

# BATARG BEACH

Issue 11



BATARG Returns Home

# BATARG BEACON

The official magazine for the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group

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### USS New York (LPD 21)

Commanding Officer: Capt. Pete Kennedy  
Executive Officer: Cmdr. Daniel Hollingshead  
Command Master Chief: CMDCM Ben Hodges

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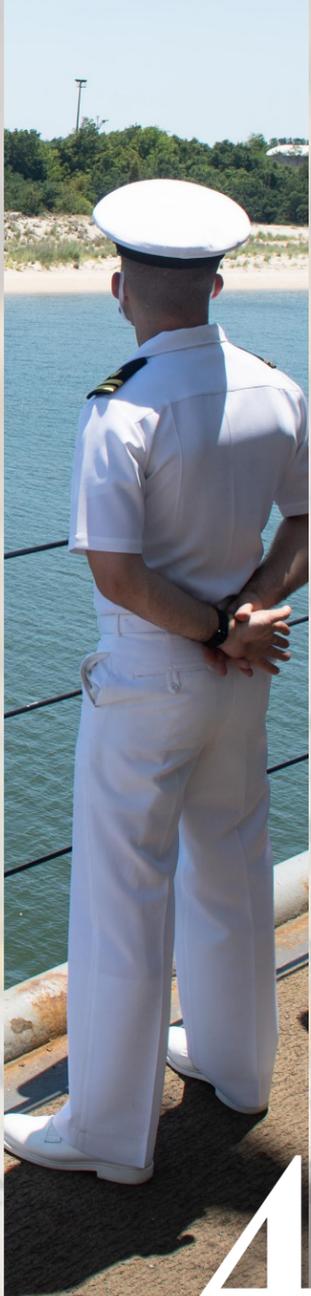
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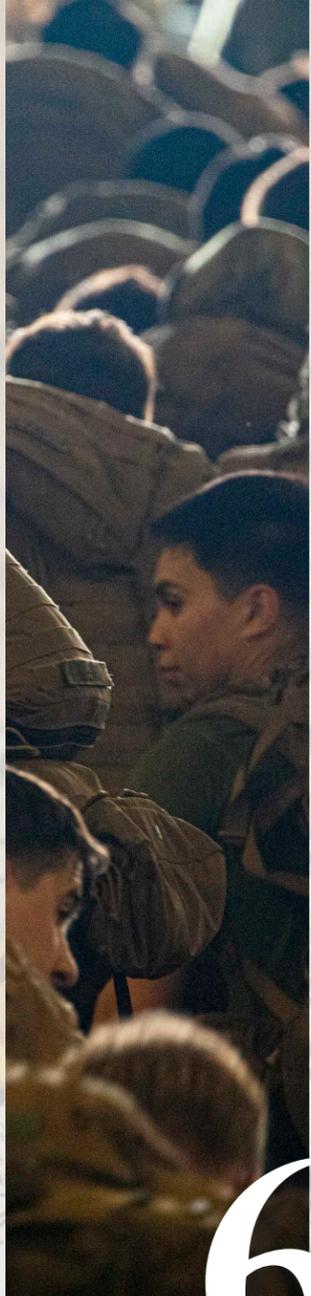
Cover photo:

ailors assigned to the amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51), man the rails while returning to homeport, July 15, 2020. Photo by MC3 Griffin Kersting.



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USS Oak Hill is first of BATARG ships to return home from a seven-month deployment.



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# HOMECOMING

## BATARG returns home

Story by Bataan Amphibious Ready Group Public Affairs, photo by MC3 Griffin Kersting

The Bataan Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and embarked 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) are returning from deployment this month, marking the end of a seven-month deployment to the U.S. 2nd, 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operation.

The first of the ARG ships, the Harpers Ferry-class amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) returned to Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on July 15.

“I am tremendously proud of what the Sailors and Marines of the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group and 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit accomplished during this deployment, during which our team worked tirelessly to remain fully mission ready during the unprecedented challenge of a global pandemic,” said Capt. Lance Leshner, who served as commander of the ARG through its pre-deployment workup cycle and deployment until conducting a

change of command at sea, July 12. The Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) and the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21) are expected to return to Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia, and Naval Station Mayport, Florida, respectively, in the coming days.

The MEU departed ARG shipping and returned to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, the week of July 13.

The ARG ships and MEU departed for deployment from their respective home bases in December. Bataan remained at sea for more than 150 consecutive days before returning home.

