

The Avenger and friends!

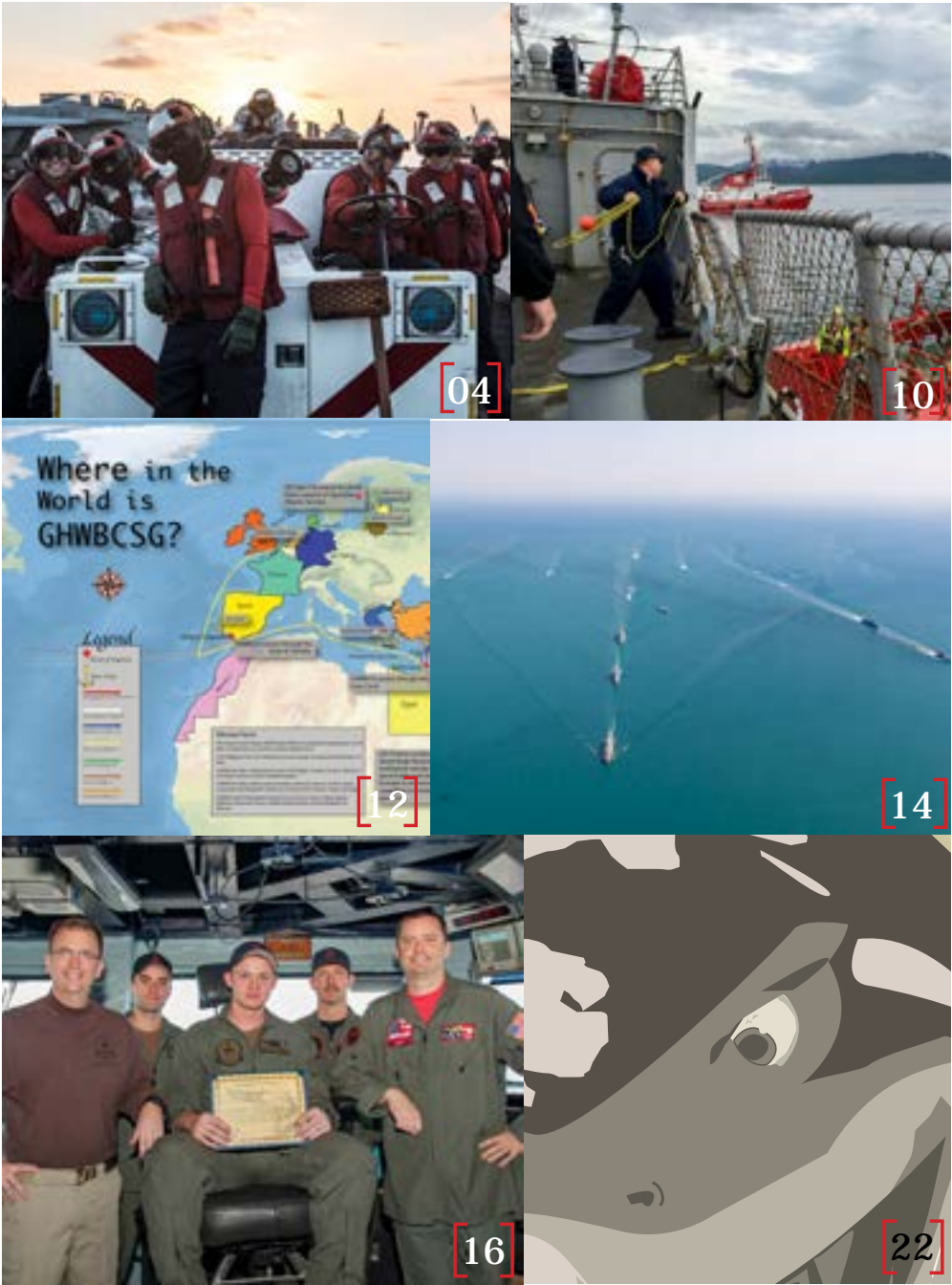


DESRON Units Visit Germany and Greece
Hué City Participates in Sea Breeze '17
July 23, 2017

[The Avenger]

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On the Cover: GHWB sails across the Mediterranean Sea.
Photo by MCSN Zachary P. Wickline

[View From the Top]

CAPT Jim McCall, Commander, Carrier Air Wing EIGHT

Greetings Avengers,

As we complete the final chapter of deployment, I would like to pause to reflect on where we've been, what we have accomplished and look at what the next few weeks have in store for George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group.

