

*Update:*  
*(12 April 2017)*

*USNS HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS*  
*EXPEDITIONARY SEA BASE SHIP*  
*T-ESB 4*

---

In September 2015, the Secretary of the Navy Renamed Three Ship Classes, Creates 'Expeditionary' Designator in Naming System.

The ESD (Expeditionary Transfer Dock) and the ESB (Expeditionary Sea Base)

USNS Montford Point (T-ESD 1) and USNS John Glenn (T-ESD 2) are configured with the Core Capability Set (CCS), which consists of a vehicle staging area, vehicle transfer ramp, large mooring fenders and up to three Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC) vessel lanes to support its core transfer requirements. With a 9,500 nautical mile range at a sustained speed of 15 knots, these approximately 80,000 ton, 785-foot ships leverage float-on/float-off technology and a reconfigurable mission deck to maximize capability. Additionally, the ships' size allows for 25,000 square feet of vehicle and equipment stowage space and 380,000 gallons of JP-5 fuel storage.

# USNS Montford Point (T-ESD-1)

The USNS Montford Point (MLP-1) was delivered in May 2013. The ship achieved initial operational capability (IOC) in 2015.

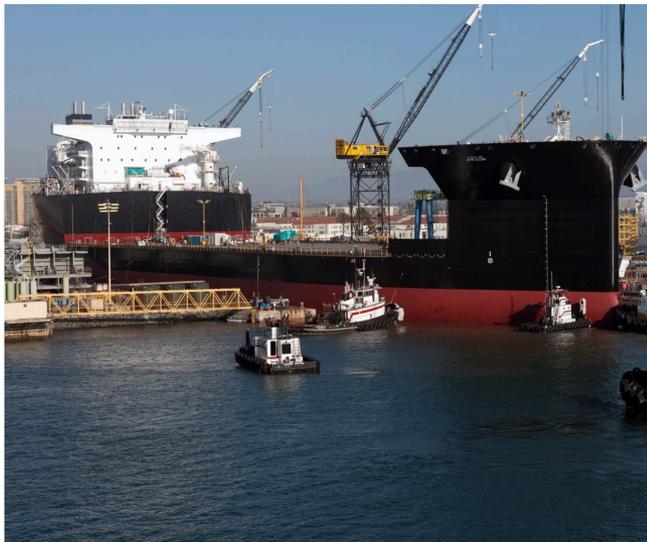


Because the Montford Point is basically a semi-submersible cargo ship, once all her deck gear is stripped away she can also act as a transport dock for very large ships or ocean platforms. Although such a capability has been around for decades, we saw its use to a spectacular degree when the MV Blue Marlin transported the Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer USS Cole from the coast of Yemen back to America with a giant hole blown in her hull.

# USNS JOHN GLENN (ESD-2)

The 764-foot John Glenn, a Mobile Landing Platform — like its predecessor USNS Montford Point (MLP-1) — is based on an Alaska-class crude oil carrier design and is planned to be a centerpiece of the Navy's and U.S. Marine Corps future seabasing plans.

The ship can take on sea water and lower itself in the water to allow Navy Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) hovercraft to take on rolling stock and other material from other MSC ships joined by a bridge between both ships.



Tugs surround the JOHN GLENN to move the vessel to a fitting out berth. (NASSCO photo)



# USNS Lewis B. "CHESTY" Puller (ESB-3)

## Navy Awards \$106M Long Lead Contract to NASSCO for 3rd Expeditionary Mobile Base

By: [Sam LaGrone](#)

June 2, 2016 12:54 PM



*USNS Lewis B. Puller (T-ESB-3). Military Sealift*

*Command Photo*

USNS Lewis B. Puller (MLP-3/AFSB) — based on an Alaska-class commercial crude carrier — is designed to host special operations forces (SOF) and mine countermeasure (MCM) helicopters as part of the Navy, U.S. Military Sea Lift Command and the Marines push to more capability for amphibious forces and capacity for seabasing with less expensive ships.

