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TIMES OF AMERICA



January
Patrol 25.1





TIMES OF AMERICA

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TIMES OF AMERICA is an
official publication of
USS AMERICA (LHA 6)
Public Affairs Team

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Hello Mighty AMERICA, Family and Friends!

Welcome back to sea! We're one week into our winter patrol and I could not be more proud of this crew. The preparations and hard work each one of you invested in AMERICA while in port are already paying off in the smooth execution of each undertaking this week. You shined in loading up the ship with ammunition and fuel, and completing a replenishment at sea—which is one of the most challenging operations involving substantial coordination.

In the coming days, we will embark our 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit brothers and sisters, and move into our operational cycle of flight operations and certifications. Please welcome the Marines back into our family as part of the crew and help them navigate around the ship.

Our Year Ahead

While this patrol is already flying by quickly, we have a big year ahead of us—the operational tempo, the homeport shift to San Diego, culminating in the longest dry-dock maintenance period this ship has gone through. This will be a compressed year for our Sailors and families, and while these changes may present challenges, our commitment to clear communication will be our strength.

To that end, we are lucky to have Mrs. Jessica Tunal as our command Ombudsman and liaison between AMERICA and our families. Please encourage your family members to subscribe to the Ombudsman's email list (americaombudsman@gmail.com) for monthly updates from the command. Another way you and your families can remain connected to AMERICA's news and daily operations is by viewing our Facebook and DVIDS news platforms.

Post-Patrol Plans

Following our winter patrol, we will return to Sasebo to conduct maintenance, to give the crew some rest, and provide time for our shipmates to move their families stateside. This will be a critical period to ensure the smooth transition for our families to San Diego. I know how complex each and every move is, and AMERICA is committed to making the transition across the Pacific as seamless as possible.

Announcing our Next Tiger Cruise

Finally, I'm pleased to announce the next Tiger Cruise is being planned for AMERICA's transit from Okinawa to Sasebo at the conclusion of Patrol 25.1. Dates are not firm yet, but expect somewhere during the full first week of March.

Your unwavering dedication keeps AMERICA mission-ready. This TEAM OF TEAMS is unquestionably ready for the tasks ahead. My heartfelt appreciation extends to you and your families for your continued support and sacrifice.

With utmost respect and admiration,
CAPT Ethan Rule



TOP PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Submit your best sunrise or sunset photo to media@lha6.navy.mil or bring your photo to SITE TV (02-98-1-Q) for a chance to be featured in next month's issue!

Operational Highlight of the Month

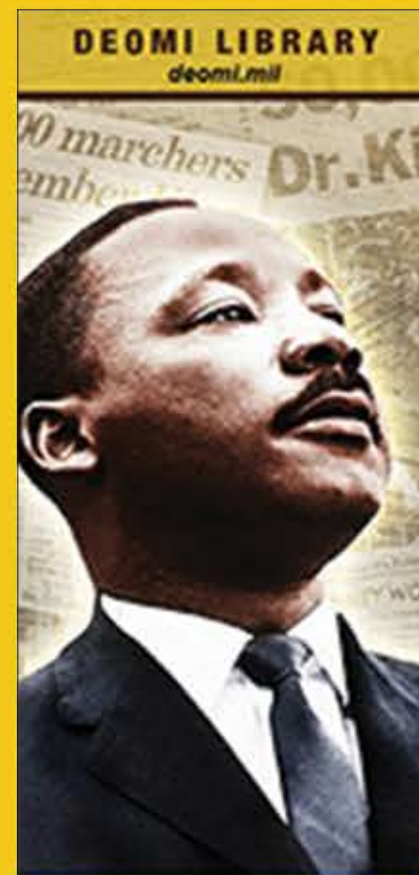
Amphibious Integrated Training/Certification (AIT/CERTEX)

USS AMERICA, USS SAN DIEGO and USS RUSHMORE will train with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit during AIT/CERTEX to develop and demonstrate their ability to work together in the rapid planning and execution of amphibious operations.

Navy and Marine Corps teams will be testing amphibious capabilities such as humanitarian assistance operations, noncombatant emergency evacuations, flood and earthquake responses, tactical recoveries of aircraft and personnel, counter-piracy and strike operations, as well as various support operations in service of our partner nations.

CERTEX is a biannual 10-day certification exercise, which tests the ARG-MEU's ability to jointly maintain a constant level of readiness in response to emergent situations.

AIT/CERTEX will require the coordinated implementation of the skill-sets and training. Each person aboard can enable the smooth execution of complex amphibious operations - just remember to KEEP THE MAIN THING, THE MAIN THING!