Anytime a carrier strike group departs home and steams east, no one knows how the deployment is going to turn out. There are no crystal balls, and world events get a vote when it comes to mission assignments, and overall tasking while deployed.

This deployment has been no exception. The training, team work, innovation and proficiency of the members of this team have been remarkable and have allowed us to overcome every obstacle before us. This is a testament to the drive and dedication of every member of the GHWB Carrier Strike Group.

From the flight deck to the deck plates, we are a finely-tuned machine; a team where everyone's contribution is essential to our ability to effectively execute the mission.

From the "Ordies" building and loading our ordnance to the reactor operators responsible for keeping this 100,000-ton machine moving through the water, every Sailor plays a critical part in our combat effectiveness. And whether a Sailor is turning wrenches or feeding the crew, their actions directly enable every sortie we fly and the many combat successes that have followed.

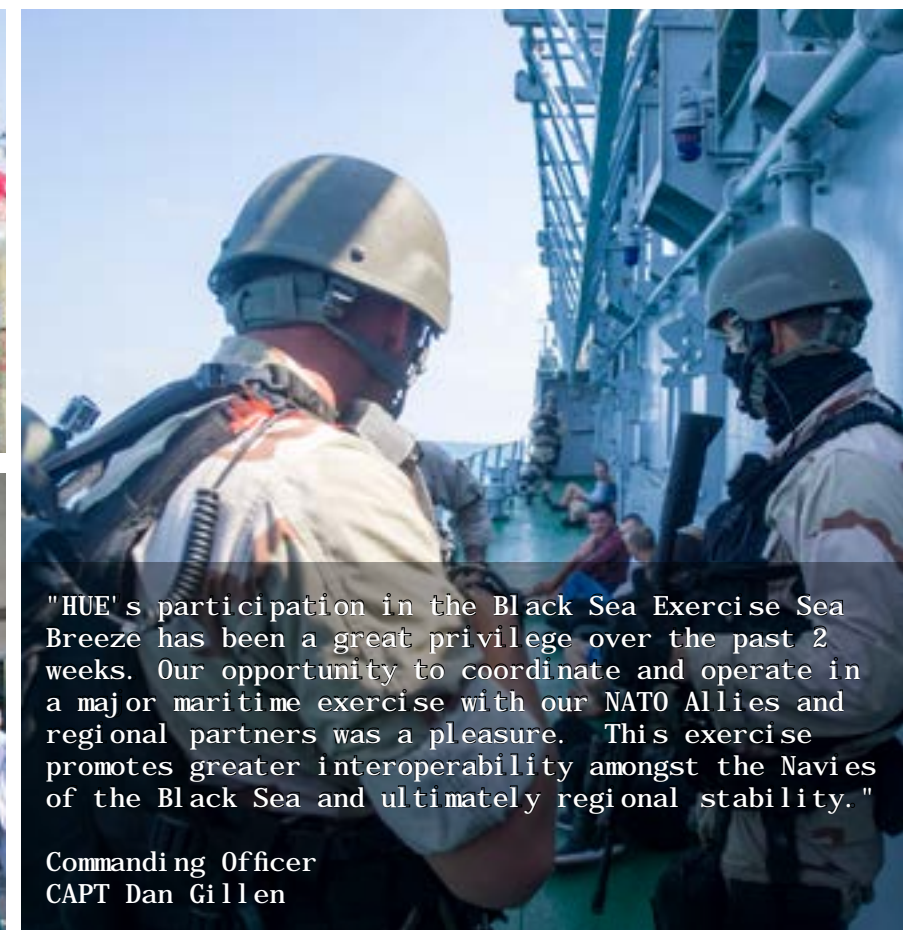
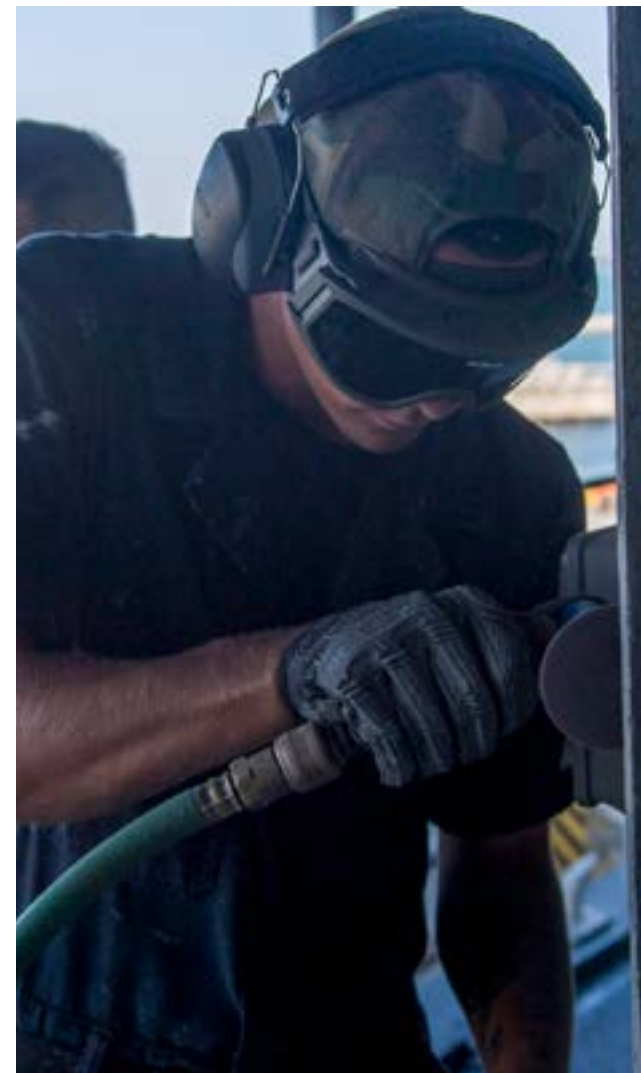
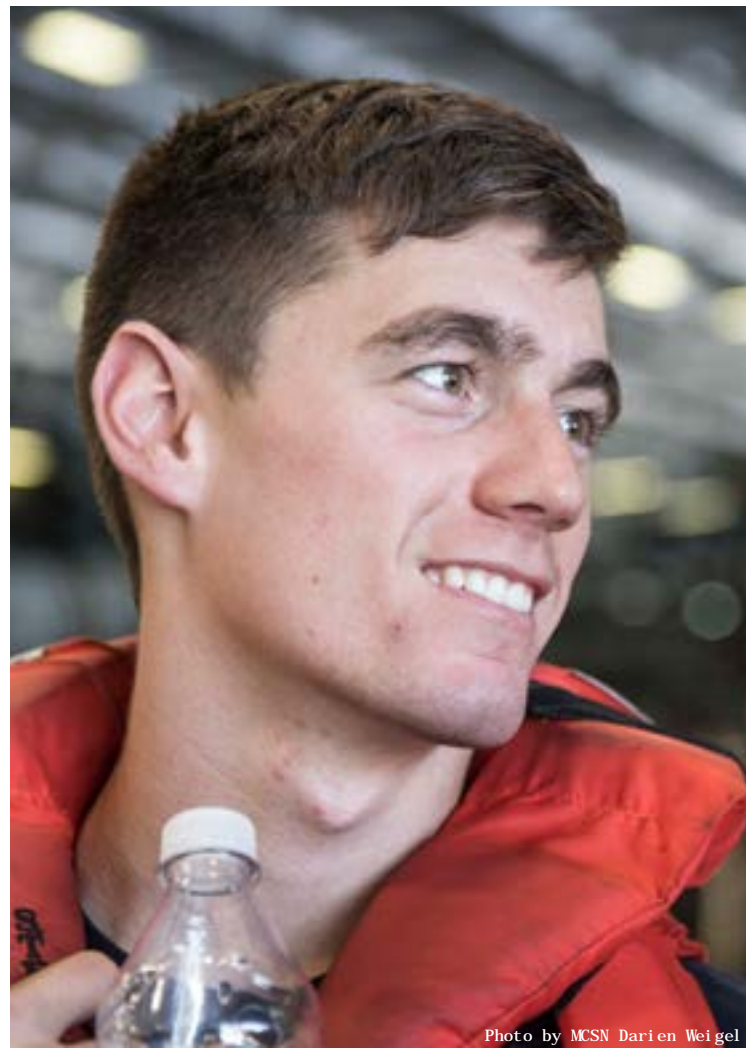
No matter the task, when a Sailor does their job to the best of their ability, it is infectious. Strong individual performance translates into strong performing divisions, departments, and squadrons. The synergy of these small groups working together has allowed us to successfully complete our mission. As a team, we have made a positive impact in the daily lives of the Iraqi and Syrian people. We have made the world a safer place.



