



TIMES OF AMERICA



May
2025





TIMES OF AMERICA

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TIMES OF AMERICA

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CAPTAIN'S CORNER

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Team of Teams,

It seems like only a week ago we returned from Patrol 25.1. It was said those 70 days in port would fly by, and here we are, mere days to go until we bid farewell to our Sasebo homeport, bound for sea to execute the nation's tasking.

In those 70 days, we welcomed aboard more than 4,000 locals for an open base day, hosted numerous admirals, completed the 5A1 Maintenance Period, a Total Ships Readiness Assessment, the Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint exercise, two ship flips to maximize our topside preservation efforts, and accomplished multiple certifications.

I want to single out AMERICA's Weapons Department for completing the Shipboard Explosive Safety inspection, which involved multiple departments coming together to ensure we are ready to operate.

Looking beyond our countless achievements aboard AMERICA, we also have to acknowledge all this was done while the vast majority of us were also dealing with the stress of conducting PCS moves and preparing our families for new lives in San Diego. The fact we were able to achieve both these lines and effort – professional and personal – to make a graceful exit from Sasebo speaks volumes about the caliber and resilience of Team AMERICA.

As bittersweet as our departure is, there is much to look forward to on Patrol 25.2! We look forward to bringing aboard our 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit Marines aboard AMERICA, bringing the whole family together for one last time. At times we will have multiple other guests aboard from different commands and services, and I expect you will give them the warm AMERICA welcome we always extend. We have several exercises, certifications, and opportunities on the immediate horizon, and I encourage you to take advantage of all this patrol will have to offer.

As always, my main focus is ensuring SAFE execution of operations – we cannot afford to have personnel or equipment damaged. Let's continue to KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING! See you on the deckplates.



With utmost respect and admiration,

CAPT Ethan M. Rule
Commanding Officer, USS AMERICA

ADMIN HOUR



IS YOUR UNIFORM READY FOR 25.2?

WRITTEN BY MC2 (NAC/ESWS) SADE' ANITA WALLACE

STAY SHARP AND CONFIDENT—here's everything you need to know to properly display your ribbons and showcase your achievements with pride.

Many Sailors are unsure about which ribbons they should wear or how to have their new awards properly entered into their official record. YN1 (AW) Juan Valladolid assists Sailors with updating their ribbons on their uniforms.

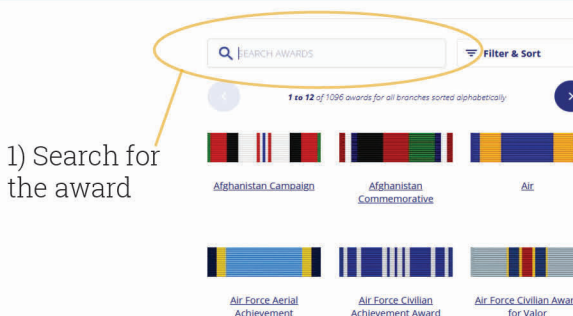
To add new awards—whether earned aboard USS AMERICA or at a previous command—Sailors can bring a high-resolution copy of the award certificate or achievement document along with a DD Form 1650. There is a waiting period of 7 to 14 days for the updates to be reflected in your official record.



VISIT YN1 VALLADOLID IN THE SHIP'S ADMIN OFFICE TODAY!

ADD THE LATEST LETTER "E" DEVICE TO YOUR BATTLE E UNIT RIBBON!

1) Search for the award



EZRACKBUILDER PREVIEW

<https://ezrackbuilder.usamm.com/military-medals-rack-builder>

2) View an instant preview



MYNAVYHR AWARDS PRECEDENCE CHART

<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/References/US-Navy-Uniforms/Uniform-Regulations/Navy-Awards-Precedence/>

Some of the most common awards that YN1 Valladolid enters are NAMs as well as pistol and rifle marksmanship awards. "For a NAM, simply bring in a copy of the award certificate. For marksmanship awards, just present a copy of your performance evaluation sheet," he says.

