follow-on deployments for both OEF and Operation Iraqi Freedom and developed the MACG-28 Pegasus Flight training exercise.

In June 2004, Major Richie was transferred to the US Air Force Command and Staff College, Montgomery, Alabama. Following intermediate level school, Major Richie assumed duties as the Tactical Air Command Center Division Head, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron (MAWTS)-1, completing his final year as the C3 Department Head. From July 2008 to July 2009, LtCol Richie was stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA and served as the Director of Marine Air Command and Control Squadron-X. In July 2009, LtCol Richie was transferred to MCAS, Cherry Point, serving as the Force Generation Element Operations officer and the MACG-28 Executive Officer.

LtCol Richie's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star, and the Army Achievement Medal. In October 2003, Major Richie was selected as the Marine Corps Aviation Command and Control Officer of the Year.

Captain Thomas Chassee
Commanding Officer
USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7)

Captain Thomas J. Chassee is a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan and graduate of Michigan State University. He began military service as an enlisted man in the United States Army serving with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) from 1976-1979. He was commissioned in October 1983 through Naval Officer Candidate School, Newport, Rhode Island.

His first duty assignment (1984-1987) was as Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer in USS BADGER (FF 1071). In September 1987 he reported aboard USS SARATOGA (CV 60) as Main Engines Officer, completing his tour in 1989. Upon transfer from SARATOGA Captain Chassee attended the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) graduating in 1990, and earning a Masters of Arts Degree in National Security Affairs (Western Hemisphere).

Captain Chassee's Department head tours included First Lieutenant aboard USS LAMOURE COUNTY (LST 1194), and Surface Operations Officer in USS GUAM (LPH 9). In January 1995 he was assigned as an OPNAV Fellow at the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA), Alexandria, Virginia and completed the Air War College Command and Staff (non-resident) course of instruction.

Captain Chassee reported aboard USS PONCE (LPD 15) as Executive Officer in September 1996 and served in PONCE until February 1998. In March 1998 he was assigned as Future Operations Officer, Commander Amphibious Group Two. From 1999-2002 Captain Chassee attended the Marine Corps War College (MCWAR) earning a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies.

Captain Chassee went on to command USS PONCE from 2000-2002, and following his command tour in PONCE was interim Commanding Officer of USS TORTUGA (LSD 46) for a three month period. In 2001 PONCE earned the LANTFLT medium sized amphibious warship Battle Efficiency Award. Following command at sea he was assigned as a Senior Engineering Assessor at Afloat Training Group Atlantic. From 2004-2006 he served as Executive Officer in

USS WASP (LHD 1). Captain Chassee's most recent assignment was to Commander Strike Forces Training Atlantic (CSFTL) as the Deputy Operations Officer for Expeditionary Strike Groups (ESG), certifying ESG's from December 2006 to June 2008. Subsequent to his tour at CSFTL he completed JPME II at the Joint Forces Staff College. In addition to his Master's degrees from NPS and MCWAR, in 2008 Captain Chassee was awarded a Master of Science Degree in Systems Management (Information Systems) from the Florida Institute of Technology.

Personal decorations include the Meritorious Service medal (three gold stars), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two gold stars), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (one gold star).

Amphibious Assault Ships - LHA/LHD/LHA(R)
Description
The largest of all amphibious warfare ships; resembles a small aircraft carrier; capable of Vertical/Short Take-Off and Landing (V/STOL), Short Take-Off Vertical Landing (STOVL), Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) tilt-rotor and Rotary Wing (RW) aircraft operations; contains a well deck to support use of Landing Craft, Air Cushioned (LCAC) and other watercraft (with exception of the first two LHA(R) class ships, LHA 6 and LHA 7, which have no well deck).

