

BATARG BEACON

Issue 8

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Navy Reservist Finds Unlikely
Home in New York's Galley

ARG/MEU Conducts
Training on KSA Islands

New York Sailors and Marines
'Race Across New York City'



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A Navy Reservist with Fleet Surgical Team 4 finds an unlikely home in New York's galley.



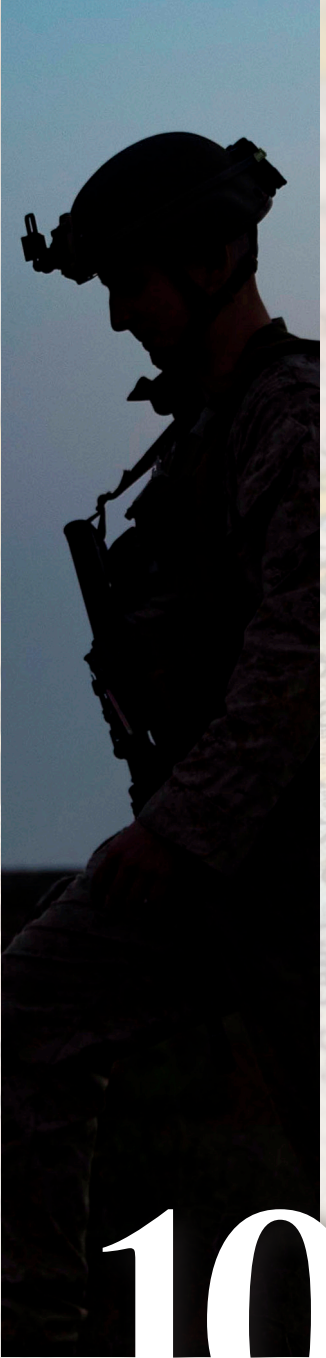
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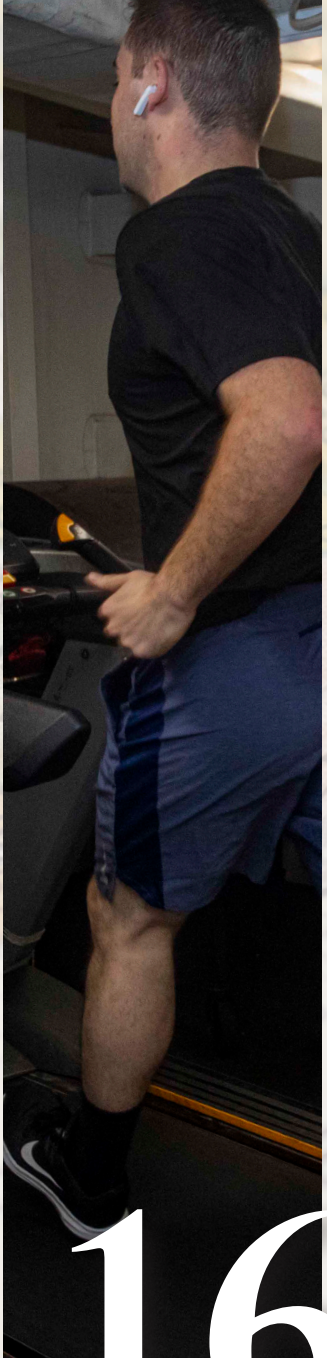
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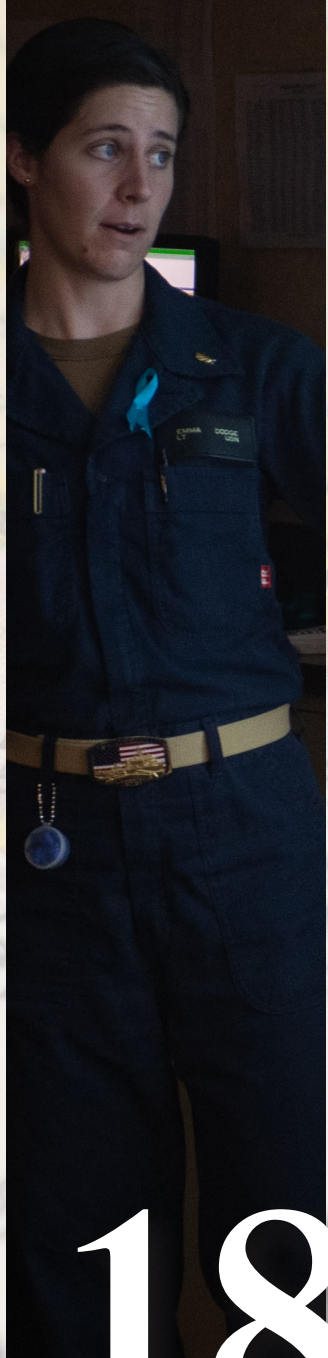
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The official magazine for the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group

