

The Patroller

A Carrier Strike Group ONE Magazine

DECEMBER 2023 EDITION

HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON CHEERS FROM THE SEA



IN THIS EDITION

**STERETT HOLDS
BURIAL-AT-SEA**

PAGE 9

**CELEBRATING 30
YEARS OF WOMEN
ON COMBAT SHIPS**

PAGES 4 - 10

**CVW-2: A NEW
'SHERIFF' IN TOWN**

PAGE 3

INSIDE THIS EDITION

The Big Story 2

CVW 2 3-4

USS Carl Vinson 5

USS Princeton 6

USS Hopper 7

USS Kidd 8

USS Sterett 9

USS William P.

Lawrence 10

Riddles and More 11

THE PATROLLER STAFF

CSG-1 Commander

Rear Adm. Carlos Sardiello

CSG-1 Chief of Staff

Capt. Robin Marling

CSG-1 CMC

CMC Benjamin Bilyeu

Executive Editor

Lt. Cmdr. Devin Arneson

Managing Editor

Ensign Valentine Mulango

Creative Editor

MC1 Cole Pielop

Correspondents

MC1 Charles Scudella

MC2 Tristan Cookson

MC2 Leon Vonguyen

MC2 Mason Congleton

MC2 Elizabeth Grubbs

Contributors

MC1 Tyler Fraser

MC2 Benjamin Ringers

MC2 Claire Bennett

MC2 Isaiah Williams

MC2 Noel Heeter

MC2 Isaiah Goessl

MC2 Derek Kelley

MC2 Larissa Dougherty

MC3 Joshua Sapien



HAPPY AND BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON

CGS-1 sailors, families and friends, let me start by wishing all of you a happy and blessed holiday season. Thank you to the families for supporting us being forward on point during holidays -- keeping our nation safe. We could not do this without you and you are in our thoughts. I am proud of the team's performance in our assigned mission. Presence and diplomacy matter. Deterrence requires clearly communicating capability and resolve to deny a benefit and or impose an unacceptable cost to a potential adversary's intended course of action. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said recently; "sometimes our greatest achievements are the bad things we stop from happening." Here at CSG-1, we spent the holidays patrolling the Western Pacific ocean doing just that. I mean, that's why we call this *'The Patroller'*. The work our crew is doing is a warfighting imperative and is essential to our national security.

In this second edition of *'The Patroller'*, we highlight the Navy ways we spent the holidays at sea. We also celebrate in this edition, the 30th anniversary of the repeal of Title 10 USC 6015, which allowed women to serve aboard Navy combat ships. You can read about some of our women warfighters showcased in action as part of that celebration. We also share the ways we celebrate the holiday with special meals and events underway, including holiday gift exchanges, movie nights and religious

celebrations including Holiday Mass, Service and Hanukkah celebrations. Ashore during our brief stops in port, we continue to have the opportunity to be ambassadors during those port visits on liberty in various countries. Our latest in Singapore was decked out in Christmas holiday lighting and spirit. We volunteered at the Salvation Army for the needy in Singapore and other community outreach events. Another very Navy thing we have done is crossing the equator. This traditional moment provides an opportunity for first-timers to earn the title of Shellbacks during a Crossing the Line Ceremony, building our shared sense of belonging to our Sea Service.

We appreciate your continued support as we press on with our deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operation in support of free and open use of the maritime commons by all nations. While we may be far from home, know that you are always in our hearts and thoughts. CSG-1, will keep focused on precise execution, stay fit, and continue to take care of each other every day.



The Big Story

Across Carrier Strike Group ONE

HOLIDAY SEASON: A SOUTH CHINA SEA EXPERIENCE

Story by MC1 Cole Pielop, Carrier Strike Group ONE Public Affairs

The holidays often bring back memories of snow, presents and family. However, the 2023 holiday season brought a much different experience for CSG-1 while sailing in the South China Sea.

Sailors across the strike group were able to celebrate the season with delicious dinner served by leadership to include many of the classics such as turkey, mashed potatoes and pie.

Some Sailors across the strike group had the opportunity to participate in a Crossing the Line ceremony with a festive twist to become 'Shellbacks', a naval tradition held for those who have crossed the equator.

"I waited a long time to be a part of this tradition and I couldn't be happier," said Ensign Valentine Mulango.

Hot cocoa and movie nights were abundant, watching many of the holiday classics like 'The Grinch' and 'Home Alone'.

