

# RUSH



USS RUSHMORE MAGAZINE | VOL. 1 ISS. 6

**STRENGTHENING  
SRI LANKA  
RELATIONS  
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**DOUBLE  
TROUBLE  
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## TEAM RUSHMORE,

Since the last edition of "RUSH" we have transited over 13,000 nautical miles; visited Sri Lanka, India and Pearl Harbor; conducted theatre presence operations in the Arabian Sea, and crossed both the Indian & Pacific Oceans. We've had a busy couple of months!

One of our command goals over the course of the deployment has been "to return to San Diego better than when we left", and I'm proud to say that we have continually met this goal throughout our mission. Over 110 Enlisted Surface Warfare pins earned, 8 Surface Warfare Officer pins earned, and 45 advancements all while safely steaming halfway around the globe and conducting numerous exercises and operations. Because of you, our Blue-Green team, the ship has remained in great shape, and we're returning to San Diego with a ship full of seasoned, deployment hardened veterans (and some "trusty Shellbacks!").

I want to thank you again for the dedication and hard work that you have continually put in since we left July 10. We've been away keeping freedom's blade polished and sharp.

Let's continue to press forward and return to home-port better than when we left!

**Commanding Officer**  
CDR Robert Tryon

**ON THE COVER:**

MUSCAT, OMAN (DEC. 9, 2018) LT. CMDR. GREGORY CRUM, CONDUCTS A DRESS BLUES UNIFORM INSPECTION ON THE FLIGHT DECK OF WHIDBEY ISLAND-CLASS DOCK LANDING SHIP USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47) DURING A REGULARLY SCHEDULED DEPLOYMENT OF THE ESSEX AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP (ARG) AND 13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT (MEU). (U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MC3 REYMUNDO A. VILLEGAS III)

# RUSHMORE, 13TH MEU STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIP WITH SRI LANKA

U.S. NAVY STORY AND PHOTOS BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS REYMUNDO A. VILLEGAS III

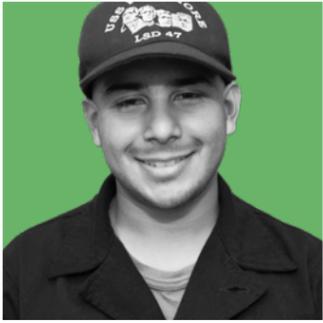
*Forward-deployed Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship*

*USS Rushmore (LSD 47) and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) completed a goodwill port visit to Colombo, Sri Lanka, on December 26.*

# LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS



## What did you enjoy about Sri Lanka?



**ANDREW CELIS**  
GUNNER'S MATE  
LOS ANGELES, CA

"I liked how much they celebrated Christmas. It felt like home. I also enjoyed the tuk tuk rides. I had a few cool drivers that showed me all the hidden gems of Colombo."



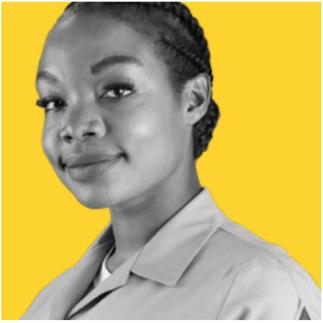
**RICHARD ROBILLOS**  
0331 | MACHINE GUNNER  
LONG BEACH, CA

"The greatest part about Sri Lanka was getting to experience and meet new people from a different culture."



**NAMIR MCDONALD**  
SEAMAN  
LAURINBURG, NC

"I had the most fun riding in tuk tuks. The streets were wild. I also got to check out a few holy temples. The infrastructure was amazing."



**RITAH LONE**  
FOOD SERVICE SPECIALIST  
NAIROBI, KENYA

"I really enjoyed the food and the people. They were super friendly and respectful. The city has so much culture. I had the opportunity to stay at a mansion where a queen used to live."



a visit to the Sigiriya Rock fortress, visiting an elephant orphanage, and white water rafting. The crew also enjoyed shopping, tuk tuk rides and fine cuisine.

Rushmore is the second ship from the Essex Amphibious Ready Group (ESXARG) and 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) to visit Sri Lanka and interact with the Sri Lankan Navy. USS Anchorage (LPD 23) visited Trincomalee, Sri Lanka in August where they built relationships the Sri Lankan Naval Academy Midshipmen and distinguished visitors.