Features
Modern U.S. Navy Amphibious Assault Ships project power and maintain presence by serving as the cornerstone of the Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG) / Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG). A key element of the Seapower 21 pillars of Sea Strike and Sea Basing, these ships transport and land elements of the Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) with a combination of aircraft and landing craft. The Tarawa-class LHAs and Wasp-class LHDs provide the Marine Corps with a means of ship-to-shore movement by helicopter in addition to movement by landing craft. Three LHAs — which have extensive storage capacity and can accommodate Landing Craft Utility (LCU) and LCAC craft — were active during Operations Desert Shield / Storm. Since that time, LHAs (and later LHDs) have been participants in major humanitarian-assistance, occupation and combat operations in which the United States has been involved. Such operations have included participating as launch platforms for Marine Corps expeditionary forces into Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001 and 2002, Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and humanitarian support after the catastrophic Tsunami in 2004. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, two LHDs served as "Harrier carriers," launching an air group of AV-8B attack aircraft against targets inside Iraq. In 2004, LHAs and LHDs were used to transport thousands of Marines and their equipment to Iraq and Afghanistan for combat operations. Most recently, critical post Hurricane Katrina support was provided in New Orleans by LHD 7 (Iwo Jima) where thousands of police, fire and rescue personnel were hosted onboard during recovery operations and IWO JIMA operated as the central command and control hub. With delivery of Iwo Jima in 2001, the Navy and Marine Corps reached a desired force level of amphibious warfare ships — LHAs/LHDs, LPDs and LSD 41/49s — that provide fully capable Expeditionary Strike Groups to fulfill anticipated forward-presence and expeditionary requirements. The eighth LHD, Makin Island (LHD 8), was delivered to the Navy in April 2009, and commissioned in October 2009. LHD 8 differs from earlier ships of the class in that it is

powered by gas turbine engines rather than steam turbines. LHD 8 is the first U.S. Navy amphibious assault ship to replace steam boilers with gas turbines, and the first Navy surface ship to be equipped with both gas turbines and an Auxiliary Propulsion System (APS). This unique auxiliary propulsion system is designed with fuel efficiency in mind. The APS uses two induction-type Auxiliary Propulsion Motors (APM) powered from the ship's electrical grid instead of using main propulsion engines to power the ship's shaft. Instead of using its gas turbines which are less efficient at lower speeds, the ship will be able to use its APS for roughly 75 percent of the time the ship is underway. Over the course of Makin Island's lifecycle, the Navy expects to see a savings of more than $250 million. Because the gas turbines will be used infrequently, the Navy will also save on maintenance and lifecycle costs. The entire propulsion and electric system is controlled by a comprehensive machinery control system that also controls and monitors damage control, ballasting and de-ballasting, fuel fill and auxiliary machinery. The machinery control system allows the ship to switch from gas turbine to electric propulsion on the fly. It is fully distributed, accessible from multiple locations, and every console provides full system control and monitoring capabilities of the entire engineering plant. The propulsion plant and electrical distribution and auxiliary systems designed and built for Makin Island will also be used aboard the future USS America (LHA 6), the first ship in the LHA Replacement program. LHA 6 was placed under contract in June 2007 with NGSB. LHA 6 will be an aviation-centric modified repeat of the LHD 8 and is scheduled for delivery to the Navy in 2013. Key differences between LHA 6 and the LHD class ships include an enlarged hangar deck, enhanced aviation maintenance facilities, increased aviation fuel capacity, additional aviation storerooms, removal of the well deck, and an electronically reconfigurable C4ISR suite. Three of the original five Tarawa-class LHAs were recently decommissioned: *USS Belleau Wood* (LHA 3) in October 2005, *USS Saipan* (LHA 2) in April 2007 and *USS Tarawa* (LHA 1) in March 2009.

Background

Amphibious warships are designed to support the Marine Corps tenets of Operational Maneuver From the Sea (OMFTS) and Ship to Objective Maneuver (STOM). They must be able to sail in harm's way and provide a rapid buildup of combat power ashore in the face of opposition. Because of their inherent capabilities, these ships have been and will continue to be called upon to also support humanitarian and other contingency missions on short notice.

Program Status

LHAs 4 & 5 and LHDs 1-7 are in-service. LHD 8 commissioned Oct. 24, 2009. LHA 6 (America) is planned for delivery to the Fleet in 2013. A keel authentication ceremony for the future *USS America* (LHA 6) was held July 17, 2009, at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding's Ingalls shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss.

Point Of Contact

Corporate Communications Office
Naval Sea Systems Command (SEA 00D)
Washington, D.C. 20376

General Characteristics, LHA(R) Class LHA (6)

Builder: Northrop Grumman Ship Systems Ingalls Operations, Pascagoula, MS.
Date Deployed: Scheduled for delivery to the fleet in 2013.

Propulsion: Two marine gas turbines, two shafts, 70,000 total brake horsepower, two 5,000 horsepower auxiliary propulsion motors.

