

RUSH



USS RUSHMORE MAGAZINE | VOL. 1 ISS. 4

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AND THE 13TH
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ON THE COVER:
GULF OF ADEN (OCT. 2, 2018) - OPERATIONS SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS JEFFREY BIERENGA FIRES AN M16 RIFLE DURING LIVE FIRE EXERCISES .
(U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MC3 REYMUNDO A. VILLEGAS III)

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RUSHMORE CREW,

We’re about halfway though deployment, and I know that is on everyone’s minds. We’ve had a lot of great wins during the first half of deployment. We’ve met every mission on time and readily executed. Make no doubt about it, the ESSEX ARG, 13th MEU and RUSHMORE are making an impact. We’ve conducted some varsity-level amphib ops and navigation, and I’m proud of all that we’ve achieved.

I think why we’ve been successful through work-ups and deployment is that we always execute the basics of procedural compliance and safety, but we’ve taken it a few steps beyond. While using everything that we learned during the basic phase, we’ve become creative, have become faster and more efficient. We’ve done a few things lately that have proven that we’re learning and constantly improving, staying above average. That’s called operational excellence --- staying above average. Because as the saying goes, average ships are sunk by above average ships, so let’s stay ahead and keep striving to be above average in all that we do.

Finally, I know we’ve been busy, and that’s great, and I hope we stay busy. As I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, dust off those pre-deployment goals; rededicate yourself to earning that warfare pin before we return to San Diego. Let’s keep taking care of our ship, looking out for one another, and return to San Diego better than when we left.

Robert C. Tryon
Commanding Officer
CDR Robert C. Tryon





Dubai

RUSHMORE & 13TH MEU VISIT

U.S. NAVY STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC3 REYMUNDO A. VILLEGAS III

ARABIAN GULF (NNS) -- The Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship USS Rushmore (LSD 47) with the embarked 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) arrived in Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates Oct. 13 following maritime security operations in the Gulf of Aden.

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (OCT. 14, 2018) - BOATSWAIN'S MATE SEAMAN HEAVEN GRAHAM, ASSIGNED TO WHIDBEY ISLAND-CLASS DOCK LANDING SHIP USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47), POSES FOR A PORTRAIT WITH THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES NATIONAL BIRD, THE FALCON, WHILE PARTICIPATING IN A MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION DESERT SUNSET SAFARI TOUR.



The goodwill port visit allowed the Sailors of the Rushmore to enjoy the local culture and visit the historical sites of the United Arab Emirates.

"This port visit was a great opportunity to reward Rushmore's Sailors and Marines," said Cmdr. Rob Tryon, commanding officer of Rushmore. "After their hard work during maritime security operations, our blue-green team enjoyed the opportunity to experience the culture of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Liberty was a great way to deepen the relationship between our nations."

While in port, Sailors and Marines were able to get some rest and relaxation after a challenging at-sea schedule with multiple exercises. Some went shopping, visited religious and cultural sites, tasted delicacies native to the country while others purchased tours from the ship's morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) committee and attended local attractions such as city tours, food tours and theme parks.

"We had a variety of tours for our Sailors and Marines to choose from," said Chief Quartermaster Candice Stone, Rushmore's

MWR recreation service officer. "Some people attended the sunset safari where they had the opportunity to ride camels, and watch the sun set over the sand dunes. Others explored the water parks, the Burj Khalifa, and many other amazing sites that the UAE had to offer. Everyone had a great and safe time because there was so much to do and see."

Rushmore is currently deployed to the U.S. 5th fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting to the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points as part of a regularly scheduled deployment of the Essex Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 13th MEU.

For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

For more news from USS Rushmore (LSD 47), visit <http://www.rushmore.navy.mil> and <https://www.facebook.com/USSRushmore>.





HARD

chargers

It's no secret that United States military personnel work days consist of long hours and hard work. Beyond those that work hard are individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty. While every branch and installation has their own unique terms for their service members who go the extra mile, USS Rushmore (LSD 47) recognizes these service members as "Hard Chargers." While underway, Rushmore recognizes hard charging personnel who put in the extra man hours to improve the welfare of

the crew.

