



the Almanac

"I have not yet begun to fight!" USS BONHOMME RICHARD LHD 6

February 24, 2012

Bonhomme Richard Sailors Stay 'United Through Reading'

*"...It's like being home,
away from home."*

*By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class
Katherine K. Barkley*

USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) commenced the United Through Reading (UTR) program Feb. 20, for Sailors and embarked Marines to keep in touch with family while forward deployed for a hull swap with USS Essex (LHD 2).

UTR, a nonprofit organization founded in 1989, provides servicemembers the ability to stay connected with loved ones through recorded reading sessions that are sent back home to loved ones, along with the book.

The program is facilitated by the ship's religious ministries team and is managed by Religious Program Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Kimberly A. Bell.

"We are going to continue to run the program as long as we are underway," said Bell, "We can also go mobile and come to the Sailor if they are really busy and can't make it down here to the ship's chapel."

Legalman 1st Class (AW/SW) Raysa A. Turner said she used her time in front of the camera to speak to her children, read and sing a favorite song they share.

"It's a way for our kids to know that we are away for our job, but we haven't forgotten about them," said Turner. "I would definitely recommend this to other parents."

Yeoman 2nd Class (SW) Victoria F. Kent said it is her second time using this program. She also read several books and took the time to speak to her child.

"For my 3-year-old, sending this home will be like Christmas day all over again," said Kent.

Bell said there are many brand new books to choose from and how beneficial it is for families to take advantage of this program while it's still available during this deployment.

"This benefits the morale of Sailors by helping the families see that you are still here and you are still thinking about them," said Bell. "It's like being home, away from home."

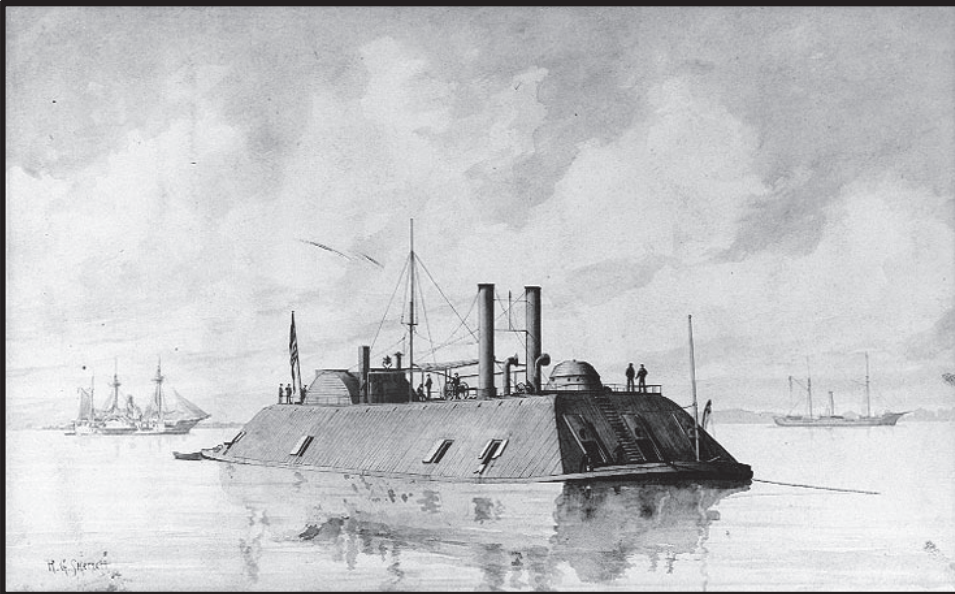
Sign up at the Chaplain's office at 1-65-2-Q or contact RPI Bell at ext. 4364 with questions. Hours of operation are 1300 through 1500 Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



RPI (SW/AW) Kimberly A. Bell shows some of the reading material available in the UTR program. Bell manages the UTR program aboard USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6). U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Marcus Stanley

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Essex Facts: The 2nd USS Essex



USS Essex was a 1000-ton ironclad river gunboat of the United States Army and later United States Navy during the American Civil War. It was named for Essex County, Massachusetts. USS Essex was originally constructed in 1856 at New Albany, Indiana as a steam-powered ferry named New Era. In September 1861 New Era was purchased by the United States Army for use in its Western Gunboat Flotilla and was modified into a 355-ton timberclad gunboat.

Movie Schedule
Thursday, Feb. 23

KBHR TV

CH. 2 Command Information --- CH. 5 AFN Sports
CH. 6 AFN News --- CH. 7 AFN Prime

ch.3

0600/1830 Cadillac Records
0800/2030 Boyz in the Hood
1000/2230 Big Momma's House
1230/0030 Big Momma's House 3
1430/0230 Beverly Hills Cop

ch.4

0600/1800 For Colored Girls
0800/2000 Lottery Ticket
1000/2200 Precious
1230/0030 Tyler Perry:
Meet the Browns
1430/0230 White Men Can't Jump

ch.8

0600/1800 Glory
0800/2000 The Help
1000/2200 To Kill a Mockingbird
1200/0000 Driving Miss Daisy
1400/0200 Night at the Museum 2
1600 Sherlock Holmes



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