“The crews onboard USS Bataan, USS New York and USS Oak Hill should feel great satisfaction and fulfillment knowing that, during this deployment, they played a crucial role as part of a premier crisis response team across the U.S. 2nd Fleet, 5th Fleet and 6th Fleet areas of operation,”

said Leshner. “The daily actions of our Sailors and Marines over the past seven months have made a positive impact on the world, and I’m pleased they will now be reunited with their friends, families and loved ones.”

Leshner turned over command of the ARG to Capt. Jason Rimmer in a change-of-command ceremony at sea onboard Bataan in the Atlantic Ocean.

Rimmer previously served as the commanding officer of the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) during its 2019 deployment to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations as the flagship of the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group.

“It has been inspiring to get to know the Sailors and Marines of the ARG/MEU team in recent days and I am incredibly impressed by what this group of hardworking men and women has been able to accomplish on this challenging deployment,” said Rimmer.

“Our families, friends and loved ones

at home should be proud not only of the Sailors and Marines who deployed, but of their own service as well,” he continued. “Their love, support and watch over the homefront over the course of the last seven months has given our ARG/MEU team the strength and confidence it has needed to stay focused and ready to carry out any mission our nation has asked of it.”

While in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations, the Bataan ARG and 26th MEU remained healthy and fully mission ready by working with regional partners. The blue-green team worked with partners from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to coordinate multiple complex training evolutions on the uninhabited Karan and Kurayn islands in the Arabian Gulf, as well as with partners from the United Arab Emirates to hold training in an isolated location in that country.

While in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations, the ARG/MEU increased interoperability with regional allies and partners by conducting maneuvering operations and at-sea exercises with navy and coast guard ships from Turkey, Bulgaria, Georgia and Romania in the Black Sea. The

crew additionally worked with allied ships from France and Italy during their time in the Mediterranean Sea.

U.S. Marine Corps UH-1Y Venoms and AH-1W Super Cobras assigned to the 26th MEU additionally participated in a live-fire training exercise in Bize, Albania. The Sailors and Marines of the ARG/MEU also strengthened international partnerships by hosting the head of the Royal Jordanian Navy and deputy commander of Kuwait Naval Forces aboard Bataan in separate visits that reinforced shared goals and fostered personal relationships.

Throughout the deployment the BAT ARG/MEU strictly adhered to the CDC, Department of Defense and host nations’ coronavirus (COVID-19) guidelines to mitigate contracting and spreading the virus and to maintain the health and readiness of the crew.

There are more than 4,000 Sailors and Marines assigned to the units of the ARG/MEU, nearly 2,500 of which were deployed aboard the Bataan.

“Big 5’s crew is tough and resilient and I could not be more proud of these

Sailors and Marines – the men and women of Bataan,” said Capt. Bryan Carmichael, commanding officer of the Bataan. “We’ve supported commanders in U.S. 5th, 6th, and 2nd fleets, improved coalition partnerships, and deterred aggressions everywhere in-between. It’s good to be home and it is my honor to serve as Bataan’s commanding officer as we are ready and excited to execute the next phase of Bataan’s legacy.”

Also embarked on the ships of the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group were the staff of Amphibious Squadron 8 and personnel from Tactical Air Control Squadron 22, Fleet Surgical Team 4, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 28, Naval Beach Group 2, Assault Craft Unit 4, Assault Craft Unit 2 and Beachmaster Unit 2.

ARG/MEUs operate continuously across the globe and provide the geographic combatant commanders with a forward-deployed, flexible and responsive sea-based Marine Air Ground Task Force. The blue-green team is fully capable of conducting operations across a full spectrum of conventional, unconventional and hybrid warfare.

# 26th MEU

## Returns from Deployment

*Story by Capt. Melissa Heisterburg, 26th MEU Communications, Strategy and Operations*

The 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit returned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, marking the end of a seven-month deployment to the U.S. 2nd, 5th and 6th Fleets with the USS Bataan Amphibious Ready Group.

While forward deployed aboard the ships of the USS Bataan ARG, the 26th MEU served as a crisis-response force for combatant commanders in the Europe, Africa and Central commands. The 26th MEU supported operations and engagements, conducted theater security cooperation activities with bilateral partners, and executed sustainment training to ensure the force was postured and prepared to respond to crises and contingencies.

