

# A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER



Team of Teams,

For many of us, this is the end of an era, as we draw the operational phase of our patrol to a close and bid a fond farewell to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Our blue-green team has blended to complete numerous operations and two major multinational exercises, while staying brilliant on the day-to-day basics that resulted in large-scale accomplishments.

While there will be many farewells, there will be a great deal of welcoming to the Sailors and Marines cross-decking to AMERICA from USS TRIPOLI. In typical AMERICA fashion, please integrate our new teammates into the family that is AMERICA. I encourage you to engage with our new shipmates and extend the same warm welcome we always do to bring people into the fold.

As we pull away from Sasebo, our mission set will noticeably shift – we'll be going from high-speed flight operations and blue-green team training to a whole new mission set focused on getting our ship and mindsets ready for an in-depth maintenance and dry dock period. With kinetic operations winding down, it's time to double down on furthering your shipboard qualifications with underway training. As always, safety is the first priority – slow is safe and safe is fast. We need everyone to return with all ten fingers and toes.

When we arrive in San Diego, there will still be much to do to prepare our lives and our ship as we begin to bring AMERICA into the shipyard – both on ship and off ship. Many of us don't have a home in San Diego quite yet. Getting you and your families settled in to our new home is pivotal. If you're concerned about you or your family's living situation that means your mind isn't on the mission. We as leaders will make the necessary adjustments to ensure everyone has the opportunity to get settled in, so you can come to the ship every day with your mind clear and ready to execute AMERICA's maintenance availability.

In closing, I encourage you to make your voice heard by taking the DEOCS survey. The survey is anonymous and there is no way to trace your input to your name. It is one of the most critical tools I have to drive change and improve morale. In less than 20 minutes, you can help me make the command an even better place to be.

Thank you for your commitment and courage day in and day out. You never cease to amaze me, Team AMERICA!

With utmost respect and admiration,



**CAPT Ethan Rule**  
**Commanding Officer, USS AMERICA**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'ER', located to the right of the printed name and title.

Aug 11, 2025