

The official publication of the USS Emory S. Land

THE LANDMARK

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THE LANDMARK



THE COMMAND TRIAD

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 EXECUTIVE OFFICER | **Cmdr. Ritchie L. Taylor**
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ESL is manned by an integrated crew of Sailors and civilian mariners under the administrative control of Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and operational control of the Commander, Task Force 74. As a forward-deployed naval force, ESL is tasked to provide expeditionary, intermediate-level maintenance and repairs, hotel services, and logistics support to deployed Guided-Missile and Fast-Attack submarines deployed in the 5th, 6th and 7th Fleet areas of operation.

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Gunners Mate 2nd Class Kaleem Graham loads ammunition into a MK 38 during an underway gunshoot Oct. 4.

Photo by MC1 Oliver Cole

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Photo by MC2 Richard Miller

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Left: Gunners Mate Seaman Brandon Price carries ammunition during an underway gunshoot.

HAFANA ADAMI



Capt. Michael Luckett

Commanding Officer USS Emory S. Land

Highlights

We safely executed the replenishment-at-sea exercise where we practiced underway refueling. The R5 team performed two evolutions, one being the inspection by the local NAVSEA 08 team, which was a big victory, as well as working on the tank inspections well ahead of schedule and without significant problems. I'd also like to highlight the efforts of the Visual Information Team, or VIR team, for building those procedures and skills up from essentially zero capabilities. They've come a long way and were ready to meet the standards to deploy. Finally, I'd like to highlight the storm SORTIE, in less than 24 hours from when we began making preparation we were able to get out to sea, safely getting the ship out of the harbor as well as assuring the crew members that stayed behind were safe with their families.

Short and Long Term Goals

Short term goals; we need to be demonstrating our expeditionary capabilities, supporting and working with our allies, and performing our duties as lead tender. Looking long term, we should be capable of executing maintenance in Guam and providing for those submarines. We should also be working together with the Frank Cable team and bringing our processes together as close as we can so that there's less training required when a Sailor moves from one tender to another.

Sister Villages

I was fortunate enough to meet recently with the mayors from our sister villages onboard the ship. We

had them onboard for lunch, which was nice because we were able to make an initial contact with them on a personal level and I look forward to participating in some of the events in the villages, whether it be a festival or a community relations event.

Underway Readiness

First and foremost, Sailors should take care of their personal business like home life and finances to make sure they are ready from a personal and individual perspective to leave Guam for a few more months. Secondly, reintegrating people who haven't been aboard the ship for the MTA and the transit from California to Guam, we need to make sure they're ready and that we will have more capabilities than we did back then. Finally, we need to understand the mission we are going to perform and how each individual fits into that mission. Fundamentally, we will be performing our peace time mission and showing our expeditionary capabilities while at the same time practicing our wartime mission of showing where we could be and what we will be doing in a time of war.

Trust, Professionalism, Taking Care of Shipmates

That philosophy has evolved over time due to a few things. First and foremost would be the personal experiences I've had in my life and in my career, seeing what's been effective. Second is from observing other leaders, seeing how they approach and handle problems has played a huge role in who I am today. Lastly, would be studying other examples, whether it be through history or fiction, I do a lot of reading about how other leaders have been successful.



Capt. Michael D. Luckett arrives during Land's change of command ceremony, Sept. 21.

Photo by MC2 Richard Miller



Cmdr. Ritchie Taylor

Executive Officer USS Emory S. Land

What highlights do you have from your first month on board?

The first month went fast and furious. I was wrapped up in turnover for two weeks with Cmdr. Lopez. It was a great opportunity because I was able to get underway with the ship roughly 18 hours after stepping onboard. I was able to see the ship stretch her legs and function out at sea. I was able to see how the former Executive Officer interacted with the crew underway as well as in port. It was a very tight schedule once you throw in the change of command. Being able to do turnover underway and in port really helped me a lot because I felt competent and comfortable taking the reins from Cmdr. Lopez. He's an old shipmate of mine from when we served together on USS Frank Cable roughly eight years ago. It was a very smooth turnover with no issues. I'm really excited to be here. I volunteered to come to this ship and I'm very fortunate to receive these orders as the Executive Officer aboard USS Emory S. Land. The highlights that jump out at me most are the change of command, which was extremely picture worthy because of the USS Missouri and USS Arizona Memorial in the background. A few days later we safely navigated through the harbor out of Hawaii. Team Land did a good job of staying professional and getting the complex evolution done. The Commanding Officer and I were very pleased with our smooth transition from navigating out of Pearl Harbor to executing the simulated replenishment-at-sea. The highest highlight for me would have to be the Steel Beach Picnic. It wasn't just because of the great food, but because I was blown away by all who came out and shared their stories about National Hispanic Heritage Month. It's incredible to hear and understand stories about diversity. It makes me proud to be an American. It makes me proud that they're proud to be an American. Every little bit helps us move forward as a country past racism or discrimination. We're all human beings; everyone deserves respect regardless of the color of your skin, gender, sexuality, or where you were born and raised. My daughter was actually born in Guam at the Naval Hospital, that doesn't make her any less American than anyone else.

