

# A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Team of Teams,



Your professionalism continues to impress me—we've had many first-time achievements during patrol, thanks to this high performing team of Sailors and Marines. For the first time in LHA 6 history, AMERICA's flight deck handled the largest number of carrier qualifications—marking the most dynamic multi-day flight operations this ship has seen. Each takeoff and landing involved synchronized personnel and functions to minimize risk and ensured this team continues to navigate the air and sea domains safely. Interestingly, we've been burning more fuel on the flight deck than in the propulsion plant—that's a lot of flying and coordination between the bridge, combat, and Air Department. This team continues to knock it out of the park!

Over the course of a month, there have been challenges, but this team has collectively remained vigilant of the ship, its surrounding environment, and one another at all hours of the day. For example, during a late night false alarm man overboard, over 2,000 Sailors and Marines mustered in record time. Such a successful response would not have been achievable without shipmates looking out for each other. Additionally, Deck, Medical and Navigation Departments, and Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 search and rescue teams rapidly mobilized to help recover the unknown object. Every single person on this ship did their part in making a potential crisis a success story.

## WHAT READINESS LOOKS LIKE

AMERICA and our accompanying amphibious ships have conducted visit, board, search and seizure, two replenishments at sea, a vertical underway replenishment, amphibious exercises and numerous complex operations in the air and sea domains, while enabling the Marine combat element to successfully execute amphibious assaults ashore. We are sharpening our abilities to work cohesively as an integrated blue-green team while becoming stronger and more ready with each training evolution.

Throughout the training you noticed tighter controls on communication devices. Thank you for understanding the importance of lowering the ship's profile while managing the inconvenience on our lives and work. Placing temporary constraints trains us to be resilient when real challenges hit.

## TIGER CRUISE

Team AMERICA, 31st MEU, families, friends and support systems—thank you for your sacrificial commitment day in and day out. We hope to see many of you during our upcoming three-day Tiger Cruise. Please connect with your Sailor or Marine to get the latest details and confirm your registration.

## TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES AND ONE ANOTHER

As we prepare to enjoy some downtime in port, I ask that you continue to look out for one another, be safe, and make wise decisions. Carrying the name of our country is no easy feat, but this crew wears the namesake with courage and honor. I am proud to work alongside each and every one of you.

Let's continue to KEEP THE MAIN THING, THE MAIN THING! See you on the deck plates.

With utmost respect and admiration,



**CAPT Ethan Rule**  
**Commanding Officer, USS AMERICA**

February 10, 2025