As we turn from the historic successes enjoyed during OIR, it is imperative we stay focused on the remainder of our mission. We are about to participate in a large-scale, multi-national training exercise with some of our closest and strongest allies. I look forward to working alongside our counterparts from the Royal Navy and to strengthening the interoperability and overall mission effectiveness of both our organizations.

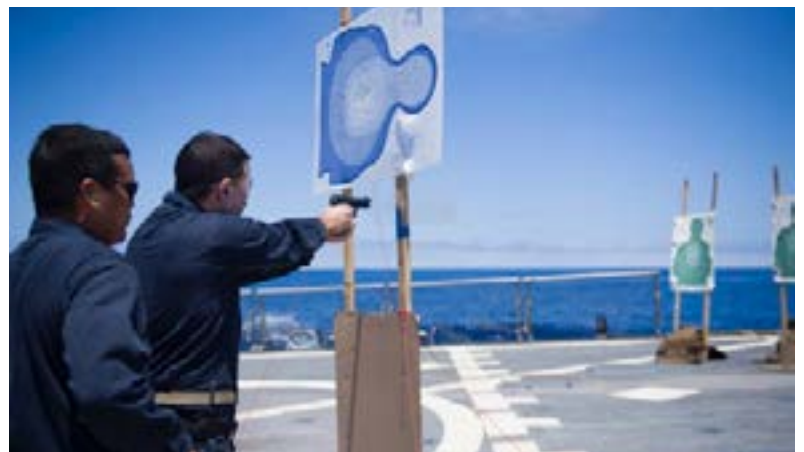
We should all be proud of the mission we have completed throughout deployment, and I am proud of each and every member of this team.

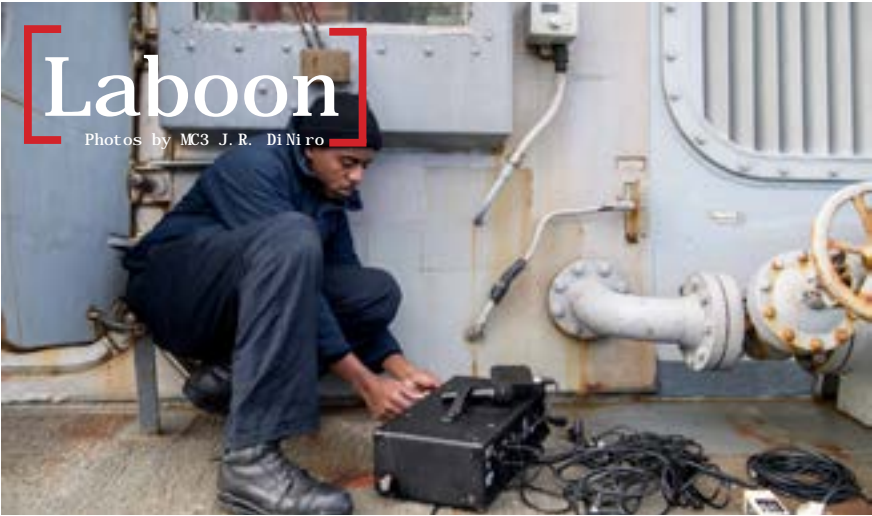
"No matter the task, when a Sailor does their job to the best of their ability, it is infectious. Strong individual performance translates into strong performing divisions, departments and squadrons."



[Phi l i p p i n e S e a]

Photos by MC3 Danny Ray Nunez Jr.





"Laboon crew members said goodbye to their families and friends six months ago on January 21st, as they departed for deployment. In the roughly 180 days that Laboon has been gone, the officers and Sailors have accomplished so much. It's staggering. I couldn't be more proud of this crew and the dedication and drive they have shown each and every day."

