

Poor Richard, 2016.

A N

Almanack

BHR's Lucky 13



Weapons Department: Delivering the BOOM!

Story and photos by MC2 Kyle Carlstrom

Comprised of nearly 80 Sailors, Weapons Dept. plays a key and vital role in the mission of BHR; supplying not only the ship, but the Marines and squadrons with essential ammunition and ordnance. AOs and GMs make up the heart and soul of the department, spread out amongst four divisions.

In order to adequately prepare for a float or deployment, much planning goes into what type of ammo and ordnance will be required for the time at sea.

“Whatever the request our embarked units such as HSC 25, the 31st MEU or EOD have for ammunition to support their mission, we requisition that particular ammunition,” said Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Hall, BHR’s Gun Boss. “We requisition all the ammo roughly six months prior to the ship actually executing anchorage in [Sasebo] bay to onload munitions. As we requisition it, we make sure that everything is being tracked, being properly annotated and once we go to anchorage, we look to execute. We conduct a real-time inventory of everything we bring on board and make sure that we received everything that we requisitioned and we will strike it below decks to the magazines.”

On and offloads are the largest evolution for the department and it is no simple task.

“It takes the entire department to do an onload or offload,” said Hall. “We like to break it up into teams where we’re able to do it during the day and throughout the night so that we can strike it down in a timely fashion and ensure that everything is put away so that the ship is able to go on to its next mission. The timeframe it roughly takes us is two days to get everything struck below.”

Due to BHR being forward-deployed, the ship has a required amount of munitions which need to be readily available to order and receive.

“We have ship requirements we like to stay above,” said Hall. “80% is what we like to stay ordered up too. Normally in the fleet you’re at 80 percent with about 20 percent non-combat expenditure allowance or NCEA, but because we’re FDNF we will generally reorder more ammo once we reach 80% or are about to reach 80%. The reason for that is we’re at the tip of the spear and we want to have what’s needed to deliver whatever mission we’re called away for.”

After all the ammo and ordnance is brought on and the ship heads off to its next mission, the daily routine for each division begins, based on the daily schedule. According to Hall, being on an amphib creates a new dynamic not normally seen on an aircraft carrier.

“I’ve been on several carriers before, and like the carriers we’re here to support the ship and the squadrons,” said Hill. “The Marines bring a totally different element to us as Weapons Department. We work closely with the Marines to help support them in



whatever training they need or requirements they may have. For example, when you hear the call aways for the Marines, we provide different contingency ordnance teams for each call based on the number of Marines which need to be supported.”

Between the daily gun shoots held by G-2 division, the Marine call aways which requires G-1 and G-3 to move munitions to their proper locations and G-4 overseeing all ammo and ordnance movements, there’s never a real “down” time for the department.

However due to the high demand of the job, Hall believes it benefits the Sailors to stay fit.

“Fitness is important in the Navy no matter the job,” said Hall. “Getting to the gym and keeping healthy provides maximum readiness. We have spaces from the O-6 level down to the 6th deck, so endurance is important. We have to handle the ordnance, ammo and small arms on board which requires physical strength. Rest is also important so our Sailors keep their minds sharp and on the task at hand.”

Handling items which are designed to explode, be fired or detonated on a moment’s notice, requires the utmost attention, because one wrong choice could potentially spell disaster.

“Both AOs and GMs must handle ordnance 90 percent of the time for their job,” said Hall. “We’re trained to handle items that explode, blow up or be fired. What

we always iterate to our AOs and GMs is to know how to handle this ammunition and small arms to determine when it detonates, when it fires or explodes. We have to make the right choices, have the right qualifications. We need to make sure we’re handling the ordnance correctly so we don’t put the ship or ourselves in a bad situation. Everything we have on board has to be closely monitored, managed, locked up and secured.”

There are only a handful of ratings authorized to handle ordnance due to its high-risk nature including AOs, GMs and FCs.

“We have specific qualifications in place which allow us to properly handle ordnance,” said Hall. “There’s no exception to this. You have to know the weapon inside and out. You have to know what it’s designed to do. There have been past events which have occurred, such as the accident aboard USS Forrestal, which is why we have strict rules on handling.”

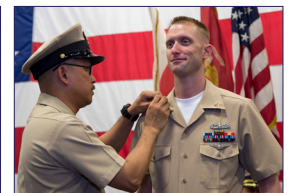
At the end of the day, the final goal is accomplishing the mission with 100 percent success, supplying the appropriate personnel with what they request and have no injuries or loss to personnel or equipment.

