

Stay Focused!

Be Ready!

Make an IMPACTT!

Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2018

Poor Richard, 2018.
AN
Almanack



Family Gram Edition

Captain's Corner



Revolutionary Families and Friends,

This month Naval Beach Unit (NBU) 7 and their Landing Craft Air Cushions (LCAC), the "Black Jacks" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 21, flying the MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopters, the "Wolfpack" of Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 466, and their CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters, and the "Gunfighters" of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 369, flying the AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom helicopters accompanied us to Thailand for exercise Cobra Gold (CG) 18.

We pulled in to White Beach Okinawa to pick up the Marines of the 3rd Marine Division and their Commanding General, Major General Craig Timberlake. Our Safety Department personnel and Combat Cargo Marines ensured a safe and efficient on-load of 3rd MARDIVs equipment, supplies and personnel, including the Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV) that played a large part of the planned amphibious landing during the 37th iteration of Exercise CG18, an amphibious exercise conducted with our allies of the Royal Thai Navy. Rear Admiral Brad Cooper, commander of Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 7 and his staff also embarked the ship for the exercise.

Before and after the exercise, we pulled into Laem Chabang, Thailand and enjoyed some liberty for the crew. While in port, Sailors and Marines had a chance to experience the sights and sounds of the area through tours arranged through Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) and even give back to the community during a Community Relations Project set up by our Religious Ministries Department, where

Sailors had the chance to spend time with children at the Father Ray School for Children with Special Needs in Pattaya, Thailand. We also hosted Royal Thai Navy Rear Admiral Chatchai Thongsaard and Republic of Korea Rear Admiral Sung Ryol Lee aboard the ship before getting underway again.

Our newly formed team operated flawlessly together executing CG18. Deck Department and the Engineering Department worked together to launch the AAVs and LCACs from the Well Deck, as well as bring a Republic of Korea Navy Landing Craft Mechanized into the Well Deck. Air Department sent the aircraft off from the Flight Deck, while the Navigation, Deck and Bridge Watch Teams ensured safety of movement and navigation. Each waterborne and airborne craft sent our Marines ashore to carry out their missions ashore safely and professionally.

Along the way, we have also taken time to celebrate and to build camaraderie with our new Marines. We enjoyed this year's Super Bowl with a viewing party in the Hangar Bay as well as shops and offices around the ship, and took time to celebrate African American Black History Month and the Supply Corps birthday together.

We continue to train and maintain our equipment. Nearly every Sailor on board completes maintenance of some sort each day, and we train to keep our skills sharp. We've run damage control drills, engineering drills, flight deck drills, completed several qualifications on a variety of weapons and even fired rockets from our embarked helicopters.

You should be proud of your Sailors and Marines who are out here on the high seas taking care of our nation's business, staying focused, always ready, and making an IMPACTT every day. Please stay safe out there, and whether you are still in Sasebo, already in San Diego, or somewhere in between, take care of yourselves. We always appreciate your support and the IMPACTT you make on the home front.



~ Captain 'Mac'

The IMPACTT logo is circular with the word 'IMPACTT' in the center. The letters are surrounded by the words: 'INTEGRITY', 'COMMUNICATION', 'TEAMWORK', 'ADVANCEMENT', and 'PROFESSIONALISM'.

Ombudsman Corner

Sasebo

Hope that everyone is doing well. Here is some information from Sasebo that you may find useful.

