

USAV Monterrey Towed to Seward

Monday, 25 June 2012

Jay Barrett/KMXT

The U.S.

Army vessel Monterrey left Woman's Bay, where it had been tied up at Lash Dock for over a week. Army Reserve Major Annemarie Daneker says the 174-foot landing craft left at about 3 p.m. Sunday, under tow, for Seward.

Daneker

says the ship is now under the supervision of the Naval Sea Systems Command, and all but two of the Monterrey's crew has flown home. They were Army Reserve soldiers who were participating in their annual training mission, and according to Daneker, were at the end of their yearly deployment. Two Active Guard and Reserve soldiers from the ship will meet up with the Monterrey in Seward and stay until the ship is ready to sail.

The stay in

Seward is expected to last 30- to 45-days, where repairs to the hull will be made. After that, Daneker says, the plan is to move it to another dry dock for its annual maintenance. That location has yet to be determined.

The

Monterrey's 350 tons of cargo - construction equipment destined to help relocate the Western Alaska village of Newtok - will be loaded on the landing craft "Malvern Hill" out of Tacoma, to be returned to the Lower 48. The Malvern Hill is due in Kodiak on or about July 10th.

The

Associated Press reports that construction of buildings at the new village site of Mertarvik, scheduled for this summer, has been cancelled.

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Monterrey hit Humpback Rock, a charted hazard off the City of Kodiak on June 8th and was intentionally beached on Puffin Island. About 8,000- to 12,000-gallons of diesel fuel spilled from two ruptured tanks on the ship, but no damage to the environment or harm to wildlife was reported.