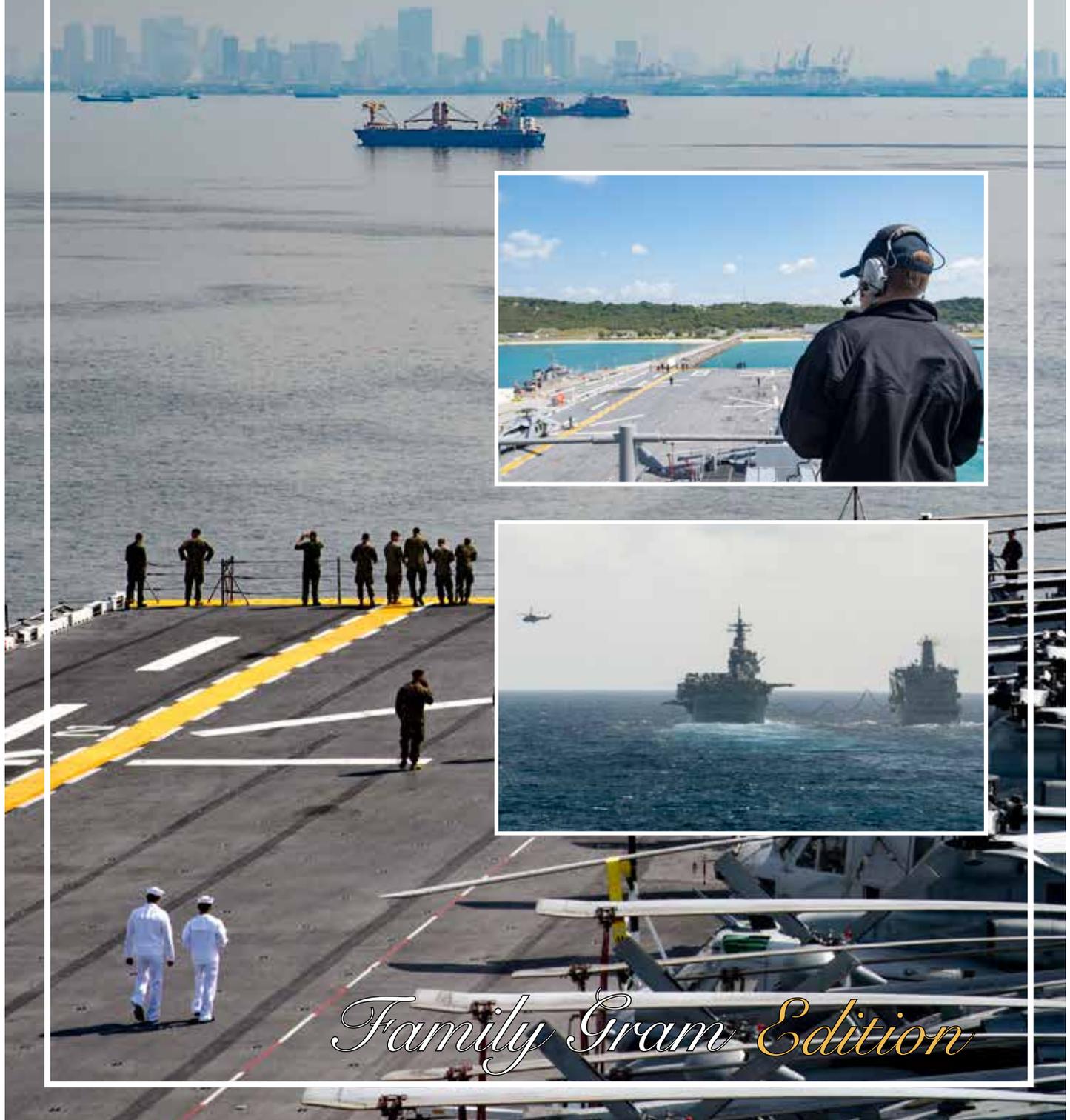
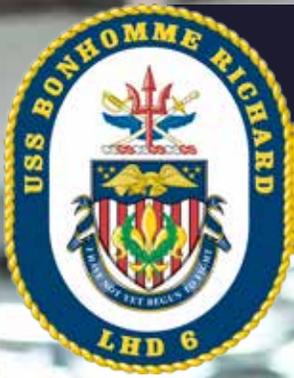


Poor Richard, 2018.