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Cover photo:

Cpl. Raul Gama, assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, embarked aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), participates in a contact drill during sustainment training on islands of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, April 21, 2020. Photo by MC3 Levi Decker.



Navy Reserve Anesthesiologist finds unlikely home in New York's galley

Story and photos by MC2 Lyle Wilkie

On many Navy ships, Sailors are sometimes sent from their normal jobs to be temporarily assigned to assist their galley's crew. One Sailor aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21) decided to volunteer his time in the galley every free chance he gets.

"The first time I helped out was for Christmas dinner," said Lt. Cmdr. Richard Gianetti, a reserve anesthesiologist assigned to Fleet Surgical Team (FST) 4. "I figured that would be a day they would need an extra set of hands. I found my way around quite easily and helped with basic prep and

cleanup to take the pressure off others. I asked after that day if it would be OK if I could help out when needed. They were very surprised but said, 'Of course'."

Gianetti joined the Navy Reserve after hearing the Navy needed anesthesiologists.

"I'm 61 years old and joined the Navy Reserve about five years ago after getting mailings how short-staffed the Navy was for anesthesiologists," said Gianetti. "I figured I was too old, but as it turned out, I wasn't. I've been doing anesthesiology for almost 30 years, subspecializing in

cardio-thoracic anesthesiology."

Gianetti deployed on the New York as part of the first FST of Navy reservists to deploy on a Navy ship.

"Doc Gianetti started working in the galley due to his love of food," said Culinary Specialist 1st Class Andrew Carlin. "The lack of current surgeries onboard led to a perfect opportunity [for him] to help assist our culinary specialists by doing what he loves."

The love for cooking isn't something that began recently for Gianetti.

"After graduation from high school in 1975, at age 16, I attended culinary school for a year," said Gianetti. "My parents were not keen on that career choice and guided me towards pharmacy. I worked in restaurants and hotels during undergraduate to help fund my education. My love for cooking and preparing events for friends and family always stayed with me."

His love for cooking in general sparked an interest in assisting in the New York's galley while the ship is deployed in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

"I found myself spending more and more time in the galley with all the tasks," said Gianetti. "I realized how intense it can be and how hard the galley crew works; it's nonstop 24/7. Before one meal is ending the next is already starting to be prepared...I like the intensity and deadlines. It's similar to working in a busy operating room, to some extent."

New York's Sailors and Marines say they have enjoyed having him in the galley.

"The culinary specialists and food service attendants truly enjoy his mentorship and leadership," said Carlin. "Since he wears two hats, he is able to give us insight from both a culinary and medical professional standpoint. For instance, he really makes sure we maintain high sanitation standards. Since he previously attended the Culinary Institute of America, he is able to teach our culinary specialists skills that would not be traditionally taught in the 'A' school setting."

His work in the galley has helped to bring excitement into the galley that was not previously there.

