

Poor Richard, 2018.

A N Almanack



Family Gram Edition



Captain's Corner

Revolutionary Families and Friends,

We have only been out to sea for one week, but your Sailors are already hard at work doing our nation's business. Our patrols in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility ensure the safety and stability of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, and provide a rapid response options in the case of a natural disaster.

The Engineering department got things started when they lit the fires in both boilers to give us the power, electricity and water we need to operate at sea, and Air department safely landed MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopters of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 22 for their first patrol with BHR. Welcome aboard Sea Knights!

Assessors from Commander, Naval Surface Forces Command's (COMNAVSURFOR) TYCOM Material Inspection Team (TMIT) were aboard to conduct a Ready for Sea assessment. The two-day assessment is designed to measure our proficiency

in propulsion, navigation and watch team proficiency, and certifies the ship for deployment. I am proud to say that Bonhomme Richard was certified ready for sea and did it in outstanding fashion.

The preparations for the assessment was an all hands effort. We also completed a safe replenishment at sea with USNS Rappahannock (T-AO 204). From Engineering to Deck to Navigation and the bridge watches, the team worked together to make the evolution a success. Combat Systems and Weapons departments both got behind their weapons systems and took out a naval surface gunnery target balloon, also known as a "Killer Tomato." Weapons used the .50 caliber machine guns and Combat Systems fired the Close-In Weapons System (CIWS). Combat Systems also took down a towed drone unit during an air live fire exercise.

It has been a really busy week, but each day the crew operates professionally, stands watches, completes maintenance, provides meals and keeps the fires burning. Each and every one of your Sailors is doing their part and you should be very proud of them all.

Thank you for your continued support. Please take care of yourselves and stay safe. Stay Focused, Be Ready and Make an IMPACTT on the home front every day! We will do the same at sea.

~ Captain 'Mac'



READY FOR SEA

Story by MC2 William Sykes

The amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) was certified deployment-ready following a Naval Surface Forces-led Ready for Sea Assessment (RFSA), Jan. 23.

The RFSA is a two-day assessment, conducted by Commander, Naval Surface Forces Command's (COMNAVSURFOR) TYCOM Material Inspection Team (TMIT), which evaluates the material condition of installed and portable equipment throughout the ship, as well as the crew's overall ability to operate safely at sea.

The first day's assessment was conducted in port and consisted of equipment, material and administrative checks.



"The inspectors were pretty thorough," said Damage Controlman 2nd Class Chance Riesing, from Warrenton, Mo. "They use the INSURV Inspector Guide List, which tells them everything to look for."

Riesing said the TMIT inspected everything from primary and secondary drainage systems to the inventory of every repair locker aboard.

"[Repair locker] 5M had to be at 100 percent inventory," said Riesing., "That took a long time setting it up outside the locker so they could go through every AEL (allowance equipment list) and make sure that we had everything we needed."

The TMIT also inspected a variety of equipment and materials used in other areas of the ship, such as combat systems, navigation, engineering and deck to ensure all equipment are operational and within standards.

The second day's assessment was conducted at sea and focused on the crew's proficiency in propulsion, navigation, damage control and medical response.

John Kelley, a member of the TMIT said that in these drills, the inspection team assesses the crew's ability to respond to a

casualty quickly and efficiently while also following protocol and safety standards.

Stemming from life-like damage control scenarios, the drills assessed during the RFSA effectively tested the training of the ship's multiple response teams.

"The ready for sea drills were geared more towards things that actually happen," said Riesing. "It brings more realism in that medical, combat systems and damage control casualties may very well likely happen at the same time. When something happens like that, everybody is involved. I think it's a really good way to incorporate everyone together in how a mass casualty might actually take place."

The drills conducted and equipment assessed are essential to keeping the ships of the fleet safe and mission ready. With the ship certified, the crew is poised for a successful patrol in 7th Fleet.

"The assessors from COMNAVSURFOR gave Bonhomme Richard and our crew a good hard look and gave the green light for the Ready for Sea certification," said Capt. Larry McCullen, commanding officer of Bonhomme Richard. "We need to continue to drill and train to ensure we are ready to answer the call for whatever may come our way during this deployment. My number one goal is to ensure that every Sailor gets safely home, a little better and a little prouder than when they left and when they first reported onboard. I am extremely proud of the performance of every Revolutionary Gator leading up to this assessment, and I know that we will continue to exhibit the same level of professionalism until we are safely and securely back in San Diego."



