

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A special feature dedicated to shipbuilders — sharing news about the ships we build and the ways they serve our country.

Makin Island LHD 8

Makin Island (LHD 8), the newest amphibious assault ship built by Northrop Grumman shipbuilders and delivered April 16 this year, is currently completing a voyage from the Pascagoula yard to the Pacific Ocean. The ship left the Gulf of Mexico on July 10 and is scheduled to be commissioned at its new homeport, San Diego, on October 24.



The amphibious assault ship Makin Island (LHD 8) sails through the Strait of Magellan as the ship prepares to enter the Pacific Ocean. Makin Island departed Pascagoula, Miss., July 10 and is currently circumnavigating South America to its new homeport in San Diego. Makin Island is the eighth and final Wasp-class amphibious assault ship and is scheduled for commissioning in San Diego on Oct. 24. (Photo courtesy of Chilean Navy/Released)

During the transit, the *Makin Island* successfully landed helicopters from four of the five armed services completing nearly 250 “touch and go’s”. The aircraft included the Marine Corps’ CH-46E Sea Knight, the Navy’s MH-53E Super Stallion and the Coast Guard’s MH-60J Jayhawk and HH-65 Dauphin helicopters. The ship’s transit has included port visits in Brazil, Chile and Peru to support U.S. Southern Command objectives for enhanced maritime security and to share methods and training that will build on U.S. and partner nations’ interoperability and strong relations. *Makin Island* docked off the coast of Belize in support of U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters attached to Joint Task Force Bravo. These aircraft and their pilots may be called upon to provide humanitarian relief to South American countries in the event of a natural disaster such as a hurricane or earthquake.