

Tar Heels-Spartans Are Off To See The Sea

Written by Mike Kelly
Monday, 25 July 2011 14:08

The University of North Carolina has announced it will play a non-conference game against Michigan State on the USS Carl Vinson.

The Tar Heels and the Spartans will play the first NCAA college basketball game on an active flat top. The game will be played on the flight deck of the Carl Vinson on Veterans Day, November 11, in San Diego, CA. The game will be played at no cost to tax payers or any operational costs to the Navy.

The USS Carl Vinson was used to bury Osama bin Laden at sea after he was killed by Navy SEALs. The Morale Entertainment Foundation received approval from the Naval Department and is promoting the event. If the Carl Vinson is called out to sea, the game will be played on the USS Midway, which is now a museum berthed on the San Diego side of the bay, or the game may be played at a college gym.

The game was the idea of Michigan State athletic director Mark Hollis. North Carolina AD Dick Baddour said the game is a unique way to honor the military. There will be no public sale of tickets. Most tickets will go to military personnel, with each school getting 750 tickets. Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson are expected to be the honorary team captains.

The game will be televised on ESPN, which will also give 40 minutes of air time to a postgame concert.