

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Notice to Mariners is published by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), under the authority of Department of Defense Directive 5105.60, to advise mariners of important matters affecting navigational safety, including new hydrographic discoveries, changes in channels and navigational aids, etc. (U.S. Code Title 10, Sec. 442 and Title 44, Sec. 1336 refer). Nothing in the arrangement of information implies endorsement or acceptance by NGA in matters affecting the status and boundaries of States and territories. The Notice to Mariners presents corrective information affecting charts, NGA/DLIS Catalog of Maps Charts and Related Products, Coast Pilots, USCG Light Lists, NGA List of Lights and other products produced by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, National Ocean Service and U.S. Coast Guard.

Information for the Notice to Mariners is contributed by the following Agencies: National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) (Department of Defense) for waters outside the territorial limits of the United States; National Ocean Service (NOS) (Department of Commerce), which is charged with the surveys and charting of the coasts and harbors of the United States and its territories; the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) (Department of Homeland Security), which is responsible for the safety of life at sea and the establishment and operation of aids to navigation; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Department of Defense), which is charged with the improvement of rivers and harbors of the United States. In addition, important contributions are made by foreign hydrographic offices and cooperating observers of all nationalities.

For further information concerning NGA hydrographic products and services, including the Maritime Safety Web site, users may contact:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>DSN</u>	<u>FAX</u>
Maritime Safety Office	571-557-8384	N/A	571-558-3213
World Wide Navigational Warning Service	571-557-5455	547-5455	571-558-3426
Maritime Safety Web site	571-557-7103	547-7103	N/A
Notice to Mariners: Regions 1 and 2	571-557-8282	547-8282	571-558-3213
Notice to Mariners: Regions 3 thru 9	571-557-8383	547-8383	571-558-3213
Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides	571-557-5831	547-5831	571-558-3213
Navigation Publications	571-557-8080	547-8080	571-558-3213
NGA/DLIS Catalog of Maps Charts and Related Products	269-961-7766	661-7766	269-961-7791

The Maritime Safety Web site can be accessed directly at <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. For your convenience NGA provides four e-mail addresses. For information affecting Notice to Mariners use MCDNtM@nga.mil, for information affecting Sailing Directions and all other navigational publications use MCDPubs@nga.mil, for information concerning the Maritime Safety Web site, use webmaster_nss@nga.mil and for information concerning the World Wide Navigational Warning Service, use NavSafety@nga.mil.

Mariners are requested to notify NGA of discrepancies in charts and publications, using the Marine Information Report and Suggestion Sheet at the back of this Notice to Mariners. This form should also be used to report permanent changes, additions, or deletions from charted or published information. Reports which constitute an immediate hazard to navigation should be sent to the nearest NAVAREA Coordinator via coast radio stations. All reports are greatly appreciated.

Cover Photo: USS LEYTE GULF (CG-55) is the ninth *Ticonderoga-class* AEGIS Guided Missile Cruiser and the eighth built by Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, MS. She commemorates the largest naval battle in modern history, fought 23-26 October 1944 in the Philippines. The battle marked the end of centuries of naval warfare tradition employing battleships, and was showcased by three separate primary engagements: The Battle of Surigao Straits, the Battle off Samar Island, and the Battle of Cape Engano. Called the last of the great sea battles, the Battle of Leyte Gulf used every known weapon of naval war, except mines, and in sheer destruction the battle has no rival in naval history. *Ticonderoga-class* cruisers are multi-mission surface combatants [Air Warfare (AW), Undersea Warfare (USW), Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) and Surface Warfare (SUW)] capable of supporting carrier battle groups, amphibious forces, or of operating independently and as flagships of surface action groups. **LEYTE GULF** is 567 feet in length, has a beam of 55 feet, displaces 9600 tons fully loaded and is powered by four General Electric LM 2500 gas turbine engines that provide 80,000 shaft horsepower total. Her armament includes the MK-41 vertical launching system Standard Missile; Vertical Launch ASROC Missile; Tomahawk Cruise Missile; six MK-46 torpedoes (from two triple mounts); two MK-45 5-inch/54 caliber lightweight guns and two Phalanx close-in-weapons systems. She also employs two SH-60 Seahawk (LAMPS III) helicopters. The homeport of **USS LEYTE GULF** is Norfolk, VA.