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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **USS WASP ARRIVING TOMORROW EVENING AT NORTH JETTY**

BOSTON (CNRMA) -- Members of the media are invited to photograph and video the arrival of the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1), Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the North Jetty in South Boston.

Nearly the length of three football fields and weighing more than 40,000 tons, Wasp is the largest of 20 U.S. and coalition ships taking part in Boston Navy Week, which runs June 28 to July 6. The ship will be open for free public tours beginning Friday.

A celebration of the nation's sea services, Boston Navy Week provides an opportunity for the citizens of Boston and New England to meet Sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen, as well as see the latest capabilities of today's maritime services first-hand.

Boston Navy Week is one of many signature events around the country commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the Star-Spangled Banner. The commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812 is a salute to all Sailors and Marines who fought gallantly in that conflict, who served in all our nation's conflicts since then, and who continue defending freedom around the world today.

Since winning our independence in 1776, the United States has been a maritime nation, relying on unobstructed access and free use of the world's oceans, which are essential to our national security and prosperity. The performance of America's Sailors and Marines in the War of 1812 set the standards upon which our naval forces continue to build today.

For more information, visit the official Boston Navy Week Web site at [www.bostonnavyweek.com](http://www.bostonnavyweek.com) or search "Boston Navy Week" on Facebook.

### **USS WASP:**

USS Wasp is a U.S. Navy multipurpose amphibious assault ship and the tenth to bear the name. Its primary mission is the support of a Marine Landing Force. The ship has 1,075 officers and enlisted sailors, and can embark up to 2,200 Marines. Slightly fewer than 200

Marines are scheduled to attend Boston Navy Week along with the Navy crew. More information is available at [wasp.navy.mil](http://wasp.navy.mil).

In 2011, Wasp was modified to handle the F-35B fighter. Wasp successfully landed and launched a F-35B fighter in Oct. 2011.

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