



+ FLOATING FORTRESSES OF HEALTH + MERCY-CLASS SHIPS

- In the 1980s, the Navy's converted two San Clemente-class supertankers into state-of-the-art **Mercy-class hospital ships**. The conversion cost \$208 million per vessel and took 35 months to complete.
- USNS **Mercy** (T-AH-19), originally the supertanker SS Worth, was officially accepted into service by the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command on **Dec.19, 1986**. USNS **Comfort** (T-AH-20), formerly the SS Rose City, joined the fleet on **Dec.1, 1987**.
- The fundamental mission of USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort is to deliver a **dynamic, adaptable, and swiftly deployable seaborne medical capability**, ensuring immediate and comprehensive medical support for U.S. forces operating in any theater worldwide.



USNS MERCY (T-AH-19)

Class: Mercy Class

Homeport: San Diego, California

Dimensions: 894 feet (length), 106 feet (beam)

Speed: 17.5 knots (maximum)



USNS COMFORT (T-AH-20)

Class: Mercy Class

Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia

Dimensions: 894 feet (length), 106 feet (beam)

Speed: 17.5 knots (maximum)



Mercy and Comfort are **non-commissioned vessels** (denoted by the designation "USNS"). Owned by the U.S. Navy, they are crewed by the civilian mariners of the Military Sealift Command (MSC).



Each ship stretches the length of **approximately three football fields** and rivals the size of the Navy's formidable **Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carriers**. Their arrival in any port instantly establishes them as likely the largest hospital facility in the surrounding area, dramatically expanding local medical capacity during critical times.



Mercy-class ships are state-of-the-art healthcare hubs containing **12 fully-equipped operating rooms** and holding a **1,000-bed capacity**. They can accommodate a medical staff of up to 1,200 professionals.



Mercy and Comfort hold the distinction of being the **longest-serving hospital ships** in continuous operation in the U.S. Navy.



NAVY MEDICINE *FAST FACTS*



MERCY MISSIONS

- Humanitarian cruise to the Philippines / South Pacific (1987)
- Operation Desert Shield / Desert Storm (1990-1991)
- Operation Unified Assistance (2004)
- Pacific Partnership (2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2022, 2024)
- Rim of the Pacific Exercise (2014, 2018)
- Operation Dimayan (Philippines Typhoon Aftermath 2013)
- COVID-19 Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DCSA) Response (2020)

- Beyond their primary mission, the Mercy and Comfort have evolved into vital instruments of U.S. foreign policy, **conducting critical humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.**
- Since 2001, these ships have impacted the lives of **580,000+ individuals** through numerous humanitarian missions, solidifying their roles as goodwill ambassadors and providers of medical care in times of crisis.

COMFORT MISSIONS

- Operation Desert Shield / Desert Storm (1990-1991)
- Operations Sea Signal / Uphold Democracy (1994)
- Operation Noble Eagle (2001)
- Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003)
- Hurricanes Katrina / Rita (2005)
- Partnership for the Americas (2007)
- Operation Continuing Promise (2007, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2018, 2022, 2025)
- Operation Unified Response (2010)
- Hurricane Maria (2017)
- Operating Enduring Reponse (2018)
- COVID-19 DSCA Response (2020)

