



**Commander, Naval Surface Force, Atlantic**

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**U.S. NAVY**



## **USS NASSAU (LHA 4)**

**Multi-Purpose Amphibious Assault Ship**

**Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia**

[www.nassau.navy.mil](http://www.nassau.navy.mil)

Homeported in Norfolk, Va., USS NASSAU's (LHA 4) mission is to embark a Marine Landing Force to conduct opposed assault or non-combatant operations. Elements of the landing force may include AV-8B Harrier attack jets, helicopters, conventional landing craft, air cushion or tracked amphibious vehicles, or a combination of these elements. As a Multi-Purpose Amphibious Assault Ship, or LHA, NASSAU can operate independently or in a large landing force to contribute air and surface forces.

The ship can carry a full Marine Battalion Landing Team with all its required supplies and equipment. NASSAU's fully computerized Advanced Combat Direction System and suite of air search radar systems permit the exercise of command and control over large ocean areas. Two Rolling Air-Frame Missile (RAM) Launchers, two Close-in-Weapons Systems (CIWS) and extensive electronic intercept/decoy equipment are designed to defend the ship from hostile forces. A "capital ship" in every sense of the word, NASSAU's extensive satellite communications facilities permit instantaneous worldwide communications which can support an embarked Joint Task Force.

A Secondary mission of USS NASSAU is to provide for evacuation and disaster relief. Hundreds of tons of medical supplies and food can be transported by NASSAU for delivery to disaster victims anywhere in the world. In addition, fresh water and electricity can be provided by NASSAU's engineering plant until domestic services are restored. The ship's Medical and Dental departments can accommodate nearly 400 patients, providing daily outpatient treatment for hundreds of additional sick or injured.

At sea, during amphibious operations, USS NASSAU is a floating city with a population of nearly 3,000 Sailors and Marines, fully capable of conducting independent operations anywhere in the world. Her multi-mission capabilities make USS NASSAU a unique and powerful instrument of U. S. seapower.

USS NASSAU is named for the target of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps' first ever amphibious landing. Captain Esek Hopkins arrived off the Bahamas on 1 March 1776. Two days later, Hopkins ordered a landing designed to outflank the English defenses. Two hundred thirty Marines and fifty Seaman landed on the beach, capturing nearby Fort Montague and then advancing to Fort Nassau, which surrendered the following morning. LHA-4 is the 2<sup>nd</sup> ship to have the name NASSAU. USS NASSAU was commissioned in 1979 as the fourth of the Navy's TARAWA-class multi-purpose amphibious assault ships.

### **SHIP'S SPECIFICATIONS:**

#### **GENERAL**

Length - 820 feet  
Beam (Maximum)- 106 feet  
Speed: 24 knots  
Draft (Navigational)- 27 feet  
Displacement- 39,400 tons full load  
Complement- 82 Officers/882 Enlisted

#### **ENGINEERING**

Propulsion: 2 main engines powered by 600 psi boilers, each developing 70,000 shaft horsepower.  
Electrical:  
Services:

#### **SENSORS**

#### **WEAPONS**

2 RAM launchers  
2 Phalanx 20mm CIWS mount  
3 50-caliber machine guns  
6 25mm MK38 machine guns

#### **AIRCRAFT**

**Keel Laid:** August 16, 1973

**Christened:** January 21, 1978

**Commissioned:** July 28, 1979