



A Message From Jack's Collar

PCU BOUGAINVILLE (LHA 8) ISSUE 3 - October 2024

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Care For Sailors - Care For Families - Build Warfighters



Captain's Column

Fighting EIGHT,

Let me first congratulate our new Chief Petty Officers. From this day forward, you will be somebody's first Chief, a leader who makes a profound impact on a Sailor's career. You will be responsible for the next generation of Sailors and the continued success of our Navy. It is a remarkable achievement, and truly a time to celebrate years of hard work and dedication.

The loving, steadfast support of our families, friends and mentors serves as an anchor for our Sailors, holding them steady as tides rise and fall around them. I firmly believe the strong foundation families provide at home enable our Sailors to go to sea with confidence and conviction. It is your strength, love, and determination that makes us resilient enough to endure long, difficult, and sometimes dangerous days far from home.

Our Sailors are our greatest competitive advantage. We owe it to them and the American people to forge each shipmate into the best person and the best warfighter they can be. The entire crew of BOUGAINVILLE has my sincere appreciation. Our collective determination will ensure success in building a cohesive team and bringing the ship to life.

We are the Fighting EIGHT! We are BOUGAINVILLE!

Thank you for everything you do!
Very Respectfully,
CAPT Harry Marsh



From the XO

Shipmates,

As we draw closer to the end of 2024, I would like to thank you for your hard work and dedication over the past year as a member of PCU/PCD BOUGAINVILLE (LHA-8). We have made significant strides in building a crew that will be ready to commission the Navy's newest amphibious ship and take her out to sea.

Many of you plan to celebrate the upcoming holidays with family and friends. While preparing for these get-togethers, remember to make safe decisions.

And whether you are traveling to other locations or staying in the local area, please be aware of hazards that are associated with this time of year, especially in motor vehicles. Many accidents result from fatigue, excessive speed and drinking. Be sure to plan accordingly and allow ample time to reach your destination. When driving, be alert, be prudent and always anticipate the unexpected.

Holidays also mean getting together with family and friends to celebrate, which may include alcohol. If hosting a party, be responsible and attentive to the alcohol consumption of your guests. Ensure designated drivers are available or provide other arrangements. If you choose to drink, remember that passing the keys to a friend is the most important decision you will make.

If you see someone who appears to be lost, lonely or depressed, please take action by getting personally involved. This time of year can be lonely, especially if away from family. Reach out to those who



CMC's Corner

Fighting 8,

As we close out this year, we stand together reflecting on a year of remarkable dedication, unwavering commitment, and exceptional work at PCU Pascagoula and PCD Norfolk.

As we look towards the new year, let us remember the core values that define us as Sailors: Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Let these values guide our actions, fuel our determination, and strengthen our bond as a Navy family.

To every one of you, thank you for your unwavering commitment in building up BOUGAINVILLE as a command to be ready to commission our ship in 2026. I am honored to stand alongside you. Let us raise a toast to each other, our families, and to the continued strength of the United States Navy!

My Best regards,
CMDCM Bazile

From the XO (continued)

are alone and take them under your wing for the holidays.

So, please stay safe and celebrate responsibly. I wish you all the best during this holiday season, a time of great joy and celebration. I look forward to seeing all of you safely return from the holidays and know we will continue to accomplish great things together in the New Year. Thank you for all you do each day for LHA-8!

Very Respectfully,
CAPT Jimmie Jensen

New Chief Petty Officers Join Bougainville CPO Mess

Photos by MC2 Nicholas Skyles



Families Celebrate at 2 Command Picnics

Bougainville Sailors and their families enjoyed the first command picnics, held at both the precommissioning detachment in Va. on 24 Aug., and the precommissioning unit in Miss. on 29 Aug. The picnics gave attendees the opportunity to meet and get to know each other, helping to build the Bougainville family community as the command continues to grow.



Bougainville Sailors and their families fill plates with food at the command picnic at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss., 29 Aug., 2024. Photos by MCC Nathan Carpenter.



Bougainville Sailors and families pose for a group photo before enjoying some cake during the command picnic in Virginia Beach, Va., 24 Aug., 2024. Photos by MC2 Nicholas Skyles.

The First Ship Named Bougainville, A WWII Escort Carrier

story by Raymond A. Mann, Naval History and Heritage Command

The Casablanca-class escort carrier USS Bougainville (CVE 100) was commissioned 18 June 1944, 15 weeks after the keel was laid. The ship left San Diego, Calif. for Majuro in the Marshall Islands with a load of replacement aircraft and passengers. Unlike most of her sisters, Bougainville did not operate in a direct combat role supporting amphibious assaults or conducting antisubmarine warfare, rather, she performed logistics missions similar to that described above for both land bases and fleet carriers.

Bougainville arrived at Oahu in mid-October and, after disembarking the air group, began loading 64 fighter aircraft and another air group for transportation to the Marianas. At Saipan by the beginning of November, the escort carrier went to general quarters for her first air attack on November 3 although the ship itself was not attacked.

Bougainville continued to provide aviation logistics support for Task Force (TF) 58/38 throughout the Iwo Jima invasion, during carrier raids on Japan's inner defenses and the

home islands, and for the first six weeks of the Okinawa campaign. During that time, Bougainville operated from bases at Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands, Ulithi in the Carolines, and Guam.

Bougainville was anchored off Roi Island at Kwajalein Atoll on 2 September, the day Japan formally surrendered in Tokyo Bay. The crew loaded defective aircraft and headed back to Pearl Harbor.

The ship returned to Okinawa on 3 October and began embarking two Marine Corps observation squa-

drons, VMO-3 and VMO-6, bound for occupation duty in China. On 10 October, Bougainville arrived at Taku, China, where VMO-3 flew off to join the 3rd Marines in occupation duty. The escort carrier cleared the area immediately on her way to Tsingtao, China.

By the end of January 1946, Bougainville returned to Tacoma, Wash. She was placed out of commission, in reserve, on 30 November 1946, sold to the Cole Export Corp. on 9 September 1960, and ultimately scrapped in Japan.



USS Bougainville moored at Pearl Harbor with a full load of defective aircraft for repair and refit September 1945, following the Japanese surrender at the end of World War II.