



Mayor Jerry Clarke of Capitola says the ship will anchor 200 yards off the wharf.

Dan Coyro/Sentinel

# Navy coming to Capitola

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**SANTA CRUZ** — The U.S. Navy's annual visit to local shores will be moving a few miles south of Santa Cruz this Fourth of July, Capitola's Mayor Jerry Clarke announced Friday.

The Navy gave formal notification to U.S. Rep. Leon Panetta, D-Monterey, earlier that day that it would be happy to send a ship from July 2 to July 4 to the mid-county coastal city of Capitola.

Capitola tendered its invitation after the Santa Cruz City Council voted in January not to invite a ship to Santa Cruz for the Fourth.

The ship will be the 438-foot USS Francis Hammond, a fast frigate used for anti-submarine warfare. The ship carries a crew of approximately 300 and is home-berthed in Long Beach. The Hammond is currently on maneuvers in the Pacific.

Clarke said at a press conference that he expects the ship visit will be a countywide event, with the cities of Scotts Valley and Watsonville included in any official ceremonies.

Clark took issue with criticism from anti-ship forces in Santa Cruz that the Capitola visit is a slap in Santa Cruz's face. "We saw our opportunity," he said, after the Santa Cruz council's decision.

Clarke then noted that Capitola also has landed businesses that have fled Santa Cruz, because it has "provided an opportunity ... for business. The same thing happened with the ship."

But, Clarke, a Navy veteran, also conceded he was "angry" when the Santa Cruz council voted 4-3 not to invite the ship, after a public hearing at which pro-ship and anti-ship voices were heard. The Santa Cruz council, Clarke said, was "not only ... wrong in deciding to not have a ship ... but (they) made a decision for the entire county based on a ... majority philosophy."

Four of the council's five progressive members voted not to invite the ship to Santa Cruz.

Santa Cruz Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt, who voted not to invite the ship, said Friday that she wishes

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Capitola "every success with their event."

She said the Capitola council "made a decision they felt clearly represented the concerns" of residents there, while the Santa Cruz council had done the same.

Clarke said the Capitola council had a "unanimous vote" to invite the ship, although he later modified this description, saying that the council "decided to" invite the Navy, without taking a vote.

Doug Rand of the Santa Cruz-based Resource Center for Non-violence, one of the organizers of the effort to persuade the Santa Cruz council to withdraw its invitation to the Navy, charged that the Capitola council had not followed the "democratic process" in its invitation.

Not only had the council not taken a formal vote, he said, but it sent the invitation "ramrodding through" without a public hearing such as the one held by the Santa Cruz council.

He also accused Clarke of having agreed to invite the Navy before the council discussed the issue, and said the Capitola invitation was a "reaction" to what had happened in Santa Cruz.

Clarke, however, said there was no dispute on the council over the invitation and said countywide response to Capitola's decision has been running 20-1 in support. He said he has heard from only two Capitola residents who opposed inviting the Navy and that he also has received significant support

from Santa Cruz residents.

Clarke said he took "the initiative on my own" to bring the invitation issue to the council. He said he had been contacted before the council meeting, which took place two days after Santa Cruz decided to cancel its invitation, by only two people urging him to work to get an invitation for the Navy: Scotts Valley Mayor Glennon Culwell and a friend who is retired Air Force pilot.

Culwell later received an obscene valentine from Santa Cruz Councilman Mo Reich, who had voted against the invitation. Reich, who was upset about Scotts Valley's support for the Capitola invitation, later resigned after admitting he'd lied about sending the card.

The three other Santa Cruz council members who voted against the ship invitation — Wormhoudt, Don Lane and Jane Yokoyama — are targets of a recall drive, initiated shortly after the Navy ship vote.

Rand said that the Santa Cruz council had not banned a Navy ship from coming to Santa Cruz, but had only withdrawn the invitation and official city support. "The Navy could have come anyway," he said.

Clarke praised Panetta for going "to bat for us" in getting the ship for Capitola. He said he does not know if this year's visit will be an annual affair, although "I would love us to host a ship every year."

The mayor also said he was not worried by the possibility that the nuclear-capable Hammond might be carrying nuclear weapons. "They carry what they carry," he

said. "It's not for me to question."

The Resource Center's Rand, however, saw it differently. The ship's visit, he said, will be an example of the hold "militarism" has on American society.

"You can't say you're not for war and invite a ship like that — it's a war ship." Rand said the local peace community will probably protest the visit, as it protested Santa Cruz visits in the past few years. But, he questioned whether Capitola will uphold anti-ship activists' "right to protest."

Clarke said demonstrations will "probably" occur and that such a protest would pose a problem only "if it gets out of hand."

Clarke said he expects the ship to anchor about 200 to 300 yards off the Capitola Wharf. The expected crowds who will show up to tour the ship — last year's Navy visit off the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf drew more than 4,000 people over the Labor Day weekend — will probably be bused in by shuttles, he said. Clarke said he has formed a "steering committee" to work with the Navy on planning the visit. The committee will include both city and county residents. Clarke said he would like to see a band and color guard greet the Navy.

Extra police will be brought in to help handle anticipated traffic problems on the already busy weekend, he said.

Clarke said the ship visit will be the first such trip to Capitola since 1908 when the USS Oregon anchored off the city's beach.