“As a ‘certain force in an uncertain world’ the 26th MEU was flexible, resilient and adaptable while forward deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet and 6th Fleet areas of operation,” said Col. Trevor Hall, commanding officer of the 26th MEU. “This deployment presented unique challenges, but the Navy-Marine Corps team prevailed and incessantly provided our fleet commanders with a responsive, sea-based Marine Air-Ground Task Force – even during the global novel coronavirus pandemic.”

*cont.*



Marines assigned to the 26th MEU move gear onto an LCU, attached to Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 2, in the well deck of the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21), July 14, 2020. Photo by MC2 Lyle Wilkie



Above, Marines assigned to Fox Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/8, 26th MEU, unload their packs from a CH-53E Super Stallion on Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and below, Marines assigned to 26th MEU embark an LCU, attached to Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 2, in the well deck of the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21), July 14, 2020. Photos by Cpl. Tanner Seims and MC2 Lyle Wilkie.

Having deployed in December 2019, the 26th MEU was one of the few Marine Corps units forward deployed during the COVID-19 epidemic. As seaports and airports around the globe closed, the USS Bataan Amphibious Ready Group with embarked 26th MEU adapted and developed creative ways to maintain its readiness.

“This deployment presented unique challenges, but the Navy-Marine Corps team prevailed...” Col. Trevor Hall, 26th MEU commanding officer.

While operating in the Arabian Gulf, the MAGTF executed non-live fire and live-fire training in remote locations in the United Arab Emirates and on uninhabited Saudi Arabian islands. This training preserved the MEU’s readiness – while also reducing COVID-19 exposure, which allowed the ARGMEU to remain a COVID-

free force for the duration of its seven-month deployment.

Providing combatant and fleet commanders with sea-based aviation assets allows for versatility and extends the range of the ARGMEU’s combat radius. In U.S. 6th Fleet, the ARGMEU conducted interoperability exercises with regional partners. UH-1Y Venoms and AH-1W Super Cobras assigned to the MEU’s aviation combat element participated in a live-fire training exercise in Bize, Albania, and MV-22B Ospreys conducted deck landing qualifications aboard

the French Navy ship Mistral while operating in the Mediterranean Sea.

The 26th MEU is comprised of Battalion Landing Team 2/8, Combat Logistics Battalion 26 and Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365. Marines and Sailors assigned to the 26th MEU deployed aboard the flagship Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21) and the Harpers Ferry-class amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51).



# MEU OFFLOAD

### *Clockwise from top left:*

Marines assigned to the 26th MEU disembark the Bataan on MV-22B Ospreys, attached to the Blue Knights of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 365 (Reinforced), from the ship's flight deck, July 13, 2020. Photo by MC3 Lenny Weston.

Marines assigned to the 26th MEU prepare to disembark the Bataan, July 14, 2020. Photo by MC3 Levi Decker.

Marines assigned to the 26th MEU prepare to disembark the Bataan on a landing craft, air cushion (LCAC), attached to Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 4, in the ship's well deck, July 13, 2020. Photo by MCSN Darren Newell.

A Landing Craft Utility (LCU), attached Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 2, transits near the New York, July 14, 2020. Photo by MC2 Lyle Wilkie.

Marines assigned to the 26th MEU disembark from the Bataan on MV-22B Ospreys, attached to the Blue Knights of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 365 (Reinforced), from the ship's flight deck, July 13, 2020. Photo by MC2 Anna Van Nuys.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class Chris Graham, assigned to the Bataan, signals to launch an AV-8B Harrier, attached to the Tigers of Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 542, from the ship's flight deck, July 12, 2020. Photo by MC3 Lenny Weston.

Marines assigned to the 26th MEU disembark the Bataan on MV-22B Ospreys, attached to the Blue Knights of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 365 (Reinforced), from the ship's flight deck, July 13, 2020. Photo by MC3 Lenny Weston.





# Amphibious Squadron 8 holds change of command ceremony at sea

Story by Lt. Seth Koenig, photos by MC2 Anna Van Nuys

*Above:*  
Capt. Lance Lesher, outgoing commodore of Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 8, delivers a speech during a change of command ceremony for PHIBRON 8 aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), July 12, 2020.

Capt. Lance Lesher turned command of Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 8 over to Capt. Jason Rimmer during a ceremony at sea onboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), July 12.

