

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER



Warfighters,

June was an absolutely jam-packed month on AMERICA. As we departed Okinawa, we quickly got to work—executing flight operations with the Air Combat Element to get them qualified to execute the missions ahead. We also worked through the challenges of extended emissions control (EMCON) periods testing a core capability of what we would be called to do in a confrontation with adversarial forces. The Team flexed all of our training teams as we worked to sharpen our edge on readiness.

While operations remain in focus, we put a pause on the daily operational cycle that comes with being a warship at sea, as we approached the equator last month by ceremoniously Crossing the Line into King Neptune's domain. After a day of "testing and trials," we turned more than 1500 Wogs into shiny Shellbacks. Now that everyone has crossed the equator, we are all proud Shellbacks transiting to our next mission set!

We have had the opportunity to test and shape the use of our new CATNIP system, which provides Wifi to everyone. This amazing system has the capability provide service to all of our 2,500 warfighters, as long as we are using it responsibly. Going back through the years to my first ship where there were only a handful of computers and a limited capability to send an email, it is amazing how the capabilities have changed and how we can now stay connected to our families. We need to continue to use this system responsibly.

I continue to be impressed everyday how the Team of Teams continues to power through material challenges ensuring our propulsion, power generation, communications, combat systems, and countless other systems remain fit to fight. Our team has conducted multiple depot level repairs such as repairing circuit cards, pulling apart antenna domes for repair, overhauling our big diesels, to repairing our support equipment for the flight deck. I could not be more proud of what our amazing tech-wizards accomplish every day. Keep up the great work!

The planning continues as we continue to move down track towards our new homeport of San Diego. I have seen many BAH and advanced dependent Travel request go across my desk as well as other correspondence necessary to set us up – keep it coming. Continue to plan forward to ensure that you are ready for the transition to living in a new city. Ask questions if you are unsure, as there is still plenty of time to ensure you are taken care of.

I hope that everyone found our port visit to Sydney Australia to be as amazing as I did. We accomplished so much during that port visit and our professional crew of warfighters left such a good impression on the Australians. I thank everyone for their professionalism. In closing, I want you to enjoy the port visits we have on the horizon and stay focused on the many taskings in our future. 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!

Semper Fortis and Semper Fidelis!

With utmost respect and admiration,



CAPT Ethan Rule
Commanding Officer, USS AMERICA

July 4, 2025