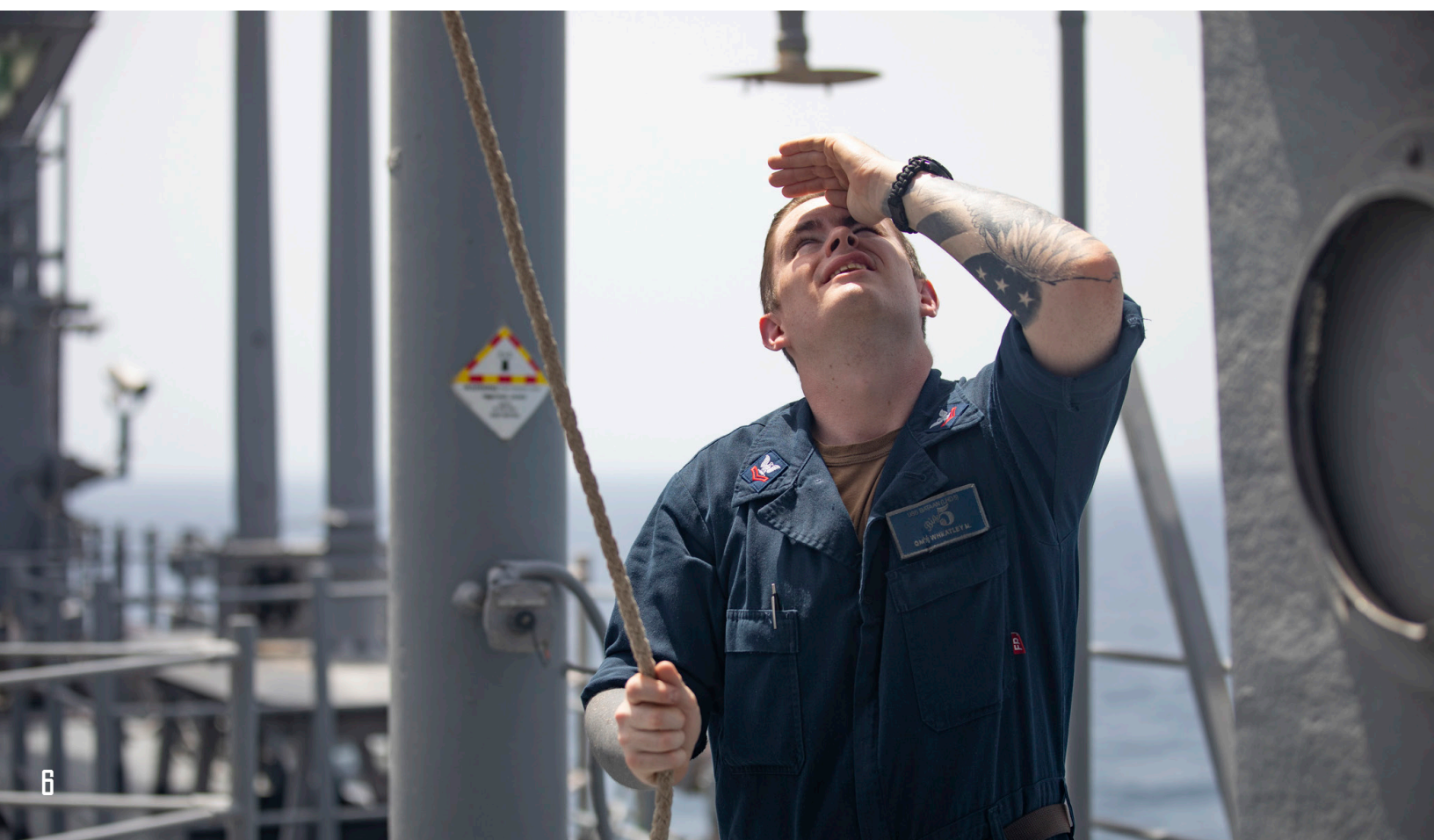
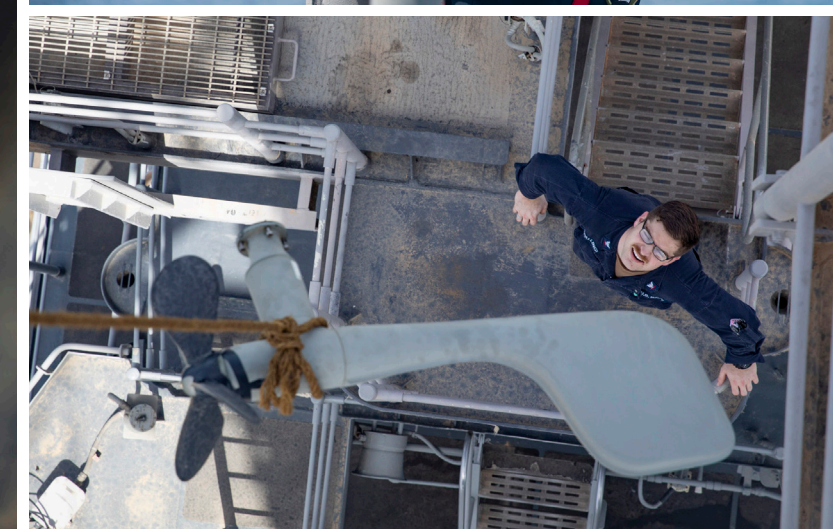
"He has definitely inspired me to stay passionate in the kitchen," said Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Nicholas Basone, New York's night galley supervisor. "Ever since he arrived in the galley, we treat it like a nice restaurant. He answers me as 'Chef' and now the junior cooks do the same. He has shown us all how to take that extra second to tweak the product and make it appealing to the customer."