1. Clinic:
Clinic highly encourages families to get a flu vaccination. If you and your family haven't gotten it yet, you can walk in with ID.
2. CFAS Admin:
Anyone who's eligible to vote can go to FVAP.gov or contact LT Bergman at Justin.bergman@fe.navy.mil
3. Housing:
 - a. Different housing improvement projects are ongoing, and each project has an interpreter. Please get a hold of the interpreter if you have any issues.
 - b. Each resident has a blue folder with manuals, and a handbook in the cabinet inside the unit. Please read through the blue folder before contacting Mr. Chapman.
4. ITT and Sato:
Offices are temporarily located at the old Khaki Club at Harbor View Club due to renovation. They will be at the location for approximately a month. Business hours remain the same.
5. MWR:
The Easter event is held at Hario Ball Field on March 31st, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
6. Nagasaki Lantern Festival:
Now through 16th to March 4th. For more information, please visit <http://visit-nagasaki.com/spots/detail/92>
7. Religious ministries:
 - a. Family Game Night: Every 1st Friday of each month. Next one will be on March 2nd, 6 - 8 p.m. at the classroom on the 2nd floor of CEC.
 - b. Sasebo Library - Teaching English to Japanese Students on March 1st at 5:30 p.m. Need 10 people, meet at Nimitz park USO.
 - c. SafeTALK training on February 22nd, 8 - 11 a.m. at CEC
 - d. Mt. Atago hiking with Kami Ainoura Childcare Center February 28th at 9 a.m., Need 10-13 people, meeting at CEC.
 - e. CACO Training. February 21st, 8:20 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. POC is RPC Yi (email: suchan.yi@fe.navy.mil).

San Diego

Greetings from San Diego! My name is Thais StMartin and I am one of your Ombudsmen for BHR! I am now in San Diego and available to support those of you who may already be here as well as those of you on your way over. Welcome to sunny California! As of right now, I do not have a phone number, so the best way to contact me would be through our email: bhrlhd6omb@gmail.com

1. As you transition to California, one of the first things that you will want to do will be to contact Tricare to transfer your coverage from Tricare Overseas to Tricare West so that you can be assigned a new Primary Care Physician. The easiest way to accomplish this is to call them directly at 1-844-866-9378. The wait time on the phone can be considerable, so my tip would be to call at the end of the week and between 2 - 9 p.m. Once you get someone on the phone it only takes a few minutes to make the switch.
2. Make sure that you are staying up to date with all of the programs and classes that the FFSC has to offer! Check out their website at: sandiego.navylifefsw.com Some notable upcoming events include:
 - a. 24th Annual Polar Bear Swim: Friday, Feb. 23 at 11 a.m.; Navy Base Point Loma - FREE!
 - b. Run to Remember, Gold Star 5K: Friday, Feb. 23 at 8 a.m.
 - c. Live Appearance by actor Adam Driver following a screening of Logan Lucky; Saturday, February 24 at 6 p.m.; Lowry Theater, NAS North Island.
 - d. Job Fair on March 28 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.: Scottish Rite Center, San Diego.
3. Check out all of the discounts available for Active Duty Service Members and their families through Morale, Welfare, and Recreation/ITT! Next time you are at the NEX Home Store on NBSD, check out discounted tickets to a variety of attractions around Southern CA including Sea World, the San Diego Zoo, and even Disneyland!

I hope that you all are settling in well, please let me know if there is anything that I can assist you with. And to our BHR family members still in Japan, we hope to see you soon!!

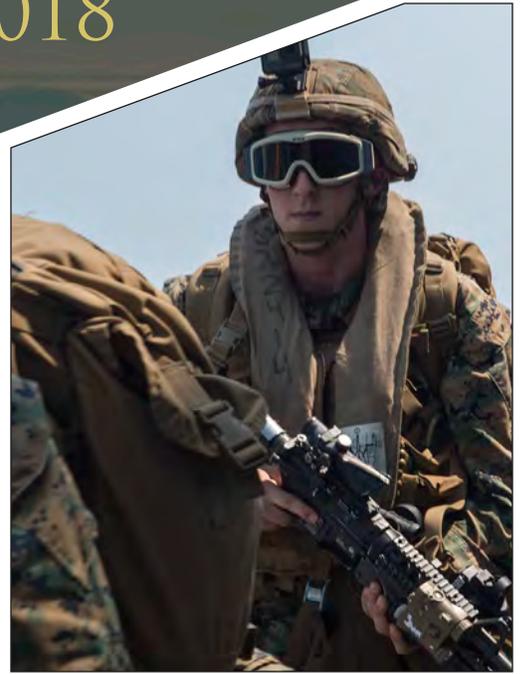
~ Thais StMartin

You can reach out to an Ombudsman no matter where you are through our email: bhrpao@lhd6.navy.mil.