The captain of the ship, Cmdr. Robert Tryon, visits with one motivated Sailor or Marine and thanks them for their hard work with their department present. As a sign of gratitude, he presents the "Hard Charger" with his personal command challenge coin and announces them over the 1MC to all embarked aboard the ship.

The challenge coin is a staple of American military tradition. It instills pride, improves morale and rewards excellence.



FROM THE STEEL BEACH TO THE STARS

U.S. NAVY STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC3 REYMUNDO A. VILLEGAS III

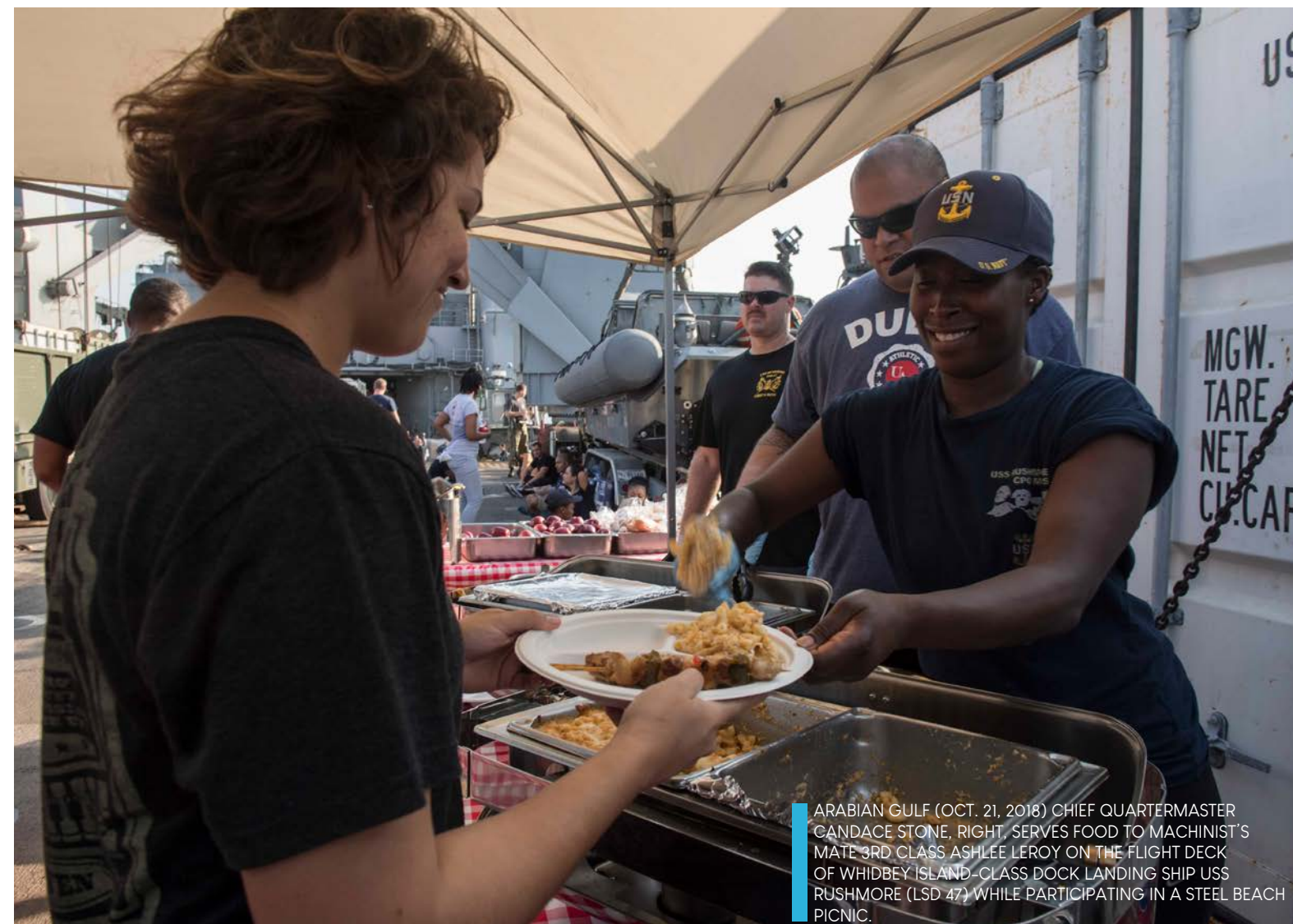
ARABIAN GULF (NNS)
-- Sailors aboard the
Whidbey Island-class
dock landing ship USS
Rushmore (LSD 47)
participated in a steel
beach picnic and talent show, Oct. 21.

