



The Shores

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Bringing the Ship to Life:

Build and Sustain, Part 3: Putting It Together

Story and Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Peter Burghart



190530-N-XN177-1080 SAN DIEGO (May 30, 2019) Quartermaster Seaman Apprentice Sophia V. Puentes, assigned to Pre-Commissioning Detachment (PCD) *Tripoli* (LHA 7), observes operations while underway aboard the amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA 6). America is conducting routine operations in preparation for its homeport shift to Japan. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Peter Burghart/Released).

SAN DIEGO – As the Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) *Tripoli* (LHA 7) moves closer to joining the fleet, its Sailors continue along the path towards bringing the ship to life. For the Sailors assigned to the Navy's newest amphibious assault ship, it starts small with basic in-port watches, and then progresses to on the job training or OJT. The next step in training our Sailors attached to a Pre-

Commissioning Unit is having them go underway. For some, these short periods at sea are a refresher, but for many, it's their first taste of the Navy's primary mission. "It can be intimidating at first and you think you know what's going to happen, but just go with the flow" said Boatswain's Mate Seaman Apprentice Hope Horn. Horn added that it was nice because, "You have leadership

above you that helps you and guides you along the way."

Like any temporary assigned duty (TAD), Sailors are sent to ships based on the needs of *Tripoli*, the needs of the Sailors and the needs of the ship they are going to. The schedule of the TAD ships also plays a factor in determining when the Sailors are sent underway and for how long.

To capitalize on opportunities for underway periods on the same platform, a majority of *Tripoli* Sailors have spent time onboard *Tripoli*'s sister ship, USS America (LHA 6) before its homeport shift to Japan.

"It felt good to be back on the flight deck and launching aircraft," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 2nd Class

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From the Commanding Officer



"You all are the right people at the right time to prepare Tripoli for the future."

- Capt. Kevin P. Meyers

Hello once again Team *Tripoli*!

We've crossed over into a new fiscal year and just this past weekend, we wrapped up our Navy's 244th birthday celebration! Our ceremony was put on by our Second Class Petty Officer's Association in their first major event and it was extremely well done. Our theme this year was "no higher

honor" and specifically focused on commemorating the heroism demonstrated by our Sailors during the Battle of Leyte Gulf, an event often revered as the greatest sea battle in American history. One of our American ships that was lost during the battle was USS Johnston, a Fletcher class destroyer. Upon her commissioning, the captain, Commander Ernest Evans, told his crew, "This is going to be a fighting ship. I intend to go in harm's way." Commander Evans stayed true to his word and bravely led his crew into the charge against Japanese enemy forces whose goal was preventing U.S. troops on the ground from landing on the Philippine Islands. Evans and his crew successfully turned back the Japanese, allowing U.S. forces to secure the islands, something that ultimately paved the way to Allied victory in the Pacific.

Like USS Johnston, *Tripoli* must also be prepared to go into harm's way and her crew must have the same grit and perseverance in the face of adversity. I already know that you do. You all are the right people at the right time to prepare *Tripoli* for the future.

Looking ahead to our schedule, we are about to conduct a demonstration of the electronic anchor windlass assembly. Following that we will be conducting an assessment for acceptance trials by the Bureau of Inspection and Survey, which sets us up for final delivery. That should happen prior to our Christmas break. For those of you in San Diego, you can anticipate moving onboard in the late February 2020 time frame. From there the pace of things really ramps up as we move toward Sail Away and commissioning. The commissioning date is still firming up, but we are looking at the middle of June of 2020. So, for those of you who have been here from the beginning, and you thought we might never quite get there, the light is shining at the end of the tunnel.

Bringing the Ship to Life:

Build and Sustain, Pt. 3: Life at Sea

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Story by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Peter Burghart

Christopher Innocent from New York. “It gives them an idea what their job is. Showing is better than telling.”

Getting underway gives Sailors a chance to experience the rhythm of life at sea first hand, and how it differs from when the ship is pier-side.

“It’s very helpful because I get to actually see how things are done,” said Horn. “I did line handling, some maintenance, I’ve driven the ship a few times.”

For Sailors who aren’t on their first tour, getting back out to sea is equally important. Many are heading back to sea after shore duty, while others are changing to a completely new platform or both.

“The most surprising thing was how different they do things compared to other ships I’ve been on and been TAD to,” said Innocent.

Another advantage of getting underway for Sailors is finding out how they will work with each other to execute their primary mission in a shipboard environment.

The Sailors also get a chance to see what the challenges of life at sea really are when they become part of a crew that exceeds 1,200 service members.

