

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Team of Teams,



The hard work and professional acumen of our Sailors and Marines has been once again been recognized with a fifth consecutive Battle Effectiveness Award, or “Battle E.” This award is more than another hash-mark painted on the ship or another ribbon on your rack, it is a reflection of Team’s commitment to AMERICA and all who serve aboard. We look forward to the formal presentation of the award in a few months, but this codifies the effort you all have put in.

As an example of that hard work, we’ve continued to crush it through joint training exercises. Just through the last week before we pulled into Okinawa, we hit nearly 250 launches and recoveries, conducted more than 180 aircraft elevator runs moving aircraft, shot more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition, transferred more than 250,000 gallons of jet fuel, and attended to countless simulated medical casualties (or “cherry pickers,” as you probably heard over the 1MC at all hours). The Engineering and Combat Systems Departments continued to work through and ultimately correct system casualties to include depot-level repairs on one of our diesel generators, sea water pipes and communication systems.

This is just a brief overview of the efforts every one of you put in every day – before we return to Sasebo, there’s still much to do. We’ll have several high-ranking international visitors coming aboard in support of exercise Iron Fist, and our Tiger Cruise committee has been putting in significant hours to ensuring our Tiger Cruise is executed safely and successfully – two big opportunities to show off our ship and our capabilities at sea to what will be a combined audience of more than 150 visitors. When you add that with the three in-port tours we conducted in Okinawa that will be more than 260 total people who have visited AMERICA in less than three weeks!

As we return to our homeport of Sasebo for the last time, our days in-port will be incredibly busy with Homeport Change Preparations, 5A1 Maintenance Period, Total Ships Readiness Assessment, topside preservation, Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint exercise, and multiple other evolutions ensuring AMERICA is Combat Ready. Please take this time to ensure you are prepared for the voyage!

All that said, as we draw Patrol 25.1 to a close, my main focus is ensuring SAFE execution of operations – we cannot afford to have personnel or equipment damaged. Slow is smooth, and smooth is fast. Let’s continue to KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING! See you on the deckplates.

With utmost respect and admiration,



CAPT Ethan Rule
Commanding Officer, USS AMERICA

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to be 'ER', located to the right of the printed name of the Commanding Officer.

March 3, 2025