

The official publication of the USS Emory S. Land

THE LANDMARK

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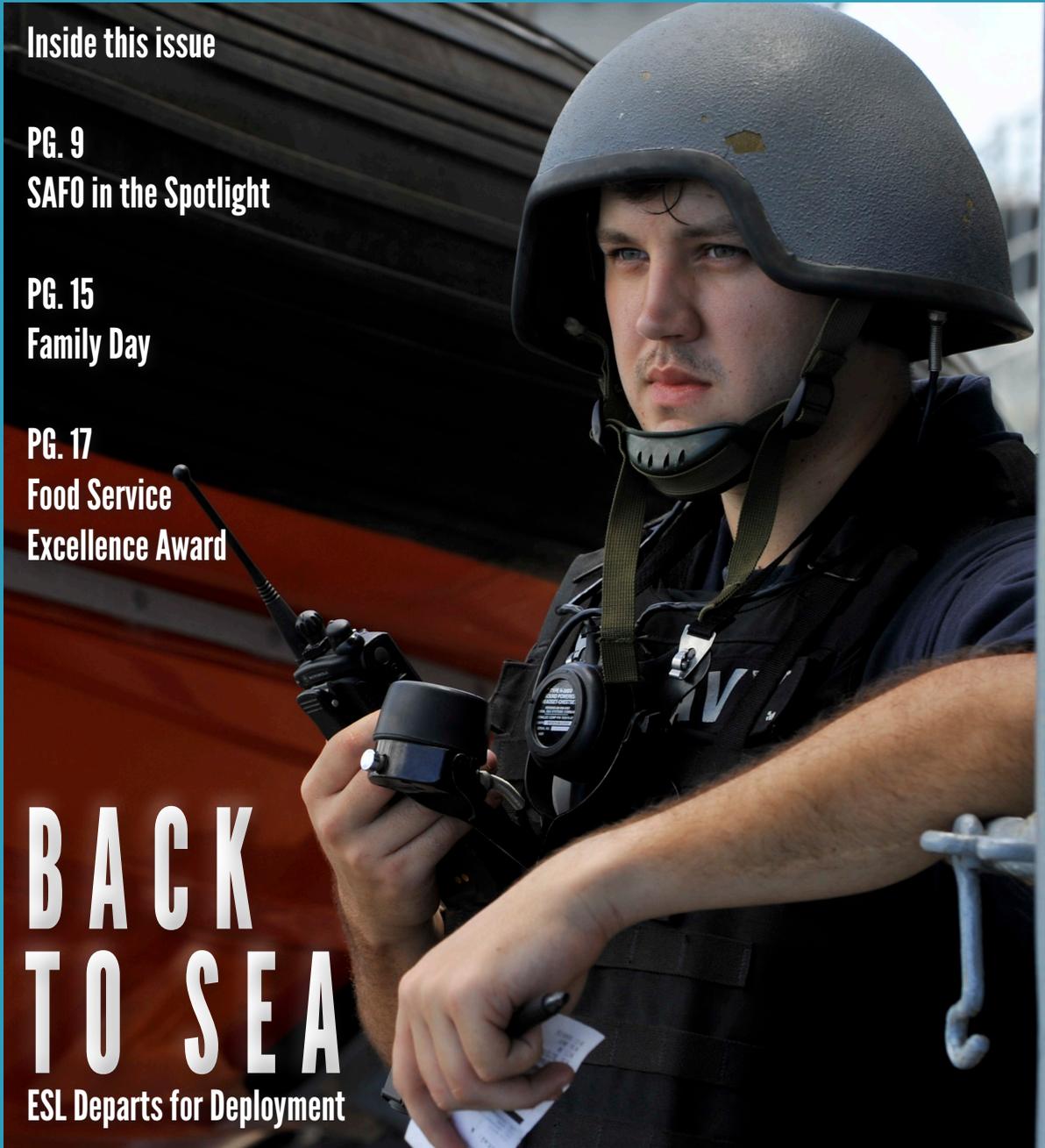
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THE LANDMARK