Length: 844 feet (257.3 meters).
Beam: 106 feet (32.3 meters).
Displacement: Approximately 44,971 long tons full load (45,695 metric tons).
Speed: 20+ knots.
Crew: 1,059 (65 officers)
Load: 1,687 troops (plus 184 surge).
Armament: Two RAM launchers; two NATO *Sea Sparrow* launchers (with Evolved *Sea Sparrow* Missile (ESSM)); two 20mm *Phalanx* CIWS mounts; seven twin .50 cal. machine guns.
Aircraft: A mix of: F-35B Joint Strike Fighters (JSF) STOVL aircraft; MV-22 *Osprey* VTOL tiltrotors; CH-53E *Sea Stallion* helicopters; UH-1Y *Huey* helicopters; AH-1Z *Super Cobra* helicopters; MH-60S *Seahawk* helicopters.
Homeport: PCU America (LHA 6), No homeport - under construction
Ships: *PCU America* (LHA6), No homeport - Under Construction
General Characteristics, *Wasp* Class
Builder: Northrop Grumman Ship Systems Ingalls Operations, Pascagoula, MS.
Date Deployed: July 29, 1989 (*USS Wasp*)
Propulsion: (LHDs 1–7) two boilers, two geared steam turbines, two shafts, 70,000 total shaft horsepower; (LHD 8) two gas turbines, two shafts; 70,000 total shaft horsepower, two 5,000 horsepower auxiliary propulsion motors.
Length: 844 feet (253.2 meters).
Beam: 106 feet (31.8 meters).
Displacement: LHDs 1-4: 40,650 tons full load (41,302.3 metric tons)
LHDs 5-7: 40,358 tons full load (41,005.6 metric tons)
LHD 8: 41,772 tons full load (42,442.3 metric tons).
Speed: 20+ knots (23.5+ miles per hour).
Crew: Ships Company: 104 officers, 1,004 enlisted
LHD 8: 65 officers, 994 enlisted
Marine Detachment: 1,687 troops (plus 184 surge).
Armament: Two RAM launchers; two NATO *Sea Sparrow* launchers; three 20mm *Phalanx* CIWS mounts (two on LHD 5-8); four .50 cal. machine guns; four 25 mm Mk 38 machine guns (LHD 5-8 have three 25 mm Mk 38 machine guns).
Aircraft: 12 CH-46 *Sea Knight* helicopters; 4 CH-53E *Sea Stallion* helicopters; 6 AV-8B Harrier attack aircraft; 3 UH-1N *Huey* helicopters; 4 AH-1W *Super Cobra* helicopters. (planned capability to embark MV-22 *Osprey* VTOL tilt-rotors).

Ships:
USS Wasp (LHD 1), Norfolk, VA
USS Essex (LHD 2), Sasebo, Japan
USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), Norfolk, VA
USS Boxer (LHD 4), San Diego, CA
USS Bataan (LHD 5), Norfolk, VA
USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), San Diego, CA
USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7), Norfolk, VA

USS Makin Island (LHD 8), San Diego, CA

General Characteristics, *Tarawa* Class
Builder: Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, MS.
Date Deployed: May 29, 1976 (*USS Tarawa*)
Propulsion: Two boilers, two geared steam turbines, two shafts, 70,000 total shaft horsepower.
Length: 820 feet (249.9 meters).
Beam: 106 feet (31.8 meters).
Displacement: 39,400 tons (40,032 metric tons) full load.
Speed: 24 knots (27.6 miles per hour).
Crew: Ships Company: 82 officers, 882 enlisted
Marine Detachment 1,900 plus.
Armament: Two RAM launchers; two *Phalanx* 20 mm CIWS mount; three .50 cal. machine guns; four 25 mm Mk 38 machine guns.
Aircraft: 12 CH-46 *Sea Knight* helicopters; 4 CH-53E *Sea Stallion* helicopters; 6 AV-8B *Harrier* attack aircraft; 3 UH-1N *Huey* helicopters; 4 AH-1W *Super Cobra* helicopters.

Ships:
USS Nassau (LHA 4), Norfolk, VA
USS Peleliu (LHA 5), San Diego, CA

Last Update: 28 October 2009

History

The Battle of Iwo Jima

USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) is named for the epic battle of February 1945, in which three divisions of the United States Marine Corps took control of the tiny island of Iwo Jima from 22,000 determined Japanese defenders.

The United States had recovered from the disastrous attack on Pearl Harbor, to the point where routine air attacks on Japanese cities could be made by heavy bombers launched from the Marianas. The successful outcome of the war seemed inevitable, but victory over the Japanese would come only at a high price. The Japanese considered Iwo Jima a part of mainland Japan, and an invader had not set foot on Japanese soil for 4,000 years.

Iwo Jima was a thorn in the side of the U.S. heavy bomber crews. Air attacks on the Marianas bomber bases, and bombers enroute to and from Japan, were launched from Iwo Jima. An assault on the island was necessary to eliminate these air attacks and to provide a haven for damaged American aircraft returning from Japan.