"The purpose of the steel beach picnic and talent show was to maintain morale as we approach our fourth month of deployment," said Electronics Technician 2nd Class Jessica Russell, Rushmore's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) committee's secretary. "The longer we are out to sea, the more people begin to miss their families and friends back home. These events allow us to break away from our daily routine and remind us that we have a family here on Rushmore."

The ship's MWR committee, Chief Petty Officer Association, First Class Petty Officer Association, Junior Petty Officer Association and Multicultural Committee collaborated to bring this event to the crew. Some groups coordinated and set up activities, others assisted in preparing food for the crew while others served the crew.

A variety of sports and games were offered during the picnic as an opportunity for the crew to have fun, socialize and build relationships with their shipmates. Music was provided Chief Logistics Specialist Dominique Daphness and Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Tafari Phillips.

"Our CSs [culinary specialists] worked hard to provide a variety of food from grilled



ARABIAN GULF (OCT. 21, 2018) CHIEF QUARTERMASTER CANDACE STONE, RIGHT, SERVES FOOD TO MACHINIST'S MATE 3RD CLASS ASHLEE LEROY ON THE FLIGHT DECK OF WHIDBEY ISLAND-CLASS DOCK LANDING SHIP USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47) WHILE PARTICIPATING IN A STEEL BEACH PICNIC.



ARABIAN GULF (OCT. 21, 2018) GUNNER'S MATE 2ND CLASS JOHN MCEVILLY PERFORMS STAND UP COMEDY ON THE MESS DECKS OF WHIDBEY ISLAND-CLASS DOCK LANDING SHIP USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47) WHILE PARTICIPATING IN A STEEL BEACH PICNIC.

“I’ve never done stand up comedy to a crowd that size, so it was good practice for my road to the big stage.”

beef tenderloins, teriyaki chicken, chicken kebabs, grilled hot dogs, corn on the cob, macaroni and cheese and pasta salads for our crew,” said Culinary Specialist 1st Class Frederick Arnold. “Judging by the looks on everyone’s face, I’d say they were extremely satisfied.”

After the picnic concluded and the flight deck was cleaned and prepared for the next day’s operations, the crew gathered on the mess deck to see who would win MWR’s “Conquer The Mic” talent show. The talent show consisted of a variety of acts ranging from skits to comedic acts to vocalists and musicians. MWR also raffled prizes during the show to further include the audience.

“Participating in the talent show was a lot of fun,” said Gunner’s Mate 2nd Class John McEvilly. “I’ve never done stand up comedy

to a crowd that size, so it was good practice for my road to the big stage.”

The Essex Amphibious Ready Group (ESXARG) is comprised of Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2), the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS Anchorage (LPD 23), Rushmore and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The ESXARG is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operation as part of a regularly scheduled deployment in support of maritime security operations.

For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

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NAVY LEADERS REFLECT ON 243 YEARS

"FORGED BY THE SEA"

BY YONCA POYRAZ-DOGAN

NAVY OFFICE OF INFORMATION PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy's top leaders have sent messages to the fleet on the Navy's 243rd birthday reflecting on the theme "Forged by the Sea" as it represents the aspirational outcome of every Sailor's journey in uniform and that every Sailor is shaped and strengthened into a more capable version of themselves through naval service.

Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer said in a message to the fleet that the Navy is ready to fight, respond and defend wherever there is need but it needs to do it with a sense of urgency and efficiency.

"Because of your hard work and dedication, the foundation for restoring readiness and increasing lethality has been set. But as we enter our 244th year of service, we must now build on that foundation. I need you to continually think of how to improve the delivery of the Navy the nation needs with a committed sense of urgency," Spencer said.

Emphasizing that how we invest our time and resources are important, Spencer also said that the National Defense Strategy provides guidelines in that regard.



ARABIAN GULF (OCT. 12, 2018) SAILORS POSE FOR A PHOTO AT A CELEBRATION FOR THE NAVY'S BIRTHDAY HELD ON THE MESS DECKS OF WHIDBEY ISLAND-CLASS DOCK LANDING SHIP.

(U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MC3 REYMUENDO A. VILLEGAS III)

“We have developed plans informed by the National Defense Strategy, which recognizes that our primary role is warfighting. Now each of us must align our efforts in order to accomplish these plans,” he said. “With your help, I have no doubt we will leverage every resource, leading practice, and efficiency we can find with the professionalism, integrity and accountability the American people expect.”

Other top Navy leaders, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. John M. Richardson and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Russell Smith, said happy birthday to the Navy in a video posted on social media.

“Two hundred and forty three years ago, our Navy was founded, founded to protect America from attack, to secure our prosperity and our interests around the world, and we’ve been doing that every day since,” Richardson said.

Smith said that America has been kept safe through exceptional talent, dedication to duty and strength of character.

“John Paul Jones once said ‘men mean more than guns in the rating of a ship.’ That’s what this is about - our people,” Smith said in reference to the first well-known naval commander in the American Revolutionary War.

He also said that with all the creativity and innovation, the Navy will meet any challenges “head on” and is prepared “for whatever comes next.”

Recalling landmark battles such as the War of 1812 and the Battle of Midway, Richardson

added, “Throughout our history, our Sailors have always risen to the occasion and punched above their weight when the nation called.”

Richardson closed his remarks with a quote from Jones:

“He who cannot risk, will not win.’ This is the year that we win. Wherever you are around the world - on a ship, in a squadron, take some time to think about what this year means as we go and we win it. We earn it every single day, every single watch.”

In an effort to curb British sea control, the Continental Congress established the Continental Navy, which later became the United States Navy, Oct. 13, 1775. When the

Continental Navy was initially formed, it consisted of only two armed vessels that were tasked with disrupting munition ships supplying the British Army in America.

In 1972, CNO Adm. Elmo Zumwalt designated Oct. 13 as the Navy’s official

birthday, in order to “enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service.”

Over the past two and a half centuries, the Navy has grown to become the largest, most advanced and most lethal fighting force the world has ever known. The Navy today has more than 328,000 personnel on active duty and around 100,000 personnel in the Navy Reserve, as well as, 286 deployable battle force ships and approximately 270,000 civilian employees.

For more information on the birthday, visit <https://www.history.navy.mil/birthday>.

“TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY THREE YEARS AGO, OUR NAVY WAS FOUNDED, FOUNDED TO PROTECT AMERICA FROM ATTACK, TO SECURE OUR PROSPERITY AND OUR INTERESTS AROUND THE WORLD, AND WE’VE BEEN DOING THAT EVERY DAY SINCE.”

ARABIAN GULF (OCT. 12, 2018) CULINARY SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS LEONARD COCA FINISHES CUTTING A CAKE IN CELEBRATION OF THE NAVY’S BIRTHDAY ON THE MESS DECKS OF WHIDBEY ISLAND-CLASS DOCK LANDING SHIP. (U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MC3 REYMUNDO A. VILLEGAS III)



U.S. NAVY STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC3 REYMUNDO A. VILLEGAS III

RUSHMORE CELEBRATES HALLOWEEN

ARABIAN GULF (NNS) – Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship USS Rushmore (LSD 47) celebrated Halloween during the Western Pacific 2018 deployment with an animals, super heroes, and other creatures stirring about the ship, Oct. 28.