AN Almanack



Family Gram Edition



Captain's Corner

Revolutionary Families and Friends,

We started March with the Navywide Advancement Exam for 457 E-3, E-4 and E-5s. We hope they will all advance to the next paygrade.

Upon the completion of Exercise Cobra Gold, we pulled into Manila, Philippines for a port visit. During the visit, our Sailors and Marines had the opportunity to experience MWR tours, shop, eat some good food and relax. Sixty-eight Sailors and Marines volunteered at the Department of Social Welfare and Development's National Resource Operation Center in Pasay City near Manila to prepare food kits for the evacuees of the Mayon volcano eruptions. In two days, they packed more than 18,200 boxes; enough food to feed about 45,500 people for four days

I believe that one of our most important jobs as Sailors is to train and qualify in new watch stations, or to train to remain proficient in our watch stations. We took the opportunity to conduct several training evolutions from the engineering spaces to the flight deck and a week of ship-handling training on the bridge after we left Manila.

My qualified officers of the deck (OODs) and I trained our newest junior officers through a variety of ship handling situations, which included maneuvering the ship during a man overboard, safely navigating the ship during underway replenishment and safe navigation

when experiencing a casualty. A few of our Ensigns also had the opportunity to parallel park the ship between two smoke floats on the water.

Engineering Department ran engineering casualty, ship structural damage, and fire drills in the plant and throughout the ship, Air Department conducted aircraft firefighting drills on the Flight Deck and C5I Department ran combat systems casualty drills. Medical Department conducted a mass casualty drill with the assistance of our stretcher bearers and the walking blood bank. Weapons and Security worked together and conducted small arms gun shoots from the Flight Deck, and HSC-22 fired a training rocket from an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter that was built by our aviation ordnancemen.

Upon completion of at-sea training, we arrived at White Beach, Okinawa to embark the Marines of the 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion operating their amphibious assault vehicles (AAVs), and welcomed back the "Wolfpack" of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 466 with their CH-53E Super Stallions, and the "Gunfighters" of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 369 with their UH-1Y Venoms and AH-1Z Vipers in preparation for our continued patrol.

Your Sailors and Marines continue to prove their professionalism and dedication every day at sea and in port. You can be very proud of their service to our country. Amid the operations and training, we are thinking of you each day. We hope you stay safe wherever you may be, and continue to make your IMPACTT from the homefront.



~ Captain 'Mac'



Ombudsmen Corner

San Diego Ombudsmen

Greetings from San Diego, BHR Sailors and Families!

I hope that everyone is getting settled here in San Diego and/or getting ready to move! Just a reminder, we are here to help if you need any assistance. Please contact us on our email (bhrld6omb@gmail.com) or our Facebook page (Your Ombudsmen are:

Mirei Kesner- Sasebo

Kelli Chastain- Virginia

Thais St Martin- San Diego

Please remember that when you get to SD, you must call to transfer your Tricare from "Overseas" to "West." The best way to do this is to call 1-844-866-9378. Shortest wait time if you call between 2-9pm and toward the end of the week. Let me know if you have any other questions.

