



AP Photo/Michael Dwyer
The USS Zumwalt sits at dock at the naval station in Newport, R.I., Friday.

Navy gives look inside \$4.4B Zumwalt destroyer

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) — The Navy gave a first look inside the stealthy and futuristic Zumwalt destroyer on Friday during the ship’s first port stop at a Rhode Island naval station.

The 610-foot-long warship has an angular shape to minimize its radar signature and cost more than \$4.4 billion. It’s the most expensive destroyer built for the Navy.

It’s headed from Naval Station Newport to Baltimore, where it will be commissioned in October before going to its homeport in San Diego. It was built at Bath Iron Works in Maine.

During a tour, the Navy showed off the ship’s bridge, weaponry and mission center.

In the bridge, there are 180-degree windows and chairs for the ship’s captain and executive officer to command the vessel. They overlook two gun mounts that resemble cannon barrels. The Zumwalt’s powerful new gun system can unload 600 rocket-powered projectiles on targets more than 70 miles away.

In the mission center, about two dozen people can sit at consoles with multiple computer screens to plan missions, ranging from land attack and air defense to anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare and support for special operations forces.

There’s a large flight deck and two small boats on board in a bay that special operation forces can use.

It looks like a much smaller vessel on radar and it’s quieter than other ships, which makes it hard to detect, track and attack.

Vice Adm. Tom Rowden mans, trains and equips the surface ships of the Pacific fleet, which will include the Zumwalt. He said Friday the Zumwalt will make a significant difference.

Its advanced technology and capabilities allow it to do a range of defensive and offensive missions, and project power, wherever it is needed, and that’s generating tremendous excitement within the Navy, Rowden said. He said the Zumwalt will be a “very stabilizing” sight for allies and partners, and perhaps a “menacing” sight for potential enemies.

And, the Zumwalt’s unique and significant capability to generate power could be used in ways perhaps not even envisioned yet, such as in the testing and use of laser and directed-energy weapons systems, Rowden said.

The ship is named after the late Adm. Elmo “Bud” Zumwalt, who earned the Bronze Star in World War II and commanded small boats that patrolled the Mekong Delta in Vietnam.

Prosecutor to charge seven officers in sex scandal

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Seven current and former San Francisco Bay Area police officers will be charged in a sexual misconduct scandal involving a teenager who was later arrested in Florida in an unrelated assault case, a prosecutor said Friday.

The wide-ranging scandal surfaced in June when the teenager, who described herself as a prostitute, said she had sex with about 30 law enforcement officials in Oakland and elsewhere in the region.

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O’Malley said Friday she was waiting until she’s certain the teen can be returned to California before filing charges against the officers.

The teen was jailed in Florida on suspicion of assaulting a guard at a drug treatment center where she was living.

O’Malley criticized the Richmond Police Depart-

ment for helping arrange for the teen, now 19, to stay at the center on the other side of the country, saying her unavailability could hurt the prosecution if she is unable to testify.

The teen has said she had sexual encounters with six Richmond police officers and two dozen other law enforcement officials, including some from Oakland, during the past two years.

The teen said she had sex with four officers before she turned 18 and sometimes traded sex for protection from arrest or tips about planned prostitution stings.

O’Malley identified the officers to be charged as former Contra Costa sheriff’s Deputy Ricardo Perez; former Livermore police Officer Dan Black; Oakland police Officers Brian Bunton, Giovanni LoVerde and Warit Utappa; and former Oakland police Officers Tyrell Smith and Leroy Johnson.

Legality of Yosemite expansion disputed

Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — A U.S. lawmaker accused Yosemite National Park of breaking federal law by adding 400 acres for a wildlife preserve without clearing it through Congress, but federal park officials said Friday that he’s misinterpreting the law.

The addition of wetlands, grassy meadows and forest on Yosemite’s western boundary marks its largest expansion in nearly 70 years. Any significant amount of land added to a national park needs congressional approval, U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop said in a statement to The Associated Press.

“The Park Service acted outside of its authority, and we will require them to account for their actions,” said the Utah Republican, who chairs the House Natural Resources Committee, which has oversight of public land.