Ensuring the ribbons are displayed in the proper order is equally important. Sailors have several ways they can ensure their ribbons are displayed in accordance with U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations (NAVPERS 15665J). The online Navy awards precedence chart, available through myNavyHR, lists all possible ribbons in the correct order. Additionally, the ribbon rack preview generator on EZRackBuilder.com provides a visual representation of the correct ribbon order and indicates which awards should have stars.

Whether in dress blues for Australia or dress whites for Hawaii, having the correct ribbons on your uniform ensures Sailors are prepared to man the rails with pride and professionalism.





NAVY HERITAGE KNOWLEDGE CHECK

WRITTEN BY MC3 KENNETH MELSETH

On September 23, 1779, John Paul Jones stood on the peeling deck of his aging warship, the Bonhomme Richard, his eyes locked fiercely on his target: the mighty British frigate Serapis, guardian of a convoy carrying supplies for the British war machine. He would soon showcase a fearless spirit and bold tactics that would secure his legacy as a hero of naval bravery.

Jones's small squadron had scattered the merchant ships, forcing the Serapis and her smaller companion, the Countess of Scarborough, to wheel about and confront the approaching threat. While Jones's escorts engaged the Countess of Scarborough, he singled out the Serapis for himself, a ship far superior in firepower and capability to his own. To achieve victory, Jones would have to rely on the strengths of his Sailors and Marines.

As darkness cloaked the sea, cannons thundered violently, the air filling with choking smoke and splintered timber. Jones charged straight into the jaws of the Serapis' devastating firepower, bringing the two ships together with a bone-crunching collision. Rigging twisted violently, wood splintered into the air, and both ships became hopelessly entangled, locked in a lethal embrace from which only one would emerge.

Above the inferno, Jones's marines swarmed up the rigging, perching high above the carnage. At his signal, they unleashed hell firing volley after volley of musket shots and hurling grenades down onto the crowded decks of the Serapis. The British sailors below faced a storm of steel and fire, their decks becoming a nightmare of flame, smoke, and blood.

Yet the Serapis fought back mercilessly, her devastating broadsides tearing massive holes in the Bonhomme Richard's hull. Flames roared, sailors screamed, and the dying ship shuddered beneath Jones's feet. Captain Richard Pearson of the Serapis, sensing imminent American defeat, shouted through the chaos, demanding Jones surrender.

Through the smoke, flame, and roar of battle, Jones fired back his legendary reply: "I have not yet begun to fight!" Flames engulfed both ships, but Jones persisted, rallying his men, even as the hull of Bonhomme Richard filled with water. The ship was bound for the depths and he knew it.

Jones launched a ferocious attack, boarding the English ship. After three relentless hours of fire and fury, Captain Pearson struck his colors in bitter surrender. John Paul Jones stood triumphant on the smoldering deck of his prize. With smoke still curling from the rigging and the stench of gunpowder thick in the air, he raised his flag aboard Serapis. Behind him, the proud but doomed Bonhomme Richard slipped beneath the waves.

John Paul Jones: Father of the United States
Navy and Herald of its tradition of sacrifice and victory.



READY TO PASS YOUR BOARD?

Which surface warfare Navy heritage highlight would you like to see in the next edition of *Times of America*?
Send your topics to: MEDIA@LHA6.NAVY.MIL

DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LHA6 GSEs + GSMS ARE READY FOR HOMEPORT SHIFT!

"I'll miss how safe it is and how friendly everyone is, despite the language barrier. I'm ready to go to a gym with good equipment and to be close to my family."

Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical)
3rd Class Jason Roxas from Seattle



"I'm going to miss the tradition and culture of Japan, I appreciate how clean and quiet the streets are. I look forward to being able to talk to people without using a translator, and celebrating Halloween!"

Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Electrical) 3rd Class
Jacob Hubbard from Frisco, Texas



"I'm going to miss how nice everyone is, the cleanliness, and the food...especially the ramen! I'm looking forward to getting back to my wife and daughter, going to beaches, Mexican food, and San Diego Padres' games."

Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Electrical)
2nd Class Victor Montemayor from
Los Fresnos, Texas



Recognize the Signs of

HEAT STRESS

WRITTEN BY MCSN SAM MCNEELY

Heat-related injuries generally arise under two main conditions: prolonged exposure to high temperatures and dehydration. Since these are the primary causes, prevention is relatively straightforward. The most effective way to avoid heat injuries is through proactive measures—namely, reducing heat exposure and maintaining proper hydration.

If a Sailor is showing signs of heat injury, they should be removed from the hot environment immediately!

HEAT RASH



SUN BURN



Whether that means turning on the air conditioning or moving to a cooler space, the goal is to eliminate the heat source. Once removed, begin rehydration by providing water. It's important to avoid caffeine and nicotine when feeling overheated, as these substances can worsen the effects of heat injury.

There are three main levels of heat injury, listed from most to least severe: heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and heat stress. Anyone who experiences a heat-related injury becomes more susceptible to future incidents and is considered a heat risk going forward.

Watch for early warning signs, such as a lack of sweating, a core temperature above 104°F, cool or clammy skin, dilated pupils, confusion, and skin irritation or rashes. Protecting yourself and others from heat injuries is a critical responsibility.

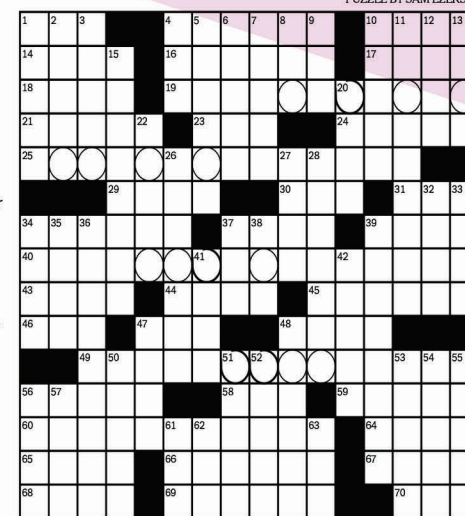
If you don't feel well, speak up—getting help early can prevent a serious situation!

CROSSWORD

PUZZLE BY SAM EZERSKY

ACROSS

- 1 Name that fills in the blanks to make another name:
S _ _ NNAH
4 Build up over time
10 Have a ball at the mall
14 Acquires
16 Foe's opposite
17 _ _ stick (toy)
18 Prefix with toxin or oxidant
19 Where to find singles, a match and love?
21 Not moving
23 The "A" of 10-J-Q-K-A
24 Misplaces
25 Exasperated cry you might make when being turned over to voice mail
29 Bring on staff
30 Gobble down
31 Conflict of 1914-18, in brief
43 \$5 bills, in slang
44 One-named singer from Ireland
45 Really bad, informally
46 Letter repeated in the symbol for "closed captioning"
47 Greek letter after chi
48 "Peanuts" character who pranks Charlie Brown with a football
49 Disposable bit of cutlery
56 "Too rich for my blood"
58 Cunning animal
59 Dog from Down Under
60 The Constitution State ... or, when parsed differently, what you gradually do with this puzzle's circled letters?



DOWN

- 69 Embedded pieces
70 _ _ sauce
13 _ _ and pans
15 Some high-end headwear
20 Congeal
22 Mario's brother
26 Series of steps
27 Neighbor of Bolivia
28 Bob, buzz or beehive
32 Bit of smoke
33 "Your wish _ _ command"
34 Computer debut of 1998
35 Toothpaste holder
36 Wait till morning to decide something
37 Cunning
38 Spanish suffix with señor
39 Be kind, follow the rules, etc.
41 Condo, for one
42 In the shape of a rainbow
47 Hors d'oeuvres spread
48 _ _ Tax (Monopoly square)
50 Midday meal
51 Journalist Gwen
52 Drink served with marshmallows
53 Unexpected problems
54 Ice house?
55 High, as goals
56 Some "Italian" desserts
57 Act dejected
61 Sci-fi film tech, for short
62 Color of khakis
63 French for "your"

MWR PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

SUBMITTED BY AG1 PEARSON



SUDOKU

5		7	2				9	
		6		3		7		1
4							6	
1			4	9				7
			5		8			
8				2	7			5
	7							9
2		9		8		6		
	4				9	3		8

STAY TUNED for the next MWR photo contest!
Contact Fun Boss for more info at
emily.steinway@lha6.navy.mil



FACES OF AMERICA



MRS. ELEKTRA JOYNER

MRS. PAULA WAGNER



WHAT IS A COMMAND OMBUDSMAN?