Some of the exciting events put on by various San Diego organizations include:

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>April 19, 2018- Escape Room- 6 pm Steal and Escape (\$25) 2602 Transportation Ave. B National City, CA 91950 San Diego, CA 92108 Register: 619-556-9597</p> | <p>April 20, 2018- Movie Night Out-Super Troopers 2 AMC Mission Valley 20 (\$15/\$12 Active Duty) 1640 Camino Del Rio N. Register: 619-437-3190</p> |
| <p>April 21, 2018-Kids Craft & Movie-10 am Despicable Me-3 and Tic Tac Toe(\$5) Registration: 619-437-3190</p> | <p>April 27, 2018- SAPR Run (Free)- 9 am NAS North Island- Quay Wall at Moffett Rd Information: 619-437-3190</p> |
| <p>April 28, 2018- Lakeside Rodeo- 1:30 pm (\$14) 12584 Mapleview St. Lakeside, CA 92040 Register: NBSD 619-556-9597</p> | <p>April 29, 2018- Julian Cider/Wine Tour- 9am (\$26) Registration: 619-437-3190</p> |
| <p>April 29, 2018- Wind Chime Kid's Craft- 2pm (Free) NBSD Admiral Robinson Rec Center (Bowling Center) Register: 619-556-9597</p> | |

Sasebo Ombudsmen

1. American Red Cross

1) Selected 2 dental assistants for the program. They will be starting at the clinic from April to September.

2) Trying to get a Pharmacy Tech program to Sasebo.

3) Lots of volunteer opportunities available.

4) Check out Facebook for updates. Located 1st floor Main Base CEC. Office hours are 0800-1700 Monday-Wednesday, Friday and 0800-1200 Thursday.

2. Housing Service Center

Effective April 1st, the Sasebo-city Environmental Office requires that all caps and labels on plastic "PET-1" bottles be removed and the bottles rinsed before they are disposed of as recyclable trash.

3. Legal

1) 24th May - Fukuoka consulate will be here. If anyone needs to apply for birth aboard, passport renewal for minors, or certified copy of a foreign passport. Appointment required and there are 120 appointments available. Contact Legal Assistance Office at 252-2118.

2) Most dependents should have both no-fee and tourist passports. Some countries are really strict and might not allow entry if you don't have the correct passport.

3) Continue Logistic Support (CLS). Please plan ahead if you need to file for CLS. If dependents staying for less than 60 days, it's region approval. If more than 60 days, it requires CNFJ approval.

4) Takata Airbag Recall - Ongoing recall of defective airbags produced by Takata Corporation. More detailed information will be sent out.

4. Morale, Welfare & Recreation

1) Easter - 31st March, Hario Ball field

2) Independence Day - 1st July, Nimitz Park. Will be sending out a solicitation for private organizations who wants fundraising opportunities.

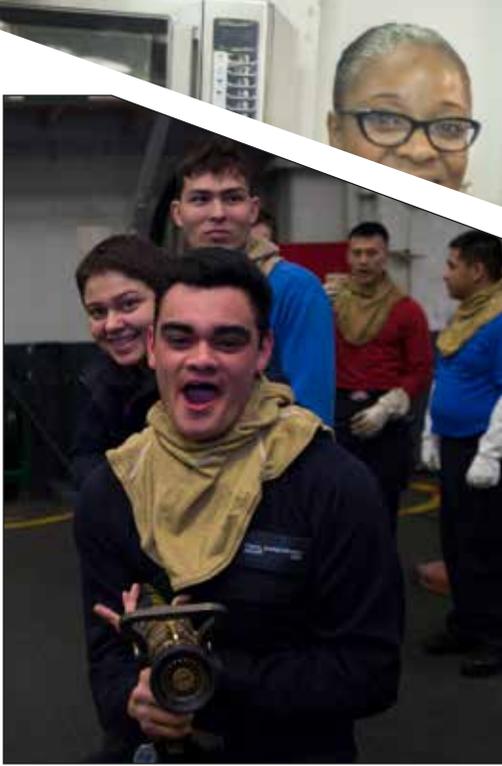
3) Saikai American Festival - 25th - 26th August. Again, will be sending out a solicitation for private organizations who wants fundraising opportunities.

4) Job vacancies. MWR has at least 50 vacancies that need to fill. Please apply in person on the 2nd floor of Building 91 (bowling alley) or on their website.

5) During Ume Tower renovation, MWR plans to relocate School Age Center (SAC). The center will not be closed, just relocation. More details to come in the next town hall meeting.

