



USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81)  
Public Affairs Release

## **Montenegrin Sailors share reception with Churchill Sailors**

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BAR, Montenegro [July 9, 2012] – Guided-missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81) capped its four-day visit to Montenegro with a public reception and dinner on its flight deck July 9. Visiting officials included the Prime Minister Igor Luksic, leaders of the Montenegrin military, and the ambassadors from the United States and United Kingdom.

The reception provided the opportunity for officials and Churchill leadership to affirm the bilateral partnership between Montenegro and the United States. “We have a strong partnership with Montenegro, as Churchill’s visit demonstrates. Montenegrin troops serve alongside our military as part of the coalition in Afghanistan. We are allies and friends,” said The Honorable Sue K. Brown, U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro.

“To be on a ship as beautiful as the Churchill is a great chance to reaffirm that relationship as the country moves toward a European Union membership,” Brown said.

Over its visit, Churchill’s Sailors explored the country, and exchanged tactics and techniques with the Montenegrin military. The visit included displays of each nation’s maritime interdiction operation strategies. “We are grateful for the generosity and openness displayed by Montenegro and I believe we are both better off for the exchange,” said Cmdr. Michael E. Hutchens, commanding officer of Churchill.

Following opening speeches by Brown and Hutchens, guests and Churchill Sailors mingled, chatting around the staged SH-60 helicopter, courtesy of the Proud Warriors of Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 42, Detachment 8. A quartet of Montenegrin military members provided music while Churchill Sailors greeted and served visitors.

“During our conversations, the prime minister relayed to me how grateful he was to see an American ship in his hometown,” said Hutchens. “The crew worked hard to put on an excellent reception for the gathered Montenegrin leaders.”

USS Winston S. Churchill, named for the famed British prime minister, also attracted a number of visiting officials from Montenegro’s United Kingdom delegation, including The Honorable Catherine Knight-Sands, U.K. Ambassador to Montenegro.

“When I heard a ship named Winston S. Churchill was coming to Bar, I felt it was my duty to see it,” said Knight-Sands.

Winston S. Churchill is on a regularly scheduled deployment in support of Maritime Security Operations (MSO) and theater Security Cooperation (TSC) efforts in the U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet areas of responsibility. Hue City is deployed as part of Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group (CSG), which includes CSG 8, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), guided-missile destroyers USS Farragut (DDG 99), USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81), and USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109), the seven squadrons of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7, and Destroyer Squadron 28.