



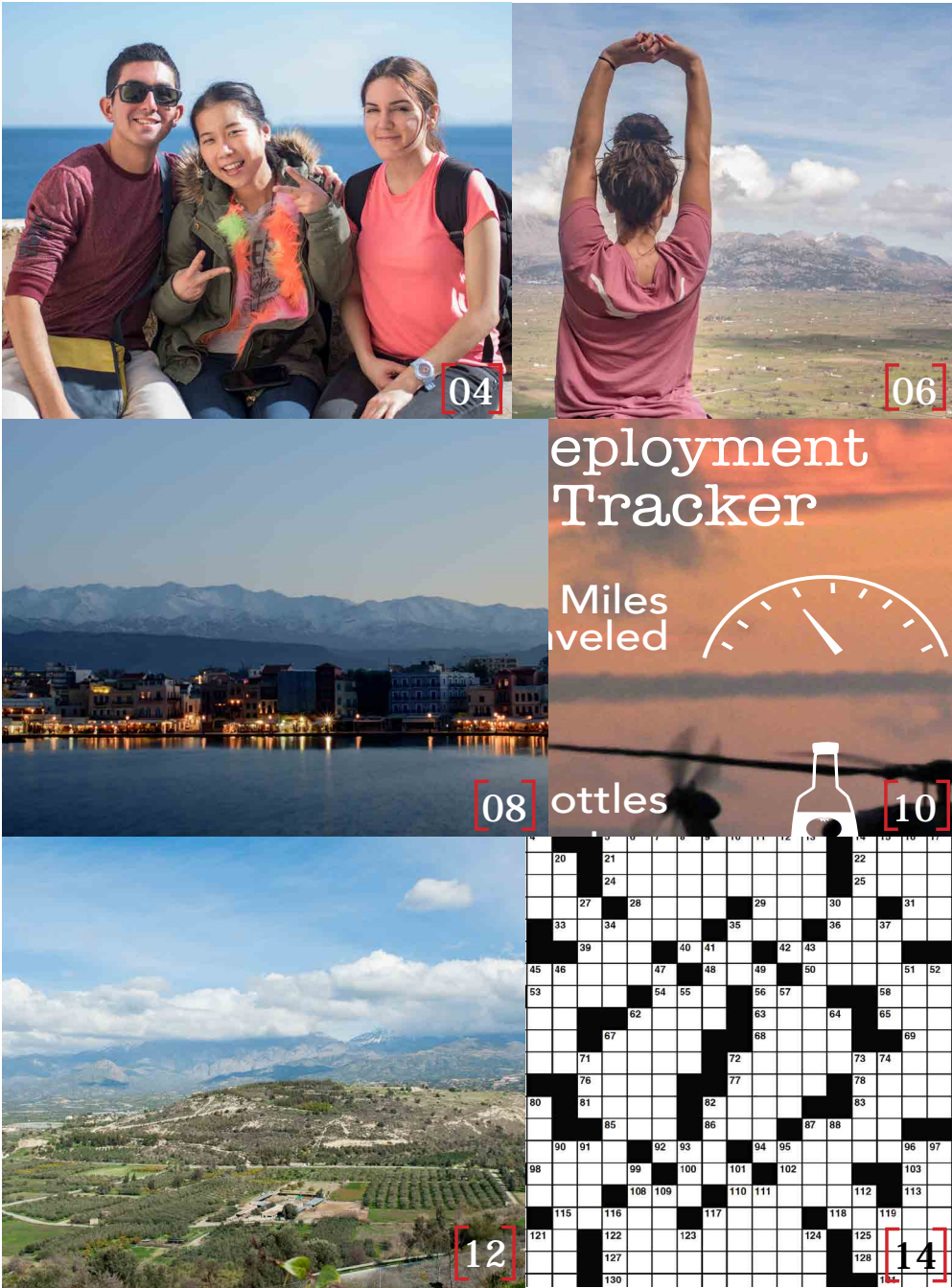
The Aenger

I Came, I Saw ...
The Beauty of Crete
February 12, 2017

[The Avenger]

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On the Cover: The Chania Lighthouse, one of the oldest in the world, lit up against the night sky.
Photo by MC2 Spencer Fling

[View From the Top]

Operations Officer, Cmdr. Tracey "Peta" Gendreau

"Join the Navy, see the world" still rings true. Crete was a great port visit and there will be many more opportunities throughout this deployment.

