

Navy, Marine Corps Set to Reach 2022 Recruiting Goal, Raven Says



A U.S. Marine Corps drill instructor with Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, introduces himself to new recruits on Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., Sept. 2. *U.S. MARINE CORPS / Lance Cpl. Bradley Williams*

ARLINGTON, Va. – As fiscal 2022 approaches its close, the Navy and Marine Corps are set to reach their recruiting goals, the Navy Department’s undersecretary said. But the department is not resting, looking ahead to future years to sustained campaigning in the face of demographic challenges.

“The latest information that I have is that both the Navy and Marine Corps are set to meet their targets for this year,” said Erik Raven, undersecretary of the Navy, speaking Sept. 7 at the Defense News Conference in Arlington.

“We are looking very carefully at what the next fiscal year – 2023 – will mean,” Raven said. “There are some challenges there. Secretary [of the Navy Carlos] Del Toro has directed that we have an organized campaign to make sure that we are

able to meet our recruiting goals, not just in '22 but in '23 and beyond. That means keeping very close track. I've made some really good friends at the recruiting commands because we're talking almost all the time about where we are on our numbers, what we're hearing from recruiting stations across the nation. I've talked with recruiters and understand the headwinds that they're facing."

Raven said the headwinds involve several issues.

"When unemployment is low, recruiting is more challenging," he said. "We're also seeing the propensity of Americans to serve – and the ability to serve – has been declining over time.

"We really to engage with the public in a new way to help explain what the value of military service is to our nation, not just as a Navy and Marine Corps equity, but in terms of the career opportunities young people can pursue, what the compensation benefits of military service are, and what we can provide for, not just a career in the military, but outside the military," he said.

"We're pulling out all the stops to be able to do that, and a lot of this will also be engaging with schools," he said. "We need to make sure that our recruiters have access to schools, to just have that conversation and offer up opportunities to young Americans who may be looking at their options as they graduate."

Also speaking at the conference was Gen. Eric Smith, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, who was asked by an attendee what keeps him up at night.

"As a father of a Marine, what keeps me up at night is people and recruiting," Smith said. "We are at a point now where recruiting is a challenge and I think we are all collectively not doing a good enough job of explaining the virtue and value of military service. ... Military service is not just a good thing. It is an honorable thing.

“There’s this narrative out there that you come in, you’re going to leave broken, you’re going to leave damaged,” the general said. “A small percentage, yes. We put our lives on the line, as you know for certain, when we go to war. But in the main, you come in, and you leave four to 35 years later, with a skill that you didn’t have. What keeps me up at night is trying to remind people, is that we are warfighters, we bring lethality, that’s what we do: we defend the Constitution. ... the value of military service is that you defend your Constitution, defend your nation, gain a skill, and return to civil society as, hopefully, a better person than we found you.

“But that narrative seems to be getting lost, and that concerns me, because we do have to recruit and retain our people, because people are the most valuable thing,” he said. “That’s who fight and win wars. Machines don’t do that; it’s people.”

Britain’s Flagship Heads to USA Ahead of Autumn on European Operations



NATO Ambassadors observe an F-35 Lightning jet land on the flight deck of Her Majesty's Ship Queen Elizabeth, Nov. 22, 2021. *U.S. MARINE CORPS / Staff Sgt. Bryani Musick*

WASHINGTON – In the coming months, HMS Queen Elizabeth will be at the heart of a powerful task group made up of thousands of Sailors, up to 10 ships, F-35B Lightning jets, helicopter squadrons and Royal Marines Commandos which will operate across Europe this autumn, said Georgina Burros, chief communications officer for Global Issues for the British Embassy in Washington, D.C.

But the aircraft carrier will first deploy to the East Coast of the United States to undertake parts of HMS Prince of Wales' deployment as its sister ship undergoes repairs.

"After a period of maintenance it is fantastic for the fleet flagship to be underway again to conduct operational activity with allies and partners," said Capt. Ian Feasey, HMS Queen Elizabeth's commanding officer.