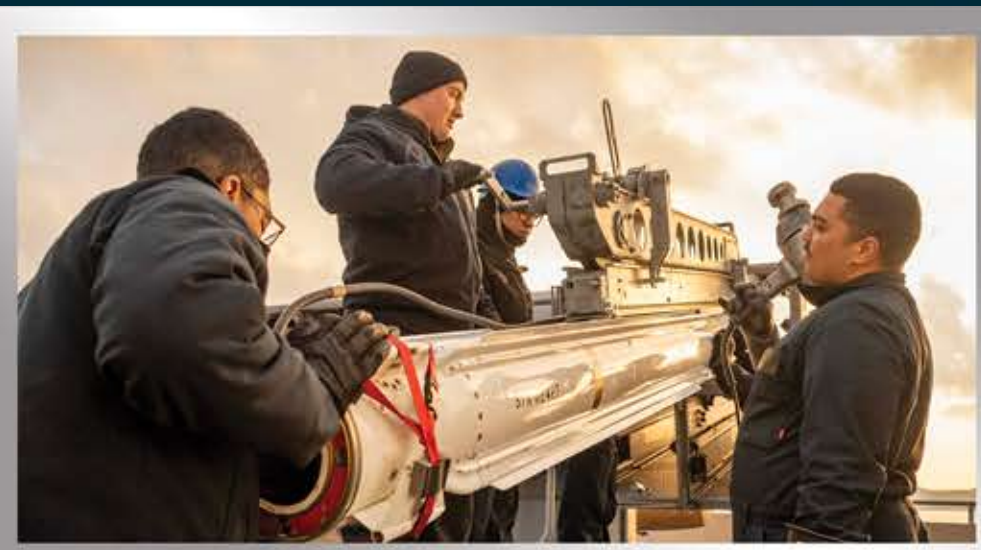
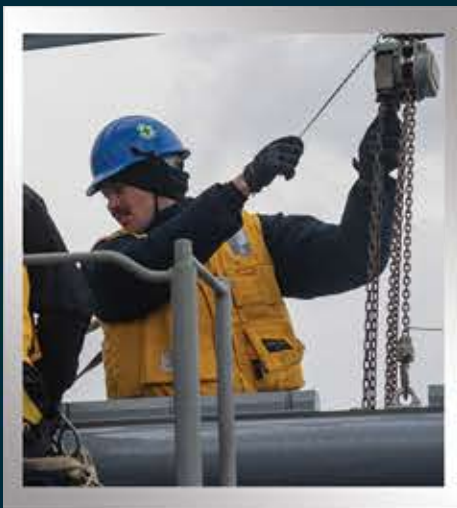
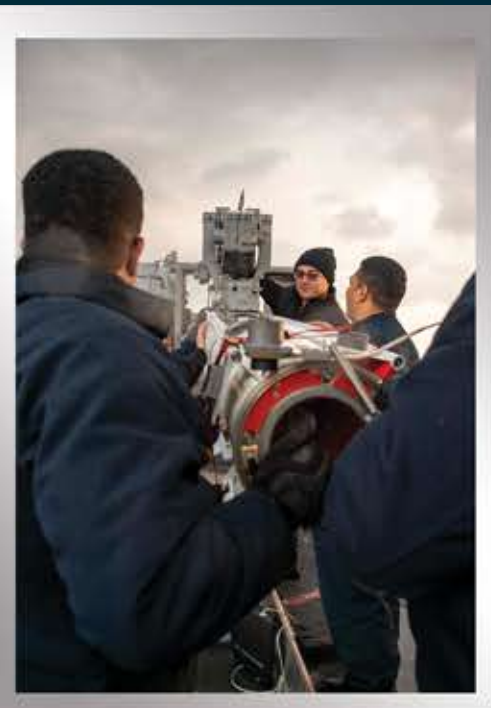


MLK
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NEW YEAR, NEW GOALS



"Travel, drink more coffee, continue to learn more about my rate, explore new hobbies, and see what the year brings me!"
-LS3 Najma Mohamoud from Columbus, Ohio



"My goals are to get promoted to 3rd class, and continue to live a peaceful life."
-ASAN Robert McClain, from Syracuse, New York



"My New Years goals are to get my collateral duty inspector qualification, promote to Corporal, and further my relationship with my faith."
-Lance Cpl. Andrew Ursua from Tehachapi, California



"Experience new things, new places, new people, and to live a healthier life and quit smoking."
-GSMFN Ethan Kroeger from Waterville, Maine

We asked our AMERICA family what their New Years goals are... Here's what they had to say!

D R C e s i l i e n c y C o u n s e l o r

My name is Freedom, I am the Deployed Resiliency Counselor for Team AMERICA. Each of YOU is extremely important to the Mission. I am proud of each of you and honored to support you. I am onboard to support you to maintain resilience, manage stress, process difficult emotions, and develop healthy habits to be successful while underway.

I encourage you to email me to schedule an appointment. During the appointment we will discuss what's working well and what's not working so well, then together we'll come up with some things you can try on your own like reading some self-help material and practicing various kinds of skills on your own. In some cases, if we agree, we may decide to have you come back to see me a couple of times to develop specific positive skills.

When you see me around the vessel please say Hello! I am in office 02-86.5-1-Q when the door is open please stop to say Hello! (Closed door means someone is speaking with me so please respect their time). I am working to develop a workshop schedule email announcements will be sent soon.