Take care Gator Families!



COBRA GOLD 2018



EYE ON EXCELLENCE

BHR COMPLETES SW/AW/EW/CRY CERTIFICATION

Story by MC3 Cosmo Walrath

Sailors, assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), completed the Surface Warfare, Air Warfare, Electronic Warfare, Cryptologic Warfare (SW/AW/EW/CRY) Certification, Jan. 29.

The certification involved multiple exercises that tested the combat systems capabilities of Bonhomme Richard while in port and at sea.

The 2.4 certification event for Bonhomme Richard demonstrated their ability to run multi-mission warfare with an ARG (amphibious readiness group),” said Chief Operations Specialist Adam Smoller, the surface and air warfare team lead from the Afloat Training Group Western Pacific (ATG WESPAC) Detachment Sasebo. “The purpose of displaying these capabilities is so that they can go out and run essential missions, defend the ship, defend the ARG and defend the homeland from any threats that present themselves.”

The Bonhomme Richard crew was inspected in areas of administrative requirements, simulated combat systems response and live-fire tests.

“The certification process started at a basic phase,” said Senior Chief Operations Specialist Charles Myers, the combat systems training team (CSTT) coordinator of Bonhomme Richard. “We coordinated with the ATG in Sasebo and started it off by looking at our administrative process; making sure we have watch bills and qualified personnel. Once we had demonstrated that we have no deficiencies, we moved forward and checked our material condition, which is checking out our equipment and making sure it all functions properly.”

The administrative and material checks established the 2.1 phase. After completing the 2.1 phase, the crew moved on to the 2.2 phase, which focused on training. During this time, ATG worked with watch standers and operators to reinforce and enhance their individual and overall levels of knowledge.

“Prior to the synthetic phase, we had the chance to be trained in every type of warfare, for every watch station and for all our equipment,” said Myers. “After the training phase, we went into the 2.3 phase, or the synthetic phase, in which the CSTT members coordinated and demonstrated our ability to create effective combat scenarios to train our guys to be able to engage and defend the ship. We then entered 2.4 in which scenarios were sent to us from the fleet.”

The 2.4 phase was dependent on the watch standers’ abilities to successfully respond to various scenarios. The two final phases, 2.4 alpha and 2.4 bravo, consisted of live-fire demonstrations of crew-served and combat systems weapons, which resulted in successful

firings from the ship’s Phalanx close-in weapons system (CIWS), 25 mm MK 38 machine gun systems, and the .50-caliber machine guns.

During the live-fire exercises, the ship’s small craft action team (SCAT), made up largely of Weapons department Sailors, was called on to support the certification’s surface warfare evaluation.

“Realistically, SCAT is one of the ship’s last lines of defense when it comes to small surface crafts,” said Gunner’s Mate 2nd Class Travis Waggoner, a .50-caliber machine gun mount captain. “If it comes down to it, these are the people who will protect the ship and stay ready-to-go at a moment’s notice.”

SCAT’s execution of the 2.4 alpha live-fire exercise took place when Sailors launched a naval surface gunnery balloon target, better known as a “killer tomato,” into the water, and SCAT members at responding gun mounts engaged the target, focusing on tactical expertise and communication.

“During the certification, we were required to be manned up in five minutes or less, as well as be able to accurately engage a target and relay information from the mount to the gun liaison officer. The gun liaison officer communicates straight to the OOD on the bridge who then communicates with the TAO (tactical action officer),” said Waggoner. “We train like we fight, and we scored 100 percent on the killer tomato engagement.”