The ESXARG is comprised of Rushmore, Anchorage and USS Essex (LHD 2) and the 13th MEU. The ESXARGMEU is currently deployed to the 7th fleet area of operations to support regional stability, reassure partners and allies and maintain a presence postured to respond to any crisis ranging from humanitarian

assistance to contingency operations.

For more information, visit [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil), [www.facebook.com/usnavy](http://www.facebook.com/usnavy) or [www.twitter.com/usnavy](http://www.twitter.com/usnavy).

For more news from USS Rushmore (LSD 47), visit <http://www.rushmore.navy.mil> and <https://www.facebook.com/USSRushmore>.



COLOMBO, SRI LANKA (DEC. 21, 2018) SAILORS MAN RENDER HONORS WHILE MANNING THE RAILS OF WHIDBEY ISLAND-CLASS DOCK LANDING SHIP USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47).

Rushmore hosted Sri Lankan naval officers on board upon her arrival on December 21. Rushmore's commanding officer (CO), Cmdr. Robert Tryon, executive officer, Cmdr. Robin Marling, command master chief, Command Master Chief Joseph Silveira, along with the 13th MEU's Commander of Troops (COT) Lt. Col. Bryan Hatfield and Sgt. Maj. Jeremy Lirette welcomed the Sri Lankan navy officers in Rushmore's wardroom mess for a port visit brief and refreshments.

Rushmore's CO and the 13th MEU's COT also participated in an office call, December 22, where they were able to sit down and meet Rear Admiral Ulugetenne, Sri Lanka Navy Commander of the Western Naval Area.

"The Sri Lanka Navy provided great support to Rushmore's visit," said Tryon. "It was an honor to be able to meet Rear Admiral Ulugetenne and have the opportunity to thank him in person for hosting our Sailors and Marines."

Sailors and Marines embarked on Rushmore were given the opportunity to build and strengthen relationships with community of Sri Lanka by partaking in the local culture via Morale, Welfare, and Recreation tours. The tours consisted of a Colombo City Tour,

**"It was an honor to be able to meet Rear Admiral Ulugetenne and have the opportunity to thank him in person for hosting our Sailors and Marines."**

# DECEMBER IN REVIEW

# BLUE GREEN SPOTLIGHT



**SN HENESSEY ALBA**  
USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47)

**HOMETOWN:** BICOL, PHILIPPINES

**TIME IN THE NAVY:** I'VE BEEN IN 2 YEARS.

**JOB TITLE:** DECK DEPARTMENT YEOMAN

**DEPLOYMENT GOALS:** TO GET MY ESUS AND PICK UP A RATE.

**BEST ADVICE FOR SAILORS:** DON'T LET ANYONE TELL YOU "NO."

**HOBBIES/INTERESTS:** DRAW AND WATCHING MOVIES.

**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** "GREY'S ANATOMY"

**FAVORITE MOVIE:** "A WALK TO REMEMBER"

**FAVORITE BOOK:** "FREEDOM WRITERS"

**MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT FROM DEPLOYMENT:** WHEN I GET GO-KART RACING IN BAHRAIN WITH MY FRIENDS.



**LANCE CPL. ALEXIS FERRACHO**  
BATTALION LANDING TEAM 3/1

**HOMETOWN:** PINION HILLS, CALIFORNIA

**TIME IN THE MARINES:** TWO YEARS.

**JOB TITLE:** MOS 0331/MACHINE GUNNER

**DEPLOYMENT GOALS:** EXPERIENCE THE WORLD FIRST HAND.

**BEST ADVICE FOR MARINES:** QUITTING ISN'T AN OPTION.

**HOBBIES/INTERESTS:** RUNNING, LISTENING TO MUSIC, AND READING

**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** "GAME OF THRONES"

**FAVORITE MOVIE:** "FREEDOM WRITERS"

**FAVORITE BOOK:** "BENEATH A SCARLET SKY"

**MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT FROM DEPLOYMENT:** TRAINING WITH THE EMIRATIS IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

## SAILORS, MARINES

# ABOARD RUSHMORE VISIT INDIA

**U.S. NAVY STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY MASS COMMUNICATIONS  
SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS  
REYMUNDO A. VILLEGAS III**



the U.S. and Indian navies. The ESXARG is comprised of Rushmore, Anchorage and USS Essex (LHD 2) and the 13th MEU. The ESXARGMEU is currently deployed to the 7th fleet area of operations to support regional stability, reassure partners and allies and maintain a presence postured to respond to any crisis ranging from humanitarian assistance to contingency operations. to support regional stability, reassure partners and allies and maintain a presence postured to respond to any crisis ranging from humanitarian assistance to contingency operations.

