



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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Military Sealift Command (MSC) Support to the Warfighter

"MSC mariners are indispensable to the Navy. Performing the myriad tasks required to keep our combat fleets on station for disaster response and at the tip of the spear, they stand ready to face any aggressor anywhere in the world."

– Rear Adm. Mark Buzby, Commander, Military Sealift Command

The [U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command](#) supports our nation's warfighters by operating more than 110 non-combatant, civilian-crewed ships daily around the world that are essential to U.S. combat readiness.

Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force Program

- MSC's Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force, comprising 42 ships, includes [dry cargo/ammunition ships](#), [fleet replenishment oilers](#), fast combat support ships and ammunition ships that provide supplies to Navy combatants at sea – allowing them to remain on station and combat ready.
- Fleet ocean tugs and rescue and salvage ships provide towing, firefighting and recovery services as needed.
- Two hospital ships, on standby year-round, provide emergency medical support to U.S. forces as well as [humanitarian assistance](#) and [disaster response](#) around the globe.

Special Mission Program

- MSC has 26 ships that conduct specialized missions to provide warfare support, as well as support to other U.S. government agencies.
- Oceanographic survey ships map the ocean floor to aid combatant ships in navigation and planning.
- Command ship [USS Mount Whitney \(LCC 20\)](#) enables embarked joint task force commanders to effectively command all units under their command using advanced command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence suites.
- [Submarine tenders](#) and submarine and special warfare support ships provide vital support to Navy's submarine warfare and special operations communities.
- Ocean surveillance ships use both passive and active low frequency sonar arrays to detect and track undersea threats.

Prepositioning Program

- MSC has 25 ships in their prepositioning program that provide [rapid-response capability](#) to deployed U.S. forces. These ships strategically place millions of square feet of combat equipment and supplies at sea around the world. In a crisis, cargo is delivered ashore as warfighters are flown into the theater of operations.

Sealift Program

- MSC's Sealift Program includes 18 government-owned and chartered ships, including dry-cargo ships and tankers, that transport warfighting equipment and supplies to deployed U.S. and allied forces. These ships [enable deployment and sustainment](#) of U.S. military forces, wherever needed, through delivery of equipment, petroleum products and other supplies.

Key Messages

- The U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command is the premier provider of ocean transportation for the Department of Defense in peacetime and in war.
- MSC is the largest employer of U.S. Merchant Mariners in the world, and works with industry and academia to ensure a viable U.S. Merchant Marine workforce.
- MSC supports all armed services, as well as other U.S. government agencies.

Facts & Figures

- MSC supports all armed services and other U.S. government agencies with a workforce 9,000 strong, and an annual budget of \$3 billion.
- Eighty percent of MSC's workforce serves at sea.
- Since 9/11, MSC ships have delivered almost 110 million square feet of dry cargo and more than 15 billion gallons of fuel to U.S. forces.
- MSC has approximately 60 ships standing by in reduced operating status to support during a crisis.