Now, it's time to carry forward and refocus on our mission, to support our forces, our allies, U.S. interests, and humanity during Operation Inherent Resolve. As we move to the very tip of the spear, the eyes and ears of the world will continue to watch. We must carry out every evolution with the utmost of precision.

Ultimately, the mission and its success depends on the Navy's most important assets -- its Sailors.

You keep this vessel going.

You ensure we are armed and ready.

You ensure our aircraft are maintained, equipped and prepared to execute whatever tasking may come.

Remember why we're here. If there was ever a time to keep our heads in the game, that time is now. Be proud to be a U.S. Navy Sailor at the tip of the spear!



Photo by MC3 Daniel Gaither

"Ultimately, the mission and its success depends on the Navy's most important assets -- its Sailors."

Faces of 77



[I Came, I Saw, I Experienced]

Story by MC2 Spencer Fling



A cool breeze blows through the cypress trees clinging to the rock-based soil of Mount Ida, the highest mountain on the island of Crete. Surrounding mountains engulf the green fields that are littered with grazing goats and sheep. Thousands of feet above, among the clouds, is the entrance to Mount Ida's Idaean Cave. Greek legend claims the cave is the birthplace of Zeus, the ruler of the Greek gods.

The unique blend of history, lore and serenity created an awe-inspiring scene for the Sailors from USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) on a Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) tour during the ship's scheduled port visit to Souda Bay.

Away from the rest of the tour group at one of the mountain's many scenic viewpoints, Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Mikaela Davis decides to capitalize on the epic scene to create a moment worth remembering.

"One of my goals this deployment is to become a certified yoga instructor," Davis said. "I have been practicing a lot during my down time. When I saw the beautiful location and the view, I knew I had to do a pose right then."

In a calm and peaceful manner, Davis ascends a small wall, stretches into the open-hip split with arms overhead position and begins to meditate.

"It's such a liberating feeling to be completely balanced within your pose, and then you realize that you are surrounded by so much natural beauty and history."

Davis, who works as a member of the ship's security force, says that the moment was a welcomed break from the day-to-day grind of deployment.

"On the ship, you stay busy and there is never a time when everything is peaceful and quiet and you can just have a moment to yourself," she said. "In that moment on the mountain, all my stress was gone and I was completely peaceful."

Upon completing the tour, Davis was thankful that she was able to see different parts of the island of Crete.

"Visiting different places around the world is a big reason I joined the Navy," stated Davis. "I wish everyone would take advantage of the MWR tours when we pull into port. I couldn't imagine missing out on what I saw just to sit on the pier. These are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities."

With new experiences under her belt, Davis has set a new goal for the rest of deployment.

"I want to find the highest, most beautiful place at every port we pull into and do a different yoga pose," she said. "I already have the next pose picked out. It's called 'The Wild Thing.' It is a difficult pose, so I'll need some practice."

"It's such a liberating feeling to be completely balanced within your pose, and then you realize that you are surrounded by so much natural beauty and history." - MA3 Davis

[Mechri Na Synatithohoume Xana....]

(Until We Meet Again....)



Photo by MC2 Spencer Fling

The Beauty of Crete

Story by MC3 Mario Coto

Sailors deployed aboard USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) participated in day and evening tours during the aircraft carrier's visit to Souda Bay, Greece, Feb. 6-9.

Sailors took advantage of the port visit not only to relax and enjoy some liberty, but also to learn about Greek culture and explore the island of Crete.

"It feels incredible to step foot in another country and continent, and explore," said Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Leslie Perez. "It's quite a privilege representing the Navy and the United States."

All tours were organized by GHWB's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) office, and were designed to keep Sailors safe and ensure they enjoyed a good time on liberty. Several of the tours were led by local nationals who speak both Greek and English.

"We not only have a reliable tour guide leading the tour, but several MWR staff members are on-hand as chaperones," said Internal Communications Electrician 2nd Class Kirsten Gilbert, an MWR chaperone. "All Sailors are supervised, and we work hard to make sure each tour is both fun and safe."

Despite being the third time Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Christopher Gilbreath has made this port visit, he enjoyed taking advantage of the tours instead of being left to his own devices.

"Ultimately, I had an absolute blast on the tours I went on, and with all the photos and videos I took, I'll be able to pass on my experiences to my family," said Gilbreath. "I thoroughly enjoyed taking in the local culture, especially the first night when I took part in the Greek dancing and ate traditional Greek food. That was something I'll remember for the rest of my life."

