

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER



Mighty AMERICA,

It's been an absolutely jam-packed month out at sea, and we're only just getting started. Bringing aboard the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, the Strike Group Staff, TACRON, and Fleet Surgical Team for the final time while simultaneously conducting a 100-pallet stores onload in less than two days required a whole-ship effort; It's a testament to the caliber of professionalism inherent aboard AMERICA that we were able to execute this.

As we departed Okinawa, we went straight back to it—executing flight operations with the Air Combat Element to get them qualified to execute the missions ahead of us. We also experienced the challenges of an extended emissions control (EMCON) period that tested a core capability of what we would be called to do in a kinetic confrontation with adversarial forces—communicate inside and outside our ship across our America Strike Group. Across the ship, the departments worked diligently to make voyage repairs and ensure AMERICA was Combat Ready.

As we approached the equator, we put a pause on the daily operational cycle that comes with being a warship at sea, and got to have some fun by ceremoniously Crossing the Line into King Neptune's domain. After a day of "testing and trials," we turned Wogs into shiny Shellbacks. Now that everyone has crossed the equator, we are all proud Shellbacks transiting to our next mission set!

On a related note, I want to take a moment to emphasize proper use of our CATNIP WiFi. It's an amazing capability that ten years ago I couldn't have fathomed being available. Please use it responsibly—use it to communicate back home with friends and loved ones. We have nearly 2,500 warfighters aboard all trying to use a small number of receivers. Please only use it in the designated spaces—the mess decks, the Chief's Mess, and the Wardroom—and respect the time you're actively using it.

In closing, I want you to enjoy the port visits in the land down under and stay laser focused on the many taskings before, during and after those port visits. Liberty itself is a mission and your conduct as part of these port visits is a direct reflection of not just yourself, but the ship that bears our country's name and all who serve aboard—Sailor and Marine alike. We have a great team of teams here, representing multiple commands, and I'm consistently impressed with your ability to welcome newcomers into the AMERICA fold.

Let's continue to KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING and TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER! See you on the deckplates.

With utmost respect and admiration,



CAPT Ethan Rule
Commanding Officer, USS AMERICA

June 13, 2025