For more news from USS Rushmore (LSD 47), visit <http://www.rushmore.navy.mil>

*“Though this is a brief logistics and refueling port visit for Rushmore, everyone onboard is looking forward to touring Chennai and enjoying some well-deserved liberty.”*

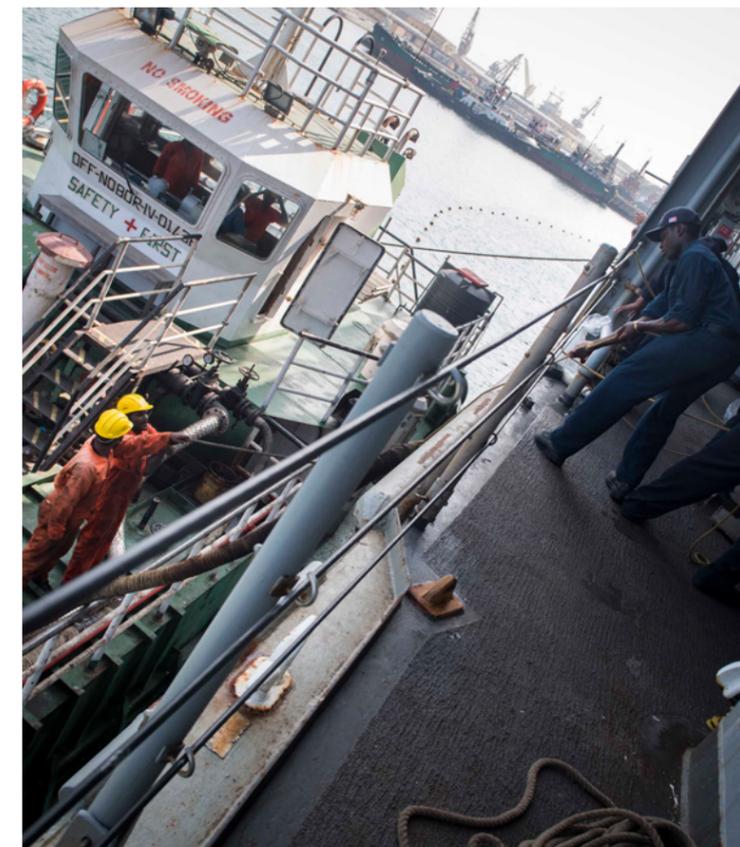
CHENNAI, India (NNS) -- Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship USS Rushmore (LSD 47) and 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) arrived in Chennai, India, Jan 23.

While in port, Rushmore will refuel and host Indian Navy personnel, while its embarked Sailors and Marines will have opportunities to tour the local area.

“Rushmore Sailors and Marines are excited to visit Chennai and we appreciate the very warm welcome,” said Cmdr. Robert Tryon,

commanding officer of Rushmore. “Though this is a brief logistics and refueling port visit for Rushmore, everyone onboard is looking forward to touring Chennai and enjoying some well-deserved liberty.”

Following USS Anchorage’s (LPD 23) visit to Visakhapatnam in December, this is the second time Essex Amphibious Ready Group (ESXARG) and 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) personnel visited India in recent weeks and reflects a growing relationship between



# JANUARY IN REVIEW



# HARD

## *Chargers*

It's no secret that United States military personnel work days consist of long hours and hard work. Beyond those that work hard are individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty. While every branch and installation has their own unique terms for their service members who go the extra mile, USS Rushmore (LSD 47) recognizes these service members as "Hard Chargers." While underway, Rushmore recognizes hard charging personnel who put in the extra man hours.

The Captain of the ship, Cmdr. Robert Tryon, visits with one motivated Sailor or Marine and thanks them for their hard work with their department present. As a sign of gratitude, he presents the "Hard Charger" with his personal command challenge coin and announces them over the 1MC to all embarked aboard the ship.

The challenge coin is a staple of American military tradition. It instills pride, improves morale and rewards excellence.

USS RUSHMORE

THE COMMANDING



LSD 47

BY ROB TRYON



# || A DOUBLE DOSE OF *Mañoza* ||

BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS REYMUNDO A. VILLEGAS III | PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY ENS. GENESIS MANOZA

**Twin** siblings share a variety of things growing up - matching outfits, friends, hairstyles; the list goes on. Twin sisters Ens. Genesis Mañoza, assigned to USS Rushmore (LSD 47), and Ens. Faith Mañoza, assigned to Navy Information Operations Command Hawaii, are no exception to this norm.