The Royal Navy task force will work closely with allies and partners across Europe – from the Baltic all the way south to the Balkans and Black Sea region – over the coming months.

The operations are part of galvanized NATO efforts in the face of Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine to safeguard security, stability and prosperity across Europe. HMS Queen Elizabeth will primarily be focused on operations in the Baltic and work closely with forces from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

Together, these nations form the U.K.-led Joint Expeditionary Force, designed to react to crises whenever and wherever they unfold.

Before the operational phase of the deployment, HMS Queen Elizabeth will be in New York to host the Atlantic Future Forum, a conference that brings together the brightest minds and most influential thinkers from defense and beyond to strengthen U.K. and U.S. bonds.

Submarine-hunting frigate HMS Richmond will accompany the aircraft carrier across the Atlantic.

At the same time, the Royal Navy's Littoral Response Group is completing its final preparations before deploying to the Mediterranean to operate with NATO allies and partners in a region vital for European security.

The amphibious task group is made of more than a thousand Sailors and Royal Marines and will be led by HMS Albion.

USCGC Decisive Returns Home after 58-Day Interdiction Patrol



The Reliance-class medium endurance cutter USCGC Decisive (WMEC 629) shown in the territorial seas of Guatemala in October 2021. *U.S. COAST GUARD*

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The crew of the USCGC Decisive (WMEC 629) returned to Pensacola, Florida, Aug. 20 after assisting in the repatriation of 203 Cuban migrants following 14 interdictions off Florida’s coast, the Coast Guard Atlantic Area said Sept. 6.

In support of the 7th Coast Guard District, the 58-day maritime law enforcement and search and rescue patrol took

place in the Windward Passage between Haiti, Cuba and the Straits of Florida, south of Key West, disrupting illegal migrant ventures while supporting national security operations.

“Individuals illegally migrating to the United States face a potentially fatal journey, often traveling on unstable and dangerously overcrowded sailing vessels constructed of repurposed materials,” said Cmdr. David Smith, Decisive’s executive officer. “Decisive’s crew extends its appreciation to Coast Guard cutters William Flores, Palbo Valent and Robert Yered for their support to ensure operations were safe, effective and successful.”

As the primary holding platform for migrants awaiting repatriation, Decisive had 432 migrants cross its decks over eight days and disrupted three ventures during the 58-day patrol.

Once aboard a cutter, all migrants receive food, water, shelter and essential medical attention.

Decisive is a 210-foot medium-endurance cutter homeported in Pensacola. The cutter’s primary mission areas include homeland security, law enforcement, counterdrug, search and rescue, migrant interdiction, and fisheries enforcement in support of U.S. Coast Guard operations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Boeing Demos Open Autonomy

Architecture for Manned-Unmanned Teaming with MQ-25



Boeing's MUM-T demonstration included three different naval aircraft tasking four virtual, autonomous MQ-25s to conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions. Here a simulated F/A-18 Super Hornet interacts with a simulated MQ-25. *BOEING*

ST. LOUIS – Boeing has digitally demonstrated a new open autonomy architecture for MQ-25 that will allow the U.S. Navy to increase mission effectiveness by integrating manned-unmanned teaming (MUM-T) capability at speed and scale, the company said Sept. 6.

The non-proprietary architecture, based on the government-owned Open Mission System specification, is the foundation for advanced MUM-T. A Boeing-led team virtually demonstrated how other aircraft can use MQ-25's architecture and task it to conduct tanking and intelligence, surveillance and

reconnaissance missions – all within the mission airspace and without traditional communications with the ship-based ground control station.

Boeing's MUM-T demonstration included Northrop Grumman's E-2D Advanced Hawkeye command and control aircraft, Boeing's P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft and Boeing's F/A-18 Block III Super Hornet fighter. Using their existing operational flight program software and data links, the aircraft safely and efficiently tasked four virtual, autonomous MQ-25s to conduct ISR missions. The F/A-18 also used its advanced tactical data links and Boeing's conceptual "Project Black Ice" crew vehicle interface, which significantly reduced aircrew workload.