BHR DEPARTS SASEBO, CONDUCTS RFS ASSESSMENT

Story by MC2 Jeanette Mullinax

The amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) departed Sasebo, Japan, Jan. 23, to conduct its second day of a Ready for Sea Assessment following the completion of a four-month in port maintenance period.

The assessment, which requires a day of at-sea operations, takes place in advance of a regularly scheduled patrol in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

The Naval Surface Forces-led assessment evaluates the crew's proficiency in propulsion and navigation, as well as equipment essential to operating at sea, in order to certify the ship as ready for deployment.

"The crew has prepared for this patrol by devoting themselves to training, performing ship-wide preservation and executing all of the maintenance necessary for our warship to operate successfully at sea," said Capt. Larry McCullen, commanding officer of Bonhomme Richard. "I am proud to lead them into this patrol as they continue to uphold Bonhomme Richard's highest standards of professionalism and warfighting readiness."

In addition to completing maintenance during their in-port period, the crew of Bonhomme Richard carried out

training and drills specific to combat systems operations, ship handling skills, medical response and damage control scenarios.

Taking into account the inherent risks present for any ship operating at sea, Bonhomme Richard's damage control organization focused on consistent all-hands training

paired with integrated damage control drills that incorporated lessons learned from recent Navy operational mishaps.

"We were able to utilize this in-port period to build upon our ship-wide damage control knowledge by running weekly drills which were built to test and enhance the crew's

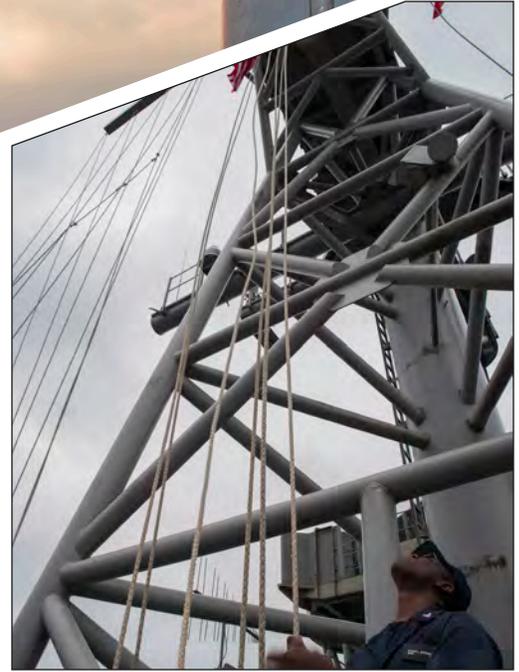
rapid-response efficiency, and included everything from firefighting and flooding to structural damage," said Lt. j.g. Sean Murray, Bonhomme Richard's damage control assistant. "Bonhomme Richard Sailors continue to set the highest standard of damage control proficiency and readiness, as our ability to respond in any emergency is fundamental to our ship's mission success."

"I am proud to lead them into this patrol as they continue to uphold Bonhomme Richard's highest standards..."