THE COMMAND TRIAD

COMMANDING OFFICER | **Capt. Douglas A. Bradley**
EXECUTIVE OFFICER | **Cmdr. Robert J. Lopez**
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF | **CMDCM William T. Greene**

THE LANDMARK MAGAZINE STAFF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER | **Lt. Daniel Moore**
LEADING PETTY OFFICER | **MC1 Oliver Cole**
QUALITY ASSURANCE | **MC1 Steven Khor**
LEAD EDITOR | **MC2 Alex Miller**
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER | **MC2 Daniel Willoughby**
STAFF JOURNALIST | **MCSN Destiny Reed**
STAFF JOURNALIST | **MCSN Benjamin Zuercher**

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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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MSC deck department personnel prepare to get underway for a scheduled deployment for the first time in two years.

Photo by
Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Daniel Willoughby

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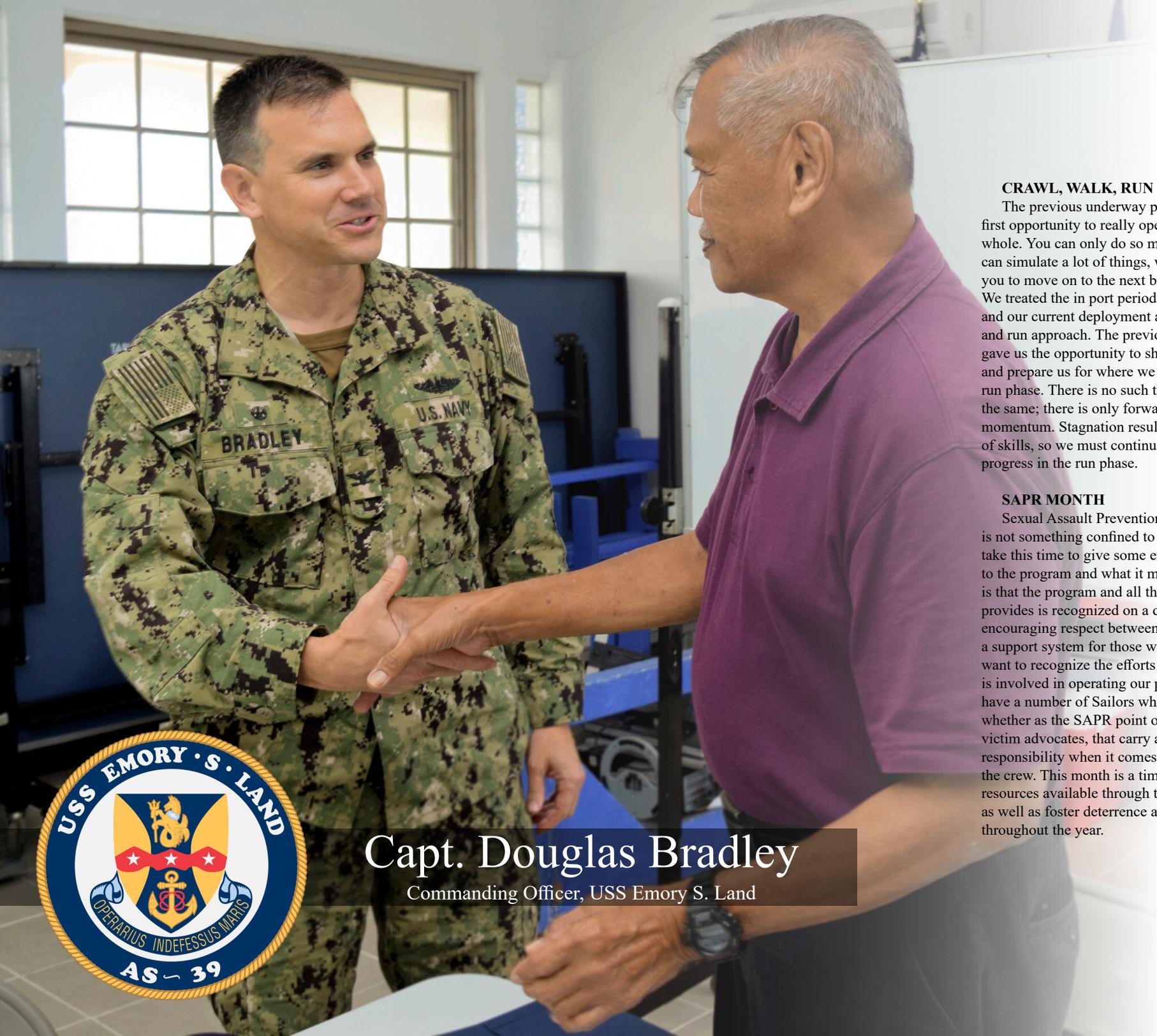
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Capt. Douglas Bradley

