



# the Almanac

*"I have not yet begun to fight!"* USS BONHOMME RICHARD LHD 6

February 29, 2012

## BHR Performs Complete EEBD Swap

*Story by MC3(SW) Jacob D. Wiley*

USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) completed a full exchange of all its emergency escape breathing devices (EEBD) Feb. 3 in preparation for an upcoming hull swap with the USS Essex (LHD 2).

EEBDs are required in every berthing and certain compartments to provide oxygen to shipmates in case an emergency evacuation is needed for survival. BHR was the first "Big Deck" to swap all of its EEBDs in such a manner.

"The hardest part was coordinating this new task that has never been done before," said Damage Controlman 2nd Class Glen Westfall, ship's EEBD coordinator.

The previous EEBDs provided 15 minutes of continuous use whereas the replacements are based on the breathing pattern of the individual. Nearly 4,000 EEBDs were replaced from Jan. 30 through Feb. 3.

"Although it was tiring, I actually had a good time because the safety of the crew is definitely one of the most important things to maintain," said Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Sakana Gray.

The man-hours and precise accountability needed to perform this task was a joint effort by a team of Sailors.

"It was another important task to make the ship ready for full operation in Japan," said Westfall. "Later on down the road we will be conducting a similar evolution when we take over the USS Essex this April."



Machinist Mate 3rd Class (SW) Janay Perez demonstrates the donning of an EEBD onboard USS Bonhomme Richard.

*Photo by MC3(SW) Jacob D. Wiley*

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## Ship's Crest:

The bald eagle with a shield on its breast is representative of the eagle used in the coat of arms of the fourth ship to bear the name USS Essex. The Marine officer's sword grasped in the eagle's talons is showing that the embarked Marine units are USS Essex's main battery. The red banner stands for sacrifice and valor required to win the 13 battle stars in World War II and the four in the Korean War. The Black color for the motto is meant to stand out for all to read and heed. The white border on the banner and the white stars symbolize the purity of cause for which the ship serves and the stars were won.



**Motto:** The motto refers to the notice that went out to people of Essex County, Massachusetts, to raise funds for the building of the first Essex.

**Supporters:** The amphibious insignia over the Pacific Ocean symbolizes amphibious operations from the oceans of the world.

**Chain:** The gold chain surrounded by the five-sided coat of arms represents the five naval ships to bear the name Essex.

**Shield:** The gold line joining the blue of the Navy and the scarlet of the Marine Corps shows the unity of the two services. The gold border shows the unity required of amphibious operations. The 2 stands for LHD 2.

### Movie Schedule Wednesday, Feb. 29



CH. 2 Command Information --- CH. 5 AFN Sports  
CH. 6 AFN News --- CH. 7 AFN Prime

#### ch.3

0600/1300 - 30 Minutes or Less  
0800/2000 - Austin Powers  
1000/2200 - Battle Los Angeles  
1200/0000 - Case 39  
1400/0200 - Conan The Barbarian  
1600 - The House Bunny

#### ch.4

0600/1800 - Devil  
0800 /2000- Dear John  
1000/2200 - Good Morning Vietnam  
1200/0000 - Eagle Eye  
1400/0200 - Knight and Day  
1600 - Laura Croft

#### ch.8

0600/1830 - Anonymous  
0830/2100 - Dolphin Tale  
1030/2300 - How To Train Your Dragon  
1200/0100 - Footloose  
1430/0300 - Red  
1630 - Enter The Dragon



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