



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
PRECOMMISSIONING UNIT
JOHN P. MURTHA (LPD 26)
PO BOX 7003
PASCAGOULA MS 39568-7003

Shipmate,

Welcome aboard and congratulations on your assignment to PCU JOHN P MURTHA (LPD-26) – the U.S. Navy’s newest and most technologically advanced amphibious landing dock ship ever built. Only the very best Sailors are assigned to new construction pre-commissioning units, and you should be proud to be among the very best!

New construction duty is both challenging and rewarding. As a plankowner you will have the opportunity to play a key role in defining the reputation and character of this ship and her crew for decades to come. Our job is to bring this ship to life – to assume ownership over the steel and technology our country has provided to us, and turn her into a formidable warship with a battle-ready crew who are willing and able to answer the call to duty. Make no mistake, this ship, and we who make up her crew, are a critical instrument of U.S. national policy. Readyng this ship to accomplish that tasking is an awesome responsibility.

In return for your hard work, you will find that this assignment will likely be one, if not the most rewarding of your career. You will become an expert in your field, your equipment, and how to operate and maintain it. You will develop deep and lasting relationships, and you will gain the sincere satisfaction of playing a key role in building something from the ground up.

Much will be asked of you in this assignment, but above all I will ask one thing – that you strive everyday, in everything you do, to remain true to the motto that our namesake, Congressman and Colonel (ret.), USMC, John P. Murtha, devoted his life to: *Make a Difference!* In accomplishing your assigned tasks; leading, mentoring, and working with other Sailors; and in your personal life, I ask that you *Make a Difference!*

You should be contacted soon by your assigned sponsor, who will assist you in planning for your arrival and who will answer any questions you may have about this assignment. Please do not hesitate to contact our Command Master Chief, CMDCM (SW/AW) Jon Crisafulli at jon.crisafulli@lpd26.navy.mil or (619) 556-6915 if you have questions that your sponsor is not able to answer.

I look forward to meeting you, getting to know you and working with you to bring this great ship to life! Welcome aboard Shipmate!


Kevin J. Parker
CAPT, USN