Amphibious forces of the U.S. Pacific Fleet attacked the fortress of Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945, with a formidable force, totaling 495 ships, including 17 aircraft carriers, 1170 planes, and 110,308 troops. Before the amphibious assault, elements of the Air Force and Army Air Corps

pounded the island in the longest sustained aerial offensive of the war. Incredibly, this ferocious bombardment had little effect. Hardly any of the Japanese underground fortresses were touched.

The Japanese defenders devised a unique and deadly strategy to defend Iwo Jima from an American assault. Instead of building a barrier to stop the Americans at the beach, they fortified the interior of the island, creating a defense that could not be breached in a day.

On Feb. 19, 1945, the first wave of Marines was launched after an hour-long bombardment by the Navy's "big guns." The Americans planned to capture, isolate and fortify Mt. Suribachi. The success of the entire assault depended upon the early capture of the mountain.

After an hour of calm, the Japanese defenders, hiding in their network of caves and underground bunkers, unleashed a hail of gunfire. Mortars, machine guns and heavy artillery rained down from scores of machine gun nests atop Suribachi. After the first day of fighting, 566 American men were killed and 1,755 more were wounded. For the next several days, some of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific were fought on the isle of Iwo Jima.

It was a battle of attrition on terrain that had no front lines; where the attackers were exposed and the defenders fortified.

The battle for Iwo was fought desperately until March 26th, when the island was finally secured by U.S. forces. In the struggle, nearly 7,000 Americans and more than 20,000 Japanese were killed. It was one of the most savage and costly battles in the history of the Marine Corps. As Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz observed, "Among the Americans who served on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue."

PFC Jack Lucas was 17 when he earned the Medal of Honor, the youngest awardee in our nation's history. He leapt on two live grenades, saving countless brother Marines. A doctor aboard the hospital ship on which Lucas was treated said he was, "too damned young and too damned tough to die." When asked, 53 years later, why he jumped on the grenades, Jack simply said, "to save my buddies." He and his lovely wife, Ruby, are honorary crew and family members of USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7).

History of USS IWO JIMA
(LPH-2 and LHD-7)

LHD-7 is the second ship to bear the name "IWO JIMA." The first, LPH-2, designed from the keel up as an amphibious assault ship, was launched September 17, 1960 at Bremerton, Washington and commissioned August 26, 1961.

In September 1963, IWO JIMA (LPH 2) made her first deployment to the Western Pacific, one of six deployments the ship would make to the region. In April 1970, IWO JIMA (LPH 2) made history while serving as the Primary Recovery Ship for Apollo 13, the crippled lunar landing mission.

In June 1976, IWO JIMA (LPH 2) commenced her fourth deployment to the Mediterranean and participated in the evacuation of civilians from Beirut, Lebanon. In August 1990, two weeks after the initial deployment of troops to the Persian Gulf for Operation Desert Shield, IWO JIMA (LPH 2) became the first amphibious assault ship to deploy to that area, and served as part of the coalition which ultimately drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait. USS IWO JIMA (LPH 2) was decommissioned in 1993, after 32 years of service.

Fabrication work for the new USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) began at Ingalls shipyard on September 3, 1996, and the ship's keel was laid on December 12, 1997. The ship was launched on February 4th, 2000, and was christened by her sponsor, Mrs. Zandra Krulak, wife of Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Krulak, in Pascagoula, Mississippi on March 25th, 2000.

The commissioning crew moved aboard in April 2001 and made the ship's maiden voyage (accompanied by more than 2,000 World War II veterans-many of them survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima) on June 23rd, 2001. She was commissioned a week later in Pensacola, Florida, on June 30th, 2001. Shortly thereafter, the ship and crew began an accelerated Inter-Deployment Training Cycle.

Together with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) conducted her maiden, eight-month deployment, returning to Norfolk in October 2003.

Completing essentially four deployments in one, IWO JIMA's operational capabilities were put to the test as the ship inserted marines from the 26 MEU (SOC) into Northern Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, patrolled the Persian Gulf, conducted operations in and around Djibouti as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, and executed a peacekeeping missions off the coast of war-torn Liberia, transiting more than 45,000 nautical miles.

After a post deployment maintenance period, IWO JIMA became the Flag ship for Commander, Second Fleet in October 2004. For over a year, IWO JIMA participated in many high visibility exercises, experiments, and operations with U.S. and allied naval forces.

On Aug. 31, 2005, IWO JIMA was sortied to the Gulf of Mexico to provide disaster relief and to conduct support operations in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. IWO JIMA sailed up the Mississippi River to the city of New Orleans to directly support relief operations and act as the central command center for all federal, state, and local disaster recovery operations.