How did you go from prior enlisted to officer and what advice would you give to the Sailors aiming to commission?

My parents divorced when I was 14 and my mom eventually remarried. My stepdad is a 29-year retired Marine who did two tours in Vietnam. He also is a Mustang; he started off enlisted earning the rank of E-6 before commissioning as an officer eventually retiring at O-5. He always joked about me coming into the Navy out of fun and love. He was able to see me go from E-1 to E-7 and put on anchors before I was picked up for the Limited Duty Officer program. Now that I'm an O-5, he's really rooting for me to put on O-6 so that he can salute me someday. The one piece of advice that I would give to Sailors is to know what you want to do early on. The LDO program isn't something you decide to do once you make E-6; it's something you've been planning since you were E-1 to E-5. The goal is sustained superior performance. Once you figure out your end goal, everything else can be directed towards that accordingly. Whether you want to be the MCPON or a CO, it takes planning and dedication. I was personally influenced by seeing my stepdad go through the process. The Navy is the only branch that still has the LDO program. This program expands the naval wardroom very well. Nowhere else can you commission as an officer without a college degree.

Deployments can be taxing on Sailors and their families. What advice would you give to make the situation less stressful for families?

We've all heard the expression "a happy wife is a happy life." I think in the Navy we should say a happy spouse is a happy life for service members of all sexualities. It's very important that you're well established at home. It's vital to plan ahead depending on if you'll be gone for one month or six. Provide your spouse the tools that they need in order to get things done and keep the household afloat in your absence. Whenever we go out to sea we have our Navy family onboard the ship. We're busy supporting each other, working, getting qualified and doing whatever else the Navy needs for the mission. Often times, Sailors think about how easy their spouses have it at home, but that's not always true. Our families are left without us with hardly any support system. That can be extremely difficult. I think it's way harder on them than us, and we need to support them in any way we can just as they support us while we're gone. It's nice to send a card, flowers or a gift just to let them know your

appreciation. It's a team effort. While they're holding down the fort, we're away. It's not as easy as people think it is. Put yourself in their shoes and try to understand.

What do you do for leisure time underway?

It's very important to have a good work and life balance. I use exercise as a way to maintain the balance underway. Exercise lets off endorphins which help you feel better. It's important to get the stress out. That's how I do it, but everyone has their own way. I also enjoy the movie channels. One night I was able to watch Top Gun which is my favorite movie. I was already in the Navy before Top Gun came out so the movie didn't recruit me, but it did make me proud to be in the Navy.

What expectations do you have for your Sailors?

As a prior enlisted, I think all schools and qualifications are paramount. The priority is qualifications first. I tell my Sailors as soon as they get to the ship to get qualified in one in port watch and one at-sea watch. Once they've done that, they're pulling their weight in port and at sea and no one can give you a hard time about that. Even if it may be the most junior watch, you're still able to pull your load by standing watch. As you get more senior in rank you can progress through the watch stations accordingly. Always get qualified in the most senior watch station for your paygrade. That looks well on ranking boards as you progress in your career. Schools are also important. Schools are sometimes necessary to meet the mission. Although sometimes going out to sea trumps going to a particular school at that time, it doesn't take away the opportunity to go later.

Is there anything you'd like to add, sir?

I'm happy to be here. This is my third tour on the submarine tenders. Each tour my family enjoys Guam a little bit more. I'm here to embrace the island life. The tenders are a special place to be. I know many Sailors try not to come to Guam to the submarine tenders because it's a hard tour. I don't think they really know what they're missing. We have an important mission. Our role in the submarine fleet is vital to the Navy's mission. I love the tenders. I'm still learning something new every day from this hybrid crew. It's interesting to see this concept work. We have civilian mariners and Navy Sailors blended together onboard making things work; we're all here to benefit the Navy's mission.



Cmdr. Ritchie L. Taylor briefs the crew during Land's All-Hands, Nov. 02.

