USS Tripoli Marks Significant Steps Toward Fleet Tasking with Fitting Out Availability, Sea Trials



Sailors participate in a flight deck firefighting drill aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli (LHA 7), March 11, 2021. Tripoli is an America-class amphibious assault ship homeported in San Diego. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Hinson*

SAN DIEGO – USS Tripoli (LHA 7), the second amphibious assault ship in the America class, is highlighting its capabilities with the completion of its Fitting Out Availability (FOA) on March 26 and upcoming sea trials, Team Ships and USS Tripoli Public Affairs said in a March 31 release.

The FOA entails changes that resulted from lessons learned and feedback from USS America's (LHA 6) availability and work

postponed due to COVID-19 protocols. Work completed during this time directly supports the vessel's F-35B Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) capability, including onboard space reconfiguration and preparing for advanced logistical systems installment.

When the ship is underway for sea trials, the crew will begin validating performance, operating many of the ship's onboard systems, including navigation, damage control, mechanical and electrical systems, combat systems, communications and propulsion applications to ensure mission readiness.

"This amphibious assault ship is ready to provide critical capabilities in supporting overall mission readiness to the Sailors and Marines of the Pacific Fleet," said Capt. Cedric McNeal, program manager, Amphibious Warfare Programs. "With its enhanced JSF capability, this ship meets the operational needs of today, while providing capacity for the future fight."

Tripoli incorporates key components to provide the fleet with a more aviation-centric platform. The ship's design features an enlarged hangar deck, aviation maintenance facilities realignment and expansion, a significant increase in available stowage for parts and support equipment, and increased aviation fuel capacity.

The ship will enter its Post Delivery Test and Trials phase, followed by Final Contract Trials with the Board of Inspection and Survey and the Post Shakedown Availability before eventual national tasking.

"The combined post-delivery and Tripoli team completed six months of depot-level work on time, a significant accomplishment in this COVID environment," said Capt. Joel Lang, Tripoli's commanding officer. "The crew is ready to take the ship to sea to complete bow-to-stern testing to prove the combat effectiveness of assault carrier 7."

The future USS Bougainville (LHA 8) is currently in production at Huntington Ingalls Industries and LHA 9 contract award is on track for 2021.