As a whole, Bonhomme Richard had to reach an average score of at least 80 percent in order to complete the SW/AW/EW/CRY 2.4 certification. The crew exceeded the minimum passing score by achieving an average score of 90.2 percent.

“The crew was fantastic. Their motivation was top notch, one of the best I’ve ever seen,” said Smoller. “They displayed tireless dedication towards making sure their equipment is operational and fully capable to answer all of the bells [alarms].”

Effective communication was crucial to succeeding a certification in which the crew had to act as one to complete the different challenges of the certification, said Operations Specialist 2nd Class Andrei Brundige, a member of the ship’s CSTT.

“Knowing that our Sailors can respond to all kinds of different casualties is really important, especially when we’re deployed,” said Brundige. “It helps us sleep better at night knowing that there are people who are qualified and know what they are doing, and you can trust that we can protect the ship.”



ON THE DECKPLATES



Rev Gator
OF THE MONTH
HTFN BRANDON GUNTER



SAILORS OF THE QUARTER



SSOQ HM1 Duncan Stewart

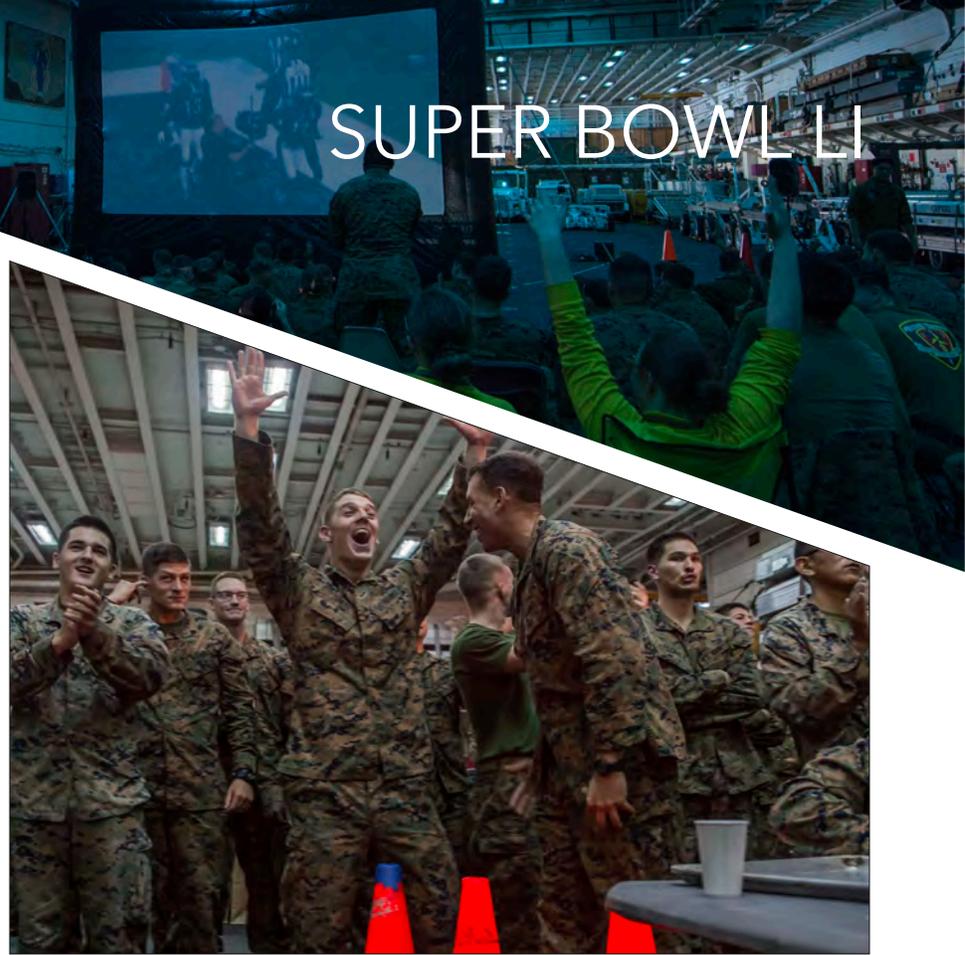


