



AMPHIBIOUS WARSHIPS

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



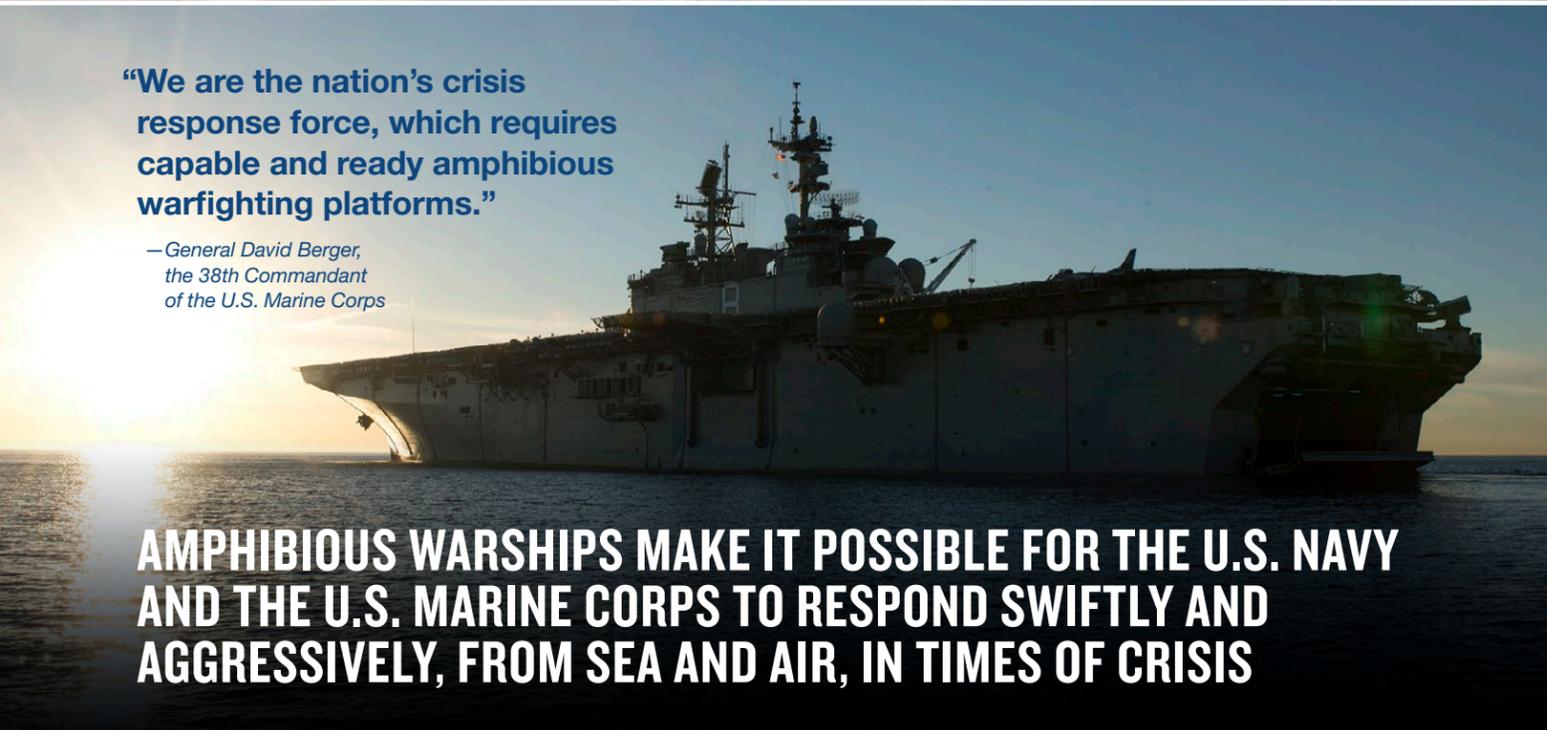
<https://amphibiouswarship.org>





“We are the nation’s crisis response force, which requires capable and ready amphibious warfighting platforms.”

—General David Berger, the 38th Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps



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. Deployments in recent years have involved service such as global force for deterring threats and responding to crisis, noncombatant evacuation operations (NEOs), theater security cooperation with partner nations, and providing state of the art medical facilities and personnel. 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, a program that takes advantage of a mature design, hot production line, and a stable vendor base. The first LPD 17 Flight II ship, USS *Harrisburg* (LPD 30), will be the first functional replacement for the aging LSD 41/49 *Whidbey Island*-class ships. Additionally, the future USS *Bougainville* (LHA 8) is scheduled to be delivered in FY24. LHA 8 has begun fabrication and will be the first ship reincorporating a well deck to enhance war fighting capabilities while maintaining principal aviation characteristics.

The latest National Defense Strategy has a main focus of reasserting America’s competitive edge by blocking global rivals. A principal challenge facing the Marine Corps today lies in continuing to fulfill the role as the naval expeditionary force-in-readiness, while simultaneously modernizing the force. General David Berger, the Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps,

is preparing the Marine Corps to succeed in superiority contests that our country’s leaders foresee as posing the greatest future threats. In addition, the Commandant’s Planning Guidance, which provides strategic direction for the Marine Corps, seeks to create an integrated Navy-Marine Corps fleet that is adaptable, survivable and affordable, to meet the capabilities needed to win the fight in an era of great power competition.

★ CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET

The FY20 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) provides a total of \$24 billion for Navy shipbuilding and includes 14 ships. The FY20 Consolidated Appropriations Act provides \$650 million of incremental funding for the purchase of LHA 9 and \$524 million of incremental funding for the procurement of the second LPD 17 Flight II ship, LPD 31. The FY20 NDAA also authorizes the Secretary of the Navy to enter into and incrementally fund a contract for LHA 9 and provides incremental funding authority for LPD 31.

★ 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 Readiness 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



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.