Units across the strike group also held holiday events to include gift exchanges, door decorating competitions, a holiday concert aboard Vinson, an essay writing competition and an ugly sweater contest.

This holiday season was definitely one for the books. Sailors really made the best of being away from family and loved ones and made some memories that will last a lifetime.



(From left to right) Rear Adm. Carlos Sardiello, commander, CSG-1, Jonathan Kaplan, U.S. Ambassador to Singapore, and Matthew Thomas, commanding officer, USS Carl Vinson, cut a cake at a distinguished visitor reception in Singapore. Photo by MC1 Fraser.



Lt. Bradley Lawrence, Navy chaplain, leads a Catholic Mass in the forecabin of USS Carl Vinson on Christmas Day. Photo by MC2 Ringers.



Command Master Chief William Kalmbach, USS Hopper, builds a gingerbread house on the mess decks as part of holiday celebration. Photo by MC2 Vonguyen.



Cmdr. Sean Cooper opens a gift during a white elephant event to celebrate the holidays in the flag mess aboard USS Carl Vinson. Photo by Ensign Mulango.



Sailors participate in a holiday concert in the hangar bay aboard USS Carl Vinson. Photo by MC2 Heeter.



Sailors aboard USS Carl Vinson eat a holiday meal on the mess decks. Photo by MC2 Goessl.



Commander, Carrier Strike Group ONE, Rear Adm. Carlos Sardiello, serves a holiday meal to Sailors aboard USS Carl Vinson. Photo by MC2 Dougherty.

Carrier Air Wing TWO



NEW 'SHERIFF' IN TOWN: CAPT MYERS TAKES COMMAND

Story by Lt. Cmdr. Cameron Skinner, Carrier Strike Group ONE Public Affairs

Team Broadsword started the month of December with a new 'Sheriff' in town. Capt. Timothy Myers relieved Capt. Winston Scott as the Commander of Carrier Air Wing TWO (CVW 2) during an underway airborne change of command ceremony aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) Dec. 1. A time-honored naval tradition, the change of command ceremony allows the aircrew to formally acknowledge the passing of command from one commander to the next.

"I am honored and humbled to take command of Carrier Air Wing TWO, and am confident we are at the pinnacle of mission readiness as we continue our operations in the Western Pacific," said Myers. "The Advanced Air Wing brings a plethora of unique advanced capabilities to theater, and together with our teammates in Carrier Strike Group 1, we stand ready as a tangible reflection of America's commitment to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region."

Myers took command of Carrier Air Wing TWO after serving



Capt. Timothy Meyers, right, relieves Capt. Winston Scott during a change of command ceremony aboard USS Carl Vinson. Photo by MC2 Ringers.

as commanding officer of both TOPGUN and STRIKE at the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center, and commanding officer of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 195. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2000 and has completed over 3,800 flight hours in his career.



Sailors across CSG-1 units receive an award after playing a friendly soccer match with the Jollilads Football Club Singapore during a community relations event. Photo by MC2 Williams.

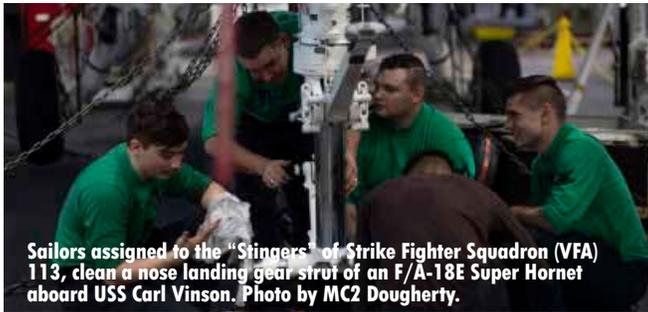


Sailors move cargo while a Eurocopter EC225LP helicopter prepares to drop off cargo on the flight deck of USS Carl Vinson. Photo by MC2 Bennett.



Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Coleby Lumb, from Burkburnett, Texas, performs a quality assurance check on a nose landing gear strut of an F/A-18E Super Hornet, assigned to the "Stingers" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 113, in the hangar bay of USS Carl Vinson. Photo by MC2 Dougherty.