"Large swaths of ocean could be surveilled, identified and targeted when MQ-25 is teamed with carrier-based assets such as the E-2D or the land-based P-8A patrol aircraft," said Don "BD" Gaddis, director, MQ-25 Advanced Design. "Through this demonstration, our customers saw how this digital, open approach to MUM-T is key to fielding critical warfighting capability at much lower cost and with greater speed and agility."

For example, the demonstration showed how both the P-8A and E-2D could easily task an MQ-25 teammate with an ISR mission specifying only the search area and no-fly zones. Using an onboard autonomy framework developed by Boeing subsidiary Aurora Flight Sciences, the MQ-25 autonomously did the rest – including validating the command against its operational constraints, planning its route and conducting its search pattern, among many other tasks.

Aurora also created and demonstrated a prototype platform abstraction layer – a software boundary that decouples MQ-25's flight safety and flight critical components from mission software and sensor hardware. This commercial best practice allows third-party "app" integration on MQ-25. Using an

Aurora-provided software development kit, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division created a new radar search application for MQ-25 that was successfully used during the demonstration.

“Aurora’s robust software development kit enables our Navy teammates to rapidly integrate new capabilities,” said Graham Drozeski, vice president of Government Programs for Aurora Flight Sciences. “The platform abstraction demonstration met test objectives for resource sharing between multiple onboard systems and supervisors, and these efforts will greatly reduce government test and certification costs as new capabilities are added over time.”

The demonstration was aligned to the future warfighting capabilities in the Navy’s Unmanned Campaign Framework. Boeing will continue to refine the autonomy, sensors, interface exchanges and crew vehicle interfaces required for MUM-T.

USNS Burlington Conducts Theater Security in Caribbean



Dutch military police practice room clearing techniques aboard the Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Burlington (T-EPF-10), during a theater security cooperation event, Aug. 9. *U.S. MARINE CORPS / Sgt. Brendan Mullin*
ORANJESTAD, Aruba – The Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Burlington (T-EPF-10) arrived in the port of Oranjestad on the island of Aruba, Aug. 7, during its deployment to the U.S. 4th Fleet area of operations, the fleet’s public affairs office said Sept. 3.

Its mission is to provide expeditionary maintenance to deployed littoral combat ships operating in the region, conduct theater security cooperation engagements to maintain access, enhance interoperability with the Dutch military, and build enduring partnerships in the Caribbean, Central and South American areas of responsibility.

“Theater security cooperation events are important because every single one of our allies and partners brings a unique perspective and background to the table,” says Lt. Christopher

Martinez, the officer-in-charge of the military detachment aboard the Burlington. "It increases each of our capabilities as a whole as we learn from each other."

The crew aboard Burlington invited the Dutch Marines and military police to tour the vessel to demonstrate some of the capabilities the ship possesses. Events like these help reaffirm the United States' commitment to its allies and partner nations with tangible actions and assets.

While aboard the Burlington, the Dutch military police performed active shooter response drills with the U.S. Navy embarked personnel.

"Working with the Dutch proves there's more than one solution to a problem," says Chief Master-At-Arms Robert Abreu. "We both approached the problem a bit differently, and after coming together to talk a bit more, we came up with some techniques that we were both satisfied with."

**USCGC Mohawk Completes
Maritime Security Deployment
in Gulf of Guinea**



USCGC Mohawk (WMEC 913) sails in the Atlantic Ocean, Aug. 22. Mohawk is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. Naval Forces Africa area of operations, employed by U.S. Sixth 6th to defend U.S., allied and partner interests. *U.S. COAST GUARD / Petty Officer 3rd Class Jessica Fontenette*

ATLANTIC OCEAN – The Famous-class medium endurance USCGC Mohawk (WMEC 913) completed a regularly scheduled deployment to the Gulf of Guinea on Sept. 2, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa public affairs said Sept. 6.