During this critical period, IWO JIMA also served as the region's only fully functional air field for helicopter operations, conducting over one thousand flight deck operations; provided hot meals, showers, drinking water, and berthing to thousands of National Guardsmen and relief workers; provided medical services, including first aid and surgical services, for disaster victims; and conducted clean-up operations in the city and suburbs of New Orleans. IWO JIMA was proud to serve as flagship for the commander-in-chief, George W. Bush, and is only the second Navy ship to have been presented the flag of the President of the United States

KEY POINTS

Key Points:

This is the third time Guyana has hosted the Continuing Promise mission. The first visit was in 2008 when USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) spent 13 days providing medical, dental, veterinary and engineering services for CP08. In September 2010, HSV Swift visited Guyana for the first time and the ship's visit marked the first time a Navy vessel or vessel under U.S. contract moored pier side in Georgetown, Guyana. Navy Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seven (NMCB7) completed three construction projects and the same Battalion will provide engineering services for CP10 with USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7).

Continuing Promise 2010 is comprised of joint U.S. military personnel from Combined Task Force-48 who report to Commander, Fourth Fleet and U.S. Southern Command.

CTF-48 and USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) will train U.S. personnel in cooperation with U.S. interagency, partner nations, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to conduct civil-military operations, including medical, dental, veterinary, engineering support. The team will also serve as "first responders" on call to conduct Humanitarian Assistance/Foreign Disaster Relief if a crisis in this region should occur.

CP10 provides valuable experiences to learn from partner nation military and civilian experts. This experience helps ensure U.S. and partner nation militaries are able to rapidly respond in support of future disaster response efforts.

The relationships built and sustained between Guyana and the U.S. during these missions enhance our ability to work collectively in support of humanitarian assistance efforts in the region.

The engagement with Guyana is part of Continuing Promise 2010, a major component of the Partnership of the Americas Maritime Engagement strategy and Theater Security Cooperation activities. The engagement supports the U.S. Southern Command goals of ensuring theater security, enhancing regional stability and strengthening relationships among regional partners.

CP10 provides for a series of Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE) between U.S. and our partner nations. Every opportunity should be supported for partner nation personnel to share their skills, perspectives, challenges, lessons learned and best practices with their U.S. counterparts.

- **The medical services available at each site include:**
    - Adult medicine
    - Pediatric health screenings
    - Dental exams with
    - Dental extractions
    - Eye exams
    - Eye exams with glasses
    - Limited pharmacy
    - Preventive Medicine

- Veterinary

- **Continuing Promise 2010 personnel numbers include: 1,550**
  - **Total ship personnel**: 1,200 (*Which includes 23 medical personnel. -These are people permanently assigned to USS Iwo Jima* (LHD 7))

  - **Foreign national participants**: Netherlands, Canada, Germany, Paraguay, France, Chile, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Guyana, Suriname.

  - **Additional mission support:**
    - 150 helicopter detachment personnel
    - 20 Landing Craft Unit (LCU) personnel
    - 60 Engineers

  - **Medical Personnel:** 198, to include the following:
    - 5 Surgeons
    - 28 doctors
    - 48 nurses
    - 8 dentists
    - 14 foreign nationals
    - 18 civilian medical personnel
    - 17 Fleet Surgical Team
    - 1 Dentist
    - 23 Nurses
    - 11 Medical Officers
    - 42 Navy Hospitalmen (Operating Room technicians, bio-medical technicians, X-Ray technicians, dental technicians and laboratory technicians).

- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO): 5**

- **Number of NGO personnel: 18**
  - 5 Physicians
  - 2 Nurse Practitioners
  - 5 Registered Nurses
  - 1 Veterinarian
  - 1 Photographer/Public Affairs
  - 1 Translator
  - 3 NGO Representatives

  - **NGO organizations onboard include:**
    - Give a Kid a Backpack
    - The Greitens Group Foundation
    - National Nurses United
    - Project Hope

        - World Vets

- **Continuing Promise 2010 Humanitarian Civic Assistance (HCA) capabilities:**
    - *Medical Capabilities include:*
        - General and specialty surgical care
        - Primary care for children and adults
        - Consultative care for children, adults
        - Obstetrical, gynecological consultative care
        - Dental care
        - Ophthalmologic services (i.e., cataracts)
        - Optometry services (glasses)

    - *Public Health initiatives:*
        - Immunization services (MMR, Td, influenza, others)
        - De-Worming
        - Food and water systems assessments
        - Structural assessments
        - Assistance in setting up public health systems
        - Veterinary Services
        - Epidemiologic/Public Heath consultation