

Steel from World Trade Centre soon to set sail

The US Navy has constructed a new warship that is partially constructed from steel salvaged from the fallen World Trade Centre after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

THE USS NEW YORK was christened on March 1, 2008 at a Northrop Grumman shipyard in Louisiana, where it is undergoing the final stages of construction.

The vessel's bow is forged with approximately 7.5 tonnes of steel from the ruins of the World Trade Centre. The steel was provided by the people of New York to be melted down and cast as the ship's bow.

The fifth amphibious transport dock ship in the US Navy's San Antonio class weighs almost 23,000 tonnes, is 208.5 meters long, 32 metres wide, will have a crew of 361 sailors, and will be capable

of transporting up to 700 combat-ready marines. It will also carry navy land and air vehicles.

Hansford T. Johnson, the Acting Secretary of the Navy in 2003, was the principal speaker at the steel melting ceremony of the same year.

"This ship represents a new use of the steel that once stood as a mighty symbol of our nation's strength and economic vitality," he said.

"The strength of those we lost and will always remember has been forged in the steel of this ship that will be carried in its bow."