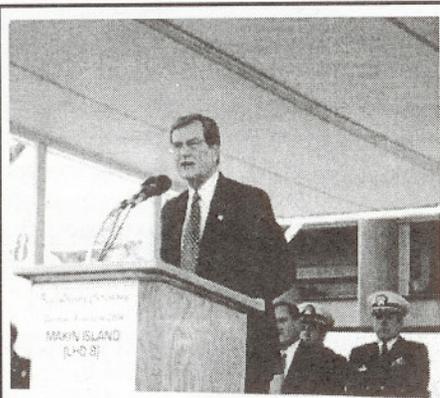


# NAVY TO GET "STATE-OF-THE-ART" SHIP NAMED TO HONOR RAIDER ACTION



— Patch Photo

U.S. Senator Trent Lott, a man who has long been a force on military appropriations, gave an excellent talk at the Keel Laying Ceremony at Pascagoula, Mississippi.



— Patch Photo

The wife of U.S. Marine Corps Commandant, Silke B. Hagee, had the honor of being named sponsor for the Keel Laying of Makin Island (LHD-8) at the Northrop Grumman shipyard.



— Patch Photo

USMC Commandant General Michael W. Hagee talked of Raider history and how the Makin Island will play its part in carrying on that proud tradition well into the 21st century.

## USMRA MEMBERS ON HAND FOR KEEL LAYING

By Patch Editor

The more than 1,600 Marines that will call Makin Island (LHD-8) home when she is completed in 2006 will be in a much different situation than the Raider Marines of August, 1942. The 42,800 Ton WASP (LHD-8) Class is a class of U.S. Navy large-deck multipurpose amphibious assault ship and is a state of the art creation under construction by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems in Pascagoula, Mississippi. She will be the eighth ship in the WASP (LHD-1) class.

A and B Companies of Col. Evans F. Carlson's Second Raider Battalion made their daring assault on Makin Atoll from two huge, but old, Naval mine laying submarines, in the early hours of 17 August, 1942. The new assault carrier, named in honor of that raid and the men whom made it, is a far cry from *USS Nautilus* and *USS Argonaut*. Makin Island is a ship of 847 feet and filled with space age technology that was only dreamed of even a few years ago.

The new Makin Island (LHD-8), whose mission is to enable the Navy/Marine Corps teams to accomplish a seamless transition "... from the sea" to the land battle, primarily as the centerpiece of a Navy Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG). A multi-mission ESG is fully capable of amphibious assault, advance force, and special purpose operations, as well as non-combatant evacuation and other humanitarian missions.

Unlike *Nautilus* and *Argonaut*, the Marines that will serve on Makin Island will enjoy comforts and conveniences that were unimaginable sixty some odd years ago.

Makin Island's specifications are impressive. Her 847 foot length, 106 foot beam are sizable, even today. She can cruise the world's oceans at a respectable 20+ knots. Her crew of 1,204 Navy personnel will be the custodians of a most impressive collection of weapons systems. Two Phalanx Close-In System (CIWS) mounts, two eight-cell NATO Sea Sparrow Missile System Launchers, two Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) Systems, four .50 caliber machine guns and three 25mm machine guns.

But the real potent hammer on board Makin Island (LHD-8) is its complement of aircraft and landing/assault craft. The later includes Air Cushion Landing Craft (LCAC), Utility Landing Craft (LCU) and amphibious assault vehicles. (LVTP-7).

All aircraft on Makin Island (LHD-8) will be vertical take-off types. Included are: AV-8B Harrier II, CH-53E Sea Stallions, CH-46E Sea Knight, SH-60B Seahawk, UH-1W Huey, AH-1W Sea Cobra, and the MV-22 Osprey Tiltrotor. Once again, a very impressive collection of ordnance and delivery systems.

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— Official USMC Photo by Sgt. Branden P. O'Brien

Raider Association representatives seen here with USMC Commandant, General Michael W. Hagee, center, are: left to right, Ashley "Bill" Fisher, (2B), who coordinated the Raider participation, Patch Editor, John McCarthy, (Hon.), Gen. Hagee, Makin Raid Survivor, Brian Quirk (2B), and Honorary Raider Charles Henry. It was a moving experience for all participants.

# KEEL LAYING

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The radar and electronic systems on board will be equally impressive. All of the very latest state-of-the-art equipment will be employed. The list and terminology of the equipment is mind boggling.

Makin Island's (LHD-8) propulsion are two LM2500+ gas turbines, 70,000 SHP total; two 500 hp electric motors for auxiliary propulsion with controllable pitch propellers.

Significant technology advances over the previous seven WASP class ships are: Gas turbine (GE LM2500+) propulsion vice steam boilers, two 5000 hp electric loitering motors for propulsion at low speeds, reverse osmosis destination plants with 200K GPD capacity, all-electric auxiliaries, six 4MW diesel generators (4160 VAC) controllable/reversible pitch propellers, central machinery control system and enhanced C41SR suite.

So, it looks like a Raider history moment might live well into the 21st Century.