

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVY REGION MID-ATLANTIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY

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News Media Information for Navy Units Participating in Harborfest 40th

NORFOLK, VA (NRMA) – Sailors will man the rails of the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19) tomorrow when she sails past Town Point Park during the Parade of Ships representing the U.S. Navy in the 40th Annual Norfolk Harborfest.

The ship will be welcomed into the harbor with a traditional gun salute by Gunner's Mates from Naval Station Norfolk manning a portable 40mm saluting battery.

Aircraft from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 28 (HSC 28) Dragon Whales will perform a flyover in conjunction with the ship's arrival in the harbor and the gun salute. Following the Parade of Ships, the Mesa Verde departs for operations at sea.

The presence of a cruise ship at Nauticus Pier prevents a Navy ship from mooring after the Parade of Ships Friday. Instead, the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Bainbridge (DDG 96) will arrive Saturday.

The Navy's Explosive Ordnance Group TWO also arrives Saturday to exhibit their EOD command truck, bomb robots and bomb suits. The EOD exhibit will also be adjacent to the Nauticus Pier and the Bainbridge Saturday.

In addition to Bainbridge and EOD, Coastal Riverine Squadron Four will have two combat craft participating during the Harborfest weekend. The combat craft will participate in the Parade of Ships and moor at Mercury Dock Friday and open for general public visitation Friday and Sunday. The craft will perform tactical demonstrations off the Harborfest waterfront Friday at 4 p.m., and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The crew will also have a Tactical Combat Casualty Care exhibit.

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Navy Region Mid-Atlantic is responsible for the operation of Navy installations from North Carolina to Maine and providing support programs and services for the fleet, fighter and family.

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The U.S. Navy's environmental and energy team will have exhibits in the park near the marina, from noon to 6 p.m. each day, featuring the U.S. Fleet Forces "Stewards of the Sea" exhibit, with the Navy's environmental mascot, "Stewie" and the Navy's Oyster Restoration program. "Stewie," the Navy's environmental mascot, will be available for photo opportunities. Stewie represents the dual mission that at-sea service members perform to protect the nation and preserve the environment.

Bainbridge will be open Saturday and Sunday for visitation at the Nauticus Pier from noon to 6 p.m. Visitors are reminded that lines may be capped early so that the people in line have an opportunity to complete their tours. Some items are prohibited so please see the signs in the park.

Visitors to the Bainbridge should plan to wear comfortable clothing and shoes. All bags will be searched prior to boarding the ship. Ships are considered an industrial environment and guests are encouraged to avoid open-toed sandals, high-heels, necklaces or other items that can get caught, as well as bags that are too heavy to carry comfortably. Sunscreen and/or sunglasses are advised.

There is no age requirement to tour the ship; however, tours may not be appropriate for small children or those with certain medical conditions. Strollers or baby carriages are permitted on the pier, but not allowed on the ships. The ship is not handicapped accessible.

Bottles, cans or containers of any type; banners, posters or signs of any type; mace, pepper spray, or other defensive sprays or chemicals; knives, firearms, fireworks or any explosive; illegal drugs or paraphernalia; flammable liquids or aerosol spray cans; club weapons; and animals are not permitted. Smoking is also not permitted aboard the ship or on the piers. The Navy reserves the right to prohibit other items not listed above.

**Interested members of the media are invited to visit the displays, watch the demonstrations and conduct interviews with Navy personnel.
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