However, these twins have shared more than just their birthdays.

These women share a unique naval career together. "After we graduated from college, we decided to submit our applications to Officer Candidate School (OCS)," said Genesis. "My sister and I had been working on our packages before graduation was even a thought."

Both sisters graduated from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology.



“Your first salute is a very memorable and special thing,” said Genesis. “We both were blessed to be able to receive our first salute from our dad. He was who inspired us to start this journey.” Although these women share a naval career together, much like their personalities, their jobs and Navy experiences have also varied greatly.

“I was accepted for supply, and Faith was accepted for supply and crypto,” said Genesis. “Faith’s choice of crypto took her to school in Virginia Beach, Virginia and Pensacola, Florida, while I went to school in New Port, Rhode Island. Now I am stationed in California, and she is stationed in Hawaii.”

Genesis said the two have been inseparable their whole lives. Although they may not be together physically, distance has not changed their bond.

“We try to talk as much as possible and continue to support each other’s goals every day,” said Genesis. “For example, we are both in the process of obtaining our warfare pins right now, and we are constantly motivating one another to get done what needs to be done.”

Genesis is currently deployed with Rushmore and hasn’t seen Faith since she commissioned in February 2018.

**“I really hopeful that my sister will be waiting on the pier to greet me when I return home,” said Genesis. “This is my first deployment and getting to see her would mean the world to me. We have so much time to make up for.”**



***“We wanted to follow in our dad’s footsteps and continue his legacy of naval service.”***

“While we both had our degrees, we wanted to follow in our dad’s footsteps and continue his legacy of naval service,” said Genesis. “Our dad served for 28 and a half years and retired as an Senior Chief Electrical Gas Turbine Systems Technician, and we wanted to make him and our mom proud.”

While the Mañoza twins were born minutes apart, their career was born weeks apart.

“Although Faith found out she was accepted first, I started OCS six weeks prior to her,” said Genesis. “My sister was a bridesmaid at her best friend’s wedding, so she pushed her start date back, so that she could be there for that.”

Much like in grade school, the twins caused their instructors some confusion at OCS.

“When my sister arrived she had to do the routine urinalysis,” said Genesis.

“My Recruit Division Commander (RDC) was at urinalysis, and when she saw my sister, she thought my sister was me. My RDC asked her why ‘I’ was there because she had just conducted a uniform inspection with me earlier that day. Later that day, both of our classes happened to be at chow. My RDC called me up to her and said, ‘Why didn’t you tell us you had a twin!?’”

Having a twin can also pose several challenges. Throughout life, twins are often compared to one another because they share the same face. They are expected to share the same motivation, intelligence, and behavior. While some twins can find this frustrating, these sisters are driven by this stigma.

“Our RDCs compared us in a positive way,” said Genesis. “They used my experience at OCS to motivate my sister. On one occasion, they spoke to her and told her, ‘I know you look up to your sister. She’s doing really well, and you’re going to do well too.’”

Upon the sisters’ completion of OCS, they both had the special moment of sharing their “first salute” at their graduations with their dad.

# Aloha

## ESSEX ARGMEU VISITS HAWAII

**U.S. NAVY STORY BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS  
MC2 CHANDLER HARRELL, USS ESSEX PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**P**EARL HARBOR, Hawaii - The Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2), other ships of the Essex Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), and embarked 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) visited Pearl Harbor, Feb. 18-20.

"Pearl Harbor is rich in military history and its strategic location places it center stage in the Pacific," said Capt. Gerald Olin, commander, Amphibious Squadron 1. "

The harbors and bases the Navy uses here are among the very best in the world and help ensure that naval forces in the Pacific are trained and ready to respond to any contingency. We are glad to have an opportunity to visit this wonderful port and help strengthen the Navy's iron-clad relationship with Hawaii."

Upon arrival to Pearl Harbor, the crew manned the rails and rendered honors to the fallen when passing the USS Arizona Memorial.

"It's important not to lose sight of our history," said Essex Command Master Chief Matthew Danforth. "It's a somber reminder of the cost of freedom. Even now, we give our thanks to those who join us in our fight to keep our families, friends and countrymen safe."