~CAPT Mac

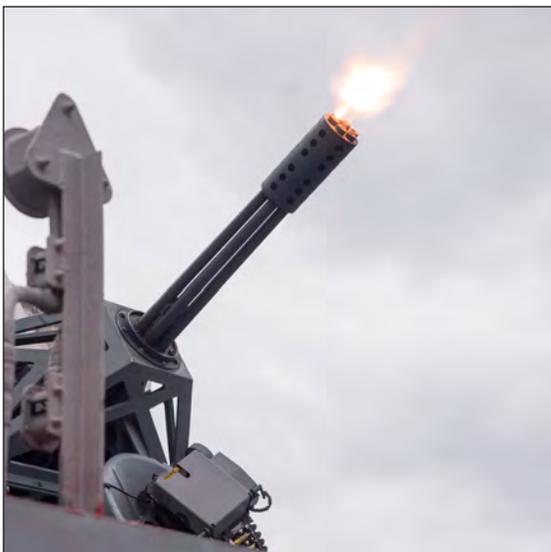
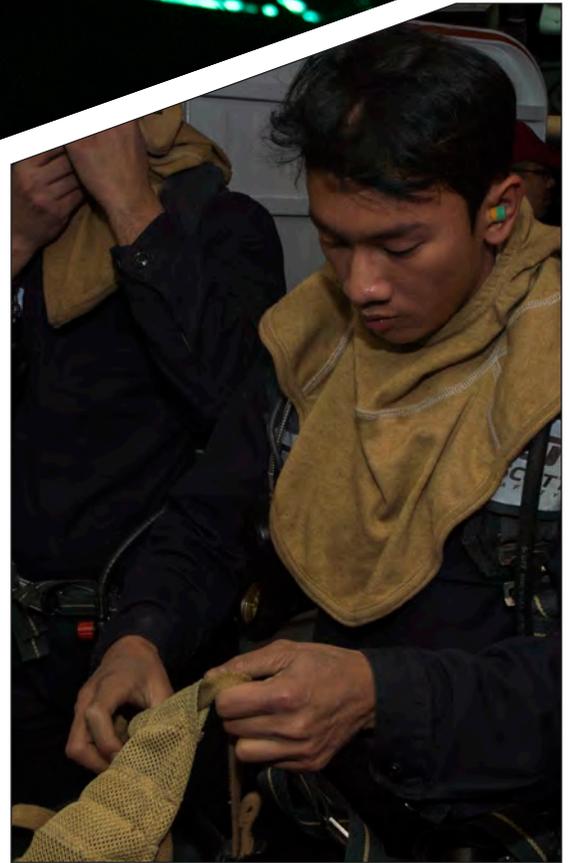


FAREWELL SASEBO





ON THE DECKPLATES





MT. FUJI





AIR

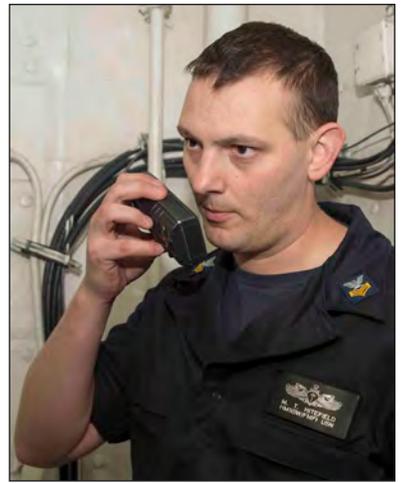
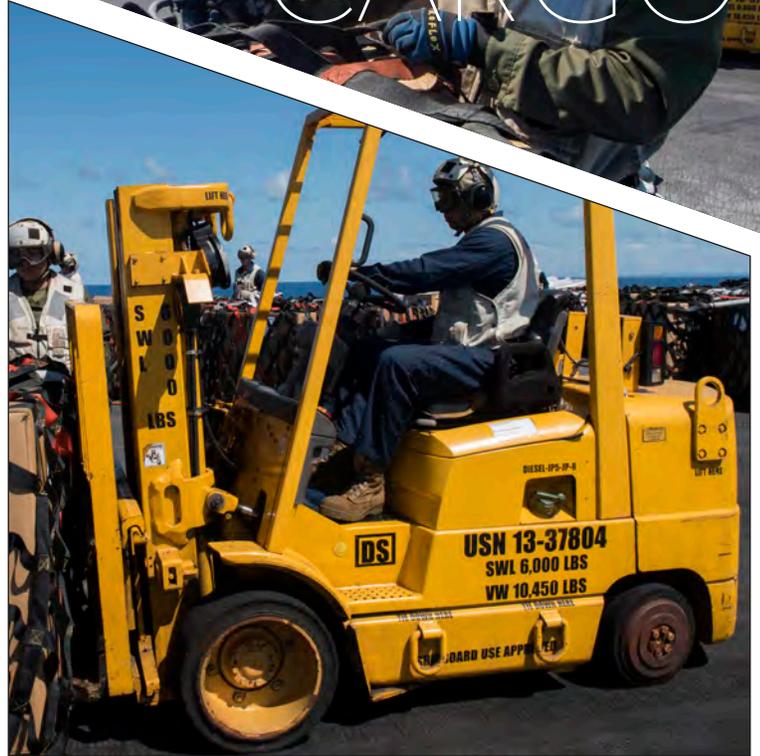