Gianetti has not only created inspiration inside the galley, but also has been an inspiration for others to join the galley as well.

"Lt. Cmdr. Gianetti's infectious attitude has led to other members of his Fleet Surgical Team assisting in the galley on a daily basis," said Carlin. "They have been a huge help to our overall operation."

The little things he does might seem easily replaceable, but not to the Sailors and the Marines who work with him in the galley.

"I love having him around," said Basone. "He shares a lot of knowledge and I will definitely miss that man and so will the galley. I tell him all the time how much I appreciate him: 'Thank you, Chef, for all that you do and you will be missed in The Skyline Café.'"



Clockwise from top left:
Photos by MCSA Darren Newell

Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class Joshua Ross, assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), lowers rope to vultures row, May 9, 2020.

Electronics Tecnician 2nd Class Kaitlyn Andrews, assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) climbs down a ladder, April 26, 2020.

Interior Communications Electrician Seaman Caleb Arlington, assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), installs equipment aloft, May 9, 2020.

Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class Josh Spallinger, assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), receives damaged equipment from aloft, May 9, 2020.

Electronics Technician 3rd Class Frank Piscatella, assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), cleans the exterior of a radar system, May 2, 2020.

Quartermaster 2nd Class Michael Wheatley, assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), works on vultures row, May 9, 2020.



26th Marine Expeditionary Unit trains on Saudi Arabian islands

Story by Communication Strategy and Operations, 26th MEU

The 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), embarked aboard the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group (BATARG), conducted routine amphibious assault training on the islands of Karan and Kurayn, Saudi Arabia, April 20-22.

The training was preplanned and coordinated through the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and afforded approximately 800 Marines and Sailors the opportunity to train in amphibious operations in a realistic environment.

Over the course of three days, the BATARG and 26th MEU planned and conducted a variety of the MEU's mission-essential tasks including amphibious raids and amphibious assaults. Amphibious raids involve swift incursions and withdrawals, while amphibious assaults can result in occupation of an objective and preparing for follow-on operations.

"Through support in planning, establishing maritime dominance, executing ship-to-shore evolutions, and preparing for notional naval surface fires — the BATARG was able to get valuable training and enable the success of the 26th MEU's mission ashore," said Lt. Cmdr. Grace Reilly, assistant operations officer with the BATARG.

The BATARG consists of the flagship amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21) and the dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51), and is supported by the guided-missile destroyer USS Stout (DDG 55).

The BATARG and 26th MEU team concurrently utilized air and surface assets to transport forces and equipment to the two islands. This capability is unique to the Amphibious Ready Group Marine Expeditionary Units (ARGMEU) and enhances versatility when conducting amphibious

cont.

Marines assigned to Fox Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/8, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), establish a defensive position during platoon-level training on Kurayn Island, Saudi Arabia, April 22, 2020. Photo by Cpl. Tanner Seims



Marines and Sailors assigned to Fox Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/8, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), carry a simulated casualty to an MV-22B Osprey during a casualty evacuation drill on Kurayn Island, Saudi Arabia, April 22, 2020. Photo by Cpl. Tanner Seims.

operations in the maritime domain. The MEU has an organic aviation combat element which is equipped with fixed-wing, rotary-wing and tilt-rotor aircraft capable of operating over land or over water alongside ship-to-shore connectors such as assault amphibious vehicles and other landing craft.

The integration of the Navy-Marine Corps team was an essential element of the sustainment training on the islands. As a cohesive team, the ARGMEU flowed forces and firepower to Karan Island and facilitated notional fire support by utilizing organic artillery assets.

During this training, the ground combat element conducted company-sized training that included a helicopter insert on Kurayn Island, while a second company executed an amphibious assault on Karan Island's beach. The training on the two islands was invaluable to the MEU's readiness as islands present unique

challenges not usually encountered by ground-based units.