“Being TAD, you’re kind of the new guy on different ships over and over again which is kind of difficult,” said Fire Controlman 3rd Class Justin Coffey. “I liked the bonding you have and you get to see a lot of cool things.”



190529-N-XN177-1031 SAN DIEGO (May 29, 2019) Capt. Lonnie L. Appleget, executive officer of Pre-Commissioning Detachment (PCD) *Tripoli* (LHA 7), observes flight deck operations while underway aboard the amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA 6). America is conducting routine operations in preparation for its homeport shift to Japan. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Peter Burghart/Released).



190529-N-XN177-1036 SAN DIEGO (May 29, 2019) Operations Specialist 2nd Class Isaac Orozco and Operations Specialist 3rd Class Darron Suggs assigned to Pre-Commissioning Detachment (PCD) *Tripoli* (LHA 7) observe operations while underway aboard the amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA 6). America is conducting routine operations in preparation for its homeport shift to Japan. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Peter Burghart/Released).

XO's Corner



Tripoli teammates,

We are right in the middle of a very busy season. We've concluded the latest round of advancement exams, we promoted our

new Chief Petty Officers, and we are wrapping up another PFA cycle. Fitness is a year round effort, so don't lose sight of fitness goals as soon as the current cycle concludes. A fit and healthy crew is required in order to safely and effectively operate our ship! Make it a habit to stay motivated for your health and fitness.

We are in the process of moving people to Pascagoula. The milestones are inching by, and while the schedule has had a few significant delays, we are getting ever so close to moving aboard and bringing OUR ship to life. Next up is acceptance trials. Our first wave of moving Sailors has brought about 60 personnel to Pascagoula. Next month an additional 120 Sailors will make the trip, and as CO mentioned, at the beginning of the New Year we will continue phasing the remaining crew to Pascagoula to be ready to move aboard in late February 2020.

Keep pressing and stay focused – now more than ever. Keep knocking out your training and qualifications. Make both your personal and professional goals a priority. Don't lose sight of what's to come.

***"Keep pressing
and stay focused"***

- Capt. Lonnie L.

Appleget

From the CMC

Team *Tripoli*,

As we move closer towards completion and move-aboard, things are going to start moving very fast, very quickly. Everyone needs to be aware of the road ahead. It will not be easy, but nothing worth anything ever is. Please take the time you need over the holidays with your families. The holiday leave periods have been put out. The time of long days and nights will be fast upon us. People are our greatest resource, and a good work-life balance is crucial. Much will be asked of you in the

coming months and I am confident that you are all up to the challenge. To echo a bit of what the XO said, keep your goals a priority, both personal and professional. As we start to migrate folks to Pascagoula there will be INDOC classes to familiarize you with this new area. The weather is different, the amenities are different, this is not a fleet concentration area like San Diego, however there are resources available. Continue to employ all lifelines, from your LPO and Chief, to the subject matter experts, the Chaplains, the CMEO, and if you can't find what you're looking for, drop a line in my suggestion box. I'm looking forward to having all of us

together eventually, and accomplishing the work we need to do to get there. Now here's your quote: "The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand." Vince Lombardi



Honoring the Fallen From September 11th





This page: *Tripoli* Sailors volunteer at the Tijuana River Estuary removing invasive plant species.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



"Life, Liberty and Justice for All" are the ideals that were purposefully crafted by our nation's Founding Fathers. And although these ideals caused "friction" between people and nations, they served as an impetus which forged the founding of these United States of America. Likewise, Team *Tripoli* will purposefully and respectfully exchange ideas. And among Chiefs, Heads of Departments, and Sailors, there will be "friction". A persistent friction to attain "mission readiness" will undoubtedly shape our "Warrior Ethos" as the first crew of USS *Tripoli* (LHA -7). This "Warrior Ethos" will enable us to fight in the air, on land, upon the sea and Win!
 – "In AERE, TERRAM, MARIQUE".

I, Chaplain Mack, am honored to serve as your Command Chaplain. Also, I am fortunate to join Chaplain Robinson, RP1 Thomas, and RP3 Farmer in the excellent service that they have provided to the *Tripoli* team prior to my arrival. As I join this team; allow me to share a few statements about myself as one of the newest members of the ship and the Command Religious Ministry Department (CRMD). Listed below is some background information about me:

- Raised in our nation's capital area.
- Married with 5 children, 3 of them are young adults.
- Ordained through American Baptist Churches, USA
- Served as Scouts BSA 2501 Troop Chaplain in my local church in Reston, VA.