Commanding Officer, USS Emory S. Land

CRAWL, WALK, RUN

The previous underway period was our first opportunity to really operate the ship as a whole. You can only do so much in port. You can simulate a lot of things, which enables you to move on to the next building blocks. We treated the in port period, first underway, and our current deployment as a crawl, walk, and run approach. The previous underway gave us the opportunity to shake down the ship and prepare us for where we are now in the run phase. There is no such thing as staying the same; there is only forward and backward momentum. Stagnation results in a degradation of skills, so we must continue to train and progress in the run phase.

SAPR MONTH

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response is not something confined to a month, but we take this time to give some extra attention to the program and what it means. My hope is that the program and all the training it provides is recognized on a day-to-day basis, encouraging respect between shipmates and a support system for those who need it. I want to recognize the efforts of our team that is involved in operating our program. We have a number of Sailors who step into roles, whether as the SAPR point of contact or as victim advocates, that carry a great deal of responsibility when it comes to supporting the crew. This month is a time to reiterate the resources available through the SAPR program as well as foster deterrence and prevention throughout the year.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

One of our mission objectives as a ship is to be expeditionary. We have a specific set of capabilities and one of the most important things for us is to be able to demonstrate them anywhere. This is a good opportunity to bring that skillset somewhere with a strong bilateral footprint between the U.S. and Japan. I appreciate having the opportunity to build on our strong partnership with Japan. One of the main ways we can continue that progress is through our actions in town. We have a few community relations events planned to leave the city better than we found it, but aside from that our conduct ashore speaks volumes. It is important for us to engage and embrace the culture. Conducting ourselves as professionals and positive representatives of the United States Navy is the best way to achieve our goals in Sasebo.

MOVING FORWARD

Although this is a somewhat short deployment, it is a milestone in achieving the vision I set for the ship, touching on all the important elements. Mobility readiness, our tending services, community partnerships, building our Sailors, and strengthening our families are all key pieces in the ESL mission. We're going to execute on each of those areas. My goal is to make the fleet better wherever we go. I appreciate the hard work our Sailors put in day in and day out.



Cmdr. Robert Lopez

Executive Officer, USS Emory S. Land

Interview conducted by MC1 Khor

MC1: The crew did well during the week long underway, how do you think they are handling this deployment?

XO: I think the crew is doing great. Everyone is smiling and working on qualifications so it is a benefit to everyone.

MC1: How do you think the relationship between shipmates will differ after this deployment from when we were stationary?

XO: Deployments have a way of creating unique bonds between people. A shared experience brings us closer together as a crew and makes us want to support each other better. In Guam after hours, many people went their own way but on deployment the crew sticks together and builds on personal relationships.

MC1: How do you feel the deployment has impacted the bond between the Navy Sailors and the MSC members of the crew?

XO: Underway, we are able to interact more often and build upon the strong bonds that already exist. There is more time in the day so it is easier to talk and learn about our shipmates.

MC1: What should new Sailors take away from their first port visit?

XO: Sailors need to take away that port visits are only as good as the crew. We are one team and each person plays a part that controls our next liberty port. It only takes one person to significantly impact our liberty at the next port. Have

fun and see the sights, but be responsible.

MC1: What advice would you give the crew to better handle deployments?