Commanding Officer
CDR Jason Labott



"TRUXTUN's Sailors have successfully executed every mission that has been asked of them on this deployment and they will continue to do so. They have done a tremendous job remaining focused on the task at hand which is to ensure TRUXTUN finishes the deployment strong."

Commanding Officer
CDR Troy Denison



DESRON Units Visit Germany & Greece

Story and photos by GHWBCSG Public Affairs



The guided-missile destroyer *USS Truxtun (DDG 103)* concluded a four-day port visit in Souda Bay, Greece, July 6.

Souda Bay is Truxtun's first liberty port visit of its 2017 deployment with George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (GHWBCSG). The port visit allowed the crew to enjoy the culture and sights the island of Crete has to offer.

"It was a great port visit, for the crew and me included, in an incredible country. Visiting a country with such a rich history and culture was an unforgettable experience."

- LTJG Brian Herbert

The Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) committee aboard Truxtun arranged several tours in coordination with Naval Support Activity Souda Bay MWR, to include local wine tours and a visit to many of the archaeological sites on the strategic island of Crete.

"I enjoyed the wine tour and the many historic monuments I was able to see along the tour," said Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Samantha Watkins. "I can't wait to get home from deployment so I can share the Greek wine I bought on the tour with my family."

The guided-missile destroyer *USS Laboon (DDG 58)* departed Wilhelmshaven, Germany, July 8, after a scheduled port visit.

Laboon, part of the George H. W. Bush Carrier Strike Group GHWBCSG, is conducting naval operations in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe and Africa.

"It was a great port visit, for the crew and me included, Germany is an incredible country," said Lt. j.g. Brain Herbert. "Visiting a country with such a rich

history and culture was an unforgettable experience. We had a great number of German Sailors come onboard and tour the ship during our time in port and really a wonderful opportunity to connect with another nation's great Navy."

Following the scheduled port visit, Laboon will continue to operate in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations supporting maritime security operations, and increased theater security cooperation and forward naval presence as part of the GHWBCSG.

NAUTICAL TERMS & NAVAL EXPRESSIONS

Part Two

In this series of infographics, we'll explore the origin of some common and peculiar nautical terms and expressions used in your U.S. Navy

PEACOCK

The topcoat worn in cold weather as part of a Sailor's uniform. It is believed that the peacock gets its name from the Dutch word *pij*, a coarse, woolen cloth, or the fact that it was a coat made out of pilot cloth—a "pi" coat. Sailors have been wearing this coat for more than 200 years.

TOE THE LINE

In the days of wooden ships, the sealant between the deck planks formed lines, and Sailors would place their toes to these lines when falling-in at quarters. This was also used as a form of punishment for unruly Sailors who had to toe-the-line in silence for a designated amount of time.

HEAD

The bathroom. On old square-rigged sailing ships, the wind almost always came from astern. So, Sailors would go to the "head" so as not to relieve themselves "into the wind." The use of this term dates to at least 1708, when English privateer Woodes Rogers used the term in his book "A Cruising Voyage Around the World."

BRAVO ZULU

This is a naval signal, conveyed by flaghoist or voice radio, meaning "well done." It is also written as "BZ." Signals were organized originally in the Allied Naval Signal Book (ACP-175) by general subject. The B signals referred to administrative issues. BZ was the last signal in that series.

ENSIGN

A flag, or, the lowest officer rank of the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard. Taken from the old Norman word *enseigne*, the U.S. Navy adopted the rank of ensign in 1862 from the French.

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Where in the World is GHWBCSG?



Legend

- Point of Interest
- Port Visit
- USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77)
- USS Philippine Sea (CG 58)
- USS Truxtun (DDG 103)
- USS Laboon (DDG 58)
- USS Hue City (CG 66)
- USS Cole (DDG 67)

Mission Facts:

Spent 99 days flying in support of OIR, dropping 1,717 bombs totaling 1,814,038 lbs of ordnance expended.

GHWBCSG ships conducted exercises with Egypt, Sweden, Greece, Morocco, Denmark, France, United Kingdom, Turkey, and Israel.

GHWBCSG ships visited ports in Estonia, Lithuania, Greece, Jordan, Spain, Netherlands, Seychelles, the Kingdom of Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Egypt, Ukraine, Israel, Portugal, Norway, Spain, and Germany.

