

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Hello Mighty AMERICA, Family and Friends!

Welcome back to sea! We're one week into our winter patrol and I could not be more proud of this crew. The preparations and hard work each one of you invested in AMERICA while in port are already paying off in the smooth execution of each undertaking this week. You shined in loading up the ship with ammunition and fuel, and completing a replenishment at sea—which is one of the most challenging operations involving substantial coordination.



In the coming days, we will embark our 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit brothers and sisters, and move into our operational cycle of flight operations and certifications. Please welcome the Marines back into our family as part of the crew and help them navigate around the ship.

Our Year Ahead

While this patrol is already flying by quickly, we have a big year ahead of us—the operational tempo, the homeport shift to San Diego, culminating in the longest dry-dock maintenance period this ship has gone through. This will be a compressed year for our Sailors and families, and while these changes may present challenges, our commitment to clear communication will be our strength. To that end, we are lucky to have Mrs. Jessica Tunal as our command Ombudsman and liaison between AMERICA and our families. Please encourage your family members to subscribe to the Ombudsman's email list (americaombudsman@gmail.com) for monthly updates from the command. Another way you and your families can remain connected to AMERICA's news and daily operations is by viewing our [Facebook](#) and [DVIDS news](#) platforms.

Post-Patrol Plans

Following our winter patrol, we will return to Sasebo to conduct maintenance, to give the crew some rest, and provide time for our shipmates to move their families stateside. This will be a critical period to ensure the smooth transition for our families to San Diego. I know how complex each and every move is, and AMERICA is committed to making the transition across the Pacific as seamless as possible.

Announcing our Next Tiger Cruise

Finally, I'm pleased to announce the next Tiger Cruise is being planned for AMERICA's transit from Okinawa to Sasebo at the conclusion of Patrol 25.1. Dates are not firm yet, but expect somewhere during the full first week of March.

Your unwavering dedication keeps AMERICA mission-ready. This TEAM OF TEAMS is unquestionably ready for the tasks ahead. My heartfelt appreciation extends to you and your families for your continued support and sacrifice.

With utmost respect and admiration,



CAPT Ethan Rule
Commanding Officer, USS AMERICA

January 17, 2025