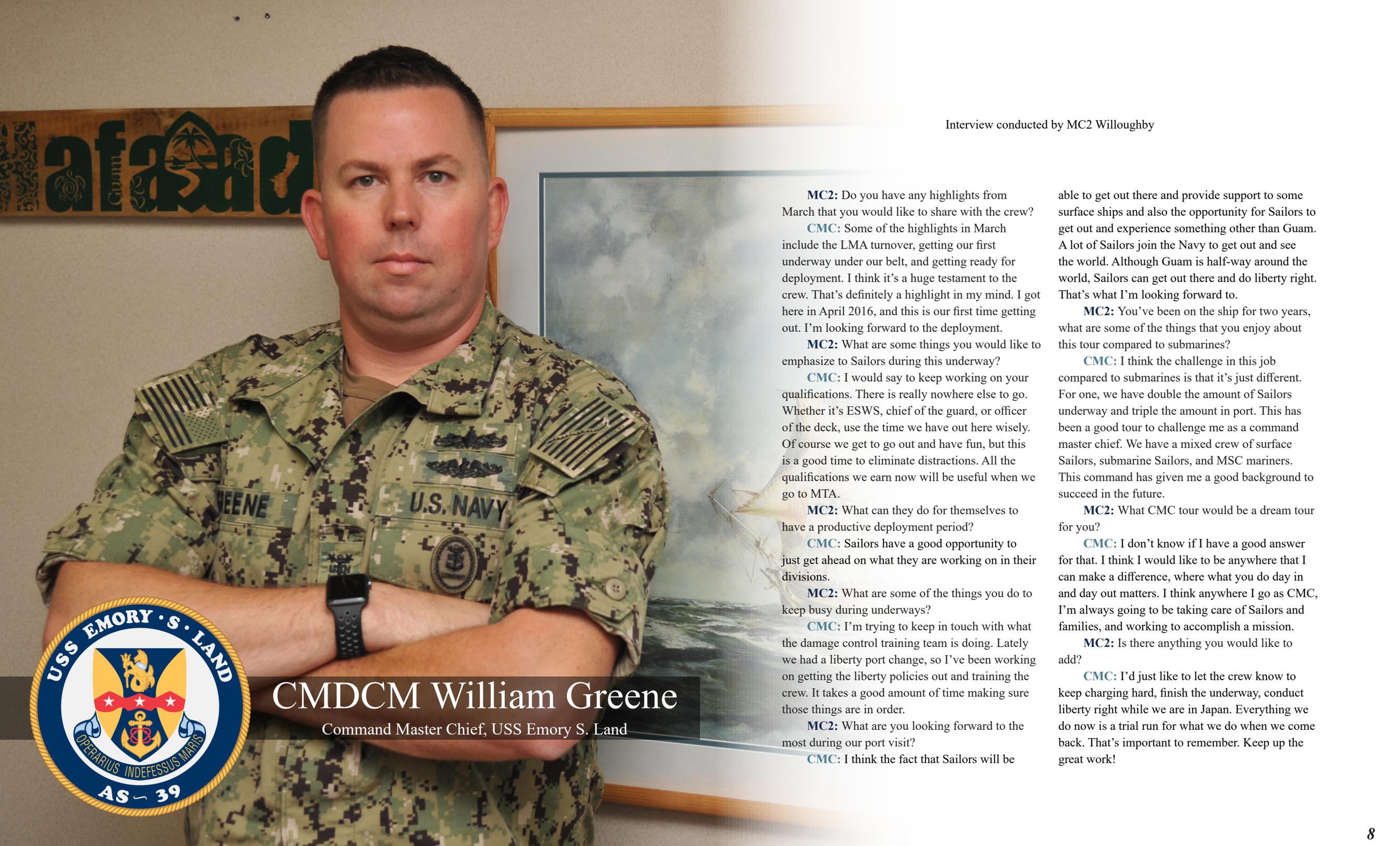
XO: Prepare. I feel this deployment took some people by surprise. Some didn't think we would really go, but ESL is a fighter and always pulls through to make it work! Plan early and don't wait until the last minute to make preparations. Always plan for your significant others and do something nice; hide cards so they can read them if they have a bad day or pre-stage special gifts just to make them smile.

MC1: For any possible deployments in the future, what do you hope to see accomplished by both Navy and MSC sides of the crew?

XO: Just continue to come together as a team. Last night I saw one crew out on liberty and it was wonderful. Both MSC and military interacting together, building personal relationships and bonds that make us stronger as a crew.

