

Beat: Politics

The USS Iwo Jima LHD7 visited Malaga on a scale from Middle East

After months of service

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USPA NEWS - The amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima LHD7 of the US Navy has visited Malaga (Coast of the Sun, Southern of Spain) on a scale scheduled to celebrate the long alliance in naval matters between the United States and Spain.

The crew of the ship has enjoyed a few days of rest in the Andalusian city after months of service in the Middle East. The United States works hand in hand with Spain in a wide range of defense issues in different areas of the world and appreciates the Spanish contribution to international security.

USS Iwo Jima is the seventh WASP-class Amphibious Assault Ship and the second ship in the Navy to bear the name. The Iwo Jima is also the Navy's third Amphibious Assault Ship designed and built from the keel up with accommodations for female sailors. Awarded on December 28, 1995 the USS Iwo Jima have a propulsion system of two boilers and two geared turbines. His armament are two Mk-29 NATO Sea Sparrow launchers, two 20mm Phalanx CIWS, eight Mk-33 .50 cal. machine guns and two Rolling Airframe Missile Systems. His homeport is Mayport, Fla.

Nearly 2,500 embarked sailors and marines spent three days visiting the Mediterranean coastal city to deepen strategic and personal ties with their Spanish allies. "The overall response I've gotten from speaking to the crew is that Malaga was above and beyond their expectations," said Capt. Joseph O'Brien, Iwo Jima's commanding officer. "I want to thank our Spanish hosts and the people of Malaga for their hospitality during our visit. It is just another great example of our strong relationship that we will continue for years to come."

U.S. Marine Col. Farrell J. Sullivan, commanding officer of the 26th MEU, said Malaga's generosity made for a memorable port call. "We had high expectations before pulling into Malaga and our visit easily exceeded those expectations in every way. The local authorities and businesses welcomed us with open arms. The people were charming and the food was incredible," said Sullivan. "I believe the Marines and Sailors thoroughly enjoyed their stay and truly found this Mediterranean gem a place for much needed rest, relaxation, and reset before we move on to the next stage of our deployment. Since departing the refrain aboard Iwo Jima is that many plan to return to Malaga. We miss it already."

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