

# El Paso school adopted by U.S. Navy cargo ship

United Press International

EL PASO — The crew of a U.S. Navy ship moored in Norfolk, Va., began a partnership Tuesday with an elementary school in El Paso. The captain of the USS El Paso met with the principal and teachers at Colwell school to figure a way to form closer ties between the school's students and the ship's crew. U.S. Navy Capt. Carl Lind, commander of the ship, addressed a

school assembly and made all 600 students honorary crew members of the El Paso, a cargo and amphibious assault support ship. Coldwell, landlocked like all other El Paso schools, greeted its new commander with thunderous applause. Lind told students he was not trying to recruit them, only get the community involved in further education. The commander said schools have

adopted a ship or establish correspondence with a military unit in the past. This time, the Navy made the initial contact. Lind said the Navy has had an "adopt-a-school" program with elementary schools throughout the nation for the past two years. "Nobody knows what's going to result from this relationship," said Ross Snyder, spokesman for the El Paso Independent School District.

"We're brainstorming to find ways the ship and the students can work together." Snyder said the relationship will be difficult because the ship is in Norfolk, Va., and the school is in El Paso, Texas, more than 2,000 miles away. The captain was accompanied to El Paso by Petty Officer Pablo Mon-

real, an El Paso native and member of the ship's crew. The El Paso was commissioned May 17, 1970. It has gone to the Mediterranean Sea four times and has been operational in both Atlantic and Pacific fleets. The ship was also deployed in the eastern Mediterranean in support of the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon. School officials picked Coldwell

students to learn about the El Paso and its more than 300 enlisted crew. Lind brought greetings from the crew, a flag that flew on a North Atlantic cruise, a plaque and a framed picture of the USS El Paso. Lind presented Coldwell Principal James Richardson with a signed admiral's cap and said the gift was to help him command respect when his own crew gets out of line.

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