The PHIBRON 8 staff is embarked on Bataan, which is deployed as the flagship of the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group (ARG). The ARG also includes the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21) and the dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51), and is operating with the guided-

missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64) and the dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS William McLean (T-AKE 12).

Also embarked on ARG shipping are the Marines of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

“This command has been one of the most fulfilling of my career,” said Lesher. “I have tremendous gratitude for the Amphibious Squadron 8 team’s support, professionalism and commitment to excellence over the course of my time here.

“I look forward to

watching this squadron continue to accomplish great things under the extremely capable and strong leadership of Capt. Rimmer moving forward,” he continued. “I have been so fortunate to see what the Sailors and Marines of PHIBRON 8 are capable of during this deployment, and I leave them inspired, fulfilled and thankful.”

Lesher’s previous tours have included service as the commanding officer of the dock landing ship USS Comstock (LSD 45), the chief staff officer of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 24 and the

operations officer of Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 2.

Rimmer previously served as the commanding officer of the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) during its 2019 deployment to the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operations as the flagship of the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group.

“Amphibious Squadron 8 has thrived under the exemplary leadership of Capt. Lesher and I am honored to take command of this exceptional team,” Rimmer said. “The Sailors and Marines of PHIBRON 8 have earned an enviable reputation for tireless work ethic and consistent mission accomplishment, and I am excited to work alongside them.”

The BATARG/26th MEU deployed as part of the ongoing rotation of forward-deployed forces to support maritime security operations along with other coalition maritime forces in Europe and the Middle East. The Sailors and Marines were prepared to conduct a variety of missions, including forward naval presence, maritime security operations, crisis response and theater security cooperation.

Bataan ARG and the 26th MEU consist of more than 4,000 total Sailors and Marines, who are operating in the U.S. 2nd Fleet area of operations. The ARG/MEU previously operated in the

U.S. 6th and 5th Fleet areas of operations during the current deployment.

“It has been an honor serving alongside Capt. Lesher since the ARG/MEU composited as one team in May 2019,” said Col. Trevor Hall, commanding officer of the 26th MEU. “Capt. Lesher’s leadership, indefatigable work ethic and dedication to the blue-green team was instrumental during our pre-deployment training program and deployment to the U.S. 2nd, 5th and 6th Fleets.”

While in the Mediterranean Sea in late June, Bataan conducted complex maneuvering operations at sea alongside

French and Italian naval forces, while Marine Corps aircraft embarked on New York conducted dynamic live-fire training in Albania.

“I am proud of so many things our team has been able to accomplish together, but one thing I am particularly proud of is our close Navy-Marine Corps integration,” Lesher said. “The men and women of PHIBRON 8 – as well as the crews of Bataan, Oak Hill and New York – enthusiastically embraced a deep and seamless integration with the 26th MEU, truly becoming one blue-green team that remains a worldwide-deployable crisis response team for our nation.”

*Below:*

Capt. Lance Lesher, left, outgoing commodore of Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 8, turns over command to Capt. Jason Rimmer, commodore of PHIBRON 8, during a change of command ceremony aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), July 12, 2020.





# Maritime training exercise with Italian, French partners

*Story by Bataan Amphibious Ready Group Public Affairs*

The Bataan Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and embarked 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) conducted a maritime training exercise with naval ships and aircraft from Italy and France, June 24.

The exercise included precision maneuvering operations off the coast of Sicily involving the ARG flagship, the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), and the Italian amphibious transport dock ship ITS San Giorgio, as well as the French amphibious assault ship FS Mistral and the French frigate FS Guepratte.

“This exercise provided a great opportunity for partner nations to work together and share strategies for real-world scenarios,” said Capt. Bryan Carmichael, commanding officer of Bataan. “Big 5’s Sailors and Marines demonstrated our continuous commitment to NATO partners, regional security, and national interests.”

Additionally, aircraft embarked aboard Bataan, including MV-22B Ospreys from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 365 (Reinforced) and MH-60S Seahawks from the Navy’s Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 28, conducted dynamic landings on the flight deck of the Mistral, while French Alouette and Gazelle helicopters and an Italian SH101-A helicopter conducted landings on the flight deck of Bataan.

The Bataan ARG also includes the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21), which is operating in the Mediterranean Sea, and the Harpers Ferry-class amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51), which is operating in the Black Sea alongside the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Porter (DDG 78).