MC1: Is there anything you'd like to add, sir?

XO: The ship, this deployment, our crew, it is what we make it. From the most junior to the most senior, we make a difference and I just want to say thank you for your hard work and dedication to ESL.



Interview conducted by MC2 Willoughby

MC2: Do you have any highlights from March that you would like to share with the crew?

CMC: Some of the highlights in March include the LMA turnover, getting our first underway under our belt, and getting ready for deployment. I think it's a huge testament to the crew. That's definitely a highlight in my mind. I got here in April 2016, and this is our first time getting out. I'm looking forward to the deployment.

MC2: What are some things you would like to emphasize to Sailors during this underway?

CMC: I would say to keep working on your qualifications. There is really nowhere else to go. Whether it's ESWS, chief of the guard, or officer of the deck, use the time we have out here wisely. Of course we get to go out and have fun, but this is a good time to eliminate distractions. All the qualifications we earn now will be useful when we go to MTA.

MC2: What can they do for themselves to have a productive deployment period?

CMC: Sailors have a good opportunity to just get ahead on what they are working on in their divisions.

MC2: What are some of the things you do to keep busy during underways?

CMC: I'm trying to keep in touch with what the damage control training team is doing. Lately we had a liberty port change, so I've been working on getting the liberty policies out and training the crew. It takes a good amount of time making sure those things are in order.

MC2: What are you looking forward to the most during our port visit?

CMC: I think the fact that Sailors will be

able to get out there and provide support to some surface ships and also the opportunity for Sailors to get out and experience something other than Guam. A lot of Sailors join the Navy to get out and see the world. Although Guam is half-way around the world, Sailors can get out there and do liberty right. That's what I'm looking forward to.

MC2: You've been on the ship for two years, what are some of the things that you enjoy about this tour compared to submarines?

CMC: I think the challenge in this job compared to submarines is that it's just different. For one, we have double the amount of Sailors underway and triple the amount in port. This has been a good tour to challenge me as a command master chief. We have a mixed crew of surface Sailors, submarine Sailors, and MSC mariners. This command has given me a good background to succeed in the future.

MC2: What CMC tour would be a dream tour for you?

CMC: I don't know if I have a good answer for that. I think I would like to be anywhere that I can make a difference, where what you do day in and day out matters. I think anywhere I go as CMC, I'm always going to be taking care of Sailors and families, and working to accomplish a mission.

MC2: Is there anything you would like to add?

CMC: I'd just like to let the crew know to keep charging hard, finish the underway, conduct liberty right while we are in Japan. Everything we do now is a trial run for what we do when we come back. That's important to remember. Keep up the great work!



CMDCM William Greene

Command Master Chief, USS Emory S. Land

FROM



AIR FORCE



TO



NAVY

Story and photos by
MCSN Destiny Reed





I had the opportunity to serve 13 years in the Air Force before commissioning in the Navy.

A 1989 Boise State University graduate and Boise, Idaho, native is aiding the U.S. Navy's silent service in the submarine community as part of a hybrid crew of Sailors and civilian mariners working aboard the expeditionary submarine tender, USS Emory S. Land.

Lt. Cmdr. Elena Mathis is the Safety Officer serving aboard the Guam-based submarine tender. She is responsible for planning, supervising and performing tasks necessary for maintaining the ship's safe working environment.

MCSN: How long have you served active duty?

SAFO: I've been in the Navy for 16 years, but in May it'll be my 29th year of total service.

MCSN: How long do you plan on continuing your active duty service?

SAFO: In July I'll find out if I've been selected for O5. Since I'm at high-year tenure for O4, these results will let me know whether or not it's mandatory retirement or if I'm selected for O5. My birthday is in July also, so I'm thinking that "O5 by 5-0" has a pretty good ring to it.

MCSN: Why did you join the Air Force?

SAFO: It actually was never a planned event. I got into a bit of a mess during high school and got expelled from college, so I joined the Air Force on a whim. I went and talked with a recruiter one afternoon and he convinced me to take the ASVAB the next day. The results showed that I scored really well in a few areas and after talking it over I realized that it sounded fun, so I just did it. That's the best thing I could've done for myself.