I share these areas of my life with you for the following reasons:

1. Always remember where you come from because our varied backgrounds combined with cooperation will make us a better team.
2. Our families and communities are the reasons we do "hard things" when called upon by our nation during peace and war. Our families are worth bidding our nation's business whenever and however long we are needed.
3. Whatever job you have to do, do it so well that others succeed.
4. Finally, maintain a balance in your daily work with hobbies that personally develop you.

Well, that is all for now. I look forward to meeting you on the deck plates. Let's continue to prepare ourselves to ready the ship to sail the seas now!

CREDO Retreat & Workshop Summary

CREDO Retreats & Workshops are FREE (including meals and rooms) and are open Active Duty and their immediate family members. Receipt of a registration for with your command's approval locks a spot. Retreat registration typically opens six weeks in advance and fills quickly. If the event you would like to go to is full, you may still sign up and be put on a waiting list. Search for the CREDO office names below on Facebook.

CREDO Southwest (San Diego, CA)	Registration: 619-532-1508	CREDOSW@navy.mil
• Marriage Enrichment Retreat (Coronado, CA)	November 15-17	
CREDO Southeast (Jacksonville, FL)	Registration: 305-293-2318	CNRSE_CREDO@navy.mil
• (Separate flyer to follow with updated information. CREDO schedule with be updated after Oct 1st)		
CREDO Mid-Atlantic (Norfolk, VA & Groton, CT)	Registration: 757-444-7654	CREDO_CNRMA.FCT@navy.mil
• Family Enrichment Retreat	October 12-14 (full)	
• Marriage Enrichment Retreat	October 27-29	
• Marriage Enrichment Retreat	November 15-17	
CREDO Marine Forces Reserve (New Orleans, LA)	Registration: 504-697-8092	MFR_retreats@usmc.mil
• Marriage Enrichment Retreat (Portland, ME)	October 04-06	
• ASIST (New Orleans, LA, MCSF)	October 30-31	
• Marriage Enrichment Retreat (Knoxville, TN)	November 15-17	
• Marriage Enrichment Retreat (San Antonio, TX)	December 06-08	

Stay motivated! Blessings,
 V/R
 Tripoli Religious Ministry Team
 E-mail us at: CHAPS@lha7.navy.mil

CDR LeRoy. G. Mack, III, CHC, USN
 RP1 (EXW/FMF) William D. Thomas
 PCU San Diego Office: 228-935-0873

LT Daniel J. Robinson, CHC, USN
 RP3 Kyle A. Farmer
 PCD San Diego Office: 619-556-3627
 Tripoli Chaplain Duty Phone: 619-708-7421

Registration forms may be found on the share drive: K:\All Hands\All_Hands - FULL\Chaplain\CREDO Programs
ASIST – Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (2 days) more info: <https://www.livingworks.net/programs/>
Retreats – CREDO retreats are 3 days and 2 nights. They typically start Friday night and end Sunday about noon.
Workshops – CREDO workshops are 1 day. They typically start at 0900 and end about 1500. Look for local times.
 For a map with all CREDO office locations nationwide: <https://www.navy.mil/local/chaplaincorps/CREDO-Map.html>

Living Works



CREDO Map







This page: *Tripoli* Sailors enjoy the command picnic following the Navy's 244th birthday ceremony.



From the DECKPLATES

Who inspires you?

"I'm inspired by people who made a living for themselves out of nothing."

MASN Cristin Alexander



"John F. Kennedy's inaugural speech inspires me."

CTRSA Griffin Shull



"My grandpa inspired me to join the Navy because he was in the Navy."

AOAN Rachel Perry



"Chief Hernandez inspires me by the way he carries himself."

ABHAN Aaron Maddox





This page: This page:
Tripoli pins its newest
Chief Petty Officers.



**Congratulations to
Tripoli's Newest Chiefs!**



This page:
Tripoli pins
its newest
Chief Petty
Officers.





This page: *Tripoli*
pins its newest Chief
Petty Officers.





This page:

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CAREER COUNSELOR'S CORNER

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Tuition Assistance (TA) is the Navy's primary financial assistance program for voluntary education. TA provides funding to eligible active duty Sailors for tuition costs of courses taken in an off-duty status at a college, university, or vocational/technical institution, whose regional or national accreditation is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Navy TA pays for both classroom and independent study/distance learning courses. Associate, bachelor's, and master's level courses must be offered in semester hours or quarter hours ([NAVADMIN 105/10](#)). Certificate programs can be administered in semester hours, quarter hours or clock hours and be on the list of programs approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs ([NAVADMIN 219/16](#)). Credit earned must be documented on the institution's transcript.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Navy TA is available to eligible active duty Sailors and to eligible Naval Reservists serving in an active duty status.