Bishop’s staff says inquiries have just begun into how Yosemite acquired the land without oversight and what steps Congress will take next.

National Park Service spokesman Jeffrey Olson said the congressman is misreading the law. The land was donated, so it doesn’t require congressional approval like acquisitions using federal funding, Olson said in a statement.

Yosemite announced this week that the Trust for Public Land, a nonprofit conservation group, bought the land from a private owner for \$2.3 million and donated it to the park.

Officials said they will preserve the land as habitat for wildlife such as the great grey owl, the largest owl in North America and listed as endangered by California wildlife officials.

Bishop said he does not want Yosemite to give back the land but wants answers. He said federal law requires approval of additions to a national park that are more than 200 acres and worth over \$750,000.

The Park Service pointed to



Robb Hirsch/The Trust for Public Land via AP

This undated photo provided by The Trust for Public Land shows Acker-son Meadow in Yosemite National Park, Calif.

Land and Water Conservation Fund documents, saying the requirement only applies to acquisitions using that funding.

Bishop maintains that whenever the agency changes its boundaries on this scale, Congress must sign off, even if the land is donated, said Parish Braden, a spokesman for the Natural Resources Committee.

Bishop has long sparred with environmentalists and criticized limits on energy development and grazing in favor of wildlife protections.

He’s condemned Obama administration bans on new uranium mining near the Grand Canyon and fought national monument declarations or proposals in at least half a dozen states.

Local cattle ranchers, loggers and the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors late last year objected to adding the area, called Ackerson Meadow, to Yosemite. They said it took away land used for more than a century to graze cattle and harvest timber, among complaints.

“When you take land and put it into the National Park Service, they don’t do anything with it,” said Randy Hanvelt, a Tuolumne County supervisor. “It’ll be fenced off from grazing.”

The expansion brings Yosemite to a total of nearly 750,000 acres. The park’s boundary has seen some minor changes over the years, but the addition is the largest since 1949.

More than 4.5 million people are expected to visit Yosemite this year, which officials said would set a record for the park that celebrated its 125th anniversary last year.

Draws to the park include the massive Half Dome rock and the sheer, granite face of El Capitan — both admired by visitors from the floor of Yosemite Valley. Elsewhere in the park stand groves of giant sequoia, some of the oldest and largest living things on Earth.

Visitors pass Ackerson Meadow on their way to Hetch Hetchy reservoir, which provides drinking water to San Francisco.

Official: Dead police chief investigated for illegal gun sales

BAY ST. LOUIS, Miss. (AP) — A Mississippi police chief killed himself soon after learning that authorities were investigating allegations he illegally sold city-owned firearms, including an assault rifle, a sheriff’s official said Friday.

Hancock County Chief Deputy Don Bass told The Associated Press that Bay St. Louis police chief Mike DeNardo illegally sold one

city-owned assault rifle, and that authorities were looking into allegations that other city-owned weapons were sold as well.

Sheriff Ricky Adam said a “multipoint investigation” had been going on for four months and included payroll fraud, the Sun Herald reported. The police chief left three apology letters — to the sheriff, the mayor and one other unspecified person — for the payroll

fraud, Adam said. Those were turned over to the FBI.

These are the latest developments in a case that has shocked many in this small, tourist-friendly beach community.

On Thursday, hours after DeNardo killed himself in the police station’s parking lot, the mayor had said the chief was under investigation. A federal official also had said investigators received “unsubstantiated

criminal intelligence” about DeNardo. But until now, there were no details of what the investigation concerned.

Bass said the investigation started from an anonymous tip and was in its early stages. He lamented the death of a man who he said was well-regarded around town.

“We can’t get his side of the story,” Bass said. “It’s terribly upsetting. We’re in shock.”



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In July of this year they celebrated along with their family, a week of fun in Cabo San Lucas. Joining them were son and daughter-in-law Jeff and Steph Jaggars of Greenland, NH and their children Kendall, Reese and Wilson; and their daughter and son-in-law Jennifer and Mike Johnson of Yorba Linda, CA. and their children Jake, Lily, Jack and Clare.

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