Photo by MC2 Richard Miller

EMORY S. LAND, ARRIVING

Story by MCSN Benjamin Zuercher
Photos by MC2 Richard Miller and MC2 Daniel Willoughby

The submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39), homeported in Guam, held a change of command ceremony in Pearl Harbor, HI, on Sept. 21.

Capt. Michael Lockett relieved Capt. Douglas Bradley as commanding officer. Rear Adm. Daryl Caudle, Commander, Submarine Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, was the presiding officer and guest speaker at the ceremony. He congratulated Capt. Bradley on a job well done and welcomed Capt. Lockett as the new commanding officer.

Under Capt. Bradley's command, Emory S. Land tended 18 submarines alongside and conducted 82 availabilities including 10 CMAVs, 35 Voyage Repairs, 16 fly away missions. The Emory S. Land also expanded its reload capabilities conducting 256 Tomahawk missile handling evolutions, 472 ADCAP torpedo handling evolutions, and recovering and flushing 26 exercise ADCAPS.

Also while under Capt. Bradley's command, Emory S. Land was awarded the COMSUBPAC Weapons (P), Medical (M), Personnel (P), as well as the Navy Exchange Ships Store Excellence Award, PACFLT Retention Excellence Award, and the David M. Cook Food Service Excellence Award during 2016. During 2017 Emory S. Land was awarded the Battle "E", Repair (R), Medical (M), Supply (E), Weapons (W), Personnel (P), Communications (C), the Navy Exchange Ships Store Excellence Award, PACFLT Retention Excellence Award, and the David M. Cook Food Service Excellence Award.

Emory S. Land recently underwent a three month maintenance period at the Mare Island Dry Dock in Vallejo, Calif. that she finished on time and under budget. The Land was the first Navy ship to return to the shipyard since the shipyard closed in 1996.

"I have to thank the crew, both Navy and MSC," said Capt. Bradley. "The ship expanded and grew capabilities that were dormant on this ship for some time. I am proud of how we expanded our reload, repair, and resupply capabilities." The work the crew accomplished has made this ship capable to deploy and accomplish our mission anywhere.

Capt Bradley was relieved as Emory S. Land's 25th commanding officer.

Lockett, a native of Banning, Calif. began his Navy career when he graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Naval Architecture. He served as a Division Officer onboard USS JEFFERSON CITY (SSN 759), Engineer Officer on USS HOUSTON (SSN 713) and as Executive Officer of USS PENNSYLVANIA (GOLD) (SSBN 735). He commanded USS MISSOURI (SSN 780) and USS MISSISSIPPI (SSN 782).

"I am impressed by the capabilities that the ship and her combined Navy and MSC crew currently possess. I am also excited about the potential we have, with the talent and equipment onboard, for expanding and extending those capabilities further," said Lockett.

I AM EXCITED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL WE HAVE, WITH THE TALENT AND EQUIPMENT ONBOARD, FOR EXPANDING AND EXTENDING THOSE CAPABILITIES FURTHER."



Top: Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Edith Lemus sings the national anthem to begin Land's change of command ceremony.

Middle: Capt. Michael D. Lockett relieves Capt. Douglas A. Bradley as Emory S. Land's commanding officer.

Bottom: Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Jonathan Stout strikes the bell to announce the arrival of the official party.

Right: Capt. Douglas A. Bradley departs after being relieved as USS Emory S. Land's commanding officer by Capt. Michael D. Lockett.

HISPANIC HERITAGE

Story by MC3 Destinyy Reed

Photos by MC2 Richard Miller



Left: Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Edith Lemus sings a song as a part of Land's Hispanic Heritage Celebration.



Bottom: Hull Maintenance Technician Fireman Esmeralda Lopez tells a story about her grandparents coming to America during the Hispanic Heritage Celebration followed by a flight deck steel beach picnic.

Top: Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Alma Gallegos reads a speech during Land's Hispanic Heritage Celebration.

Emory S. Land joins the nation in celebrating Hispanic Americans by hosting a flight deck celebration and steel beach picnic Sept. 30th. Hispanic Heritage Month is held from Sept. 15-Oct. 15.

The observation began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson. In 1988, it was expanded by President Ronald Reagan to cover a 30-day period, paying tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society. The unique dates of this heritage month were chosen to encompass the Independence Day anniversaries for the following Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico and Chile.

"Hispanic Heritage for me is a time to celebrate my heritage," said Hull Maintenance Technician Fireman Esmeralda Lopez. "It's a time to show the world that Hispanics are here; we're proud. It's our time to share our culture with everyone."