To qualify for TA, Sailors must meet the following requirements:

Must have been onboard at least one year at first permanent duty station or granted a waiver by the CO or OIC before using TA ([NAVADMIN 190/14](#)).

- Must be on active duty for the duration of the course term.
 - Attend an institution accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
 - Prior to submitting first TA request, receive counseling from a Navy College Education Counselor from an OCONUS Navy College Office (NCO) or from the Navy College Virtual Education Center (NCVEC).
 - Submit an education plan listing all courses required for program completion and receive education plan approval from a Navy College Education Counselor.
- Ensure that grades are posted in MyNavy Education for all previous TA funded courses, and reimburse TA funds for all [collectible grades](#).

Tuition Assistance will only cover tuition up to the allotted per credit limit and up to the fiscal year cap. TA does NOT cover books and materials, Academic Institution fees (to include flight training), nor retakes of the same course. WHAT ARE THE TA CAPS?

Beginning 1 October 2019, per NAVADMIN 114/19, payment for tuition will not exceed the following caps:

- 12 semester hours with a limit of \$250.00 per semester hour
 - 18 quarter hours with \$166.67 per quarter hour
 - \$16.67 per clock hour (for approved certificate/diploma programs only)
- TA and NCPACE DL will be limited to a fiscal year cap of 12 semester hours, 18 quarter hours, or 180 clock hours (or combination). The fiscal year cap applies to both TA and NCPACE DL combined. TA and NCPACE DL will be limited to a lifetime cap of 120 semester hours, 180 quarter hours, 1800 clock hours (or combination). The lifetime credit cap applies to both TA and NCPACE DL combined.



Tripoli 101

Air Support: The CH-53



Aviation Boatswain's Mates deliver landing signals to a CH-53 Sea Stallion on the flight deck of USS *America* (LHA 6) (U.S. Navy by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ramon Go/Released)

accommodate between 30-55 troops based on model and set up. The different CH-53 models can also carry up to 37,000 pounds of cargo either internally or on an external sling over 500 nautical miles.

If the mission calls for the Super Stallion to go farther, it is capable of mid-air refueling.

Early models of the CH-53 earned acclaim for their role in the evacuation of Saigon, Operation Frequent Wind. For 14 years the CH-53 and its subsequent versions were produced until they were succeeded by the Super Stallion variant. They were such a success that at one point it served in the air forces of six allied nations.

The Sea Stallions of Vietnam later gave way to the CH-53E Super Stallion beginning in the late 1970s. While still in service today, Super Stallion is now making way for the CH-53K King Stallion. This variation started delivery in 2018 and features improvements in the engines, rotor blades and cockpit and is now the largest helicopter in US military. The King Stallion is slated to start operational use later this year, and will be a significant component of *Tripoli's* air wing for years to come.

Tripoli's support of U.S. Marine Corps air power spans wide assortment of aircraft. Some are relatively new to the air new to the fleet, such as the V-22 Osprey and F-35B Lightning II. Others are the latest models of battle proven airframes such as the massive CH-53E Super Stallion and the CH-53K King Stallion.

For the Marines that will be serving on *Tripoli*, the Super Stallion variant will fulfill their needs. Some of those needs include assault transport, aircraft recovery, personnel transport and medical evacuation.

The CH-53E has a crew of five, two pilots, a crew chief and two gunners. The crew chief also serves as a gunner when the mission requires it. With a similar mission profile to the V-22, the CH-53s can

The CH-53 variants share a common trait with the *Tripoli*, they are improvements on platforms still currently used by the Navy and Marine Corps team. The Super and King Stallions are the latest variant of the Marines' Vietnam era heavy lift work horse, the Sea Stallion. The Sea Stallion itself came from the United States Air Force's version the CH-53 Jolly Green Giant, which itself was a version of a Navy classic, the Sikorsky S-61 Sea King. During Vietnam the Marines needed a heavy lift helicopter, and they felt that the "Jolly Greens" of the Air Force wouldn't meet the Corp's needs. After an intense competition between the Prototype Sea Stallion YCH-53A and the US Army's CH-47 Chinook, the Marines decided the Sea Stallion was the best fit for them.



The Previous USS *Tripoli* (LPH 10) conducts operations at sea with CH-53 Sea Stallion aircraft on board. (U.S. Navy file photo).