

# Navy to Commission Expeditionary Mobile Base USS Miguel Keith



Sailors aboard Combatant Craft Assault boats conduct small boat operations with the Expeditionary Sea Base USS Hershel "Woody" Williams (ESB 4) as part of U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) interoperability training with the ship in the Mediterranean Sea, Aug. 27, 2020. The Navy will commission its newest ESB, the future USS Miguel Keith (ESB 5) on May 8. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Conner Foy*

The Navy will commission its newest expeditionary mobile base, the future USS Miguel Keith (ESB 5), during a 10:00 a.m. PST ceremony Saturday, May 8, at Naval Air Station North Island, Coronado, California, the Defense Department announced in a May 7 release.

Due to public health and safety concerns related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the commissioning ceremony is private with a limited audience.

Adm. Craig Faller, commander, U.S. Southern Command, will deliver the commissioning ceremony's principal remarks. Mrs. Eliadora Delores Keith, Lance Cpl. Miguel Keith's mother, is the ship's sponsor. The ceremony will be highlighted by a time-honored Navy tradition when Eliadora Keith gives the order to "man our ship and bring her to life!"

Capt. Troy A. Fendrick, a native of Tempe, Arizona, is the ship's commanding officer and leads a crew of roughly 100 military officers and crew, alongside 44 Military Sealift Civil Service Mariners. The ship is 785 feet in length, has a beam of 164 feet, and a navigational draft of approximately 39 feet.

The ship, named in honor of Marine Corps Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Lance Cpl. Miguel Keith, was built in San Diego by General Dynamics NASSCO and was delivered to the Navy on Nov. 15, 2019.

USS Miguel Keith is the third Expeditionary Sea Base (ESB). ESB was previously known as Afloat Forward Staging Base. These vessels are highly flexible platforms that provide logistics movement from sea to shore supporting a broad range of military operations. The ESB is designed around four core capabilities: aviation facilities, berthing, equipment staging area, and command and control.

USS Miguel Keith will be part of the Forward Deployed Naval Force operating from Saipan.

The event will be livestreamed for the general public and media to view. Livestream transmission will begin at 9:50 a.m. PST at: <https://allhands.navy.mil/Live-Stream> for those unable to attend.