Carrier Air Wing TWO



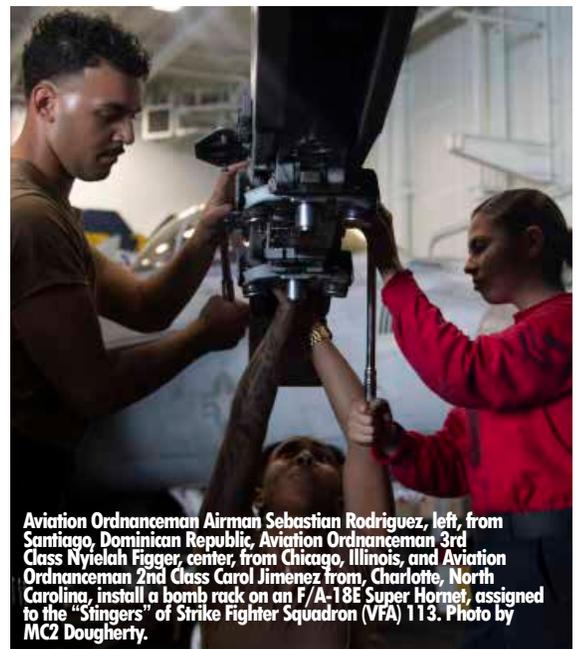
Sailors assigned to the "Stingers" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 113, clean a nose landing gear strut of an F/A-18E Super Hornet aboard USS Carl Vinson. Photo by MC2 Dougherty.



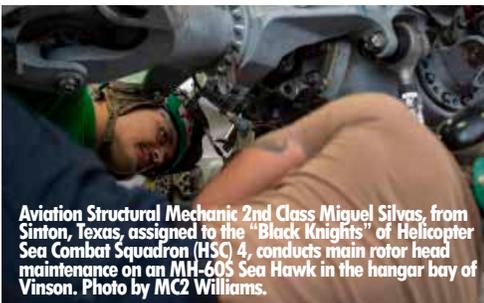
Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Daveanne Williams, from Miami, Florida, cleans shutters during a community relations event in Singapore. Photo by MC2 Heeter.



Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Rei Roa, a native of Las Vegas, Nevada, assigned to the "Black Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC-4), conducts maintenance on the rotor blade of an MH-60S Sea Hawk aboard Vinson. Photo by MC2 Williams.



Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Sebastian Rodriguez, left, from Santiago, Dominican Republic, Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Nyielah Figger, center, from Chicago, Illinois, and Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Carol Jimenez from, Charlotte, North Carolina, install a bomb rack on an F/A-18E Super Hornet, assigned to the "Stingers" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 113. Photo by MC2 Dougherty.



Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Miguel Silvas, from Sinton, Texas, assigned to the "Black Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC-4), conducts main rotor head maintenance on an MH-60S Sea Hawk in the hangar bay of Vinson. Photo by MC2 Williams.



Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Gage Sullivan, from Rochelle, Illinois, tapes a fuel cell in the hangar bay aboard USS Carl Vinson. Photo by MC2 Bennett.

Repeal of Title 10 USC 6015: Celebrating 30 years of Women on Combat Ships



Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Melinda Kalocsay, from Houston, Texas, conducts maintenance on the tail rotor of an MH-60R Sea Hawk, assigned to the "Blue Hawks" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 78, aboard USS Carl Vinson. Photo by MC2 Dougherty.



Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Janette Robinson, from Passaic, New Jersey, assigned to the "Black Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC-4), conducts a cargo hook inspection on an MH-60S Sea Hawk aboard USS Carl Vinson. Photo by MC2 Williams.

USS Carl Vinson CVN 70

Nimitz-class aircraft carrier



Hospital Corpsman Senior Chief Darnelle Mason, from Oakland, California serves ice cream to Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Justin Smale, from Raleigh, North Carolina. Photo by MC2 Goessl.



Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Mensah, from New York City, receives his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin from Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Gabrielle Hartford, from New York City. Photo by MC1 Pielop.



Sailors across CSG-1 embarked aboard Vinson pose for a photo with volunteers during a community relations event in Singapore. Photo by MC3 Sapien.



Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 3rd Class Gage Hirsch, left, from Dublin, California, and Information Systems Technician 1st Class Matthew McMinn, from Hernando, Mississippi, load boxes into a van during a community relations event in Singapore. Photo by MC3 Sapien.

Repeal of Title 10 USC 6015: Celebrating 30 years of Women on Combat Ships



Cmdr. Courtney Johnson currently serves as Vinson's first woman Maintenance Officer (MO). Photo by MC2 Bennett.



Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Claire Bennett, from Ocala, Florida, records a speech during a reception for distinguished visitors in Singapore. Photo by MC1 Scudella.

USS Princeton CG 59

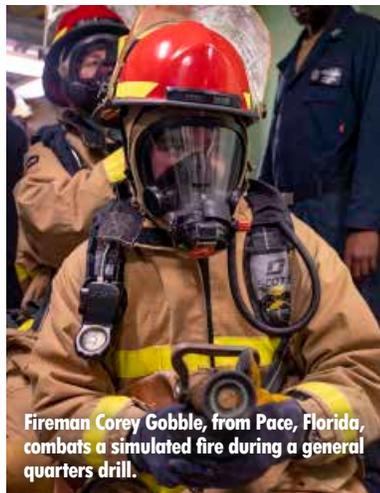
Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser



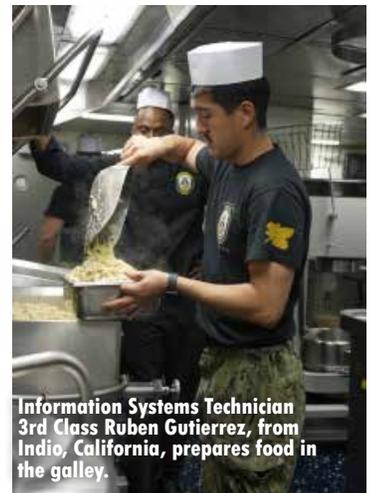
Photo Story by MC2 Elizabeth Grubbs



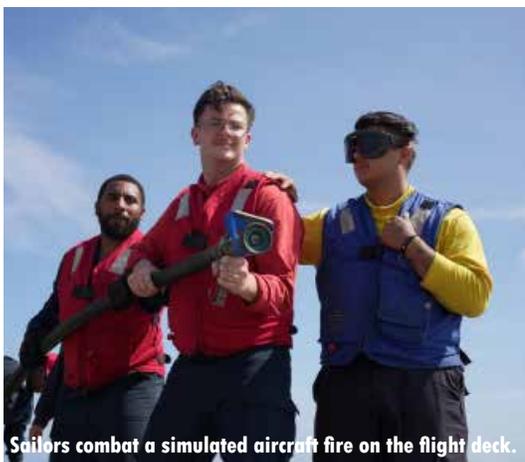
Aviation Electronics Technician 3rd Class Christian Carrion, from San Juan, Puerto Rico, secures the blades on an MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter, assigned to the "Blue Hawks" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 78.



Fireman Corey Gobble, from Pace, Florida, combats a simulated fire during a general quarters drill.



Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Ruben Gutierrez, from Indio, California, prepares food in the galley.



Sailors combat a simulated aircraft fire on the flight deck.



Sailors respond to a simulated medical casualty during general quarters drill.



Damage Controlman 3rd Class Andrew Fleming, right, from Hillsboro, Tennessee, and Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Alfonso Padilla, from San Antonio, Texas, remove a simulated casualty during an aircraft fire drill.

Repeal of Title 10 USC 6015: Celebrating 30 years of Women on Combat Ships



Culinary Specialist Seaman Mirka Lopez Romero, From Los Angeles, California, prepares dinner aboard Princeton.



Ensign Destiny Bonwell, from Jacksonville, Florida, tracks the bearing of the Henry J. Kaiser-class Fleet replenishment ship USNS Pecos (T-AO 197) during a replenishment-at-sea evolution.

USS Hopper DDG 70

Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer



Photo Story by MC2 Leon Vonguyen



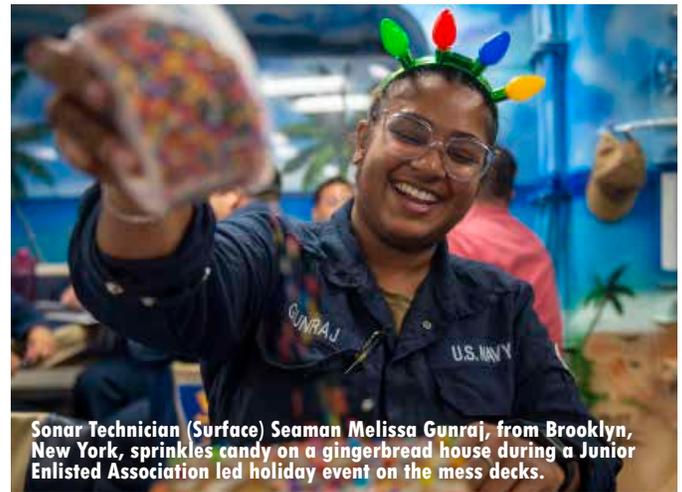
Cmdr. Corey Millis, right, commanding officer, Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper, presents Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Ashley Her, from Sacramento, California, with a 'Surface Warrior of the Week' award.