ISOQ IT2 Vincent Santiago



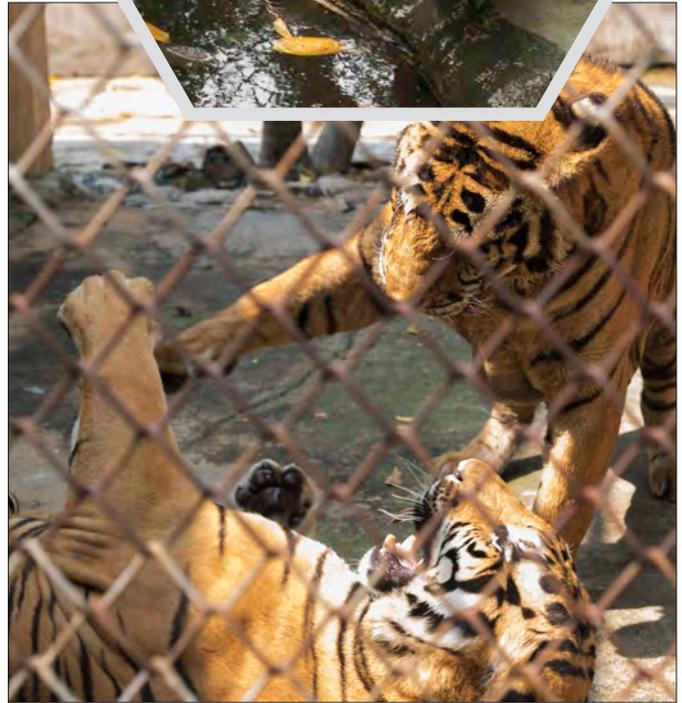
BJOQ HN Leianna Adame

SUPER BOWL LI



AFRICAN AMERICAN BLACK HISTORY MONTH





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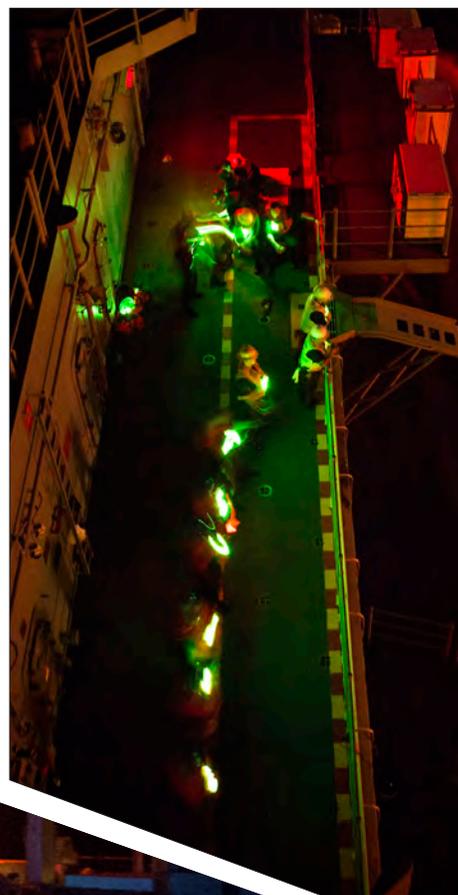
PORT CALL



AIR



Air Department, consisting of V-1 Flight Deck, V-3 Hangar Deck and V-4 Fuels Division, completed 654 launches and recoveries, 115 aircraft movements and 250 pallets of vertical replenishment, received 140,000 gallons of JP-5 jet fuel and issued 55,000 gallons for 155 fueling evolutions for the month. During this deployment, we welcomed a new air wing consisting of CH-53E Super Stallion, UH-1Y Venom and AH-1Z Viper helicopters. The new pilots said they have not been on board a U.S. Navy ship for over six years and were very impressed of how the flight deck team conducted operations during carrier/deck landing qualifications. We welcomed several new Sailors on board since our last inport period and they are very eager to obtain their qualifications. As of this month, we qualified 30 new Plane Handlers, two Crash and Salvage Crewmen, and five Refueling Crewmen ready to take on the most dangerous job in the world!