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

Take care Gator Families!



BLUE GREEN TEAM



BONHOMME RICHARD JUNIOR
OFFICERS BOOST BRIDGE
PROFICIENCY WITH AT-SEA
SHIPHANDLING TRAINING

Story by MC2 Jeanette Mullinax

INTEGRITY AT THE HELM

The forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) conducted shiphandling training during a week of at-sea unit-level training, March 14-21.

The training focused on safe handling and fundamental ship-maneuvering techniques, from pierside movements during sea-and-anchor detail to more complex response maneuvers designed for emergencies such as a man overboard or an engineering casualty.

“We train so we are ready to respond to any kind of contingency or crisis in the AOR (Area of Responsibility),” said Capt. Larry McCullen, commanding officer of Bonhomme Richard. “CTF 76 (Commander Task Force 76) and GPR 11 (Amphibious Squadron 11) gave us a golden opportunity to conduct a week of unit-level training in the waters off the coast of Okinawa, and we have taken full advantage of it.”

Throughout the week, McCullen and other senior qualified officers led and supervised junior officers on the bridge as they performed various ship maneuvers as part of bridge watch teams in training. Each watch team consisted of a conning officer, a junior officer of the deck (JOOD), and an officer of the deck (OOD), all who worked together with the helmsmen and navigation personnel to drive the warship through challenging maritime scenarios.

“We have the conning officer who makes the course and speed changes, and we have the JOOD and the OOD who oversee the entire bridge team,” said Ensign Lauren Martin, from Glendale, Ariz., an OOD watchstander aboard BHR. “Getting to do this training out here is awesome for the junior officers to get a better feel of how the ship runs and how Bonhomme Richard handles, and it’s a great opportunity to become more comfortable in the event of an actual emergency.”

Unlike a bridge simulator, Bonhomme Richard’s at-sea shiphandling exercises allowed for junior officers to apply their surface warfare knowledge and navigation skills in

an environment with real-life factors such as weather, sea state, and varying bridge team members, coupled with real-time response and feedback from the feel of the ship and supervising trainers.

“Simulators are very useful in what they can provide, however, they don’t exactly feel the same as driving on the ship,” said Ensign Salome Ok, from Los Angeles, an OOD watchstander aboard BHR. “BHR is an LHD, and even LHD 6 may drive slightly differently from LHD 1, so as a junior officer, you just have to get a feel for it in real life.”

Following the training, junior officers agreed that being able to perform the scenarios repeatedly over the span of eight training days and to also receive feedback during the evolutions complemented the overall proficiency and teamwork of Bonhomme Richard’s bridge watchstanders.

“Practice makes perfect, and by redoing each scenario, responding becomes habitual,” said Ok. “So if you hear that key term like ‘man overboard, starboard side,’ your muscle memory kicks in. You feel confident and you know just how to maneuver the ship in order to get that Sailor or Marine out of the water.”



