



USS Nassau (LHA 4)

To the Beach, and Beyond!

The U.S. Navy's "Top Gator," *USS Nassau (LHA 4)* is named for the target of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps' first ever-amphibious landing.

Capt. Esek Hopkins arrived off the Bahamas on March 1, 1776, to capture the islands from British forces stationed there. Two days later, Hopkins ordered a landing designed to outflank English defenses of the island. Two hundred thirty Marines and 50 Seaman landed on the beach and captured nearby Fort Montague. The force then advanced on Fort Nassau, which surrendered the following morning. Although most of the powder supply was no longer there, Hopkins and his men captured 103 and mortars - enough to make the operation worthwhile. Thus, for the first time American Sailors and Marines responded to the equivalent modern command of, "Land the landing force."

The first U.S. Navy ship to bear the name 'Nassau' was a World War II escort carrier, designated CVE 16. Serving with distinction in the Pacific Theater of Operations, the ship was tasked primarily with transporting new and disabled aircraft between Pearl Harbor, HI, and U.S. bases in the South Pacific. CVE 16 received five battle stars for service, represented in today's *Nassau* logo by the five stars seen in the crimson banner.

The modern day *USS Nassau* was commissioned in 1979 as the fourth of the Navy's Tarawa-class general-purpose amphibious assault ships. For more than 25 years, *Nassau* has been an example of excellence and dedication.

USS Nassau's capability as a general-purpose ship has allowed her to flex to the needs of virtually any mission assigned. In addition to her primary role as a Marine transport, *Nassau* has served as a flagship, logistics hub for incoming and outgoing mail, cargo and other supplies, combat search and rescue, and the tactical recovery and rescue of downed aircraft and personnel.

The United States maintains the largest and most capable amphibious force in the world. Amphibious warships are designed to support the Marine Corps tenets of Operational Maneuver From the Sea (OMFTS) and Ship to Objective Maneuver (STOM). They must be able to sail in harm's way and provide a rapid buildup of combat power ashore in the face of opposition.

Because of their inherent capabilities, these ships have been and will continue to be called upon to also support humanitarian and other contingency missions on short notice.

USS Nassau (LHA-4) Facts

Ship's Crest:



Ship's Command:

Commanding Officer: Capt. James R. Boorujy, USN
Executive Officer: Cmdr. Neil A. Karnes, USN
CMC: CMDCM (AW/SW) Stanley A. Kopiczak, USN

Ship's Motto

"First to the Beach"

Ship's Facts and Figures:

Homeport:	Norfolk, Va.
Keel Laid:	August 13, 1973
Christened:	January 28, 1978
Commissioned:	July 28, 1979
Length:	820 ft
Beam:	106 ft
Displacement:	40,000 tons
Speed:	20 knots

