



**AMERICAN ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF CARRIER, LLC**  
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FRIDAY, 14 May 2010

## **ARC Introduces M/V ENDURANCE**

In a ceremony today in the Port of Baltimore, American Roll-on Roll-off Carrier, LLC (ARC) christened the M/V *Endurance*, welcoming the largest and most militarily-useful multi-purpose ship to the U.S.-flag commercial fleet, along with close friends and allies from the Department of Defense, Capitol Hill, maritime labor, the Maritime Administration, and myriad customers and business partners. ARC Chairman & CEO Ray Ebeling welcomed guests to the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore, including the Honorable Ms. Bentley herself, as well as Congressman Scott Garrett, Representative of the New Jersey Congressional district in which ARC is headquartered.

The keynote address was delivered by General Duncan McNabb, commander of U.S. Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, who noted that the naming of the *Endurance* marks an important new milestone in the ARC-USTRANSCOM partnership, which dates back to 1990, and ARC's strategy to expand the roll-on roll-off capacity on offer to USTRANSCOM in support of combatant commanders (COCOMs) and warfighters around the globe. General McNabb also noted the sheer scale and versatility of the vessel and the importance of such tremendous new strategic sealift capacity to the U.S.-flag commercial fleet. Mrs. Linda Worley McNabb served as the lady sponsor of the ship, and performed her christening duties admirably.

Joining General and Mrs. McNabb on the dais were Mr. Michael Sacco of the Seafarers International Union (SIU) and David Matsuda, Acting Maritime Administrator. Mr Sacco delivered inspired remarks on the unique labor-management maritime partnership and the new jobs for the United States Merchant Marine that come with such new U.S.-flag tonnage. Mr. Matsuda noted the addition of significant new tonnage to the Maritime Security Program (MSP) fleet, and important new jobs for the U.S. Merchant Marine. In addition to General McNabb, the commanders of USTRANSCOM's surface and sealift component commands- Major General James Hodge, Commander Military Surface Deployment & Distribution Command (SDDC), and Rear Admiral Buz Buzby, Commander Military Sealift Command (MSC) - were on hand.

ARC President & COO Ray Fitzgerald emceed the luncheon reception, during which Mr. Matsuda delivered a toast to the *Endurance*, the lady sponsor Mrs. McNabb, her officers and crew, and to ARC and the entire U.S.-flag shipping industry. Mr. Fitzgerald presented a model of the ship to Mr Jim White, who so ably leads the Port of Baltimore, as well as to Captain Matt Hight and Captain Marc Taylor, who are the captains assigned to *Endurance*.

In his introductory comments, Mr. Ebeling noted the definition of endurance as "the ability to withstand hardship or adversity, particularly the ability to sustain a prolonged stressful effort," an appropriate description of this ship that will serve in ARC's global services for decades to come. The *Endurance* has been operating in ARC's Middle East service since February 2010, eminently appropriate in that "the war in Afghanistan is designated Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), as the United States helps provide freedom from tyranny to the people in that part of the world; and as well, provides to us enduring freedom from the terrorists who live and hide in that remote area of the world," as Mr. Ebeling remarked.

The addition of the *Endurance* further enhances ARC's position as the largest U.S.-flag Ro-Ro operator in international trade, and the third largest U.S.-flag international carrier overall. ARC now operates nine ships, eight of which are enrolled in the Maritime Security Program, and all of which are enrolled in the Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA). ARC's Middle East liner service now consists of 6 ships operating on an average 12-day frequency, and offering a total of 1.2 million square feet of capacity. This capacity has already been put to use carrying not only Department of Defense cargoes such as the aforementioned helicopters and life-saving M-ATVs (Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected All-Terrain Vehicles), but also such varied cargoes as turbines, generators, construction and project cargoes, commercial autos, and foreign military sales equipment.

As many in the audience noted, ARC and the U.S.-flag fleet have experienced a revitalization over the past 10 years. As Mr. Ebeling remarked, the U.S.-flag fleet was near collapse, until it was saved "by the efforts of a unique labor-management partnership, by the incredibly powerful support of the U.S. Transportation Command, by the decisive action of certain Congressional supporters... and by the investment of \$2.5 billion dollars in the U.S. international fleet by overseas investors. This fact must inform and guide long-term maritime policy." In his concluding remarks, Mr. Ebeling advised the audience "we need all of you- we 'must all hang together, or assuredly, we shall all hang separately'- a statement attributed to Benjamin Franklin at the signing of the Declaration of Independence- but it is certainly also the case for the U.S.-flag shipping industry."



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