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Bonhomme Richard Celebrates Navy's 241st Birthday

Story and photos by PO2 Kyle Carlstrom



Amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) Sailors and embarked Marines assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) celebrated the Navy's 241st birthday with a ceremony and cake cutting on the mess decks, Oct. 12.

This year's birthday celebrates "America's Sailor – For 241 Years: Tough, Bold and Ready." During his remarks, Capt. Jeffrey Ward, commanding officer of Bonhomme Richard and the event's keynote speaker, highlighted Sailors throughout the Navy's history who answered their nation's call.

"For the Sailors who came before us, like Cook 3rd Class Doris Miller, who during the attack on Pearl Harbor picked up a .50 caliber [machine gun] and returned fire to the Japanese, the Sailors aboard USS Cole who fought to keep the ship afloat, and Capt. John Paul Jones who led Sailors and Marines against HMS Serapis and many more throughout our history and what they accomplished, you can tie that to our Sailors today," said Ward. "When a Sailor is aboard a ship or out to sea, they need to be ready to do their job, fight fires, combat flooding or pick up a gun and protect their shipmates, no matter what their daily job is."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jessica Martinez, said she felt honored to read the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. John Richardson's birthday message.

"When I found out there was an opportunity to read the CNO's birthday message, I thought it was great and jumped at it immediately," said Martinez. "I love the Navy. I am ready for anything because of what the Navy has taught me."

The ceremony concluded with a ceremonial cake cutting with the oldest officer, youngest enlisted Sailor and the Commanding Officer.

"I had no idea I was the youngest Sailor," said Seaman Kelly Wood. "It was a wonderful surprise. I will remember this night forever."

Wood has been enlisted for only one year, but believes the Navy has given her the tools to be bold, tough and ready.

"I joined on the Navy's birthday last year," said Wood. "I joined because I wanted to travel, I wanted to do something important and have a great solid and steady future. In the one year I've been in the Navy, I've learned that the least likely person you would imagine can potentially make the greatest impact. It motivates me to do my best."



ZIKA Virus Advisory for Singapore Port Visit

Courtesy of Lt. Daniel Kim, Family Physician, Fleet Surgical Team Seven

Sailors and Marines are advised to take precautions against Zika virus during BHR's visit to Singapore. Zika virus is a blood-borne disease resulting from mosquito bites, and it can be transmitted by a sexual encounter with infected individuals. There is no vaccine to prevent Zika virus from infection. Prevention against mosquitoes and sexual contact is the safest and surest method.

Preventative measures advised against mosquitoes include the use of insect repellent containing DEET, wearing long-sleeved shirts with long pants, and to remain inside air conditioned establishments as often as possible. Recommendations to avoid sexual transmission are either abstinence or condom use.

Zika virus infection in adults is mild and usually lasts several days before complete recovery. However, the

greatest risk is during pregnancy as Zika virus has been linked to serious birth defects including microcephaly.

Most importantly, the CDC recommends the use of condoms/abstinence for eight weeks for women after travel to Singapore. Men should wait at least six months after travel before having unprotected sex to minimize their risk for sexual transmission of Zika virus to partners.

The most recent CDC guidelines and recommendations can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6539e1.htm?s_cid=mm6539e1_w

Stay tuned to SITE TV channel 4 for more information and a list of Zika related website references.



ON THE DECKS



This Day in History

1862 - The Union iron screw gunboat Memphis, with acting commander Lt. P.G. Watmough, captures blockade running British steamer Ouachita at sea off Cape Roman, S.C. during the Civil War.

1915 - The keel to first electrically-driven battleship USS New Mexico (BB 40) is laid. She is commissioned May 1918, and later provides numerous off-shore bombardments prior to invading Allied forces during World War II in the Pacific.

1935 - Lt. Cmdr. Knefler McGinnis, Lt. j.g. James K. Averil, NAP Thomas P. Wilkerson and a crew of three fly an XP3Y-1 consolidated patrol plane from Cristobal Harbor, Canal Zone to Alameda, Calif. in 34 hours and 45 minutes and establish a new world record for Class C seaplanes of 3,281.383 miles.

1942 - USS Greenling (SS 213) sinks the Japanese army

cargo ship Takusei Maru six miles off Todo Saki near the northern coast of Honshu and USS Sculpin (SS 191) sinks the Japanese army cargo ship Sumiyoshi Maru 75 miles southwest of Kavieng, New Ireland.

1995 - USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) is commissioned at Newport, R.I. The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer honors Lt. William Charles Fitzgerald, who was mortally wounded when he chose to remain behind to direct artillery fire while his men withdrew from the enemy assault on Coastal Group 16 in South Vietnam on Aug. 7, 1967. For his action, Lt. Fitzgerald received the Navy Cross and Purple Heart, posthumously.

2000 - USS Roosevelt (DDG 80) is commissioned at its homeport of Mayport, Fla. The Arleigh Burke-class guidedmissile destroyer is the first to be named for the presidential team of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt.

Brain Teasers

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Movie Schedule

CHANNEL 10

0700 & 1900: The Hunger Games 0950 & 2150: X-men - Days of Future Past 1220 & 0020: Ghost 1445 & 0245: The BFG 1700 & 0500: Lilo & Stitch

CHANNEL 11

0700 & 1900: The Dark Knight 0950 & 2150: Star Trek - Into Darkness 1220 & 0020: The Infiltrator 1445 & 0245: Chappie 1700 & 0500: The Purge

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 - USMC Appreciation			
	Night on the Mess Decks (MD)			
Saturday:	2000 - Movie Night (MD)			

Rating Modernization

To learn more about Rating Modernization and how it affects the ship please check out information on the Share Drive brought to you by Career Counselors at:

S:\Command\CCC\Rating Modernization

Water Consumption

Water usage for showers and other evolutions makes a big difference in consumption rates. Please use ON/OFF button on shower heads (or turn water off) to conserve water while lathering up.

Libery Briefs

Tune in to SITE TV Channel 4 for the Singapore port brief, Commanders' liberty message and Zika virus information.