The One Navy Team is made up of Hispanic American Sailors and civilians. Hispanic Americans serve in every rank from seamen to admiral, and hold nearly every job from naval aviator to deep-sea diver. Seventeen percent of the Navy's enlisted force identifies as Hispanic American, including 1,118 senior and master chiefs. Eight percent of the officer force and four percent of all admirals identify as the same. There are more than 12,000 Hispanic American civilians working for the Department of the Navy.

A diverse workforce positions the Navy to operate successfully around the globe by bringing together Sailors and civilians with different ideas, experiences, perspectives, capabilities and skill sets. Integrating Sailors and civilians from diverse backgrounds into the force allows the Navy to recruit and retain the nation's top talent from a wider pool of skilled personnel.

One of the Navy's Hispanic-American enlisted is Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Alma Gallegos.

"I love the diversity in the Navy," said Gallegos. "I've never been in a place where so many people from so many different backgrounds can come and work together. I've gotten the opportunity to learn about other people's cultures and traditions in the Navy. We all bring something unique to the table."

In the past, Hispanic-Americans played major roles in every American conflict, whether at home or abroad. Every Sailor who enters the gates at boot camp, officer candidate school or the Naval Academy knows who said "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead." What they may not know is in 1866 David G. Farragut became the first Hispanic American to be awarded the rank of admiral.

"A month or no month, Hispanic or not, remember who you are and what you do matters," said Gallegos. "Your heritage is only as forgotten as you let it be. Be proud of who you are."

"YOUR HERITAGE IS ONLY AS FORGOTTEN AS YOU LET IT BE. BE PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE."

CONGRATULATIONS TO ESL'S NEWEST CHIEFS

ETNC (SW) SCOTT RICHARDSON, MAC (SW/EXW) JOHN HAM AND MMNC (SW) JOSHUA BURKE



LEFT: CMDCM (SW/SS/NAC) WILLIAM GREENE POSES FOR A PHOTO WITH ESL'S NEWEST CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS FOLLOWING THE CHIEF PINNING CEREMONY ON JOINT BASE HICKAM-PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII, SEPT. 19.

PHOTOS BY: MC1 OLIVER COLE

THE CHIEF PETTY OFFICER'S PLEDGE

I AM A CHIEF PETTY OFFICER IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY...
 I SERVE MY COUNTRY AND HER PEOPLE WITH PRIDE AND HONOR.
 I SEEK NO SPECIAL FAVORS.
 I MAKE THINGS HAPPEN, AND DO THE BEST I CAN DO.
 I AM CHARGED WITH A LEADERSHIP ROLE LIKE NO OTHER IN THE WORLD.
 I DEVELOP JUNIOR OFFICERS AND MOLD MY SAILORS.
 I ACKNOWLEDGE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTIONS OF MY SAILORS...
 BECAUSE THESE SAILORS ARE THE SEEDS OF FUTURE CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS.
 I LIVE BY THE NAVY'S CORE VALUES OF HONOR, COURAGE, AND COMMITMENT.
 I SET THE EXAMPLE.
 I ESTABLISH THE STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE.
 MY SAILORS ARE STUDENTS AND I AM THEIR TEACHER.
 I GUIDE AND INFLUENCE THE LIVES OF THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN.
 IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, I WILL DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF THESE SAILORS.
 THEY LOOK UP TO ME BECAUSE I TREAT THEM WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT.
 BECAUSE THEY NEED A LEADER, I AM THERE FOR THEM.

AFTER ALL... I AM A CHIEF PETTY OFFICER IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY!



FLIGHT DECK ZUMBA *Enhancing Crew Fitness Through Dance*

Story by MC2 Richard Miller

Photos by MC1 Steven Khor

“EXERCISE DOESN’T HAVE TO BE SOMETHING YOU THINK OF AS A TASK YOU HAVE TO DO, BUT RATHER SOMETHING YOU **GET** TO DO.”

On any given day, the ship’s gym aboard the submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) is packed with Sailors exercising including lifting weights, running, and hitting the bag. Recently, however, a Sailor has started a new culture of fitness on the ship beyond the confines of a normal gym environment.

Personnel Specialist 1st Class Raymundo Aguilar, the ship’s assistant Dispensing Officer, is a licensed Zumba instructor and holds weekly classes every Tuesday on the flight deck while underway. Over time, these “Zuesday” classes have grown to become popular among Land’s crew, doubling as a morale-boosting recreational activity and a tool to promote fitness.

“Feeling the cardio and seeing the students sweat and smile changed the way I see physical fitness,” said Aguilar, ESL’s assistant disbursing officer. “Exercise doesn’t have to be something you think of as a task you have to do, but rather something you get to do. Zumba is not about who can do better, but a way to get people excited to work out.”