DECK

ENGINEERING

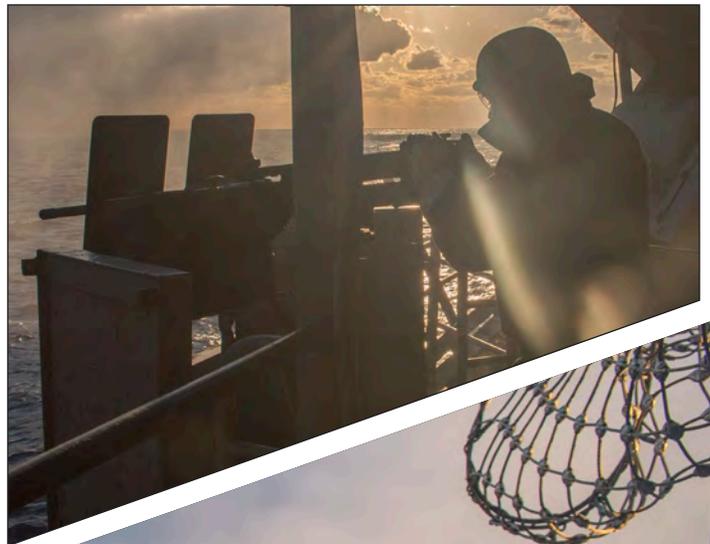
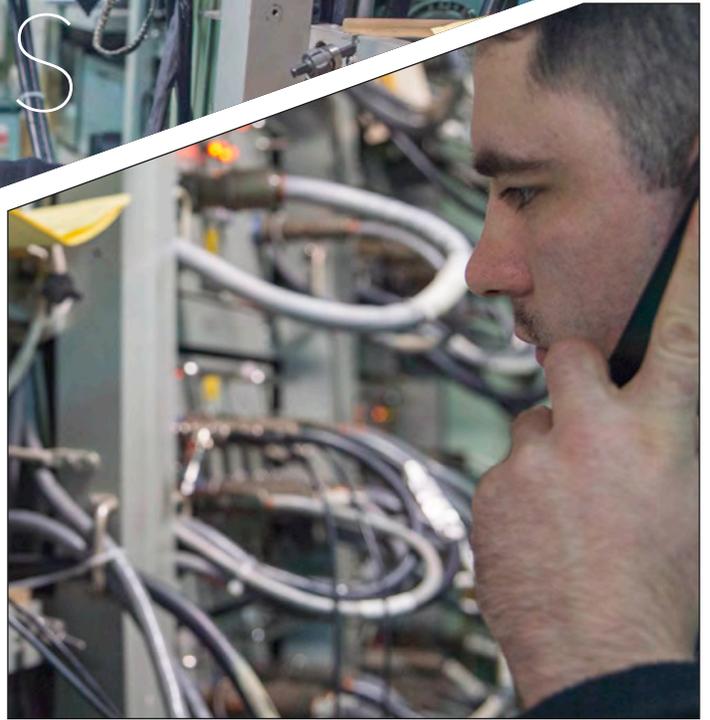