* I am onboard to provide non-medical support if you have an emergency please contact medical.*

FCPOA Releases Annual Reading List

By: HM1(SW/AW) Cal Rastall

The First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) has released their Inaugural FCPOA Reading List for 2025. The book selection is intended to stimulate the minds, curiosity, and growth of Sailors and Marines aboard USS AMERICA. The FCPOA's collective input has offered its first-line recommendations for anyone onboard who may want to start their journey of reading.

In choosing the books, it was important to be inclusive to an array of interests ranging from financial literacy, leadership development, and history. This reading list includes memoirs of military members retelling their stories, parables of lessons learned, and introspective philosophies. There are titles that pair well with the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) recognized observances, and some entry-level fiction which still include lessons to be learned.

What began as a list of over 60 entries for consideration, the FCPOA subcommittee took the time to discuss and decide what the final list would include, while deeply considering its intended audience and objective of developing readers to become leaders.

Books on the reading list are located in the ship library. Be sure took for the America Shield on each cover to know you are reading a title recommended by your friendly FCPOA.

Inaugural FCPOA Reading List 2025:

- 1) Theodore Roosevelt and the Making of American Leadership by Knokey, Jon
- 2) Stillness is the Key by Holiday, Ryan
- 3) The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership: Follow Them and People Will Follow You by Maxwell, John C.
- 4) Ender's Game by Card, Orson Scott
- 5) Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones by Clear, James
- 6) Crazy Horse and Custer: The Parallel Lives of Two American Warriors by Ambrose, Stephen E.
- 7) Leaders Eat Last: Why Some Teams Pull Together and Others Don't by Sinek, Simon
- 8) Wooden on Leadership: How to Create a Winning Organization by Wooden, John
- 9) The Leader's Bookshelf by Stavidis, James G.
- 10) In Harm's Way by Stanton, Doug
- 11) Leadership: In Turbulent Times by Goodwin, Doris Kearns
- 12) The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Covey, Stephen R.
- 13) How to Win Friends & Influence People by Carnegie, Dale
- 14) Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life...And Maybe the World by McRaven, ADM William H.
- 15) Lincoln on Leadership: Executive Strategies for Tough Times by Phillips, Donald T.
- 16) On Call in Hell: A Doctor's Iraq Story by Jadick, CDR Richard
- 17) Chesty: The Story of Lieutenant General Lewis B. Puller, USMC by Hoffman, Jon T.
- 18) The Hardest Job in the World: The American Presidency by Dickerson, John
- 19) Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living by Offerman, Nick
- 20) Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson, Rawls
- 21) The Admirals: Nimitz, Halsey, Leahy, and King-- The Five-Star Admirals Who Won the War at Sea by Borneman, Walter R.
- 22) The Whiskey Journal: Definitely Not a NATO Role III MMU Publication by Rastall, C.W.
- 23) A Message to Garcia: And other Essential Essays on Success by Hubbard, Elbert
- 24) The Richest Man in Babylon by Clason, George S.
- 25) Think and Grow Rich by Hill, Napoleon
- 26) A River Runs Through It and Other Stories by Maclean, Norman
- 27) Endurance by Lansing, Alfred
- 28) Rich Dad Poor Dad: What the Rich Teach Their Kids About Money That the Poor and Middle Class Do Not! by Kiyosaki, Robert
- 29) The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Rivalry, Adventure, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements by Kean, Sam
- 30) Twelve and a Half: Leveraging the Emotional Ingredients Necessary for Business Success by Vaynerchuk, Gary
- 31) [Leadership] [Strategy] [and] [Tactics] by Willink, Jocko

SENIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER



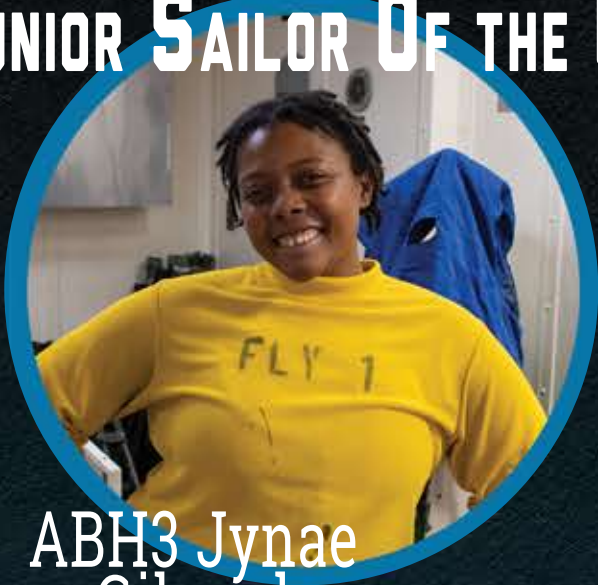
CS1 Stephanie Jones

SAILOR OF THE QUARTER



HM2 Kiki Ng

JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER



ABH3 Jynae Gilyard

RSSN Salome Chalarca



BLUE JACKET OF THE QUARTER

SAILOR OF THE QUARTER