

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER



Hello Families of America,

Your loved ones continue to knock this patrol out of the park! This second month blew by quickly and this crew accomplished a lot, hand in hand with our Marine brothers and sisters. During the first half of the month, AMERICA had evaluators aboard assessing the Amphibious Ready Group and 31st MEU's ability to integrate joint warfighting capabilities. I couldn't be more proud to say that the crew enabled a successful certification.

Despite some changes in the schedule, the team remained resilient and demonstrated what it means to work hard and have fun while at it. We conducted critical missions throughout the Philippine Sea alongside the 31st MEU and USS Ralph Peralta where we trained as warfighters do. We conducted aerial refueling, established temporary arming and refueling facilities, and sensors to demonstrate a range of power projection capabilities, which led to USS AMERICA being mentioned in Newsweek.

And we didn't forget to have fun while conducting business—each department pitched in to create a Steel Beach Picnic on the flight deck and gather for an All Hands Photo of more than 1000 people. Your

Sailor in Supply, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron, MWR, the Chief's Mess, Second Class Petty Officer's Association, and numerous individual contributors worked hard to make fun memories for the crew! This is exactly how a FAMILY/Team comes together to make each other successful! It also happens to be how we continue to build FAITH/trust in each other. AMERICA the best vessel in the fleet because of how this team takes care of each other and the ship.

In this next stage of patrol, we are heading up to Busan to participate in Exercise Ssang Yong alongside our Republic of Korea Allies, their Navy and Marine Corps to grow a defensive posture on the Korean Peninsula while improving naval and amphibious capabilities. Then afterwards, we will participate in Exercise TRANSPORTEX to test combined operations and grow our relationship with Japan, our host nation.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps are coming to meet the crew and learn first-hand about the accomplishments made during patrol 24.2. For anyone who is wondering, the CMC and SMMC are the highest-ranking officer and senior enlisted leader, respectively, in the Marine Corps.

I hope you enjoy seeing the pictures of your Sailor in this month's magazine and on Facebook. We are in the final stretch and your Sailor will be home soon. Thank you for all the sacrifices you make—we couldn't do it without you. WE ARE TEAM AMERICA!

Very Respectfully,

CAPT Manny Pardo
Commanding Officer, USS America
Faith, Family, and Fun