



PH2 Michael J. Pusnik

## Super Hornet Basing Decided

The Department of the Navy issued a record of decision for basing 10 F/A-18E/F Super Hornet squadrons and one fleet replacement squadron (FRS) on the East Coast. Eight fleet squadrons and one FRS comprising 120 aircraft will be based at NAS Oceana, Va.; two fleet squadrons comprising 24 aircraft will be located at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.; and an outlying field will be constructed in Washington County, N.C.

**Above, an F/A-18E Super Hornet of VFA-14 approaches *Nimitz* during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Department of the Navy recently announced plans for basing 10 Super Hornet squadrons on the East Coast.**

## San Antonio Christened

The Navy's newest amphibious ship, *San Antonio* (LPD 17), above right, was christened on 19 July at Northrop Grumman facilities in New Orleans, La. She is the first ship to



Northrop Grumman Corp.

feature the Advanced Enclosed Mast/Sensor system that replaces conventional masts and protects radar and communications antennas from weather. *San Antonio* is designed to play a critical role in future

expeditionary strike groups, with the ability to carry advanced amphibious assault vehicles, landing craft air cushion and aircraft such as the tilt-rotor MV-22 Osprey.

## For the Record

**Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)** received her flight deck certification on 14 August.

The ASQ-228 **Advanced Targeting Forward Looking Infrared** pod completed operational evaluation, achieving certification as operationally effective and suitable.

## Mishaps

On 22 July, an F/A-18C Hornet of VMFA-232 crashed at Twentynine Palms, Calif., killing the pilot.

An AV-8B Harrier II of VMA-513 suffered Class A damage after departing the runway during landing rollout at Bagram, Afghanistan, on 23 July.

On 27 July, an EA-6B Prowler of VAQ-135 crashed following takeoff from *Nimitz* (CVN 68) in the Arabian Gulf. The aircrew members ejected safely and were recovered.

An S-3B Viking of VS-24 was destroyed and two aircrew members suffered first-aid injuries following a crash in Georgia on 31 July.

An E-2C Hawkeye assigned to Defense Plant Representative Office St. Augustine, Fla., suffered Class A damage when it departed the runway during landing rollout on 14 August.

On 24 August, an S-3B Viking suffered Class A damage during a

takeoff mishap at Tinker AFB, Okla.

An F/A-18C Hornet of VFA-25 suffered Class A damage when, following a stuck throttle in flight, the pilot ejected as the aircraft departed the runway at NAS Lemoore, Calif., on 5 September.

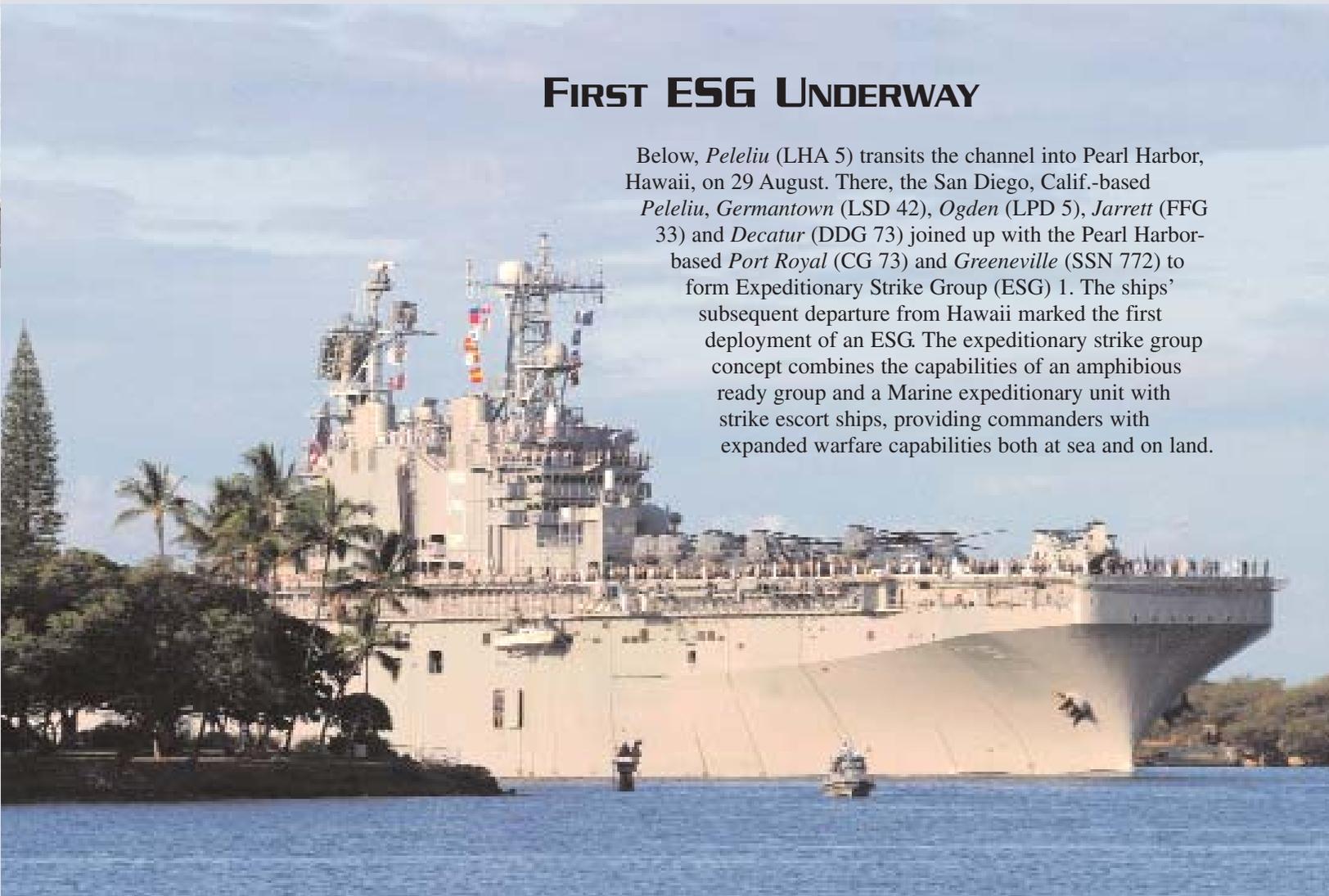
On 6 September, an EA-6B of VAQ-141 suffered Class A damage when it departed controlled flight after flying through jet wash on the runway threshold at NS Norfolk, Va.