From July to September, Mohawk conducted maritime security and law enforcement operations as well as continued building valued relationships with allies and partners from Cabo Verde, Gabon, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Sierra Leone and Spain.

“I am extremely proud of this crew and all they have accomplished over the last three months,” said Cmdr. Andrew Pate, commanding officer of the Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk. “We are operating in a global Coast Guard and Mohawk’s ability to deploy across the Atlantic Ocean, and work alongside our European and African partners to combat piracy and illegal,

unregulated, and unreported fishing drives home the United States' commitment to security, stability, and prosperity in the region."

Mohawk's deployment also demonstrated the United States' longstanding commitment of supporting African partners with addressing their security challenges in the maritime domain. The U.S. maritime services routinely work with allied and partner nations to foster a united, global effort to safeguard free and open access to international waterways.

"The successful deployment of USCGC Mohawk to the Gulf of Guinea highlights our continued commitment to our West African partners," said Vice Adm. Kevin Lunday, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area. "The U.S. Coast Guard is a valued member of the Joint Force, providing unique authorities and capabilities to aid partner nations as they address security and prosperity challenges. Our collaboration and sharing of best practices with our West African counterparts allows us to assist in combating narcotics smuggling, promoting freedom of commerce, and deterring illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in their waters."

Mohawk was forward-deployed to the U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF) area of operations, and employed by U.S. 6th Fleet. This is the latest of several U.S. Coast Guard cutter deployments to the region.

Cutter Vigorous Returns Home after 53-Day Pacific

Interdiction Patrol



The Coast Guard Cutter Vigorous returned to its Virginia Beach homeport on Sept. 5. *U.S. COAST GUARD*

PORTSMOUTH, Va. – The USCGC Vigorous (WMEC 627) returned to its home port of Virginia Beach, Sept. 5, following a 53-day patrol in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, the Coast Guard Atlantic Area said in a release.

Throughout the patrol, Vigorous operated in support of the Coast Guard's 11th District and Joint Interagency Task Force-South, aiding in missions to interdict and disrupt the flow of illegal drugs and migrant trafficking while supporting national security and strengthening relationships with regional partners.

Vigorous seized approximately 1,256 pounds of marijuana worth nearly \$2 million that was offloaded in Miami on Aug. 30. In addition, Vigorous' crew rescued a person in distress more than 100 miles off the coast of Colombia, providing food and

mechanical assistance while awaiting a Colombian Navy asset to return the person safely to shore.

Vigorous also conducted a joint training exercise with the Colombian Navy. The training allowed the Coast Guard and Colombian Navy to exercise interagency communication and compare drug interdiction tactics, techniques, and procedures.

After completing almost 50 days of counter-narcotics operations, Vigorous responded to a need for more Coast Guard cutter coverage in the Straits of Florida, south of the Florida Keys. Over the course of 24 hours, Vigorous interdicted 31 Cuban migrants before transferring them to a Florida-based cutter.

“I’m proud of the hard work and professionalism demonstrated by the Vigorous crew,” said Commander Ryan Waters, the cutter’s commanding officer, “that made this challenging patrol successful and memorable.”

Vigorous is a 210-foot Reliance-class medium endurance cutter homeported in Virginia Beach with a crew of 66. Vigorous’ primary mission areas include homeland security, law enforcement, counterdrug, search and rescue, migrant interdiction, and fisheries enforcement in support of U.S. Coast Guard operations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

**5th Fleet Ships Free
Saildrone USVs from Iranian**

Navy Ship



File photo of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces headquarters on Naval Support Activity Bahrain. *U.S. NAVY*

MANAMA, Bahrain – The U.S. Navy intercepted an Iranian warship that seized and detained two U.S. unmanned surface vessels operated by U.S. 5th Fleet in the Red Sea, Sept. 1, two days after Iran was unsuccessful in seizing a similar vessel in the Arabian Gulf, the fleet said Sept. 2.

