



Combatant Navy Ships with Medical Officers Aboard

1. Learn basic shipboard terminology
2. Know the basic roles of the types of Navy ships.
3. Identify by sight the types of combatant ships that Navy medical officers serve on.

Basic Shipboard Terminology

Starboard – right side

Aft – back

Port – left side

Stern – back of the ship

Head – restroom

Well-Deck – floodable basin within the ship used to recover and launch smaller ships

Ladder – stairwell

Forecastle (pronounced FOWK-sul) – the upper deck of the ship in the front

Fore – front

Boat – what you call a submarine instead of a 'ship'

Overview of Ships

Medical Officers can be permanently assigned to the following types of ships.

- Aircraft Carriers (CVN)
- Amphibious Transport Docks (LPD)
- Amphibious Landing Docks (LSD)
- Helicopter Carriers (LDS, LHA)

These are non-combatant ships with medical officers assigned.

- Hospital Ships (T-AH)
- Submarine Tenders (AS)

These ships do not have medical officers; they have an 'Independent Duty Corpsman (IDC)' on board.

- Destroyers (DDG) -
- Cruisers (CG)
- Frigates (FF)
- Attack Submarines (SSN)
- Ballistic Missile Submarines (SSBN) or Guided Missile Submarine (SSGN)

Fleet Medicine Pocket Reference

<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmotc/swmi/Documents/FleetMedicinePocketReference2010.pdf>

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CARRIERS

Aircraft carriers (CV/CVNs) are generally the largest warships afloat and are the major offensive surface ships of the U.S. fleet. Aircraft are their chief weapons, and missions are determined by the type of aircraft carried. The high freeboard and expansive, uncluttered flight deck give the aircraft carrier a distinctive appearance. On many carriers, the superstructure or island (usually offset to the starboard side of the flight deck) is the only prominent feature of the flight deck. A new class of carrier, the FORD class, will enter the fleet in 2016; one main difference is the island superstructure is further aft



Hull Designation: CVN

Classes: NIMITZ (1976), FORD Class (2016)

Power: Nuclear; 2 reactors with 4 turbines

Crew: 6000

Displacement: 102 kiloton

Weapons: 82 aircraft

Medical Capabilities: 6 medical officers; 1 OR, 3 ICU beds; 52 ward beds; has lab, xray, pharmacy.

Fast Fact: Can launch an aircraft every 20 seconds. Serves as primary medevac site.

Names: Presidents, Senators, Representatives

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AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS

Amphibious ships are designed to move combat personnel and equipment – usually Marines - ashore. With the exception of shore bombardment, the armament of amphibious ships is usually intended for defense only. These ships collectively are called the ‘Gator Navy.’ The largest amphibious ships (LHDs, LHAs) can be identified by the large boxlike superstructure. Amphibious transport docks (LPD, LSD) are identified by their having weaponry forward and a flight deck. Amphibious command ships (LCC) can be identified by their visible electronics. Once they unload their Marines, they become CRTS (Casualty Receiving and Treatment Ships).

AMPHIBIOUS TRANSPORT DOCK

These are versatile ships that incorporate a flight deck and a well deck at water level to support amphibious landing craft. Identify by the flight deck aft and two tapering stacks. There is a well-deck in the stern that can be flooded to launch and recover landing craft. It has a hangar just fore of the flight deck.



Hull Designation: LPD

Power: 4 diesel engines

Crew: 350 (can carry 700 Marines)

Displacement: 9 kiloton (25 kiloton when fully loaded)

Aircraft: 2-4 CH-46 helicopters or tilt-rotor aircraft (MV-22 Osprey)

Weapons: LCAC (hovercraft), LCU (landing craft), Amphibious assault vehicles, 2 RAM missile launchers

Medical Capabilities: 1 medical officer; 2 ORs, 24 Ward beds.

Fast Fact: First ship to be designed with crew comfort in mind.

Names: Cities

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DOCK LANDING SHIP

Dock Landing Ships were designed specifically to operate as landing craft air cushion transport vessels. They have the largest capacity for these types of landing craft (four) of any of the amphibious landing ships. They also provide docking and repair services for small ships, boats and all other landing craft. Distinguish this from an LPD by the smaller above water cross section due to lack of an aircraft hangar.



Hull Designation: LSD

Classes: Harpers Ferry Class, Whidbey-Island Class (1985)

Power: 4 diesel engines

Crew: 400 (can carry 500 Marines)

Displacement: 11 kiloton (16 kiloton when fully loaded)

Aircraft:

Weapons: 4 LCAC (hovercraft), 2 RAM missile launchers

Medical Capabilities: 1 medical officer; no ORs; Has lab and xray; 8 ward beds.

Fast Fact: Shallow draft to be able to get closer to shore.

Names: Cities

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HELICOPTER CARRIERS – LANDING HELICOPTER DECK



Hull Designation: LHD or LHA

Classes: Wasp Class (1989), America Class (2016)

Power: 2 gas turbines

Crew: 1200 (can carry 1800 Marines)

Displacement: 40 kiloton

Aircraft: 22 aircraft of various types (all vertical takeoff/landing); America Class has larger flight deck

Weapons: 2 RAM missile launchers, 2 Sea Sparrow missile launchers; 3 LCAC (hovercraft) in Wasp Class only as America Class has no well-deck

Medical Capabilities: 2 medical officers – can surge to 11. 1-4 ORs. 3-15 ICU beds, 12-45 ward beds. Has lab, xray, pharmacy; America class has smaller medical facilities

Fast Fact: Command ship of an amphibious readiness group.

Names: Famous historical U.S. Navy ships

Identify the Type of Ship



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