

USS NASSAU (LHA 4) RECEIVES SECRETARY OF THE NAVY 2010 SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARD, LARGE DECK COMBATANT

The Honorable Robert O. Work, Under Secretary of the Navy, presented the 2010 Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Safety Excellence Award, Large Deck Combatant, to USS NASSAU (LHA 4), at the 4 October 2010 awards ceremony. The ceremony was held at the Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center Theater, Washington, DC. Receiving the award on behalf of USS NASSAU were Commanding Officer CAPT Samuel Norton, LT Theodore Lemerande, SCPO Charles Warren, and PO1 George Berry.



From left to right are: BG Gary L. Thomas (Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation), The Honorable Jackalyne Pfannestiel (Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations & Environment)), LT Theodore Lemerade, The Honorable Robert O. Work (Under Secretary of the Navy), CAPT Samuel Norton (Commanding Officer), SCPO Charles Warren, PO1 George Berry and VADM John Bird (Director, Navy Staff).

The Safety Excellence Awards were established in 2002, by The Honorable Gordon R. England, who twice served as Secretary of the Navy. The awards recognize Navy and Marine Corps commands that demonstrate “extraordinary excellence by sustained mission success with simultaneous exemplary safety performance.” In addition to a citation and plaque, SECNAV Excellence Award winners receive the Secretary’s

distinctive safety flag. They are entitled to fly the flag for one year from the date of presentation.



The amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4) . [U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2rd Class Kristan Robertson/Released]

USS NASSAU was in competition with other large deck combatants. The modern day USS NASSAU is the Navy's fourth Tarawa Class multi-purpose amphibious assault ship. Commissioned in 1979, the ship has been an example of excellence and dedication for three decades. Nassau's mission is to embark, deploy and land a Marine landing force by helicopter, attack aircraft, or amphibious vehicle.

Some of the 2009 safety successes that led to the command's selection, include:

- Zero Class A¹ or B² mishaps, despite high-tempo flight and amphibious operational schedules, an extended shipyard availability, and rigorous deployment in support of Fifth Fleet tasking in the Global War on Terror and support for Operation Unified Response, Haiti;
- A thorough and effective safety and occupational health program that included a stand-out innovation adapted from the aviation community, the Pre-Mishap Plan. The ship's plan provides a go-by for mishap reporting, correction, and securing the scene for investigation as needed; and
- Proven dedication to the safety of the afloat community, using the Web Enabled Safety System to report incidents to support trend



An MV-22 Osprey launches from the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4). [U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Alex C. Saucedo /Released]

tracking Navy-wide, and disseminating Fleet-wide details on multiple hazards relevant to afloat units, including some of the first operational observations on afloat MV-22 Osprey operations.

For more information on this success story, please contact the Public Affairs Office at: PAO@lha4.navy.mil

1. Class A Mishap. The resulting total cost of damages to DoD or non-DoD property in an amount of \$2 million or more; a DoD aircraft is destroyed; or an injury and/or occupational illness result in a fatality or permanent total disability.
2. Class B Mishap. The resulting total cost of damages to DoD or non-DoD property is \$500,000 or more, but less than \$2 million. An injury and/or occupational illness result in permanent partial disability or when three or more personnel are hospitalized for inpatient care (beyond observation) as a result of a single mishap.