



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

Churchill Sailors Visit Montenegro

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aaron Chase, USS Winston S. Churchill Public Affairs

Dateline [BAR, Montenegro] – The guided-missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81) pulled into Bar in the Republic of Montenegro July 6.

This port visit serves to continue U.S. 6th Fleet efforts to build Global Maritime Partnerships with Baltic nations and improve maritime safety and security. Montenegro is a small nation bordered by other Baltic nations including Serbia and Croatia. Montenegro, which has a population of just over 630,000 people, is one of the newest nations in the world, declaring its independence from Serbia in 2006.

During the visit, Churchill Sailors will host visitors from the Montenegrin military, along with representatives of the city of Bar and the Montenegrin government. The representatives are eager to engage with the ship and talk about the Montenegrin-American partnership, according to Shelly Seaver, a public affairs officer with the U.S. Embassy in Montenegro.

Churchill is conducting this port visit as part of a scheduled deployment to the U.S. 6th and 5th fleet area of responsibility. “We are here as ambassadors of our country,” said Cmdr. Michael E. Hutchens, commanding officer of Churchill, to his collected crew during a port visit brief. “We represent the United States during our time in Montenegro. I expect they are happy to have the visitors here, so let us prove we are the best America has to offer and leave them hoping we return.”

The ship also has tours of the country scheduled and available for Sailors, through the ship’s Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) committee, set to enhance Sailors understanding of the local culture.

“I’d never heard of Montenegro before, so I’m really excited to visit it,” said Gas Turbine Systems Technician Mechanical (SW) Charles O. Bates. “This is a different culture, so I’m really looking forward to experiencing it.

“Whitewater rafting would be fun anywhere, but who can say they whitewater rafted in Montenegro,” added Bates, who will be taking an MWR tour where rafting is the highlight.

The two MWR tours offer a chance to see the mountainous Montenegro countryside, including the famous Bay of Kotor., often called Europe’s southernmost fjord due to its narrow inlet between high cliffs. Sailors will also have the chance to see the numerous Montenegrin beaches along the Adriatic Sea.

This is the first Navy ship to pull into Montenegro since the guided-missile destroyer USS Mitscher pulled into Bar in June 2011.

Jason Dunham is part of Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group, which includes CSG 8, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), guided-missile cruiser USS Hue City (CG 66), guided-missile destroyers USS Farragut (DDG 99), USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81), seven squadrons of Carrier Air Wing 7, and Destroyer Squadron 28.