



AMPHIBIOUS WARSHIPS

**THE FRONT LINE OF OUR NATION'S
MODERN DEFENSE**



<https://amphibiouswarship.org>





“Capacity times capability times readiness equals lethality.”

—Major General David W. Coffman, Director Expeditionary Warfare (N95)



AMPHIBIOUS WARSHIPS MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE U.S. NAVY AND THE U.S. MARINE CORPS TO RESPOND SWIFTLY AND AGGRESSIVELY, FROM SEA AND AIR, IN TIMES OF CRISIS

From major combat operations to providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, these ships are always in the middle of the action. Designed and built for capability and survivability, U.S. Navy amphibious warships are often called the “Swiss Army Knife of the Fleet.” These ships embark and deploy U.S. Marines as well as their combat vehicles, amphibious landing craft, assault vehicles, and aircraft, including the AH-1Z Viper, the MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, the AV-8B Harrier II, and the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter.

★ THE FUTURE OF AMPHIBIOUS WARSHIPS

In 2018, the U.S. Navy announced a dock landing ship replacement program called LPD Flight II. The first LPD Flight II amphibious warship will be LPD 30. Initiating the LPD Flight II program in FY18 takes advantage of a mature design, hot production line, and a stable vendor base. LHA 8 will be the first ship reincorporating a well deck to enhance expeditionary war fighting capabilities while maintaining principal aviation characteristics. LHA 8 is scheduled to be delivered in 2024.

An Amphibious Warship Evolution Plan is currently in the works within the U.S. Navy’s expeditionary warfare community. The effort seeks to enable the *San Antonio*-class docks to act as “prominent middle-weight fighters” in future naval battle. The plan seeks to upgrade the command and control and communications systems on the large deck amphibious warships to better leverage

the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter and other new sources of data in high-end warfare, as well as increase the number and the readiness of amphibious warships in the fleet.

★ AMPHIBIOUS WARSHIPS IN ACTION

Deployments in recent years have involved service such as:

- ★ Global force for deterring threats and responding to crisis
- ★ Supporting U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan
- ★ Numerous hurricane relief and recovery efforts
- ★ Humanitarian assistance in several areas following natural disasters
- ★ Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEOs)
- ★ Tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel
- ★ Theater security cooperation with partner nations
- ★ Providing state of the art medical facilities and personnel

★ AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP

AN AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP ARE CONSTITUTED OF SEVERAL WARSHIPS AND AIRCRAFT:

An Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) consists of a group of warships known as an amphibious task force (ATF) and a landing force (LF) of U.S. Marines. A typical U.S. Amphibious Ready Group consists of an amphibious assault ship— a Landing Helicopter Assault (LHA) or a Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD); an amphibious transport dock ship (LPD); a dock landing ship (LSD); and various aircraft, such as an AV-8B Harrier II and CH-53 E Super Stallion helicopters.

Amphibious warships and the embarked Marine Air Ground Task Force they carry deploy together continuously throughout the world to:

- ★ Deter aggression
- ★ Quickly respond to crisis
- ★ Reassure and support allies
- ★ Provide humanitarian relief
- ★ Protect U.S. citizens and interests

★ ASSETS



Marine Air Ground Taskforce



F-35B Joint Strike Fighter (JSF)



MV-22 Osprey



AV-8B Harrier II



CH-53E Sea Stallion helicopters



UH-1Y Venom helicopters



AH-1Z Viper helicopters



MH-60S Seahawk helicopters



Landing Craft Utility (LCU)



Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC)



Sailors

3

America-class LHAs have been built or are currently being fabricated. October 2018 saw the beginning of work on the future USS *Bougainville* (LHA 8), the third of the new *America*-class LHAs and the first that will reintroduce a well deck back into the design to support surface connector operations.

32

U.S. Navy amphibious warships are currently in operation.

38

amphibious warships is the minimum requirement, as established by the U.S. Marine Corps.