While some Sailors enjoyed more active tours like kayaking, Fire Controlman 3rd Class Donna Linsenmann enjoyed the experience of learning ancient history during the tours of Spili, Gortyna and Festos.

"I love history, so taking a tour where we explore ancient sites was fantastic," said Linsenmann. "I definitely felt like I learned something new, and just being at these places in person was an incredible bonus."

Many Sailors, including Perez, purchased souvenirs for their loved ones.

"I always feel like if I don't buy something for my family, I won't have proof that I was there," said Perez. "It's a fun thing to do, and the hardest part is deciding what to buy because there's a lot to choose from."

The MWR tours gave Sailors a glimpse of Greek culture.

"I highly encourage more people go on these MWR tours," said Gilbreath. "I'm not new to the Navy, but I can still say I walked away a little more knowledgeable about the world."



"Ultimately, I had an absolute blast on the tours I went on, and with all the photos and videos I took, I'll be able to pass on my experiences to my family."

- IC2 Linsenmann

Freedom@Work



Photo by MC2 Spencer Fling



Photo by MC2 Spencer Fling



Photo By MC2 Spencer Fling



Photo by MC3 Matt Matlage



Photo by MC3 Matt Matlage



Photo by MC1 Sean Hart



Photo by MC3 Mario Coto

Crossword

Times Digest

THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DO THE SPLITS

BY LYNN LEMPEL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

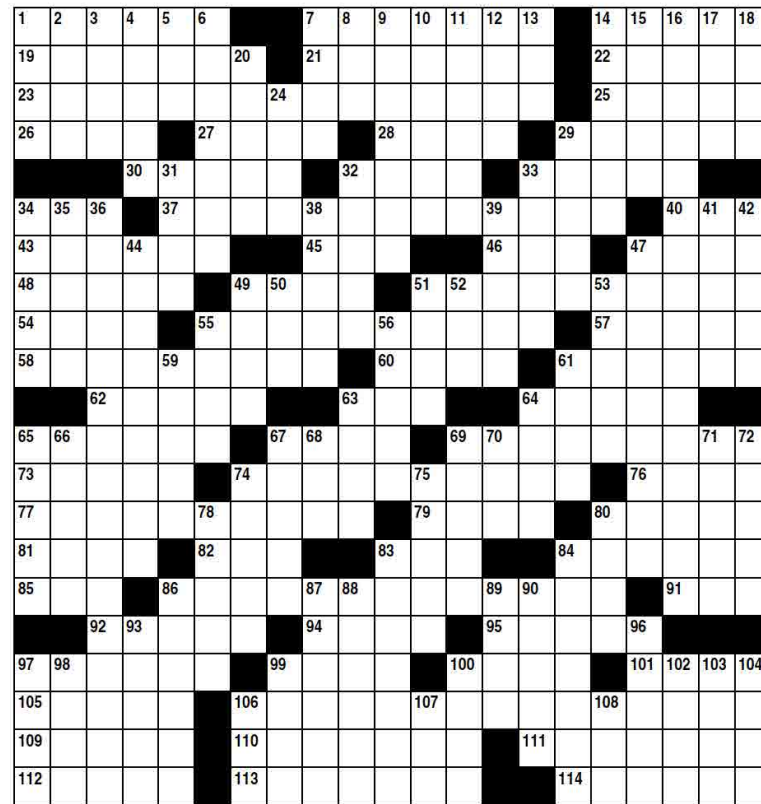
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POINT STRAINED STAND
ACMES THISLIFE CHLOE
DOETH RADIOERA RAINS
DNA IRE EASTON IT SOK
INNEREAR NEONS PCT
NONETAKEN ITHelp
GROK DENOTE TESSERA
DIDIWIN SUP RSV
LEANIN POCONOS
GUMBY OSA LATISH MOO
BREAKTHEGLASSCEILING
TON IAGREE HIE NADER
TREERAT SEXILE
SPAY DEN FOGGIER
COLORIZE YOYOMA ABLE
IMBUES POSTERIOR
RIG WINCE FLEXAGON
SLIDE ISEULT ERE EKE
LOGIN DEGREASE ROLOS
ADHOC TEEINGUP TROUT
BETTY HAVEASAY SAWTO

CVN
77

USS

George H.W. Bush
2017

Deployment Tracker

5153 Miles
traveled



4 Brunches
served



3 Sea &
Anchor



832 Ketchup
Bottles Used



FEB
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