MANILA MEDIA



DISTINGUISHED VISITORS



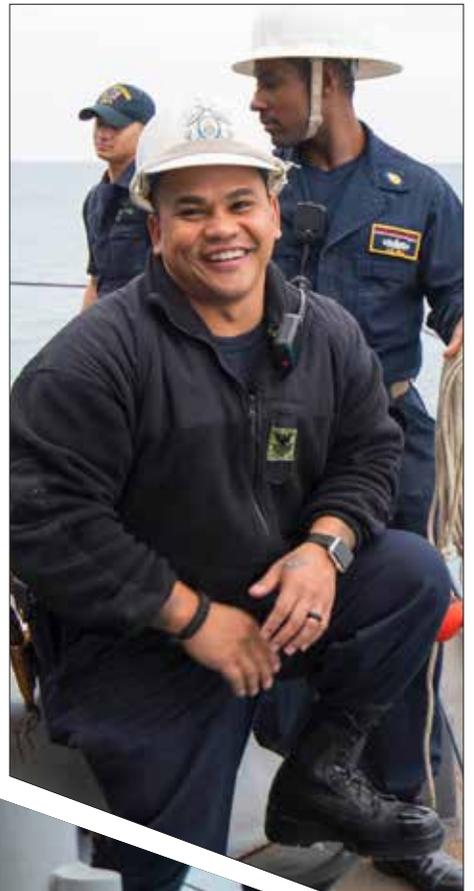
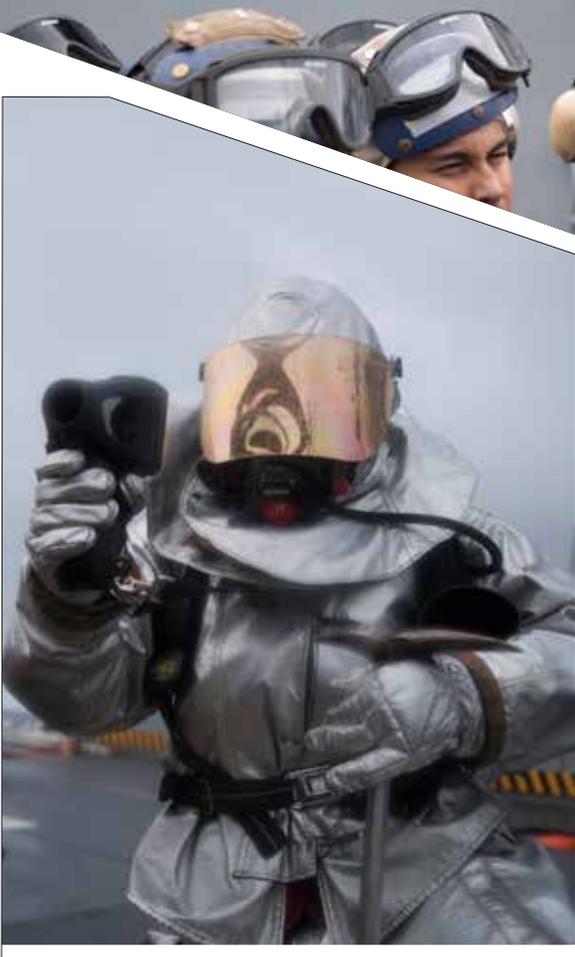
WHITE BEACH PORT VISIT