ARABIAN GULF (OCT. 28, 2018) – SAILORS WAIT TO HEAR RESULTS OF THE HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST HELD ON THE MESS DECKS OF WHIDBEY ISLAND-CLASS DOCK LANDING SHIP USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47).

ARABIAN GULF (NNS) – Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship USS Rushmore (LSD 47) celebrated Halloween with animals, super heroes, and other creatures stirring about the ship, Oct. 28.

The ship's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Committee hosted a door decorating contest while the Junior Petty Officer Association (JPOA) hosted a Halloween costume contest with prizes provided by MWR.

Various departments aboard the ship and the embarked Sailors assigned to Assault Craft Unit 1, created spooktacular doors with limited resources and supplies found on board. Deck department won the grand prize of \$250 with their clown-inspired theme.

"It was so fun getting to dress up and be a part of our door," said Boatswain's Mate

Seaman Mayra Alatorre. "Being able to scare the judges definitely made the door come to life."

The costume contest was held in the evening on the mess decks and was judged by Lt. Stephen DiCenso, ship's chaplain, Culinary Specialist 1st Class Courtney Barnett and Chief Hospital Corpsman Jeffrey Ebiya.

The winners of the costume contest were: Electronics Technician 3rd Class Isaiah Harris in first place who received a laptop. Second place winner Electronics Technician 2nd Class Ashtin Saunders received a fitness tracking device. Third place winner Operations Specialist 3rd Class Dacia Andrade won an electronic reading device.

"Halloween is one of my favorite holidays because of the costumes," said Andrade. "I'm glad I didn't have to miss it even though



ARABIAN GULF (OCT. 28, 2018) - SUPPLY DEPARTMENT OF WHIDBEY ISLAND-CLASS DOCK LANDING SHIP USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47) PLAYS A MOVIE WHILE ON THEIR DECORATED DOOR.



we are underway.”

After the costume contest, the crew celebrated the rest of their Halloween with candy provided by the First Class Petty Officer Association.

Rushmore is deployed with the Essex Amphibious Ready Group (ESXARG) and is comprised of Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2), the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS Anchorage (LPD 23) and the 13th Marine

Expeditionary Unit. The ESXARG is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operation as part of a regularly scheduled deployment in support of maritime security operations.

For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

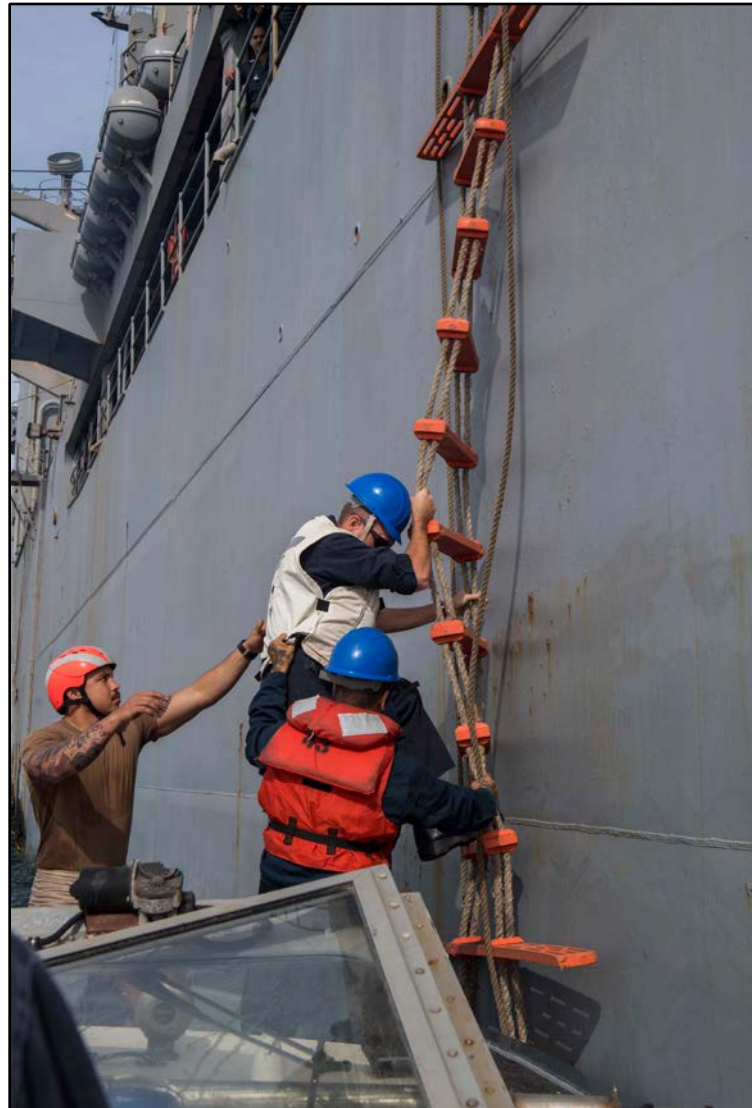
For more news from USS Rushmore (LSD 47), visit <http://www.rushmore.navy.mil> and <https://www.facebook.com/USSRushmore>.