Aguilar’s first exposure to Zumba occurred five years ago. At first, he was

skeptical about performing the exercise, which is based on Latin dance moves. But sports injuries led him to take a more active interest in Zumba with his wife who is also an instructor.

“I tore my Achilles tendon playing basketball and started doing Zumba with my wife more as I healed,” said Aguilar. I saw her practice and eventually became accustomed to the activity itself. After moving to Guam, I took a qualification course and have been an instructor for two years now.”

Zumba is now a habit for Aguilar and his preferred method of exercise.

Aguilar said while some Sailors who aren’t avid dancers may find doing Zumba in a group setting to be a nerve-racking experience, Zumba promotes a welcoming atmosphere where skill is secondary to effort and progress happens over time.

“Little by little, you start progressing,” said Aguilar. “On day one you may struggle, but you get into a rhythm the more you come.”

Aguilar said that Zumba can provide a way for people from all backgrounds and walks of life to find common ground. He said that it doesn’t matter what race or ethnicity someone

is and it doesn’t matter if they know how to dance. As long as they are moving and enjoying their time, that’s all that matters.

He added that his Zumba classes have helped develop a stronger relationship between the Land’s hybrid personnel of Navy Sailors and Military Sealift Command civilian mariners.

“Zumba builds relationships toward a true one-crew concept,” said Aguilar. “It introduces a lot of crew members to each other who otherwise wouldn’t know each other. It brings Navy and MSC together over a shared enjoyment of music, exercise and good company.”

“I’ve met so many new people through Zumba,” said Yeoman 3rd Class Billie Jean Terry, who occasionally leads the workout in Aguilar’s absence. “I love that it brings Navy and MSC together.”

As his weekly class has grown in popularity, Aguilar reflected on his opportunity to share his love for Zumba with the crew.

“I’m grateful to have the opportunity to bring joy to others through exercise,” said Aguilar. “If you haven’t given it a shot, feel free to come check it out. You may love it.”

Personnel Specialist 1st Class Raymundo Aguilar leads a Zumba class while underway aboard USS Emory S. Land.





USS INDIANA (SSN 789) JOINS THE FLEET

USS Indiana, the third submarine to bear the name and third vessel to be named for the state, was brought to life by its sponsor, Diane K. Donald, wife of retired Adm. Kirkland Donald, the former director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion and commander, Submarine Forces, Sept. 29, 2018. Before giving the order to bring the ship to life, Indiana's sponsor had a few words to impart to those in attendance and any potential future adversaries.

"Today we celebrate the time-honored tradition of placing USS Indiana into the service of our country. It has been the privilege of a lifetime to have a role in bringing this ship to life," Donald said, addressing the crowd and ship's company during the ceremony. "To anyone who wishes our nation harm, take heed, Indiana is taking the watch. Our new silent victors are Indiana strong."

As the most modern and sophisticated attack submarine in the world, the submarine can operate in both littoral and deep ocean environments, and presents combatant commanders with a broad and unique range of operational capabilities. Indiana is a flexible, multi-mission platform designed to carry out the seven core competencies of the submarine force: anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, delivery of Special Operations Forces (SOF), strike warfare, irregular warfare, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and mine warfare.

"I owe everything to my crew," said Capt. Jesse Zimbauer, commanding officer of Indiana, to those in attendance. "We have over 5,000 people in attendance today. You wouldn't be out here if you didn't have a lethal dose of patriotism. You cannot take a look at those Sailors dressed in their whites, standing on the backbone of the world's newest and most lethal submarine and not just stand up and cheer!"

Indiana is a part of the Virginia-class' third, or Block III, contract, in which the Navy redesigned approximately 20 percent of the boat to reduce acquisition costs. Indiana features a redesigned bow, which replaces 12 individual Vertical Launch System (VLS) tubes with two large-diameter Virginia Payload Tubes (VPTs) each capable of launching six Tomahawk cruise missiles, among other design changes that reduced the submarines' acquisition cost while maintaining their outstanding warfighting capabilities. While the crew of the submarine may only be 140, Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb indicated that the "whole" crew may not fit on board.

"So, as you are serving on this boat, know that your crew is a lot bigger than you may think. In fact, I'd like to say that this crew is 6.6 million strong. Because there are, in fact, 6.6 million Hoosiers who are proud of this USS Indiana. We are proud of and pray for every Sailor that makes up this crew."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY NAVY

EST. OCTOBER 13, 1775