During carrier qualifications aboard *George Washington* (CVN 73) in the Virginia Capes on 11 September, an arresting wire broke during landing. The pilot of the F/A-18C Hornet of VFA-106 ejected safely and was recovered. The aircraft was lost, and several crew members on the deck were injured.

PH1 William R. Goodwin

## FIRST ESG UNDERWAY

Below, *Peleliu* (LHA 5) transits the channel into Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on 29 August. There, the San Diego, Calif.-based *Peleliu*, *Germantown* (LSD 42), *Ogden* (LPD 5), *Jarrett* (FFG 33) and *Decatur* (DDG 73) joined up with the Pearl Harbor-based *Port Royal* (CG 73) and *Greenville* (SSN 772) to form Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 1. The ships' subsequent departure from Hawaii marked the first deployment of an ESG. The expeditionary strike group concept combines the capabilities of an amphibious ready group and a Marine expeditionary unit with strike escort ships, providing commanders with expanded warfare capabilities both at sea and on land.



# HELICOPTER COMMAND REDESIGNATIONS PLANNED

As the Navy continues transitioning to the H-60 as its sole helicopter platform, CNO's Director, Air Warfare has approved new squadron designations to reflect the new organization. Current HC and HS squadrons will be redesignated HSC for Helicopter Sea Combat, and HSL squadrons will be redesignated HSM for Helicopter Maritime Strike. Below is a list of current and future wings and squadrons and the estimated date of transition. Squadrons seeking guidance for submitting insignia to reflect their changing designations should reference [www.history.navy.mil/branches/org4-16.htm](http://www.history.navy.mil/branches/org4-16.htm).



PHAN Craig Spiering

Above, an MH-60S of HC-6 conducts an ammunition offload on 20 July. Facing page, AM1 Aaron Dorsey looks on as AM1 Tony Betances guides the rescue hoist of an HC-3 MH-60S during a training flight on 13 August.

## WING REDESIGNATIONS

In March 2005, the designation of helicopter wings are scheduled to change as follows:

Commander Helicopter Tactical Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMHELTACWINGPAC) becomes Commander Helicopter Sea Combat Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMHELSEACOMBATWINGPAC).

Commander Helicopter Tactical Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMHELTACWINGLANT) becomes Commander Helicopter Sea Combat Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMHELSEACOMBATWINGLANT).

Commander Helicopter Antisubmarine Wing (Light), U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMHSLWINGPAC) becomes Commander Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMHELMARSTRIKEWINGPAC).

Commander Helicopter Antisubmarine Wing (Light), U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMHSLWINGLANT) becomes Commander Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMHELMARSTRIKEWINGLANT).

## SQUADRON REDESIGNATIONS

Old	New	Date	Old	New	Date
HC-2	HSC-2	Jan 2006			
HC-3	HSC-3	Mar 2005	HSL-37	HSM-37	Jan 2014
HC-5	HSC-25	Mar 2005	HSL-40	HSM-40	Jan 2010
HC-6	HSC-26	Mar 2005	HSL-41	HSM-41	Mar 2005
HC-8	HSC-28	Mar 2005	HSL-42	HSM-42	Mar 2014
HC-11	HSC-21	Mar 2005	New Squadron	HSM-70	Jan 2008
New Squadron	HSC-22	Jan 2007	New Squadron	HSM-71	Apr 2009
New Squadron	HSC-23	Jan 2007	New Squadron	HSM-72	Feb 2009
HS-2	HSC-12	Apr 2009	HSL-43	HSM-73	Feb 2007
HS-3	HSC-9	Feb 2010	HSL-44	HSM-74	Feb 2010
HS-4	HSC-4	Feb 2007	HSL-45	HSM-75	Mar 2008
HS-5	HSC-5	Feb 2009	HSL-46	HSM-76	Feb 2011
HS-6	HSC-6	Apr 2010	HSL-47	HSM-77	Apr 2010
HS-7	HSC-7	Jan 2008	New Squadron	HSM-78	Feb 2012
HS-8	HSC-8	Mar 2008	New Squadron	HSM-79	Apr 2011
HS-11	HSC-11	Feb 2011	HSL-48	HSM-48	Feb 2015
HS-14	HSC-14	Apr 2011	HSL-49	HSM-49	Apr 2014
HS-15	HSC-15	Feb 2012	HSL-51	HSM-51	Mar 2013



PHAN Rebecca J. Moat