“BEING ABLE TO SCARE THE JUDGES DEFINITELY MADE THE DOOR COME TO LIFE.”

-BMSN MAYRA ALATORRE



OCTOBER IN REVIEW



BLUE GREEN SPOTLIGHT



CS2 ABBY BUCHANAN
USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47)

HOMETOWN: PHENIX, ALABAMA

TIME IN THE NAVY: I'VE BEEN IN FOR FOUR YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS.

JOB TITLE: DAMAGE CONTROL PETTY OFFICER

DEPLOYMENT GOALS: TO BE FULLY PREPARED FOR THE CIVILIAN WORLD WHEN I DEPART FROM THE NAVY.

BEST ADVICE FOR SAILORS: NEVER LET ANYONE TELL YOU "NO."

HOBBIES/INTERESTS: READING BOOKS, BINGE WATCHING TV SHOWS, AND ENGRAVING.

FAVORITE TV SHOW: "SCANDAL" AND "HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER."

FAVORITE MOVIE: I'M NOT MUCH OF A MOVIE PERSON BUT IF I HAD TO CHOOSE ONE IT WOULD BE "THE NOTEBOOK."

FAVORITE BOOK: ANYTHING BY STEPHEN KING..

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT FROM DEPLOYMENT: GOING TO CHINATOWN IN SINGAPORE WITH KITASANG AND LOSING HER.



CPL. AMAURI FERRER
COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION 13

HOMETOWN: BELLVILLE, TEXAS

TIME IN THE MARINES: TWO YEARS AND SEVEN MONTHS.

JOB TITLE: MOS 3531/3536 - MOTOR T OPERATOR/WRECKER

DEPLOYMENT GOALS: PET A TIGER.

BEST ADVICE FOR MARINES: DON'T LET THE NEGATIVITY OF OTHERS AFFECT YOUR ATTITUDE.

HOBBIES/INTERESTS: FISHING & BIRD HUNTING.

FAVORITE TV SHOW: "RICKY AND MORTY," "DEXTER" AND "BREAKING BAD."

FAVORITE MOVIE: "SAVAGES"

FAVORITE BOOK: "WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS"

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT FROM DEPLOYMENT: WHEN KITASONG GOT LOST IN CHINATOWN.



ARABIAN GULF (OCT. 28, 2018) - QUATERMASTER 2ND CLASS JESSICA JACQUET AND FIREMAN DAMIAN SANCHEZ, BOTH ASSIGNED TO LANDING CRAFT UTILITY 1665, ATTACHED TO ASSAULT CRAFT UNIT 1, POSE FOR A PHOTO WITH THEIR DECORATED DOOR. (U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MC3 REYMUNDO A. VILLEGAS III)