Theodore Roosevelt Becomes First Navy Ship at Sea with COVID-19 Cases

An F/A-18F Super Hornet lands on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt. The Navy reported on March 24 three cases of the coronavirus on the ship. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Nicholas V. Huynh ARLINGTON, Va. — In the first case of COVID-19 detected aboard a U.S. Navy ship at sea, three people quarantined with the coronavirus aboard
the USS Theodore Roosevelt in the Pacific Ocean have been evacuated for further
treatment, acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly announced.

"These are our first three cases of COVID-19 on a ship
that's deployed," Modly told a Pentagon press briefing on March 24. "We've
identified all those folks they've had contact with, and we're quarantining
them as well," he added.

To date, 86 cases of COVID-19 have been detected among people connected with the Navy, including 57 uniformed personnel, 13 civilian
employees, 11 dependents and five contractors, Modly said.

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>
> *Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday*

The Roosevelt left its last port of call, Da Nang, Vietnam, 15 days ago and has been self-quarantined at sea for 14 days, the incubation

period of the virus, a procedure required of all Navy ships at sea since the
disease began to spread, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday said. He
said it would be difficult to definitively link the outbreak on the Roosevelt
to the port visit in Vietnam.

"We've had aircraft flying to and from the ship, so we just don't want to say it was that particular port visit," Gilday noted, adding that
enhanced medical screening of the crew was done after leaving port.

The CNO said the three Sailors who tested positive for COVID-19 were not showing symptoms that would necessarily require
hospitalization, only an elevated body temperature and body aches. However,
leaders moved quickly to isolate them and evacuate them by aircraft to a Defense
Department hospital in the Pacific region, which Gilday declined to identify.

"We've begun to take a look inside the ship, how we can isolate and contain as best we can," Gilday said, adding there is testing
capability on the ship, including the capacity to test for non-COVID but
influenza-related incidents.

The CNO said Navy officials are working with the Roosevelt's commander to assess the situation both medically and in terms of the carrier's
mission. "We're taking this day-by-day, and we're being very deliberate how we
do it," Gilday said. "We are not at a position right now to say we have to pull

that ship in — or to take that ship off the front line."

Given the busy comings and goings on an aircraft carrier,
including helicopters delivering supplies and personnel,
Gilday was asked if
the Navy is planning any change in procedure for other
deployed carriers. He
said there were no specifics yet but noted that after every
COVID-19 case is
detected, practices and procedures are examined to determine
"the dos and the
don'ts we can quickly promulgate fleetwide."