# Secretary of the Navy Names Expeditionary Sea Base Ship (ESB-4)

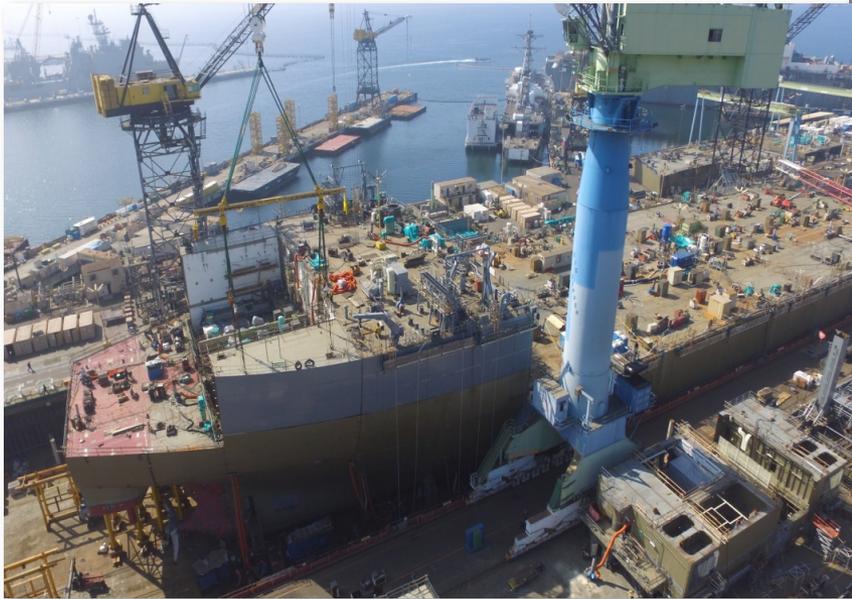
WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced the Navy's newest Expeditionary Sea Base (ESB) ship, T-ESB 4, will be named USNS Hershel "Woody" Williams during a ceremony in Charleston, West Virginia, Jan. 14, 2016



# USNS Hershel "Woody" Williams

ESB-4- Under Construction General Dynamics NASSCO-San Diego

- **As of 4/1/2017: 66 % Complete**
- **8/19/2017: Undock**
- **10/2017: Tentative Christening**
- **2/22/2018: Delivery**



# USNS HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS ESB-4 (Details)

---

The new 784-foot-long vessel will feature a 52,000 square foot flight deck, fuel and equipment storage, repair spaces, magazines, and mission-planning spaces.

Able to accommodate up to 250 personnel, the new ESB ship will support multiple missions, such as air mine counter measures (AMCM), counter-piracy operations, maritime security operations, humanitarian aid and disaster-relief missions, and crisis response operations.

In addition, the vessel will be capable of supporting MH-53 and MH-60 helicopters, with an option for future upgrades to support MV-22 tilt-rotor aircraft and drones.



87654321 12345678

Sumitomo

B  
I  
G  
D  
I  
P  
P  
E  
R



HERSHEL

US NAVAL SHIP

"WOODY" WILLIAMS

IND 9804205

USNS HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS  
EXPEDITIONARY SEA BASE (T-ESB 4)

**October 19, 2017 Pre-Christening Shipyard Visit**  
**October 20, 2017 OFFICIAL CHRISTENING**  
**October 21, 2017 CHRISTENING**  
**CELEBRATION GALA**



## NASSCO gets \$324M for work on Expeditionary Sea Base (ESB) 5

---

General Dynamics NASSCO started work on the fifth mobile sea base to act as a lily pad for Marine, special operations forces and Navy mine countermeasure aircraft, the company announced.

The latest in the U.S. Navy's Expeditionary Transfer Dock (ESD)/Expeditionary Sea Base (ESB) program began construction on Wednesday following an award of \$106.2 million long lead contract for the program in June.

“The ship, ESB 5, is the fifth to be added to a contract between NASSCO and the U.S. Navy that originally called for two Expeditionary Transfer Docks: USNS Montford Point (T-ESD-1) and USNS John Glenn (T-ESD-2),” and three Expeditionary Sea Bases, (ESB-3 and ESB-4)

The ship – which will be based on an Alaska-class oil tanker – will feature a 52,000 square-foot flight deck to accommodate MH-53, MH-60 helicopters and MV-22 tilt-rotor aircraft and will be the third of three planned ESB. The ship will also host fuel and equipment storage, repair spaces, magazines, mission planning spaces and accommodations for up to 250 personnel.