



A Message From Jack's Collar

PCU BOUGAINVILLE (LHA 8) ISSUE 8 - JAN 2026



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Care For Sailors - Care For Families - Build Warfighters

Captain's Corner



Capt. Jimmie Jensen
Commanding Officer

Fighting EIGHT.

It is great to have fleeted up to be serving as your Commanding Officer! Over the past 2 years, I have been a part

of the BOUGAINVILLE team, serving as the Executive Officer, but for those who have not met me or my family, I am a Surface Warfare Officer who has spent much of my 26 years of active duty serving in amphibious commands, both afloat and ashore. Although originally from Nebraska, my wife, Kiley, 3 children, and I have spent much of the last 15 years stationed in Japan, and are happy to now call Hampton Roads home.

What the crew does daily to gain and maintain warfighting skills through training, temporary duty while assigned to other commands and building up our command to join the fleet is truly remarkable. LHA 8 is an outstanding command because of the women and men assigned, and I know this is not possible without the families and friends who provide unconditional support behind

the scenes. As we continue to move forward with a dynamic schedule that involves multiple light off's and ship board preparations, we must maintain tenacity, toughness and grit because the challenges will keep coming. As plankowners, we are building BOUGAINVILLE to be a warship, ready to sail boldly and bring lethality to the fleet to confront the many challenges of a complex world. Thank you for all you do.

It is my pleasure to serve with outstanding men and women who will be bringing the Navy's newest amphibious warship to life – Loyal, Fierce, and Brave Sailors, ready to serve our nation's call at sea.

Very Respectfully,

CAPT Jimmie Jensen

Captain Marsh's Farewell Message to Bougainville



Fighting EIGHT.

As I prepare to pass the watch and relinquish command, I find myself reflecting on what we have built together. When I reported aboard, we were a small, determined group with a bold vision and an immense task before us. Today, we stand as a strong, capable, and mission-focused warfighting team—ready to operate the Navy's newest amphibious assault ship and take her confidently to sea.

What was once a handful of plankowners has grown into a crew measured in the hundreds—Sailors who have trained relentlessly, supported the Fleet across the globe, and answered every call to serve. You have operated in the 5th, 6th, and 7th Fleet areas of responsibility. You have

gone in harm's way when required. You have helped ships certify, deploy, and succeed. In every mission, you carried the Fighting EIGHT spirit with professionalism and pride.

Growth in numbers is easy to measure. Growth in character, competence, and cohesion is not—but I have witnessed it every day. I have seen junior Sailors become confident leaders. I have watched Chiefs anchor our standards and uphold the legacy of the Mess. I have observed officers shoulder tremendous responsibility with humility and resolve. Together, you have built a culture rooted in trust, accountability, and teamwork.

Our priorities have always been clear: Take care of our Sailors. Take care of our families. Build warfighters. Those weren't just words on a slide—they were the compass that guided our decisions. Because combat power begins with people. Readiness begins with relationships. And warfighting excellence begins with trust.

None of our success would have been possible without the steadfast support of our families and Ombudsman team. To those who stand beside our Sailors—who serve in your own way through long hours, uncertain schedules, and countless

transitions—you are our foundation. Like channel buoys, you light the path forward and help us navigate the demands of service life. Your strength and resilience are woven into every milestone this command has achieved.

As I depart, know this: I have complete confidence in you and in the leadership that will carry this command forward. The bonds of trust you have forged will endure. The standards you uphold will define the future of this ship. Continue to look out for one another. Continue to sharpen your skills. Continue to remind each other that we are one family.

It has been the honor of my lifetime to serve as your Commanding Officer. I am profoundly grateful for your trust, your dedication, and your sacrifice. What you do every day matters—to our Navy and to our nation.

Fair winds and following seas.

— Captain Marsh

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Do you have a story to tell? We would love to feature you or your department in a future edition. Contact the Jack's Collar editorial staff by email at: LHA8_Media@us.navy.mil

On The Front Cover



Bougainville conducts Change of Command Ceremony from Captain Marsh to Captain Jensen. More on pg. 5.

Captain Jensen Assumes Command of Bougainville from Captain Marsh



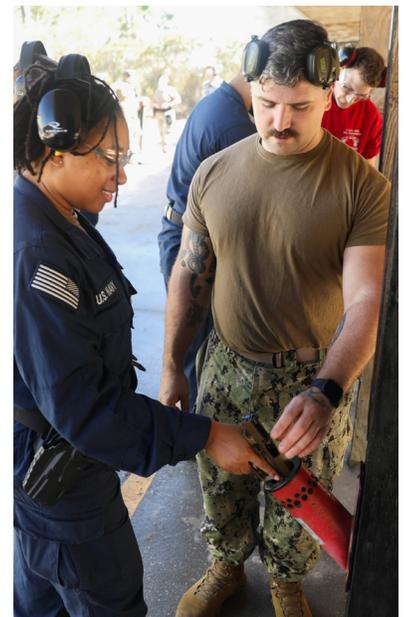
Photos by MC1 Hardy & MC2 Skyles

Volunteer work : Community Care



Photos by MC1 Kinee

Bougainville's First GUNEX!



Bougainville Heritage Week



Photos by MC1 Kinee & MC1 Hardy





The Birth of the Allied Jungle Doctrine

As Allied forces shifted from Europe-centric battlefields to the Pacific in early 1943, one key development was the refinement of the jungle warfare doctrine. This is a body of tactics, training, and operational thinking that allows troops to fight effectively in dense tropical terrain. Prior to the campaign in the South West Pacific, Western armies lacked a formal doctrine for jungle combat. This gap in training showed in early encounters against Japanese forces in jungle environments.

In 1942 and 1943, the allied military learned that traditional open-field tactics were pretty much useless in the jungle. Thick vegetation, heavy rainfall, and disease made movement and supply difficult, and visibility was often restricted to a few yards. As a result, the Australian Army and soon the U.S. forces undertook a deliberate effort to adapt and train for these

harsh conditions. New training centers were established, such as the Jungle Warfare School at Canungra, Queensland, where reinforcements learned vital skills before entering combat. By early 1943, pre-war field manuals and tactics had been revised to emphasize small-unit initiative, patrolling, reconnaissance, camouflage, and jungle survival.

The hard-learned lessons from the rugged battles around the Kokoda Track and the Buna-Gona area fed directly into this doctrinal shift. It was recognized that jungle warfare required specialized preparation and adaptability. As a principal architect of Allied training reflected later in the war, Brigadier Arnold Potts, who developed early jungle training for Australian troops, stressed practical immersion. The theory was that troops trained in terrain resembling the actual battlefield could understand

how the environment would shape combat before entering it.

One contemporary voice calling attention to the significance of this evolution came from Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Wells, later Australian Army Chief of the General Staff, who said, "We must avoid the situation where soldiers have to be killed to learn."

By January 1943, the cumulative effect of these changes was clear. Allied units entering jungle campaigns were better trained, better equipped, and better led. The institutional knowledge gained in New Guinea and similar environments would pay dividends in later operations such as Bougainville. The refinement of jungle doctrine in early 1943 was an essential foundation of Allied success in the Pacific.