

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER



Mighty AMERICA,

As we approach our last month in Sasebo, I want to express my deepest appreciation for the outstanding work that has been accomplished across AMERICA—our ship. From the tireless efforts during this maintenance phase, Total Ship Readiness Assessment, Deisel Engine Inspections, security drills, Crypto Inspection, Medical and Weapons Departmental certifications, AIMD Aviation Maintenance Inspection, dry dock planning, and homeport shift preparations; it is clear that each of you is dedicated to ensuring our ship remains at the pinnacle of readiness. The effort the Departments put into achieving high scores on their certifications has not only improved our operational capabilities but also reflects the pride and professionalism of this team.

The restoration and ship painting projects have made AMERICA beautiful and show our commitment to excellence. VADM Kacher, 7th Fleet Commander commended the work put into restoring the sides of the ship. Additionally, I want to thank everyone who participated in Fleet and Friendship Day. We had over 4,500 people tour our ship and I could tell from our guest's enthusiasm that it was well worth the crew's effort to open our doors to the Sasebo community. Your hard work and dedication to any mission we undergo is truly commendable, and I am grateful to serve alongside such a driven team.

As we prepare to embark on our next operational tasking, and make the transition to our new homeport in San Diego, I want to emphasize the importance of staying focused and vigilant. Our upcoming patrol will require us to be at the top of our game, and I have every confidence in your expertise as professionals. Your ability to adapt and excel in challenging situations is a testament to the high standards we maintain on this ship. Not only will we be busy operationally, but we have exciting port visits planned along the way for the crew to enjoy.

I also want to thank each of you for taking care of your families and personal matters related to the homeport shift. Your diligence ensures a graceful departure from Sasebo, reflecting positively on our crew and the U.S. Navy as a whole as we respectfully leave Japan. We have new Ombudsmen in the role of command liaison for the families. Our generous Ombudsmen, Paula Wagner and Elektra Joyner are the first line of defense for questions while we are out to sea. Please share their email address with your families in case assistance is necessary: americaombudsman@gmail.com

As we undertake many changes, remember that our collective efforts are crucial to our ongoing success. Let us continue to take care of each other and maintain the high level of performance that has come to define AMERICA. Thank you again for your hard work and commitment. I am honored to lead such a remarkable team.

With utmost respect and admiration,



CAPT Ethan Rule
Commanding Officer, USS AMERICA

April 8, 2025