DECK



ENGINEERING





The Medical Department has welcomed aboard Fleet Surgical Team 9 along with medical augments from three separate Marine units to form the only "role two" capable ship in the 7th Fleet. The department has sustained operational medical readiness above 94 percent, operational dental readiness above 96 percent and achieved a dental health index of 44 percent. The department has facilitated four basic life support courses, held four DC 310 stretcher bearer courses and executed two ship-wide medical drills, all increasing the ship's ability to react in the event of a human casualty. Finally, Medical's staff has continued to demonstrate its professionalism with one Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal recipient and both the command's Bluejacket of the Quarter and the Senior Sailor of the Quarter winners.



MEDICAL



WELL DECK Marines supported in stream on/offloads utilizing LCACs. They also manifested 968 Marines during Cobra Gold during supporting mechanized assault and rehearsals utilizing LCACs and AAVs in support of the 3d Marine Division. While in port, they conducted two full on/offloads.

FLIGHT DECK Marines supported two fly on/off missions, every Marine assault support mission and ESG 7-driven daily air logistic plan by calling away, staging, manifesting and processing 1,051 personnel for Cobra Gold. While in port, they conducted two full on/offloads including LFORM onload.



OPERATIONS



Weapons Department successfully completed an onload of 88,000 lbs. of ordnance and ammunition worth over \$200,000. Additionally, the Gunner's Mates completed two small craft action teams weapons shoots, in which we employed the ship's .50 caliber heavy machine guns, MK-38 25mm weapons systems and the M240 7.62mm light machine guns, expending over 1,000 rounds of ammunition. The following Sailors qualified as Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialists: AO3 Justina Myrick, AO3 Bryson Jones, AO2 Vinh Le and AO3 Ryan Keele, and GM2 Janie Chambers qualified as an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist.



WEAPONS

This month has been a time of invaluable training and professional growth across the department.

Our primary function is at sea and being operational has allowed our Sailors to perform their mission with increased proficiency.

OA division conducted weather observations and generated weather forecasting which supported BHR's transit to the operational area, navigation details for entering and exiting port, and support to the amphibious exercise.

OC division performed 100 hours of flight operations to include 200 aircraft control missions in support of amphibious operations ashore and flight deck qualifications for multiple embarked helicopter squadrons.

OI division coordinated with multiple nations and U.S. Marine Corps units, conducted seven successful AAV boat control evolutions to include an equal number of LCAC advisory control missions in support of COBRA GOLD 18.

OT division conducted a variety of support mission in response to national and theater level tasking. Additionally, the division conducted 160 hours of maintenance on vital shipboard systems which contributed to BHR's operational and mission readiness.

OZ division provided fleet level intelligence to Commander Task Force SEVENTY SIX, which supported theater intelligence efforts.

EXECUTIVE



With focus on the upcoming Navywide advancement examinations, the Personnel Office is working hard to ensure the readiness and completion for almost 500 BHR Sailors participating this season. The Visual Information Division has been busy providing coverage for Cobra Gold 18 multi-national exercise as well as daily coverage of shipboard operations, awards, reenlistments, COMRELS and more, with close to 30 images selected for top military websites, and releasing 3 video productions, all along capturing your Sailors' and Marines' smiling faces for social media to share.



