

# Hospital Ship Mercy Bids Farewell to Los Angeles



The hospital ship USNS Mercy departs Los Angeles on May 15. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ryan M. Breeden

LOS ANGELES – The hospital ship USNS Mercy left Los Angeles on May 15 after supporting COVID-19 response operations in the greater Los Angeles area, the U.S. Northern Command said in a release.

“We came to Los Angeles to be the relief valve for local hospitals in the fight against COVID-19,” said Capt. John Rotruck, commanding officer of medical treatment facility (MTF) aboard the ship.

[See: Despite Isolation, Five Returning Roosevelt Sailors Test Positive for Virus](#)

“I am very impressed with how well the team came together on this rapid-response mission, completing a wide-range of high-quality medical procedures from orthopedic surgeries to interventional radiology. Sailors from across the country answered the call, forming a unified team focused on our mission to treat patients from Los Angeles. I couldn’t be more proud.”

Mercy is scheduled to return to Naval Station San Diego, where the ship and members of its embarked MTF will remain ready for future tasking.



Lt. Pamela Resurreccion renders a salute to the national ensign during morning colors aboard the hospital ship USNS Mercy on April 30. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ryan M. Breeden

At the direction of the Federal Emergency Management

Agency and Northern Command, about 60 personnel assigned to Mercy's MTF will continue supporting state and local health care providers at skilled nursing facilities. The U.S. Navy, with NORTHCOM-directed forces, remains engaged throughout the nation in support of the broader COVID-19 response.

Mercy has been at the World Cruise Center Terminal in the Port of Los Angeles since March 27. The medical professionals aboard the Mercy performed various medical procedures, including general, orthopedic and plastic surgeries; interventional radiology; exploratory laparotomy; and skin grafting.

"After arriving on station, the personnel aboard Mercy were able to safely execute our mission in support of FEMA and in coordination with state and local authorities," said the mission's commander, Capt. Dan Cobian, commodore of Destroyer Squadron 21.

"In addition to supporting Los Angeles-area hospitals, we were able to expand our mission by providing support to a local skilled nursing facility and we also sent personnel to aid USNS Comfort for their effort in New York. Our Sailors answered the call and showed our country and the world the capability of our combined Navy Medicine and Military Sea Lift Command team in providing aid during this pandemic."