MCSN: Why did you transition to Team Navy?

SAFO: I had the opportunity to serve 13 years in the Air Force before commissioning in the Navy in 2001. I was doing really well in the Air Force, but I was also going through a divorce at the time. My daughter was almost three and I viewed a commission as the best thing I could do in order to set up my family for success. When I started shopping around for a commission, I realized that the job that I had in the Air Force required me to obtain an engineering degree in order to stay in the Air

Force. I reached out to one of the Naval officers I used to be stationed with who was now stationed in Millington, Tenn. as a detailer. She put me in touch with an Industrial Hygiene Officer who helped me commission into the Navy through the interservice transfer program. It was kind of weird at first to wrap my head around going from Air Force to Navy, but the Navy gave me the best job offer, so here I am 16 years later. I've been able to do such a variety of interesting jobs in the Navy that I would've never been able to do anywhere else.

MCSN: What has been your biggest difference between the Air Force and the Navy?

SAFO: The Air Force does have your typical stereotypes that are often true. I would say that the Air Force is a lot more relaxed compared to the Navy. They're not used to playing with other branches. Whereas the Navy is a little bit sterner with how they deal with their junior enlisted.

MCSN: What has been your greatest career accomplishment?

SAFO: I made a lot of changes at my last duty station: Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico. I worked in the Test and Operations Department where I was the safety officer and senior scientist. One of the biggest things I was able to improve was our medical evacuation time from White Sands Missile Range. I helped decrease it from four hours down to a 45 minute response time.

MCSN: What are your career goals?

SAFO: I want to be a specialty leader in my rate. I also want to get a SAFO billet put onto all of the platforms because currently we're only on aircraft carriers and the two submarine tenders.

MCSN: What are your personnel goals?

SAFO: I want to finish my business master's degree.

MCSN: What are you looking forward to during our port visits?

SAFO: I'm excited for all of the adventures. I'm ready to hike and explore and do whatever other amazing adventures that may be available to us.



BACK TO SEA

Story by MCSN Benjamin Zuercher
Photo by MC2 Daniel Willoughby

MSC deck department personnel prepare to get underway.

“NOW THAT I HAVE MY SEA LEGS, I’M PRETTY EXCITED TO GO ON DEPLOYMENT. I HOPE TO GO SEE DIFFERENT PORTS AND LEARN MY JOB AND RATE.”

The submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) homeported in Apra Harbor, Guam, departed for deployment Apr. 4, 2018, following a two year in-port period as the lead maintenance activity for Guam.

The Land, one of the Navy’s only two submarine tenders, last deployed in 2015 as the mobile-repair element for submarines in the 5th and 7th fleet areas of responsibility.

While at sea, the crew will be ready for area tasking and hopes to expand on training performed during the previous sea trial period which included damage control, anti-terrorism force protection, and drills that prepared the crew for deployment.

Capt. Douglas A. Bradley, Land’s commanding officer, said the ship and her crew are ready for deployment and praised the ship’s hybrid crew of Navy Sailors and Military Sealift Command civilian mariners for their efforts in the team tender mission.

“The entire crew, active duty and MSC, worked hard to get the ship ready for this deployment,” said Bradley. “I am very excited for the ship to assume the role of duty tender for the 5th and

7th fleet area of operations. We are ready to contribute to various missions throughout 2018.”

Cmdr. Robert J. Lopez, Land’s executive officer, said the crew and the ship have been waiting a long time for this and they are eager and excited for the challenges that lay ahead.

“The crew has undergone various training evolutions and inspections while in port,” said Lopez. “We passed them all and are ready to go support the fleet. This is an exciting time for all us.”

Young Sailors on the ESL like Yeoman 3rd Class Billie Jean Nadela Terry, a Sailor assigned to the Land’s personnel department, are also excited for their first deployment to a foreign port.

“At first, I was worried about deployment because I used to get sea sick all the time,” said Yeoman 3rd Class Billie Jean Terry. “Now that I have my sea legs, I’m pretty excited to go on deployment. I hope to go see different ports and learn my job and rate.”

The Land continues the U.S. Navy’s ongoing commitment to theater security cooperation and friendship with local partner navies.