Chief Damage Controlman Steven Toquero, from Honolulu, Hawaii, briefs Sailors during a damage control training team meeting.



Sailors practice firehose handling during a damage control training on the flight deck.



Sonar Technician (Surface) Seaman Melissa Gunraj, from Brooklyn, New York, sprinkles candy on a gingerbread house during a Junior Enlisted Association led holiday event on the mess decks.

Repeal of Title 10 USC 6015: Celebrating 30 years of Women on Combat Ships



Seaman Elizabeth Martinez, from Puerto Rico, prepares pork ribs in the galley.



Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 2nd Class Patricia Moreno, from Bakersfield, California, fires an M18 pistol during a small-arms training on the flight deck.

USS Kidd DDG 100

Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer



Photo Story by MC2 Mason Congleton



Chief Master-at-Arms Jarrett Covington, from Miller Grove, Texas, demonstrates takedown techniques during a non-lethal weapons qualification course.



Cmdr. Parina Somnhot, commanding officer of USS Kidd, serves a holiday meal to Sailors.



A visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) team participates in a VBSS training exercise on the flight deck.



Gunner's Mate 1st Class Sean West, from Victorville, California, gives a safety brief before a small-arms training.

Repeal of Title 10 USC 6015: Celebrating 30 years of Women on Combat Ships



Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Beverly Jordan, right, from Los Angeles, California, and Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Andrhea Dalrymple, from Siquijor, Philippines, perform maintenance on a MK 38 25mm machine gun.



Fire Controlman 1st Class Natalie Tardif, from Oak Harbor, Washington, loads ammunition into a Phalanx close-in weapon system (CIWS).

USS Sterett DDG 104

Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer



BURIAL-AT-SEA: STERETT HONORS SAILOR'S LATE GRANDFATHER

Story and Photo by MC1 Charles Scudella, Carrier Strike Group ONE Public Affairs

PHILIPPINE SEA - It was a cool and sunny Sunday afternoon in the Philippine Sea, Dec. 3, when sailors aboard Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Sterett (DDG 104) gathered on the flight deck to honor the life of Cmdr. Jeffrey Nilsson during a burial-at-sea ceremony. The late Nilsson was a retired naval officer with more than 40 years of service to the United States. For one Sterett sailor, the ceremony was much more than honoring a shipmate. It served as one final goodbye, according to Ensign Jacob Nilsson, grandson of the late Nilsson "I grew up in a huge Navy family and he [late Cmdr. Nilsson] would have loved every second of this," said Nilsson. "He [late Cmdr. Nilsson] loved everything about the Navy and I know looking down,

he would be so happy about today." Burial at sea is a long-standing Navy tradition for as long as seafarers have gone out to sea, said Cmdr. Jason Garfield, Sterett commanding officer. "However, this ceremony means even more for this crew, knowing we had the privilege to honor an officer and a family with such a proud lineage of service to both our Navy and our nation," Garfield added. Jacob Nilsson said the ceremony meant a lot to him, especially being freshly checked aboard. "The amount of support, how much people have cared and the effort that was put into the ceremony today was just amazing and I couldn't be more grateful for a better command," Jacob Nilsson concluded.



Ensign Jacob Nilsson, left, from Chesapeake, Virginia, receives a U.S. flag from Cmdr. Jason Garfield, commanding officer of Sterett, during a burial-at-sea ceremony.

Photo Story by MC1 Charles Scudella

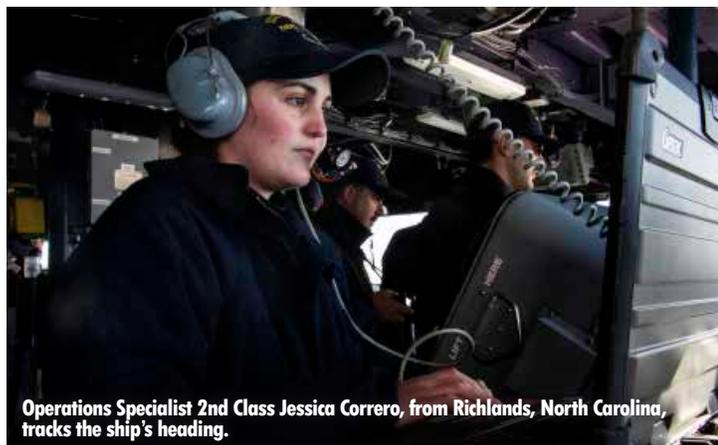


Ensign Andrew Koonz, from High Falls, New York, tracks the ship's navigational bearing on the bridge.