MARINE ON/OFFLOAD

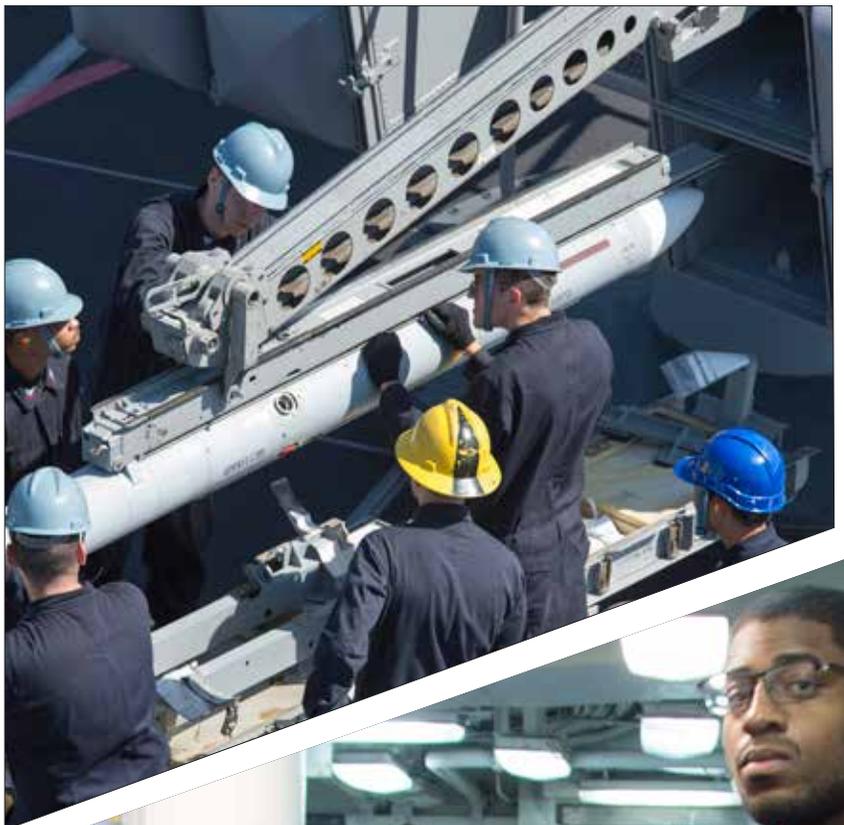


AIR



DECK

ENGINEERING



C54



MEDICAL

OPERATIONS



This month, Weapons Department successfully completed three at-sea and two in-port small arms ranges that expended over 8,000 rounds of ammo. Built seven 2.75-inch "Mighty Mouse" rockets for an at-sea firing exercise.



WEAPONS

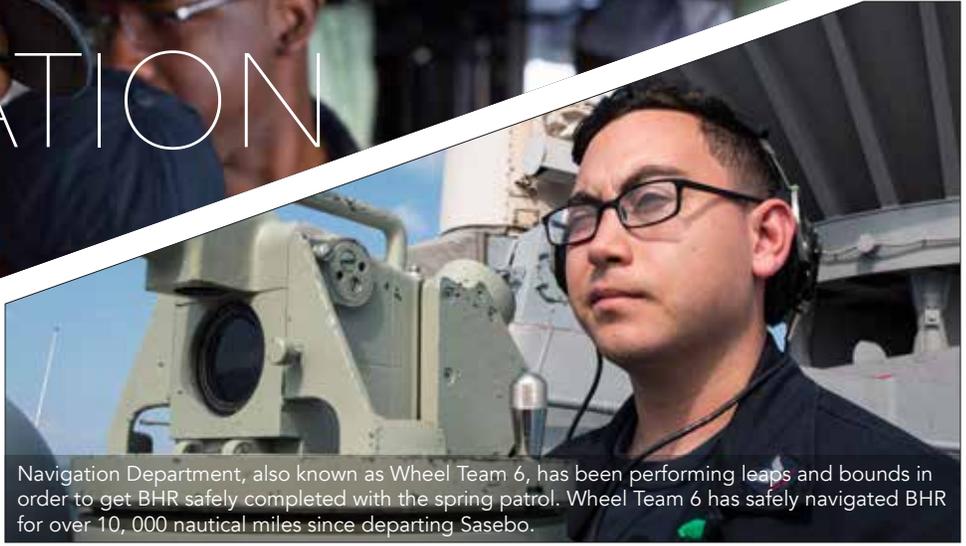
EXECUTIVE



SUPPLY



NAVIGATION



Navigation Department, also known as Wheel Team 6, has been performing leaps and bounds in order to get BHR safely completed with the spring patrol. Wheel Team 6 has safely navigated BHR for over 10, 000 nautical miles since departing Sasebo.



The QMs gladly welcome aboard QMSR Baez-lugo, QMSR Peel, QM3 Cunningham, and QMCM Kotatis. They have been a wonderful addition to Wheel Team 6. We bid fair winds and following seas to QM2 Quiambao, who completed 6 years of faithful service. We wish him the best in his future endeavors. We also like to congratulate QM1 Lenerville, and his wife Kristian, for the birth of their beautiful new daughter, Emerald. We welcome her into the Wheel Team 6 wheelhouse! As you can see Navigation Department is well on its way.



AIMD

CHAPLAIN



During the month of March, the Religious Ministries Department has continued to ensure the provision of support to our Sailors and Marines through Divine Services and devotional events, confidential counseling, and advisement to leadership regarding morale and welfare.