“It’s important that we provide the different entities with the ammo they need to fight the good fight and carry out their mission so we can be victorious,” said Hall.





Congratulations to





to the Newest Chiefs



Week in Photos



Sailor of the Week - HN Tamar Surratt



"It feels good to be recognized for doing something that's making an impact on the mission. They see that you're making a difference and that you're putting a lot of effort into what you do," said HN Tamar Surratt, a native of Belmont, N.C., after receiving the Sailor of the Week award, Sept. 14.

Although he may be a fresh face aboard BHR, having reported less than five months ago, Surratt has surely made a name for himself. After just two months onboard, he was hand-picked to be the sole Corpsman responsible for scheduling and performing all physical health assessments

(PHA) for BHR personnel. He personally performs 200 PHAs per month, while identifying Sailors who need immunizations, audiograms, and required lab work. He's also been instrumental in BHR's sustained performance of medical readiness above 90 percent.

Though he's accrued several individual achievements, he insists it is his department that's allowed him to reach such success.

"It's definitely a team effort," said Surratt. "Without my team and my shipmates here, I would not have even been able to accomplish my goals."

Hooyah Medical Department and congratulations HN Surratt on being selected as Sailor of the Week!



This Day in History

1860 - The sloop of war, USS *Levant*, sails from Hawaii for Panama. She is never seen again. In June 1861 a mast and a part of a lower yardarm believed to be from USS *Levant* are found near Hilo. Spikes had been driven into the mast as if to form a raft. Some rumors had her running aground on an uncharted reef off California; others had her defecting to the Confederacy.

1906 - A Marine battalion from USS *Dixie* lands at Cienfuegos, Cuba to reinforce a party guarding American owned plantations, where tensions are still high from the stalled revolution attempt from Sept. 13.

1936 - Squadron 40-T, based in the Mediterranean, is established to protect U.S. interests and evacuate U.S. citizens around the Iberian Peninsula throughout the Spanish Civil War.

1943 - U.S. Navy aircraft perform aerial raids on the Tarawa Makin Islands, where the aerial photography taken proves to be fruitful for the oncoming invasion of the islands.

1993 - USS *Gladiator* (MCM 11) is commissioned at

Naval Station Newport, R.I. The 11th Avenger-class mine countermeasures ship is the third U.S. ship named *Gladiator*. It is homeported at Manama, Bahrain.

1993 - USS *Vella Gulf* (CG 72) is commissioned at her homeport of Naval Station Norfolk. The guided-missile cruiser is the 26th in the Ticonderoga-class and the second Navy ship to be named after the famed Battle of Vella Gulf from the Solomons campaign of World War II.

2004 - USS *Chung Hoon* (DDG 93) is commissioned. USS *Chung Hoon* is named in honor of Rear Adm. Gordon Pai'ea Chung-Hoon, first Asian-American Naval Academy graduate and first Asian-American flag officer. During World War II, he was in command of USS *Sigsbee* (DD 502) when a kamikaze crashed into her in Apr. 1945.

2008 - USNS *Carl Brashear* (T-AKE 7) is christened and launched at San Diego, Calif. The dry cargo ship provides ammunition, food, repair, parts, stores and small quantities of fuel for the U.S. Marine Corps. The ship is named for Master Chief Carl Brashear, the first African American Master Diver in the U.S. Navy and the first amputee to be recertified as a diver after amputation.



1990 - A new 40-acre training facility for Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) was dedicated at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, by General Alfred M. Gray, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Brain Teasers

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Movie Schedule

CHANNEL 10

0700 & 1900: Annie
 0915 & 2115: Ocean's Eleven
 1130 & 2330: Jem and the Holograms
 1345 & 0145: Rocky II
 1600 & 0400: Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

CHANNEL 11

0700 & 1900: Birdman
 0915 & 2115: Out of the Furnace
 1130 & 2330: Parker
 1345 & 0145: Color of Money
 1600 & 0400: Straight Outta Compton

If you would like to request a movie for a Sunday Channel 9 screening, please stop by SiteTV (02-98-1-Q).
 You may view the full list of movies on the Share Drive:
 PAO - Public folder - SiteTV

Upcoming Events

Today: 2000 - Board Games on the Mess Decks (MD)
Monday: 2000 - Karaoke Night (MD)
Tuesday: 2000 - Magic: The Gathering (MD)
Friday: 2000 - BHR's Got Talent
Saturday: 2000 - Movie Night (MD)
Sunday: 2000 - BINGO

Heritage Committee



**HISPANIC
HERITAGE
MONTH**
Celebration!
Monday, Sept. 26 @ 1900
 Mess Decks