Security would like to welcome MAC George Collins from LCSRON 2 Mayport, Fla., MA1 Magarrett Barnes from NAVCOMBRIG Miramar, Calif., MA2 Cannon from NAS Fallon, Nev., MA2 Weatherby PMFR Barking Sands, Hawaii, and MA2 Velasco from CFAY Yokosuka, Japan, to the BHR Security team! They are a welcomed addition to the BHR family. Security enjoyed a fun port visit to Laem Chebang, Thailand, taking part in several MWR sponsored tours; from riding elephants to seeing the world famous floating market. Overall, it was a fantastic experience and lucky port call for our new Sailors to see such a diverse and lively port in Southeast Asia.



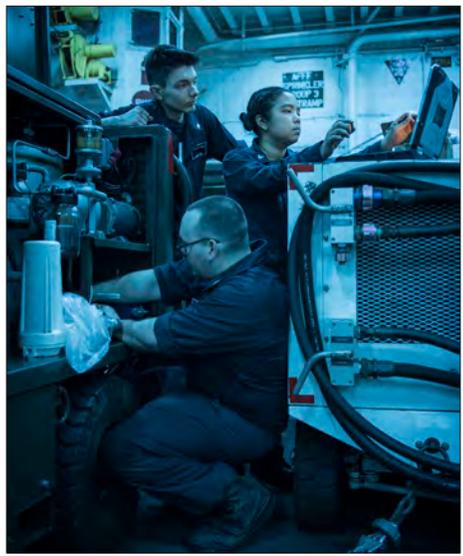
This month was a busy, yet successful adventure for the Food Service Divisions. Two replenishments-at-sea (RAS) events, a Birthday Meal are just a couple major highlights that made this month so memorable. BHR conducted two RASs, receiving enough provisions to sustain all the Sailors and Marines onboard for weeks at a time, vital repair parts, mail, and Ship's Store stock were delivered via connected replenishment and vertical replenishment. BHR Sailors and Marines, who have birthdays in January and February, were invited to the Ace Café to celebrate and enjoy a special dining experience comparable to that of a five star restaurant. Spending a birthday underway has its challenges, but the food and camaraderie of the Birthday Meal is a huge morale booster. The Supply Corps also celebrated their 223rd birthday on February 22nd. Lead by Capt. McCullen who made the first slice with our most junior and our most senior CS.



SUPPLY



NAVIGATION



AIMD

CHAPLAIN



COMEREL



HSC-22



HSC-22 DET 2, stationed out of Norfolk, Va., has had a busy month onboard BHR. This DET of 44 personnel, made up of eight Pilots, nine Rescue Swimmers, 24 maintainers, three Maintenance Control personnel and their three MH-60S helicopters, cross-decked onto BHR from USS WASP after being deployed since Aug. 2017. Since cross-decking, DET 2 has flown a total of 64.3 flight hours and 25 sorties, all made possible through the completion of 792 maintenance actions, which encompassed a total of 1,512.3 maintenance hours. Nine months plus work-ups is a long time to be away from their family and friends in Norfolk, but this has not stopped them. With no signs of slowing down anytime soon, they are currently engaged in supporting the combined exercise Cobra Gold 2018.



In addition to their operations and maintenance successes, one of DET 2's maintenance personnel, AO3 Joshua Reynard, was selected as not only the HSC-22 Junior Sailor of the Quarter, but also the Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Atlantic Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the 1st Quarter, FY18. DET 2 was also recognized this past month by the Naval Helicopter Association (NHA) by being awarded the Aircrew of the Year Award for their at-sea rescue of two pilots who went down while operating a small engine aircraft while DET 2 was onboard USS WASP AWS2 Andy Blessing was also awarded the Rescue Swimmer of the Year because of that rescue. DET 2 has enjoyed their time thus far aboard BHR and is looking forward to working alongside the ship's crew for the remainder of this underway to San Diego.



NBU7

Stay Focused!

Be Ready!

Make an IMPACTT!



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