“The Bataan Amphibious Ready Group and 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit’s operations at sea alongside our NATO allies represent another demonstration of our steadfast and mutual commitment to ensuring a free and peaceful Europe,” said Capt. Lance Leshner, commander of the Bataan ARG. “No nation can confront today’s challenges alone, and our valued partners in this region can count on us to be engaged and postured as a premier crisis response team in an increasingly complex security environment.” Bataan ARG and 26th MEU consist of more than 4,000 total Sailors and Marines, who are operating in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe after more than five months deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations, which includes the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf.

ARGMEUs operate continuously across the globe and provide the geographic combatant commanders with a forward-deployed, flexible and responsive sea-based MAGTF. The blue-green team is fully capable of conducting operations across a full spectrum of conventional, unconventional and hybrid warfare. U.S. 6th Fleet, headquartered in Naples, Italy, conducts the full spectrum of joint and naval operations, often in concert with allied and interagency partners, in order to advance U.S. national interests and security and stability in Europe and Africa.

# BATARG/26 MEU conduct live-fire training in Albania

Story by Bataan Amphibious Ready Group Public Affairs

U.S. Marine Corps UH-1Y Venoms and AH-1W Super Cobras assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and attached to the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group (BATARG) participated in a live-fire training exercise in Bize, Albania, June 22, 2020.

The exercise was planned alongside Albanian allied forces and consisted of aviation ordnance-delivery training aimed at increasing readiness and reinforcing the partnership between the U.S. and Albania.

“The BATARG and 26th MEU are excited about the opportunity to build on the live-fire exercise conducted by the U.S. Navy’s Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 28, Det. 1, with our Albanian partners less than two months ago,” said Capt. Lance Leshner, commodore of Amphibious Squadron 8. “This important training, this time with 26th MEU aircraft, continues to reinforce familiarity and interoperability with our Albanian partners, reaffirming our commitment to not only this enduring relationship, but security and stability across the region. This valuable ARGMEU training ensures that along with the Albanian military, we maintain peak mission readiness in any environment, including the challenges associated with combat operations during a pandemic.”

Venoms and Super Cobras, commonly referred to as H-1’s, are essential to sea-based air power and air superiority. H-1s, when coupled together, have the ability to provide close-air support, casualty evacuation from remote or austere locations, and transport Marines and Sailors from ship to shore – all from over the horizon.

“This training evolution was a great opportunity for our H-1 crews to integrate with a NATO ally through extensive coordination and combined planning, all while physically distributed from our Albanian counterparts aboard our sea-based platform,” said Capt. Casey Low, an AH-1W Super Cobra pilot. “The evolution tested and demonstrated our ability to project power ashore utilizing air-delivered fires from the MEU’s Aviation Combat Element to support combined NATO forces.”

By utilizing the overland ranges in Albania, UH-1Y Venom and AH-1W Super Cobra pilots assigned to the 26th MEU were able to become more proficient in conducting live-fire tactical maneuvering in a challenging, mountainous environment.

“As a sea-based Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF), we are able to bring combat power ashore utilizing assets from our Aviation Combat Element – to include UH-1Y Venoms and AH-1W Super Cobras,” said Col. Trevor Hall, commanding officer of the 26th MEU. “We are grateful for this opportunity to conduct live-fire training in Albania and demonstrate this unique capability. Being able to train in a NATO-allied country improves overall coordination with our allies and partners in the region, which ultimately ensures a free and peaceful Europe.”

ARGMEUs operate continuously across the globe and provide the geographic combatant commanders with a forward-deployed, flexible and responsive sea-based MAGTF. The blue-green team is fully capable of conducting operations across a full spectrum of conventional, unconventional and hybrid warfare. Training such as this strengthens the execution of mission-essential tasks alongside NATO allies.



Cpl. John Cartwright III, UH-1Y Venom crew chief, assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (VMM) 365 (reinforced), fires an M134 GAU-17 during routine sustainment training June 22, 2020. Photo by Staff Sgt. Patricia A. Morris.



## New York Sailors create lasting art

Story and photo by MC2 Lyle Wilkie

Throughout the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21), Sailors have created art pieces to keep a lasting memory aboard the ship.

“The Sailors onboard who have dedicated their personal time to design and paint the murals on the ship shows the passion and pride they have for New York and their jobs,” said Cmdr. Daniel Hollingshead, the ship’s executive officer. “They have dedicated them to fallen brothers and sisters and the rates that make up this great warship.”