Jamaran (FFLG 76), an Islamic Republic of Iran Navy ship, seized two Saildrone Explorer unmanned surface vessels operating near one another in international waters before returning the vessels to the U.S. Navy the next day.

The unmanned surface vessels were unarmed and taking unclassified photos of the surrounding environment while loitering in an assigned patrol area at least four nautical miles from the nearest maritime traffic lane. The vessels

posed no risk to naval traffic and had been operating in the general vicinity of the Southern Red Sea for more than 200 consecutive days without incident.

At around 2 p.m. (local time) on Sept. 1, U.S. 5th Fleet detected the Iranian ship approaching both unmanned vessels and removing them from the water. U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyers USS Nitze (DDG 94) and USS Delbert D. Black (DDG 119) were operating nearby and immediately responded. Nitze and Delbert D. Black also each launched an MH-60R Sea Hawk from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 48.

Nitze and Delbert D. Black remained on scene communicating with the Iranian warship to deescalate the situation and recover the seized Sairdrones. The Iranian warship released the Sairdrones at 8 a.m. on Sept. 2.

Vice Chief of Naval Operations Changes Office



Adm. Lisa Franchetti promotes to the rank of Admiral with her family during the change of office ceremony for the Vice Chief of Naval Operations held at the Pentagon, Sept. 2. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Michael B. Zingaro*
ARLINGTON, Va. – Adm. Lisa Franchetti was sworn in as the 42nd Vice Chief of Naval Operations when she assumed duties from Adm. William Lescher in a ceremony at the Pentagon, Sept. 2, the Navy said in a release.

“I am grateful for all that Adm. Bill Lescher has done for our Navy and our nation,” said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Gilday. “Bill always led by example, ensuring our warfighting culture is one focused on continuous improvement and teamwork. His leadership, guidance and initiatives will positively impact the maritime balance of power for years to come.”

“The Navy and the nation are grateful for you and your family’s service,” Gilday added.

Lescher, who served as VCNO from May 2020 to now, is retiring

after 42 years of naval service.

“It has been a privilege to serve as Vice Chief. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead, and serve alongside, so many exceptional Sailors throughout my time in the Navy. Our focus has always been on accelerating the Navy’s warfighting advantage by unleashing the power of our people,” said Lescher. “I know that Adm. Lisa Franchetti is the right leader to help guide our Navy to further advantage in this critical decade. She will be exceptional.”

Franchetti was promoted to the rank of admiral by Gilday prior to the change of office.

“Adm. Franchetti is a true leader with unrelenting commitment to the Fleet,” said Gilday. “She demonstrates operational excellence, strong character, diverse perspectives and resilience in all she does – and I look forward to working together to ensure our Navy remains the world’s premier maritime force.”

“It continues to be an honor to serve as a leader in our Navy,” Franchetti said. “My focus remains on supporting the most powerful Navy in the world, ready for the future fight.”

In her previous position, Franchetti served on the Joint Staff as Director for Strategy, Plans and Policy (J-5). As the Joint Staff J5, she was responsible for strategy, plans, and policy recommendations to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to support his provision of military advice across the full spectrum of national security concerns to the President and other national leaders.

U.S. Maritime Forces Arrive for UNITAS LXIII hosted by Brazil



A U.S. Marine Corps UH-1Y Venom helicopter assigned to Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 773 hovers above the landing pad of the San Antonio class dock landing ship USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19) in the North Atlantic Ocean, Aug. 16. HMLA 773 launched three UH-1Y Venom and two AH-1Z Viper helicopters from McGuire Air Force Base and embarked them aboard the USS Mesa Verde for transit to Brazil in support of exercise UNITAS LXIII hosted by the Brazilian Navy and Marine Corps. *U.S. MARINE CORPS / Cpl. Colton K. Garrett*

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil – Navy and Marine forces are set to arrive in Rio de Janeiro in support of UNITAS LXIII, the world's longest-running multinational maritime exercise scheduled to take place Sept. 8-22, the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command / U.S. 4th Fleet said in a Sept. 1 release.