(Japan) +080-1719-4968
(US) 011-81-80-1719-4968
AMERICAOMBUDSMAN@gmail.com
f USS AMERICA – LHA 6 Ombudsman

Whether it's a first deployment, sudden relocation, major life event, separation from loved ones, or just improving general quality of life, a command ombudsman is available to assist and connect Sailors and their families.

During the upcoming homeport shift, Sailors can depend on their command ombudsmen to provide communication, outreach, resource referrals, information, and advocacy to and for command families. They also interact and cooperate with military offices, like the Fleet & Family Support Center, chaplain's office, medical treatment facilities, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, American Red Cross, legal assistance offices, and much more.

SHARE THE OMBUDSMAN'S CONTACT INFO WITH YOUR FAMILY TODAY!

CO'S VIRTUAL SUGGESTION BOX

This virtual Suggestion Box is your opportunity to share your thoughts and concerns with leadership at your command.

https://usnavy.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9FiQbwnfgRgfXRr?UIC=20103



SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCES

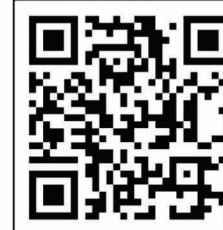
SAPRVAS@LHA6.NAVY.MIL
Duty SAPR x2999

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUPPORT

DAPA@LHA6.NAVY.MIL
AOCs Shackleford x2850

SPEAK WITH A CHAPLAIN

JAMES.HARPER@LHA6.NAVY.MIL
CDR Harper x2737



Need to Talk?

If you've been sexually assaulted, anonymous help is available.

safehelpline.org
877-995-5247

Safe Helpline

ACTIVITY PAGE ANSWERS

8	2	3	6	5	7	1	4	9
4	7	6	3	8	1	9	5	2
9	5	1	2	4	6	8	3	7
5	6	1	6	2	7	3	4	8
9	3	4	8	5	1	2	6	7
7	8	2	6	9	4	5	3	1
2	6	5	1	7	9	3	8	4
1	4	1	8	3	5	7	9	2
3	9	8	4	6	2	1	7	5

Y	O	S	S	A	V	A	N	I	H	T	E	S
T	O	E	R	O	T	G	E	P	I	C	E	S
G	A	L	O	R	E	C	I	T	I	O	N	N
C	A	L	F	O	R	E	C	I	T	I	O	N
O	G	I	N	G	O	U	T	I	M	O	U	T
S	I	L	I	N	G	O	U	T	I	M	O	U
L	I	N	G	O	U	T	I	M	O	U	T	I
C	E	E	P	S	I	L	I	N	G	O	U	T
A	B	E	S	E	N	V	A	C	R	A	P	P
M	U	L	T	I	C	O	U	L	T	I	C	O
I	S	A	G	O	S	I	R	I	S	P	R	I
W	I	H	I	R	E	E	A	T	W	I	H	I
P	I	C	K	U	P	H	O	N	E	L	O	S
S	T	I	L	L	O	S	E	S	L	O	S	E
R	T	I	N	N	I	S	C	O	U	R	T	I
P	O	G	O	F	R	I	E	N	D	P	O	G
S	H	O	P	A	C	R	U	E	S	H	O	P





**Submit ideas,
photos, stories or
feedback for the
next edition to:**

media@lha6.navy.mil

The crest of the 6th Fleet is centered in the white box. It features an eagle with spread wings at the top, a shield with various symbols (a snake, a crown, stars, and a torch) in the middle, and a banner at the bottom with the motto 'BELLO VEL PACE PARATUS'.