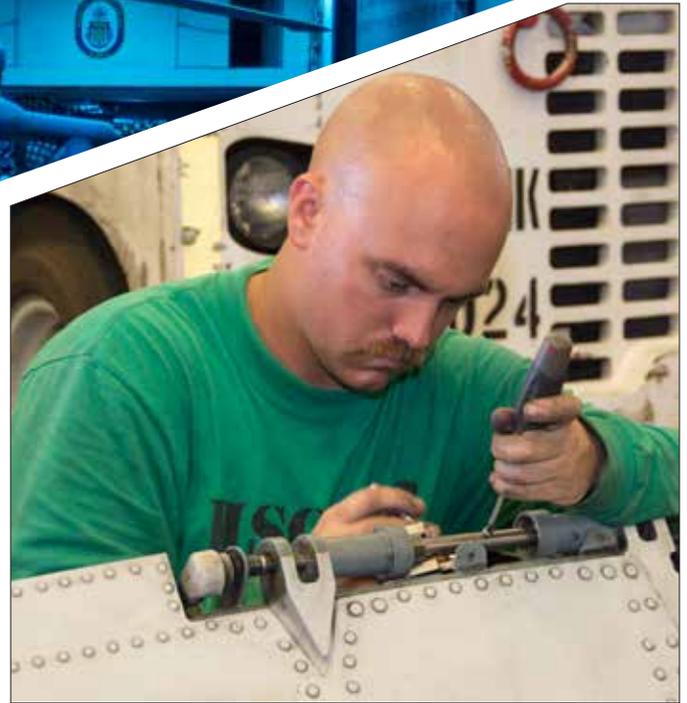
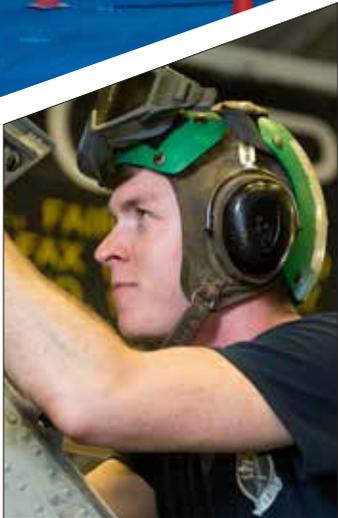
The coordination of a Community Relations Project (COMREL) in Manila on the 6th and 7th proved a great success for putting volunteer service into action in outreach to our Host Nation. BHR Sailors and embarked Marines prepared 9,104 boxes of relief goods to be shipped to evacuees displaced following the eruption of Mayon Volcano in January. The last week of March finished up celebrating Holy Week and Easter Services in our Star of the Sea Chapel.



COMREL



HSC-22



HSC-22 DET 2 maintained a 100% sortie completion rate in flying 31 sorties and flying a total of 76.9 flight hours this month onboard USS BONHOMME RICHARD. In addition, they participated in OPERATION COBRA GOLD, completed one A/C Phase Inspection, replaced one spindle, replaced one engine, replaced two tail paddles, and completed three FCFs, all in which encompassed 1418.1 maintenance hours.

NBU Seven LCAC Det BHR, stationed out of Sasebo, Japan, consisting of 28 personnel, to a Detachment Officer-In-Charge of two Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) with each having a six person crew as well as 10 Maintenance personnel and six Craft Landing Zone Beach Party Team members embarked aboard BHR at the end of January. LCAC are high-speed, ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship amphibious craft. LCAC are used to move supplies and weapon systems with associated combat personnel to points of need during amphibious operations. The nominal range is 200 nautical miles depending on environmental conditions such as winds, seas and air temperature with approximately 60 tons of cargo on deck. Throughout this deployment up to now LCAC 09 and 29 have flown 23 missions for a total of 151.1 mission hours, hauling over 2.3 million pounds of Marine Corps equipment and almost 500 troops. The NBU-7 Sailors have been hard at work in other areas as well, ten have qualified as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists, two Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialists as well as getting specific "in-rate" qualifications to help with their core knowledge and promotion opportunities. NBU-7 Sailors have maximized their time aboard BHR and have enjoyed deployment and working with the BHR crew and Marines.