GHWB hosted distinguished visitors from Greece, Israel, Turkey, Egypt, Djibouti, Denmark, France, United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

USS Truxtun conducts Eagle Salute/Eagle Response 17, a multilateral exercise with Egypt, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates to enhance mutual capabilities in maritime security operations.

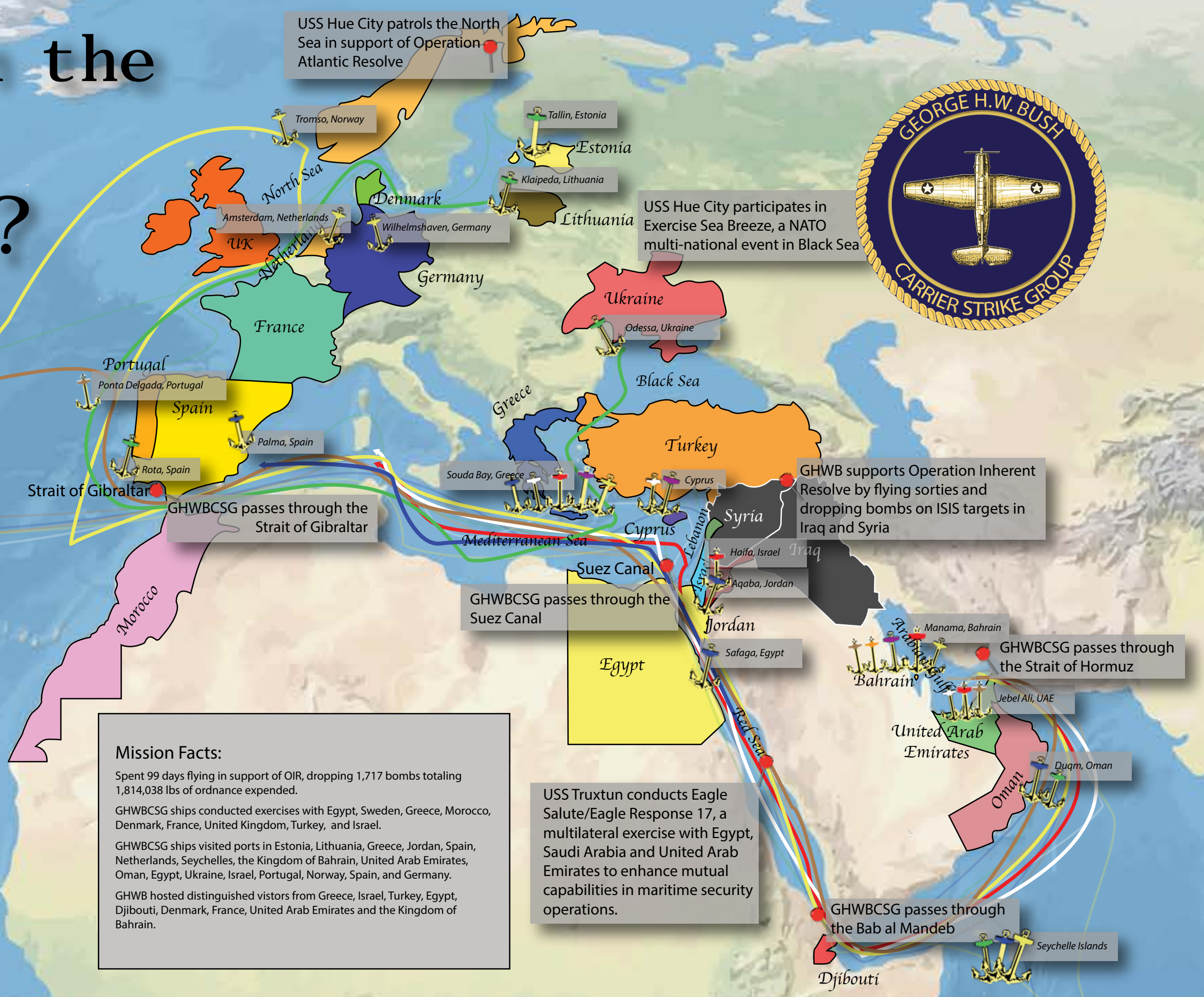
GHWBCSG passes through the Bab al Mandeb

GHWBCSG passes through the Strait of Hormuz

GHWB supports Operation Inherent Resolve by flying sorties and dropping bombs on ISIS targets in Iraq and Syria

USS Hue City participates in Exercise Sea Breeze, a NATO multi-national event in Black Sea

USS Hue City patrols the North Sea in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve



[Hué City Participates in Sea Breeze '17]

Story by ENS Nicholas Vandiver, Photos by MC3 Joshua Tolbert, USS Hué City Public Affairs



"We are truly stronger together. Annual, multinational maritime exercises like Sea Breeze helps us 'keep our cutlass sharp' and strengthen our combined teams across all domains of the battlespace."