FAMILY DAY

Story and photos by MC1 Steven Khor

“There’s something special about seeing the pride and amazement on our children’s faces when they see what we do and where we do it”

Family and friends of Sailors assigned to the submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) toured the ship Sat. Mar. 24, for the command’s family day tour where they caught a glimpse of what life is like for the crew of the Land.

The families gathered at the pier shortly after 8 am where they were greeted by the ship’s commanding officer and crew.

“There’s something special about seeing the pride and amazement on our children’s faces when they see what we do and where we do it,” said Capt. Doug Bradley, Land’s commanding officer.

Many families have a tradition of service in the various branches. Events like Family Day help keep tradition alive. Being on the tender allows us to show our families who are so used to seeing their Sailor on submarines to see the unique role they play while attached to the ship.”

“Family day was great,” said Command Master Chief William Greene. “It was good to give the kids a little taste of what the ship does, what their parents do on a daily basis, and what our capabilities are.”

Greene said there is lots of work constantly going on ESL as the lead maintenance activity for team tender so access for family is limited throughout the year. Family day allows these family and friends to see what they don’t normally get the chance to see.

The tour included a trip to see the ship’s medical facility, machinery room, bridge, crew berthing, and dining areas. Crew members played trivia games with the children, instructed the group on handling firefighting equipment, shot simulated rounds in firearm’s training, and enjoyed some local ice cream.

“It’s great that the families can come to the ship and see how we live and see how we operate,” said Machinist Mate Fireman Paschea Williams, a crewmember assigned to the Land.

“My daughter had a lot of fun and that was the most important thing,” said Jennifer Alarca, tour participant, spouse and mom. “The most fun was the opportunity for her to man the fire hose because she wants to be a firefighter.”



ESL’s Captain Douglas A. Bradley greets families during Family Day.



DC3 Joseph Suliven shows children how to control the fire hose.

BACK TO BACK CHAMPIONS

ESL FOOD SERVICE EARNS COOK AWARD

Story and photo by MC2 Daniel Willoughby

The submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) won the 2018 David M. Cook Food Service Excellence Award for hybrid-crew vessels April 5.

The Cook award recognizes superior food service in vessels within the Military Sealift Command (MSC), or vessels with hybrid crews of MSC civilian mariners and U.S. Navy Sailors like Emory S. Land. Every year since 1992, judges take to the fleet to review food preparation and presentation, sanitation, customer service, inventory management, equipment safety, maintenance, and financial accountability within the food service divisions.

This year marks the second year in a row Emory S. Land has won in its class, which is something MSC supply officer Raphael Cui sees as a great honor.

“I would say the two things that keep us going the most are ownership and integrity,” said Cui. “If you have those two traits in a department or division, it’s easy for everyone to motivate each other. Everyone knows their job, which makes everything run smoothly.”

At the forefront of smooth operations within food service division is chief steward Junior Vermont, who has served in MSC for over 28 years.

“You need good people, hard workers in order to maintain success,” said Vermont. “When I first got here

there were some things we definitely had to improve on. We all worked hard in order to win our first Cook award. This award is different because the team understood what needed to be done in order to win. There was much more knowledge of what constitutes success.”

An aspect of excellent food service is customer service, something that each crew member aboard Emory S. Land experiences every breakfast, lunch and dinner.

“I really appreciate the way the food service division greets me with a smile when I’m in line,” said Legalman 1st Class James Ruffin. “The food service on the ship is some of the best I’ve experienced in my Navy career.”

Customer feedback is an integral part of the judging parameters.

Vermont said the surveys the division receives are almost entirely positive, and it’s a good feeling to receive that kind of feedback.

A ceremony by the National Restaurant Association for the winners of the David M. Cook Food Service Excellence Award typically takes place in May.

THIS AWARD IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE THE TEAM UNDERSTOOD WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE IN ORDER TO WIN. THERE WAS MUCH MORE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT CONSTITUTES SUCCESS.



THIS YEAR MARKS THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW EMORY S. LAND HAS WON THE DAVID M. COOK FOOD SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD.

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8

BE

safe
respectful
honest
ready