One of these artists created his work in an effort to honor the memory of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that destroyed the iconic World Trade Center in New York City.

“I drew my painting to represent our fallen brothers and sisters in arms; it’s a tribute to the New York Police Department, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and New York Fire Department,” said

Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Fuels) 1st Class Luis Sanchez.

One of the murals painted displays part of the ship’s crest, and features a central focus placed on the World Trade Center combined with the bow of the ship, which is forged from seven and a half tons of salvaged steel of the twin towers. The mural also features a phoenix with a breastplate that includes the colors of the New York Police Department, New York Fire Department, and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Other Sailors painted their murals to show the dedication Sailors exemplify every day.

“The Sailors depicted in the murals put in a lot of hard work,” said Senior Chief Hull Technician Mark Auayan, another of New York’s artists. “I envision that their hard work stays with the vessel. I feel that it’s fitting and they deserve it.”

The murals that depict New York’s Sailors give a lasting memory

of the ship that some Sailors say they hope to show their families in the future.

“I know for a fact that every time new people check onboard and they see these murals they’re going to wonder who those people were and what their story was and it’ll hopefully inspire them to leave a mark of their own,” said Hull Technician Fireman Christopher Robles, a Sailor depicted in a mural.

Whether the murals are dedicated to remember the first responders in the 9/11 attack or to remember Sailors who previously served aboard New York, some Sailors feel that all the murals represent the spirit of the ship and the crew.

“I think the paintings around the ship are a very creative and prideful representation of who we are as a ship,” said Damage Controlman 3rd Class Bernard Johnson.

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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### BATAAN NEW YORK OAK HILL

Facebook: @USSBataan  
Twitter: @LHD5

Facebook: @USSNewYorkLPD21

Facebook: @USSOakHillLSD51

For BATARG Beacon or social media submissions, contact Lt. Koenig or MC2 Anna Van Nuys at [seth.koenig@lhd5.navy.mil](mailto:seth.koenig@lhd5.navy.mil) or [anna.vannuys@lhd5.navy.mil](mailto:anna.vannuys@lhd5.navy.mil) or direct message the PHIBRON 8 facebook page.

## Want more responsibility? Ready to advance more rapidly?



Talk to your Detailer about the **Advance to Position** program.





# NAVY MARINE CORPS TEAM



## A WINNING TEAM

Since their founding, Marines have been placed on ships and fought side-by-side with Sailors. As Sailors steer and fight their ships, Marines in the rigging would sweep the enemy ships' decks with fire and target officers and other vital personnel. The tactic would form the relationship of the Navy Marine Corps team for the next two centuries.

source: "John Paul Jones and his Marines." by Roy Meador



## EVERY MARINE A RIFLEMAN

Marksmanship first used so effectively aboard ship has remained a vital skill to the Corps and is an important part of their warrior ethos. Each recruit must be able to pass rifle qualification to become a Marine. Every Marine is a rifleman, trained first as a disciplined warrior regardless of occupational specialty.

source: [www.marines.com](http://www.marines.com)



## A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP

As fighting force, first and foremost, Marines do not recruit or train noncombatants such as chaplains, medical, or dental personnel; naval personnel fill these roles. The Marine Corps is responsible for conducting land operations to support naval campaigns, including the seizure of naval and air bases. Both services operate a network security team in conjunction. As a result, Marines and Sailors share many naval traditions, especially terminology and customs.

source: [www.marines.com](http://www.marines.com)



## "A SHIP WITHOUT MARINES IS LIKE A GARMENT WITHOUT BUTTONS."

-Adm. David Dixon Porter, USN in a letter to Colonel Commandant John Harris, USMC, 1863

# 183,787

Number of active-duty Marines currently in service. The Marines also have 38,213 reserve personnel.

source: [www.insidegov.com](http://www.insidegov.com)



# 298

Number of Marines who have earned the Medal of Honor.

Two Marines are double recipients.

source: [www.cmohs.org](http://www.cmohs.org)

## FIRST TO FIGHT- BY DESIGN AND BY CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE

"[The Marine Corps] must be the most ready when the nation is generally least ready ... to provide a balanced force in readiness for a naval campaign and, at the same time, a ground and air striking force ready to suppress or contain international disturbances short of large-scale war."  
—82nd Congress – 1952

source: Readiness Branch, Headquarters Marine Corps