- VADM Grady

The Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Hue City (CG 66) and Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64) participated in the multinational naval exercise Sea Breeze July 9-17, 2017.

Sea Breeze is an annual recurring exercise between 17 participating nations which focuses on a variety of warfare areas to include maritime interdiction operations, air defense, anti-submarine warfare, damage control tactics, search and rescue, and amphibious warfare. This exercise strengthened the interoperability between the participating nation's naval forces and acted as a forum to train with allies and partners in combined maritime exercise.

"Hue City is honored to have been afforded the opportunity to have served as commander of the Maritime Task Group," said CAPT Dan Gillen, commanding officer, USS Hue City.

VADM Christopher W. Grady, commander, U.S. 6th Fleet, and Ms. Marie Yovanovitch, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, hosted a reception aboard the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Hué City (CG 66) July 15, during exercise Sea Breeze 2017.

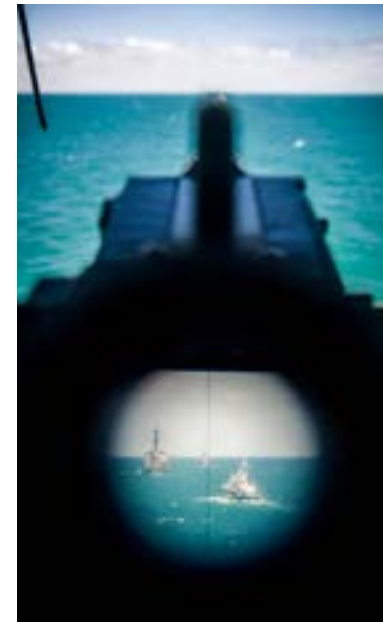
The reception provided the opportunity for Grady and other distinguished guests to celebrate the successes from the 17th iteration of exercise Sea Breeze. The participating nations of Sea Breeze have completed the first phase of the exercise, consisting of regimented training evolutions. Phase two is set to commence later this week, and will consist of more open ended, free play exercises.

"We are truly stronger together," said Grady. "Annual, multinational maritime exercises like Sea Breeze helps us 'keep our cutlass sharp' and strengthen our combined teams across all domains of the battlespace."

During the reception, Grady and Yovanovitch hosted more than 400 distinguished guests, to include Judith Gough, Her Majesty's Ambassador to Ukraine, Georgios Poukamissas, the Greek Ambassador to Ukraine, Manoj Kumar Bharti, Republic of India Ambassador to Ukraine, and Ukrainian Vice Adm. Ihor Voronchenko, commander of the Ukrainian navy, along with other distinguished guests and commanding officers of participating ships.

"Sea Breeze has already been a huge success," said Gillen. "This opportunity to train and operate with our allies and regional partners has been imperative to maintaining the progress developed over the past 17 iterations of Sea Breeze. This year has been the largest and most complex exercise to date and all nations have performed flawlessly."

Following the exercise, Hué City will continue to conduct maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations as part of the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (GHWBCSG).



"Hué City is honored to have been afforded the opportunity to have served as commander of the Maritime Task Group. "

- CAPT Gillen [Freedom@Work](#)

REMEMBER OPSEC: OPERATIONAL SECURITY

Other nations throughout the world have highly capable intelligence services. As a U.S. Navy Sailor, you must be aware that the threat of intelligence collection will be high during any port visit.

Expect to be approached about operations and technology we employ, **ESPECIALLY** in hotels! Do not leave your electronic devices in hotel rooms. You must assume they will be examined and tampered with.



Assume you are being monitored and maintain good Operational Security. If you are approached by anyone for information, inform your Chain of Command. Remember that any intelligence organization or terrorist organization only needs small pieces of information to create a larger picture of what we do and what we are capable of.