In preparation for training on the islands, reconnaissance Marines conducted hydrographic surveys under the cover of darkness, provided amphibious reconnaissance and surveillance, and maneuvered combat rubber raiding craft throughout the littoral region. The Maritime Raid Force (MRF) is capable of controlling key maritime areas in time of conflict.

"The control of key maritime terrain requires specially-trained Marines," said Capt. Cory Moyer, company commander for the MRF. "The MRF provides the MEU a force that can deliver decisive victories that reduce enemy capabilities, induce confusion and create a gap to exploit with follow-on combat power."

Sourcing combat power ashore from a sea-based platform allows the

ARGMEU to be flexible, expeditionary, and postured to shape actions across the full range of military operations in remote, marginally accessible, environments.

In conjunction with the BATARG and 26th MEU, The Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force – Crisis Response – Central Command 19.2 (SPMAGTF-CR-CC) also conducted a full mission profile, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel exercise on Karan and Kurayn Islands on April 23.

The preplanned exercise affords the SPMAGTF-CR-CC an opportunity to sustain and improve its critical mission capabilities, as well as demonstrate its ability to rapidly respond to emergent threats and crises.

"I extend my sincere appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for providing this unique and effective



training opportunity for the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group, the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit and Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command," said Vice Admiral James Malloy, commander U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. "These training evolutions not only contribute to our readiness to respond to crisis but also demonstrate the Navy-Marine Corps team's significant contribution in ensuring freedom of navigation, the free flow of commerce and lawful control of the maritime domain in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility."



Reconnaissance Marines assigned to the Maritime Raid Force, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), surfaces on the beach after diving near Karan Island, Saudi Arabia (top photo) and assault amphibious vehicles assigned to Golf Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/8, 26th MEU, train on Karan Island, Saudi Arabia, April 21, 2020. Photos by Cpl. Gary Jayne.



KSA ISLAND TRAINING

Clockwise from top left:

Marines assigned to Fox Battery, Battalion Landing Team 2/8, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), prepare to emplace an M777 towed 155mm howitzer during amphibious assault training on Karan Island, Saudi Arabia, April 22, 2020. Photo by Staff Sgt. Patricia Morris.

Reconnaissance Marines assigned to the Maritime Raid Force, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), operate a combat rubber raiding craft near Karan Island, Saudi Arabia, April 21, 2020. Photo by Cpl. Gary Jayne.

A U.S. Marine Corps CH-53E Super Stallion assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 365, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), takes off after inserting Marines for platoon-level training on Karan Island, Saudi Arabia, April 21, 2020. Photo by Cpl. Tanner Seims.

Sailors, assigned to Assault Craft Unit 4, and Marines, assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, both embarked aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), unload vehicles from a landing craft, air cushion launched from Bataan during sustainment training on islands of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, April 21, 2020. Photo by MC3 Levi Decker.

Marines assigned to Fox Battery, Battalion Landing Team 2/8, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), emplace an M777 towed 155mm howitzer during amphibious assault training on Karan Island, Saudi Arabia, April 22, 2020. Photo by Staff Sgt. Patricia Morris.





KSA ISLAND TRAINING



Clockwise from top left:

A convoy of Humvees, assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, embarked aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), perform contact drills during sustainment training on islands of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, April 21, 2020. Photo by MC3 Levi Decker.

Marines, assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, embarked aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), patrol during sustainment training on islands of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, April 21, 2020. Photo by MC3 Levi Decker.

Cpl. Logan Couch, assigned to the Maritime Raid Force of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, embarked aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), stands sentry during sustainment training on islands of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, April 21, 2020. Photo by MC3 Levi Decker.

A reconnaissance Marine assigned to the Maritime Raid Force, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), surfaces on the beach after diving near Karan Island, Saudi Arabia, April 21, 2020. Photo by Cpl. Gary Jayne.

Lance Cpl. Martti Kahra, rifleman, assigned to Fox Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/8, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), sprints to the objective during buddy rushing drills on Karan Island, Saudi Arabia, April 21, 2020. Photo by Cpl. Tanner Seims.

Marines assigned to Fox Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/8, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), exit an MV-22B Osprey to conduct platoon-level training on Kurayn Island, Saudi Arabia, April 22, 2020. Photo by Cpl. Tanner Seims.





