

**New Omaha namesake fast, deadly**

By Joseph Morton

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WASHINGTON — From al-Qaida terrorists to Somali pirates, America's enemies may come to tremble with fear at the mere mention of Omaha and Sioux City.

The two Midwestern cities, situated far from the ocean tides, will see their names adorn two of the U.S. Navy's newest, fastest warships — vessels designed to be particularly agile and deadly in a new era of asymmetrical combat.

U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced the names Wednesday for the littoral combat ships: the USS Omaha and the USS Sioux City. Construction will begin next year, with the ships scheduled to be delivered to the Navy in 2016.

Mabus told The World-Herald that he chose the two cities in order to honor their past and ongoing support of the military.

"The values that they bring, the patriotism that they have shown, is really special," he said in an interview.

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