Saxon Warrior 17 Basics

Designed to develop theater-specific combat skills and enhance cooperation between U.S.-U.K. forces and governmental agencies.

Led by Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) of the British Royal Navy, Saxon Warrior presents a different set of challenges to the multi-national and multi-platform force by creating a diverse and unpredictable war environment based on fictional military scenarios.

While facing a variety of shifting situations, carrier strike groups from both nations and Standing NATO Maritime Group ONE will operate side by side, providing a tactical contrast that builds upon the in-depth, extended timeline scenario training that began during GHWBCSG's composite training unit exercise (COMPTUEX).

The rapidly changing nature of Saxon Warrior provides a different military training environment for the strike group.

Capt. Benjamin Nicholson
Commodore
Destroyer Squadron (CDS) 22



[Avengers of the Day]



[AWS3(NAC/AW) Joseph P. Davidson]

While assigned to the "Tridents" of HSC-9's operations department, AWS3 Davidson was pivotal as an MH-60S aircrewman, rescue swimmer, and GAU-21/M240 helicopter aerial gunner during the execution of 58 sorties and 182 armed reconnaissance flight hours in direct support of Operation Inherent Resolve. He advises others to work hard and to be the best at everything you do. "Winners never quit and quitters never win."

[LS3(AW) Dennasi a Lassiter]

While assigned to the "Tomcatters" of VFA-31's tool room, LS3 Lassiter was pivotal in tracking more than 6,200 tools, 780 individual material readiness list assets, and 154 precision measuring equipment assets valued at more than \$10,000,000. Additionally, she managed the extensive rework and replacement of 450 broken tools and 15 calibrated assets, resulting in 100% material readiness for 13 maintenance work centers. She advises others to stay positive, progress without dwelling on the past and nothing can get in your way.



[ET3(SW/AW) Drew W. Ables]

While assigned to combat systems department's CS-9 division, ET3 Ables' keen technical expertise was instrumental in the repair of the USQ-167 communication data link system. He was pivotal in restoring MH-60R and P8 Poseidon full motion video, enabling safe transit during numerous special evolutions. He advises others to find out what you are doing wrong and try not to make the same mistake in the future.

[AZAN(AW/SW) Cheyenne R. Shawn]

While assigned to AIMD's IM-4 division, AZAN Shawn was pivotal in the screening of 1,159 support equipment records and the verification of 11 technical directives, sustaining 97% support equipment availability rate. Additionally, she earned her EAWS and ESWS qualifications, well ahead of schedule. She advises others to surround themselves with people who will push you to be the best version of yourself and to keep your head up.



[CS3(SW) Alexander P. Melo]

While assigned to supply department's S-5 division, CS3 Melo was pivotal in leading a team of 27 personnel through daily maintenance and damage control. Additionally, he ensured the highest material condition for 408 wardroom spaces, boosting morale and quality of life for more than 500 officers. He advises others to always do your best in life. No matter how many lemons life hands you, you can always make a great apple pie.

[OS2(SW/AW) Richard A. Roddy]

While assigned to operations department's OI division, OS2 Roddy was pivotal in managing a real-time tactical data link, recording more than 2,000 hours while overcoming numerous complex configurations and networking challenges. Additionally, as the assistant training petty officer, he maintained the training records for 63 Sailors and provided numerous hours of divisional training. He advises others that no matter what happens to you, keep your head up, take a breath, and keep moving forward.





**KEEP PHONES ON
AIRPLANE MODE
WHILE UNDERWAY**

CVN
77

GHWBCSG
2017
Nautical Miles
Traveled

George H.W. Bush	48,810
Philippine Sea	44,196
Truxtun	49,143
Laboon	50,708
Cole	51,420
Hué City	48,127
Total NM Traveled	292,404

JUL
23



Sailor Here.



Sailor Everywhere.

Sailors using social media are subject to the UCMJ at all times, even when off duty. Commenting, posting or linking to material that violates the UCMJ may result in administrative or disciplinary action. Punitive action may include Articles 88, 89, 91, 120b, 120c, 133 or 134 (general article provisions, contempt, disrespect, insubordination, indecent language, communicating a threat, solicitation to commit another offense, and child pornography offenses), as well as other articles.