Sailors, assigned to Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Sterett stand watch on the bridge during routine operations.

Repeal of Title 10 USC 6015: Celebrating 30 years of Women on Combat Ships



Operations Specialist 2nd Class Jessica Corroero, from Richlands, North Carolina, tracks the ship's heading.



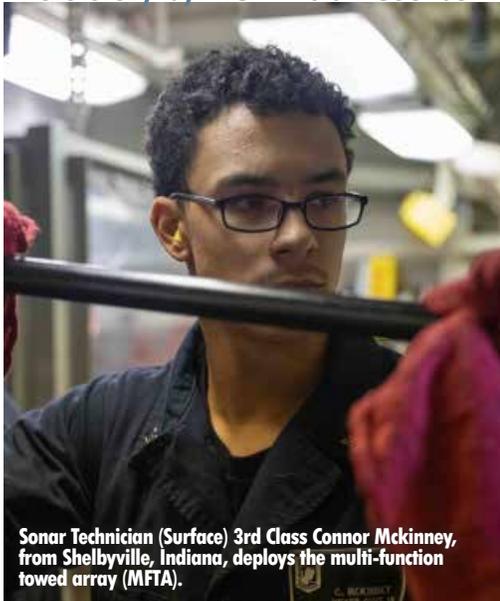
Lt. j.g. Erin Ogden, from Rancho Cucamonga, California, relays information to the bridge during a replenishment-at-sea.

USS William P. Lawrence DDG 110

Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer



Photo Story by MC2 Tristan Cookson



Sonar Technician (Surface) 3rd Class Connor McKinney, from Shelbyville, Indiana, deploys the multi-function towed array (MFTA).



Sailors combat a simulated aircraft fire on the flight deck.



Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Lorena Cortes, from Long Beach, California, performs preventative maintenance on a torpedo aboard Lawrence.



Sailors heave a messenger line during a replenishment-at-sea.

Repeal of Title 10 USC 6015: Celebrating 30 years of Women on Combat Ships



Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Shaun-Renee Mallard, from Kingston, Jamaica, handles a line during a sea-and-anchor evolution.



Ensign Ana Sokolowski, from West Chester, Pennsylvania, relays a message to the conning officer in the bridge during a sea-and-anchor evolution.

Ready to be Riddled?

- 1) What word in the English language does the following: The first two letters signify a male, the first three letters signify a female, the first four letters signify a great, while the entire word signifies a great woman. What is the word?
- 2) What English word has three consecutive double letters?
- 3) What disappears as soon as you say its name?
- 4) I come from a mine and get surrounded by wood always. Everyone uses me. What am I?
- 5) A girl has as many brothers as sisters, but each brother has only half as many brothers as sisters. How many brothers and sisters are there in the family?

Answers to these riddles will be revealed in the January edition.

Last Month's Answers

- 1) I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body, but I come alive with the wind. What am I? **Answer: An echo**
- 2) You measure my life in hours and I serve you by expiring. I'm quick when I'm thin and slow when I'm fat. The wind is my enemy. What am I? **Answer: A candle**
- 3) I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I? **Answer: A map**
- 4) What is seen in the middle of March and April that can't be seen at the beginning or end of either month? **Answer: The letter 'R'**
- 5) You see a boat filled with people. It has not sunk, but when you look again, you don't see a single person on the boat. Why? **Answer: They were all married**

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2024 National Defense Authorization Act

Provides a 5.2% pay raise for both military service members and the Department of Defense civilian workforce.

Provides a 5.4% increase in the basic allowance for housing (BAH).

Increases the maximum number of Navy spot promotions to the grade of Lieutenant Commander from 325 to 425.

Increases the number of nominations available to members of congress and appointments by service secretaries for the military service academies.

Expands access to student loan deferment for dislocated military spouses.

For more information visit www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/2226