This year's exercise is hosted by the Brazilian navy and will include 20 participating nations, 19 ships, one submarine, 21 aircraft, accounting for approximately 5,500 total military personnel that will conduct operations principally off the coast of Rio de Janeiro.

UNITAS, Latin for "unity," was conceived in 1959 and has taken place annually since first conducted in 1960. This year marks the 63rd iteration. This year, Brazil will host UNITAS in conjunction and celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of both their nation's independence and navy's founding.

"This exercise is an incredible opportunity for all participating nations to come together as professional mariners on the sea, under the sea, in the air and in the littorals, to operate and grow as a team in order to strengthen our partnerships and enhance our collective maritime posture," said Rear Adm. Jim Aiken, commander U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet. "Congratulations to Brazil on 200 years of independence and excellence in the maritime domain on the sea and on the land."

In addition to the United States, UNITAS LXIII will bring together 19 nations from across Central and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa to train forces in joint maritime operations that enhance tactical proficiency and increase interoperability. Participating nations include Belize, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Namibia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, South Korea, Spain, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

"Exercise UNITAS is a highly anticipated premier training opportunity for all the participating nations' navies and marine corps in the Western Hemisphere," said Lt. Gen. David Bellon, commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South and Marine Forces Reserve. "UNITAS highlights the foundation of

our partnerships and our dedication to building and sustaining the social and military relationships necessary to achieve common objectives and regional security.”

The initial in-port phase will include cultural exchanges, sporting events, community relations projects and the opportunity for UNITAS LXIII partners to participate in bicentennial events such as the Bicentennial Naval Parade scheduled for Sept. 7 along the coast of Rio de Janeiro.

Following opening ceremonies on Sept. 8, naval forces will conduct combined and joint operations as a multi-national task force, executing an event-driven scenario to train in multiple warfare areas. Ships and sailors will head to sea for maritime operation training and Marines will move inland to conduct amphibious training ranges before coming back together in support of a culminating multinational amphibious landing.

A significant focus of UNITAS LXIII is the cooperation and integration of the multinational navy forces with marine corps and naval infantries. The maritime domain includes the littorals that incorporates the ocean and the area inland from the shore which can be supported and defended directly from the sea.

U.S. forces participating in UNITAS LXIII include USS Lassen (DDG 82), USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19), USS Albany (SSN 753), Commander, Amphibious Squadron Eight (COMPHIBRON 8), Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 22 (HSC 22), Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 70 Detachment 2 (HSM 70 Det 2), Patrol Squadron Sixteen (VP-16), Special Boat Team 22 (SBT 22), Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) Det 2, Seal Platoon from Seal Team 8, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Two (EODMU-2), Beachmaster Unit Two (BMU-2), USCG Pacific Area Tactical Law Enforcement Team (PAC AREA TACLET), Commander, Destroyer Squadron 40, (COMDESRON 40), Fleet Surgical Team (FST) 8, 25th Marine Regiment, 3d Battalion 25th Marine

Regiment, 3d Force Reconnaissance Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Company (4th LAR), 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (4th CEB), 6th Engineer Support Battalion (6th ESB), 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO), 4th Civil Affairs Group (4th CAG), Marine Aircraft Group 49 (MAG-49), U.S Marine Corps Forces South (MARFORSOUTH), and USNAVS0/FOURTHFLT.

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet supports U.S. Southern Command's joint and combined military operations by employing maritime forces in cooperative maritime security operations to maintain access, enhance interoperability, and build enduring partnerships in order to enhance regional security and promote peace, stability and prosperity in the Caribbean, Central and South American region.

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South is the Marine Corps component to U.S. Southern Command, is responsible for planning exercises, operation, and overall Marine Corps support for the SOUTHCOM assigned area of responsibility.