COMBAT CARGO



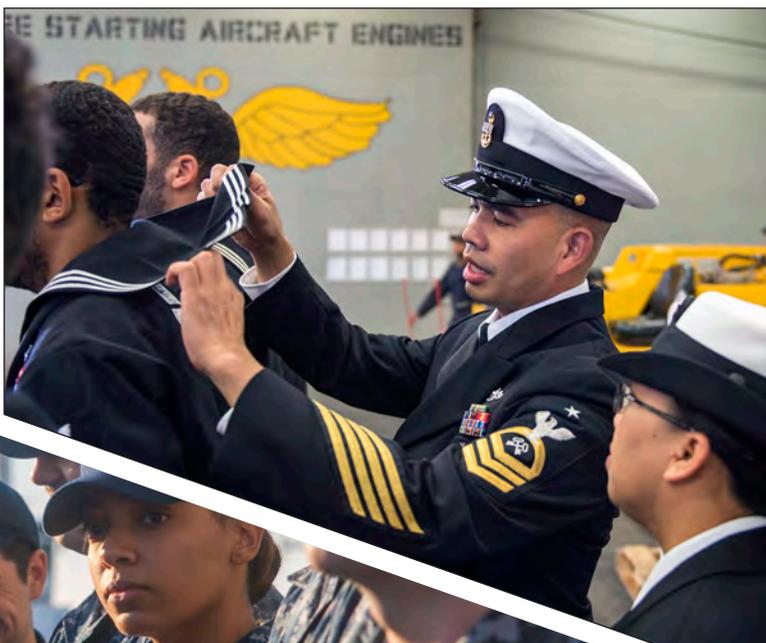
MEDICAL

OPERATIONS



WEAPONS

EXECUTIVE



SUPPLY



NAVIGATION

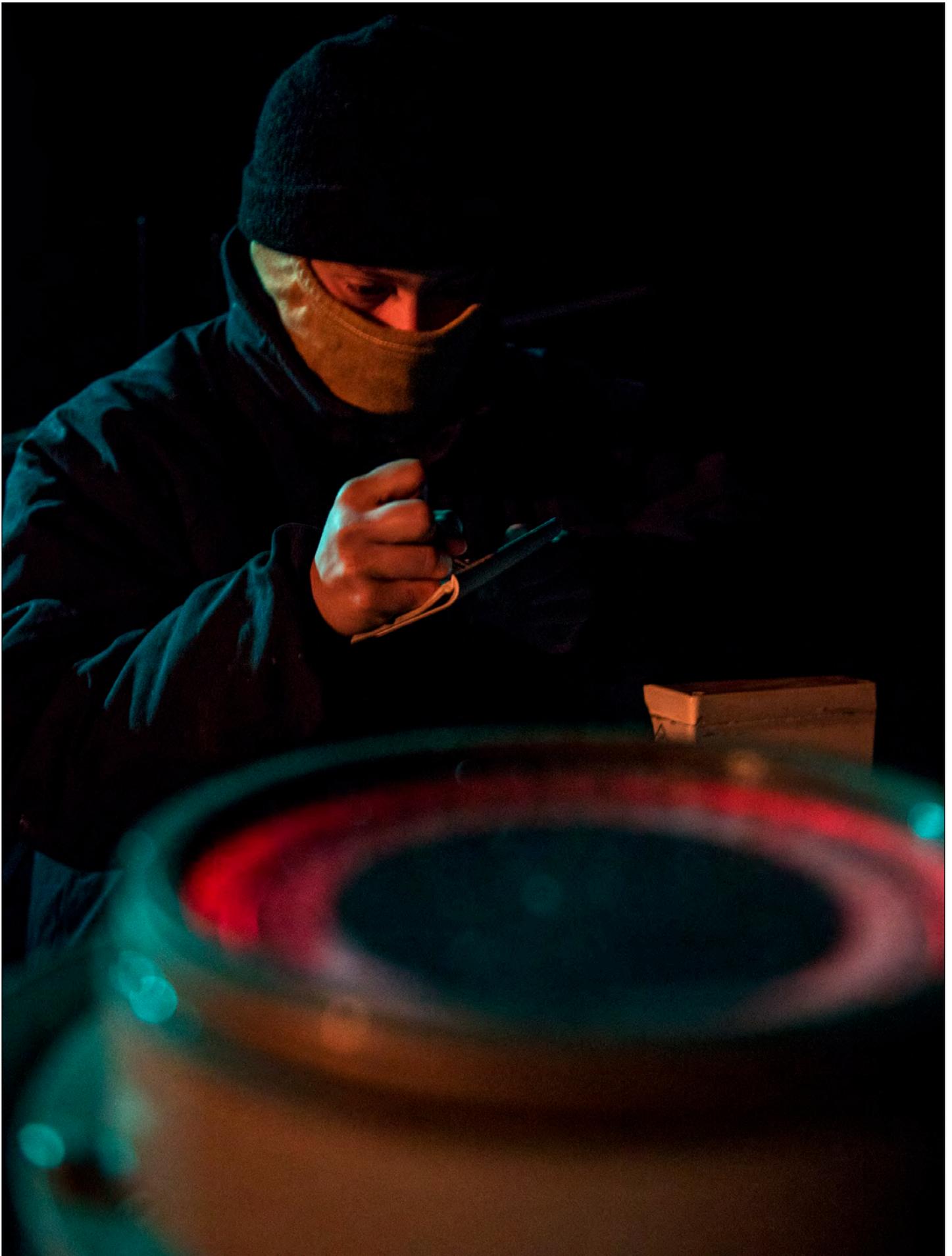


AIMD

Stay Focused!

Be Ready!

Make an IMPACTT!



INTEGRITY . MAINTENANCE . PROFESSIONALISM . ADVANCEMENT . COMMUNICATION . TRAINING . TEAMWORK