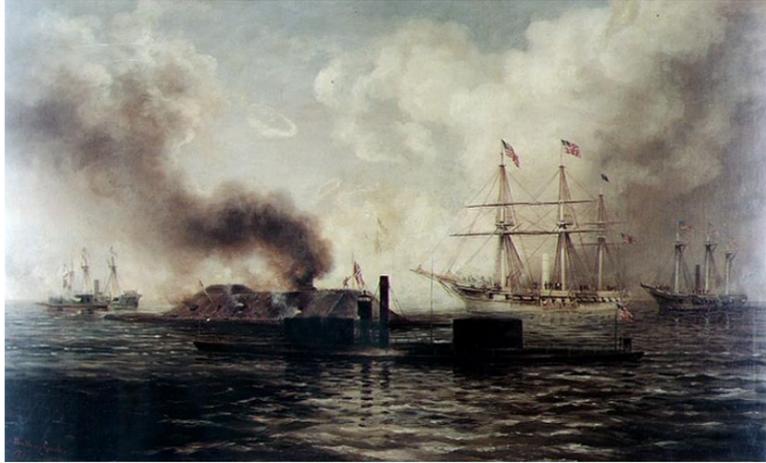


A Civil War Battle Remembered by USS Mobile Bay (CG 53)

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USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) is one of the U.S. Navy's Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruisers, named after the Civil War-era battle of Mobile Bay led by Adm. David Farragut on August 5, 1864. This strategic naval battle was the pinnacle of Farragut's career, and resulted in the famous Naval quote "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"

Torpedoes meant something different in the 1860s, referring to submerged mines rather than today's rocket-shaped self-propelled bombs typically associated with submarines. In the Confederate-controlled port of Mobile Bay, Ala., these torpedoes were strategically placed to deter and slow down the invading Yankee fleet. Since the port of New Orleans was lost in 1862, Mobile Bay was the last remaining port that blockade runners could access to support the Confederate Army. Farragut's forces intended to interrupt the flow of these supplies.



Adm. Farragut's forces steam into the mouth of Mobile Bay in this artist's rendition of the naval battle.

On the morning of August 5, 154 years ago, Farragut's 18-ship force steamed into the mouth of Mobile Bay, Ala., and was immediately met with fire from the Confederate forces. The iron-hulled monitor, USS Tecumseh, sank, and the fleet fell into confusion. It was then that Adm. Farragut's rallying cry of "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead" regrouped the ships. (It is worth mentioning that the authenticity of this quote has been debated by historians, but the quote has nevertheless maintained its infamy in Naval lore.) The Yankee fleet made quick work of the smaller Confederate ships in the bay, and after the ironclad CSS Tennessee sustained heavy damages and Confederate flag officer Adm. Franklin Buchanan surrendered, the battle for the bay was over. Although the city of Mobile was still in the hands of the Confederacy, the port of Mobile Bay belonged to the Yankee force and was no longer available to blockade runners. Nearly three weeks later, the Yankee forces took control of the two forts in Mobile.

The Battle of Mobile Bay lifted the morale of the North, and in the spring of the following year, the Civil War came to a conclusion.

Today, the legacy of the brave Sailors that fought at the Battle of Mobile Bay continues on in the hands of the crew of USS Mobile Bay. Primarily an air-defense ship, Mobile Bay also has mine warfare, anti-submarine warfare, and surface warfare capabilities that make it a lethal, highly adaptable platform. Last year, Mobile Bay successfully completed a missile exercise testing the updated AEGIS Baseline 9 weapons system in preparation for its upcoming 2018 deployment.



USS Mobile Bay successfully executed a missile exercise in support of AEGIS Baseline 9 testing last year. (DVIDS.net)

Lieutenant Erick Samayoa, the training officer onboard Mobile Bay, said in an [interview \(https://href.li/?https://www.kusi.com/anniversary-of-the-battle-of-mobile-bay/\)](https://href.li/?https://www.kusi.com/anniversary-of-the-battle-of-mobile-bay/) with KUSI News, "we're ready to answer any calls the the country wants us to take."

"The crew of Mobile Bay are resilient, hardworking Sailors who embody our motto 'Damn The Torpedoes, Full Speed Ahead.' We are ready to complete the tasks our nation asks of us, and uphold the traditions of the Sailors who, centuries before us, completed their mission successfully amidst the numerous challenges facing them," said Captain James Storm, commanding officer of USS Mobile Bay.

Hooyah, Sailors of Mobile Bay!

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