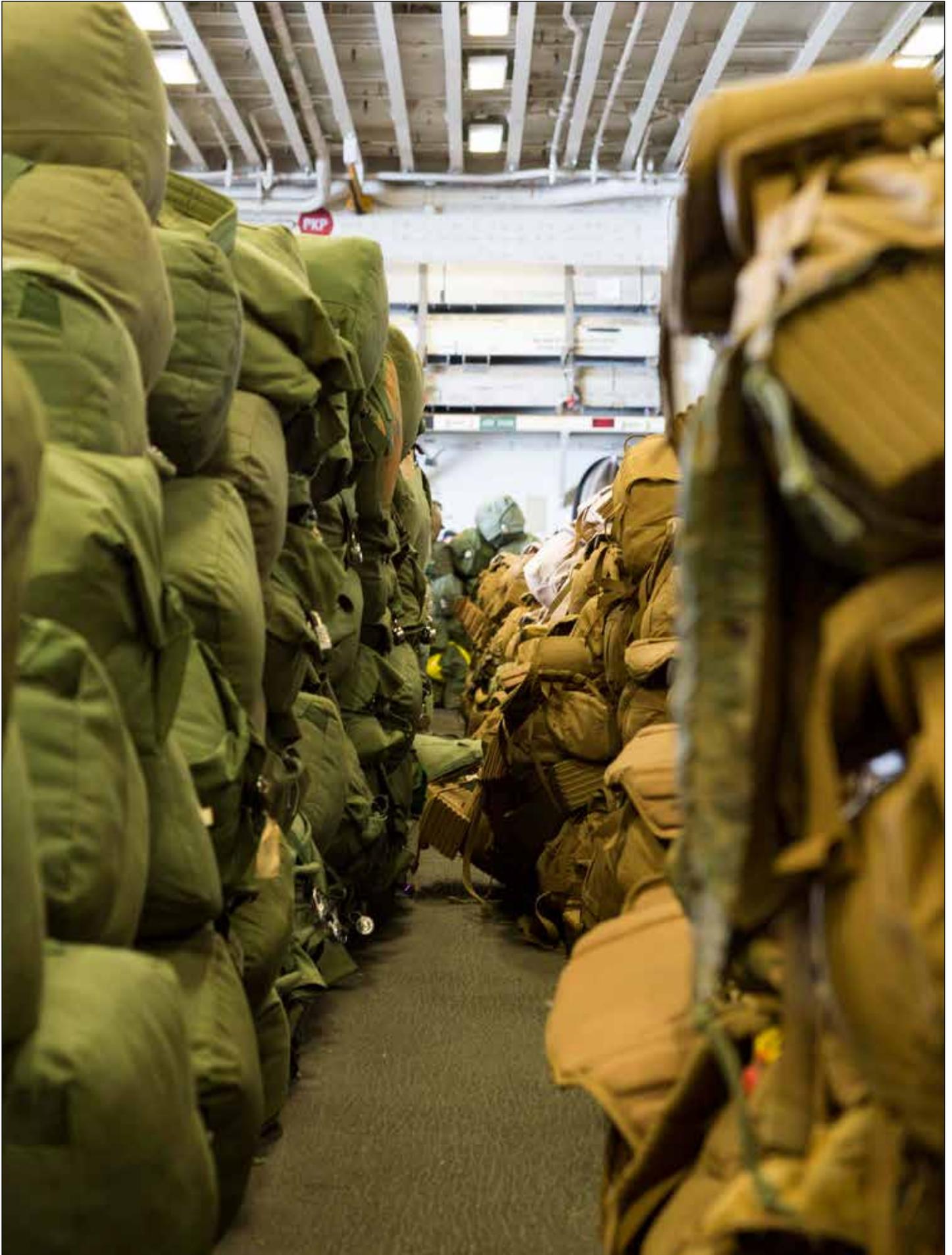
NBU-7



Stay Focused!

Be Ready!

Make an IMPACTT!



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