

USS Billings Returns to Naval Station Mayport



NAVAL STATION MAYPORT, Fla. – The Freedom-class littoral combat ship USS Billings (LCS 15) returned to Naval Station Mayport Oct. 10, 2026, following a 6-month deployment to U.S. Fourth Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. Southern Command's (USSOUTHCOM) mission.

During the deployment, Billings conducted sustained maritime security operations to support regional counter-illicit trafficking efforts. The crew worked alongside an embarked U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment and a Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 48 detachment, supporting multiple successful interdictions that resulted in the seizure of more than 2,500 kilograms of illicit narcotics and the apprehension of suspected traffickers.

“The crew of USS Billings exemplified operational agility and

dedication throughout this deployment,” said Rear Adm. Carlos Sardiello, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet. “Whether executing high-stakes interdictions, transporting vital drinking water in support of disaster relief efforts, or contributing to coalition efforts, these Sailors helped impose total systemic friction on narco-terrorist networks, directly supporting the defense of the homeland and the security of the Western Hemisphere.”

Billings also strengthened maritime interoperability with Caribbean partners, including the Dominican Republic Navy and Jamaica Defence Force, to enhance information sharing and address shared security challenges. Additionally, the ship demonstrated its versatility by supporting humanitarian-assistance efforts following an earthquake in Venezuela in June, transporting more than 77,000 pounds of drinking water.

Billings departed Naval Station Mayport on March 27, 2026.

USS Billings is the first U.S. Navy ship to bear the name, honoring the city of Billings, Montana, and the enduring service, sacrifice, and patriotism of south-central Montana and the broader Big Sky region. Sailing under the motto “Big Sky Over Troubled Waters,” the ship connects Montana’s proud heritage with the crew’s dedication to defending freedom.

Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic is responsible for manning, training, and equipping assigned surface forces and shore activities, ensuring a capable and combat-ready force to support U.S. national interests. The SURFLANT force consists of more than 66 warships and 34 shore commands.

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