



THE NAVAL HISTORY OF PUERTO RICO



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SHIPS



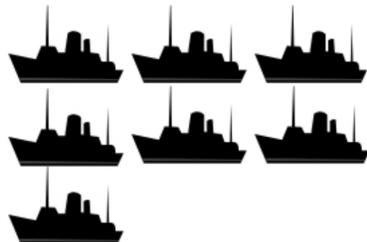
USS San Juan (SSN 751)

The third USS San Juan (SSN 751) is a Los Angeles-class submarine that commissioned in 1988 at Naval Submarine Base New London, CT. Los Angeles-class submarines have a crew of approximately 143, consisting of 16 officers and 127 enlisted Sailors.

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At least 7 ships have been named after the territory of Puerto Rico, its cities, places, and people. A few of those ships include:

- USS Corozal (AK), 1918
- USS Culebra Island (ARG 7), 1944
- USS Mona Island (ARG 9), 1944
- USS Ponce (LPD 15), 1971
- USNS Puerto Rico (EPF 11)*
- USS San Juan II (CL 54), 1942
- USS San Juan III (SSN 751), 1988



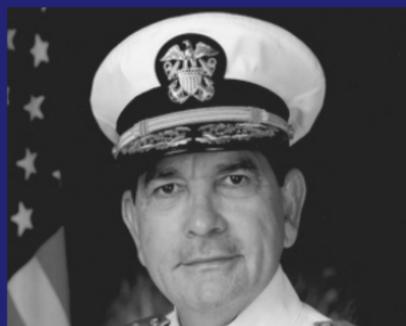
*not yet placed in service



USS Ponce (LPD 15)

Commissioned in 1971, USS Ponce was the 12th and last ship in the Austin-class of amphibious transport dock ships. Named for the Puerto Rican city of the same name, Ponce served mostly in the Atlantic Fleet, completing 27 deployments. After being forward deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operation for five years, the "Proud Lion" returned to its homeport and was decommissioned Oct. 14, 2017.

PEOPLE



Diego E. Hernández

Vice Adm. Diego Hernández was born in San Juan, PR, on March 25, 1934. In June 1980, he took command of the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67). Hernández was the first Hispanic appointed as deputy commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). He retired from the Navy in 1997. During his military career, he received several decorations including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, Legion of Merit and the Purple Heart, among many others.



George E. Mayer

A native of San Juan, PR, Rear Adm. George Mayer graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1975. Upon graduation, he pursued additional academic instruction in aerodynamic principles and flight tactics to achieve his dream of becoming a jet pilot. He was first qualified in the A-7 Corsair aircraft, and later qualified in the F/A-18 Hornet—the nation's first strike-fighter. In 2002, Mayer was appointed as Commander, Carrier Group Eight, based in Norfolk, VA.



Haydee Javier Kimmich

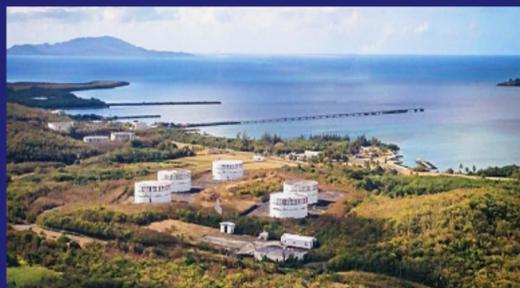
Capt. Haydee Javier Kimmich was born in Cabo Rogo, PR. After serving three years in the Air Force, Kimmich went on to join the Navy, eventually serving as Chief of Orthopedics at the Navy Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. In 1998, Kimmich was selected as Woman of the Year in Puerto Rico.

PLACES



Did You Know?

Populated for centuries by aboriginal peoples, Puerto Rico was claimed by the Spanish Crown in 1493. In 1898, after 400 years of colonial rule, Puerto Rico was ceded to the United States as a result of the Spanish-American War. Puerto Ricans were granted US citizenship in 1917.



Naval Station Roosevelt Roads

Naval Station Roosevelt Roads was located in Ceiba, PR, and was named for the then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who conceived the idea of a naval station on a surveying trip in 1919. It was commissioned as a U.S. naval operations base in 1943 and was later re-designated as a naval station in 1957. Though it closed in 2004, it would go down in history as one of the largest naval stations with just over 9,000 acres of land and 100 miles of paved roads.



Navy Operational Support Center Puerto Rico

Located at Army Installation, Fort Buchanan in Puerto Rico, the mission of NOSC Puerto Rico is to provide outstanding operations support to the Navy, Marine Corps and Joint Forces. There are currently eight selected reserve units based out of NOSC Puerto Rico.