Sailors and Marines ‘Race Across New York City’

Story and photo by MC2 Lyle Wilkie

Aboard U.S. Navy ships, gyms are provided to keep the crew physically ready and in shape. One Sailor aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York created a competition to challenge his shipmates to stay healthy while simultaneously honoring the ship’s namesake.

New York’s Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) team was looking for ways to keep the Sailors’ and Marines’ physical activity up, and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Darren David came

up with the idea to run the equivalent length of the furthest points of New York City and made it a friendly competition called “Race Across New York.”

“I wanted to come up with a challenge that people could work towards and be proud of completing,” said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Darren David, creator of the Race Across New York. “I also wanted to add an element of competition, whether it’s competing with a friend or competing with yourself.”

This idea blossomed into a race equal to the

distance from one side of New York City to the other, which is a total of 283 miles across multiple exercise sessions, with the top three participants aboard receiving prizes from MWR. Anyone else who finished the race would get their name on a plaque to be hung up aboard New York.

“The goal of Race Across New York is to get Sailors and Marines out there running or biking for a goal,” said Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class Shelby Eby, MWR president. “283 miles is a great goal on its own, so why not get

recognized for it.”

The first three to finish the race were Cpl. Patrick Nelson and Lance Cpl. Forrest Kimmel, both assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), and Culinary Specialist Seaman Mark Monge, assigned to New York.

“Race Across New York was challenging and as a long distance runner, I loved it,” said Monge. “It’s my first time to compete in the military world against Sailors and Marines, so this event will never be forgotten.”

Even though the

top prizes have already been claimed, that hasn’t deterred Sailors and Marines from continuing to try to meet the goal.

“It’s an ongoing competition that motivates me to make time to run,” said Lt j.g. Alexandria Laureys, Race Across New York competitor. “I enjoy the physicality of it and the combination of competition and camaraderie it breeds. People who might not normally speak to each other go out of their way to ask how your running is going. It’s a nice change of pace from the everyday

deployment life.”

Race Across New York has helped Sailors and Marines continue moving toward their goals even though they are underway.

“My goal was just to finish the challenge by running only, and I nailed it” said Monge. “I ran the entire 283 miles and finished in third place. I am the only one so far to run the entire distance. I’m planning to run full marathons again after deployment. Race Across New York was a good kick off and comeback in my marathon life and training.”

After seeing the success

of the competition aboard New York, David would like to set up a biking challenge for the crew.

“In the near future, I want to set up an event that would combine athleticism and camaraderie to honor the heroes of 9/11,” said David. “New York Fire Department does an annual century ride to pay tribute to the 343 firefighters lost on 9/11. I want to have participants complete a similar challenge on stationary bikes this September.”

Above:

Fireman Controlman 2nd Class Jefferson Daniels, assigned to the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21), works out aboard New York, April 23, 2020.



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Oak Hill Recognizes SAPR Awareness Month

Story and photo by MC3 Griffin Kersting

The Navy recognizes April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM), and Sailors across the fleet, including aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51), are working to educate and train other Sailors about the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program.

The main purpose of SAAPM is to educate and train Sailors about what the SAPR program does and how to prevent sexual assault from happening through a series of awareness events and scheduled training.

"A big part of the program is education, and prevention overall is our main goal," said Lt. Emma Dodge, a SAPR program point of contact (POC) aboard Oak Hill.

"We want to prevent all sexual assault cases from even happening in the first place and training Sailors to conduct bystander intervention is a big part in that."

The SAPR program is designed to prevent sexual assault cases, raise awareness about sexual assault cases, educate Sailors on what to look out for, and to be a victim's support system in the instance of a sexual assault case.

The program lets Sailors know that if something does happen to them, they have somewhere to get the help that they need.

Throughout the course of April, Oak Hill planned awareness events for SAAPM, to include trivia nights to test

the crew's knowledge, ice cream socials to show who the SAPR POCs and victim advocates are and leadership symposiums to show leadership how to respond to sexual assault cases.

"Educating the crew and trying to see what the crew knows is a really important part of this month," said Retail Specialist 1st Class Ligia Segura, a SAPR POC aboard Oak Hill. "We'll always ask questions at our awareness events and kind of gauge where the crew's knowledge is on the subject and then go from there."

Although SAAPM events are primarily held during April, SAPR awareness remains a priority for the Oak Hill and the Navy year-round.





*We Answered
the Call!*



**HONORING THE PAST,
SECURING THE FUTURE!**