While in Hawaii, Sailors and Marines had a chance to enjoy and explore the island of Oahu. Additionally, the ships brought aboard friends and family members, known as "tigers." During the Tiger Cruise, Sailors and Marines will have the chance to show their "tigers" what life on aboard a Navy ship is like.

"I'm personally very excited at the opportunity to show our family and friends what life at sea is all about," said Capt. Brian Mutty, Essex's commanding officer. "It's a great opportunity to showcase our incredible Sailors and the crucial missions they execute."

During their deployment the Navy, Marine Corps team participated in amphibious exercises with partner nations in the 6th, 7th and 5th Fleet areas of operation. Additionally, this deployment marked the first time the F-35B, Lightning II conducted combat operations in the Central Command area of responsibility.

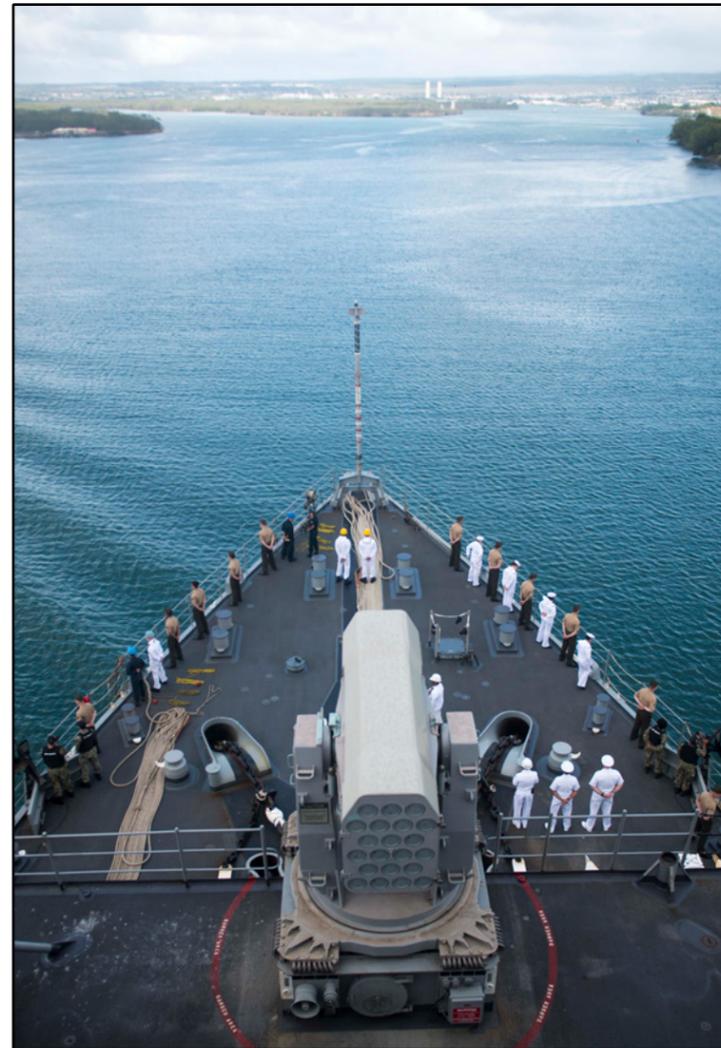
"We set out to strengthen partnerships with our allies and demonstrate our combat capabilities," said Olin. "The Sailors and Marines of the ARG worked hard as a team to make this successful."

The Essex ARG includes the Essex, San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS Anchorage (LPD 23) and Whidbey Island-class amphibious dock landing ship USS Rushmore (LSD 47). The 13th MEU, Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 1 and the "Blackjacks" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 21 are also embarked aboard the ships.



PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII (FEB. 16, 2019) SAILORS AND MARINES MAN THE RAILS OF WHIDBEY ISLAND-CLASS DOCK LANDING SHIP USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47). (U.S. MARINE PHOTO BY CPL. DANNY GONZALEZ)

# FEBRUARY IN REVIEW





ARABIAN SEA (JAN. 16, 2019) - ENGINEMAN 2ND CLASS RYAN ARELLANO, LEFT FRONT, AND ENGINEMAN 2ND CLASS YADIEL VASQUEZPEREZ PIN PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS INSIGNIA ON MACHINIST'S MATE 3RD CLASS NATHANIEL RANGRU DURING AN AWARDS CEREMONY HELD ON THE FLIGHT DECK OF WHIDBEY ISLAND-CLASS DOCK LANDING SHIP USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47). (U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MC3 REYMUNDO A. VILLEGAS III)