



the Almanac

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

April 6, 2012

Sailors Prepare to Leave BHR

Story by MC1 Richardson and photo by MC3 Marcus L. Stanley



With all operational exercises now in their wake, Sailors on board USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) are preparing the Revolutionary Gator for its upcoming hull swap with USS Essex (LHD 2) in Sasebo, Japan. It is the culmination of nearly two years of intensive work.

These preparations included a long and challenging dry dock period at the NASSCO shipyard which had the crew arriving to work before the sun had risen, as well as pierside maintenance availabilities at Naval Base San Diego. Plus one cannot cast away the numerous sea periods the crew experienced for the purposes of training, certifications, giving the equipment extensive tests to ensure peak performance, as well as showing the colors at major sea service-related events in Seattle and San Francisco.

With such a long and challenging road traveled, it is easy to say that the path to the hull swap has not only been demanding, but the eventual destination is sure to be bittersweet for a number of BHR Sailors.

"This is the first ship I have ever served on in the Navy and it is going to be hard to leave it," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 3rd Class Nicole Gonzalez. "I've had some good times here and I am going to miss a lot of things such as the comforts of our berthing that I am used to as well as our gym. I've heard that the gym on the Essex is not quite the same as ours especially since the equipment here is still pretty

new and up to date."

"I am really going to miss checking out the nights when we are out to sea here on Bonhomme Richard," said Electronics Technician 3rd Class Arthur Carroll. "One of the things I really liked to do some nights underway is to look out at the sea and the stars down in starboard OOD station. The way the space is, with the red lights, really adds to the overall calm and relaxing vibe. It's something I may be able to do on the Essex, but it's not going to be the same."

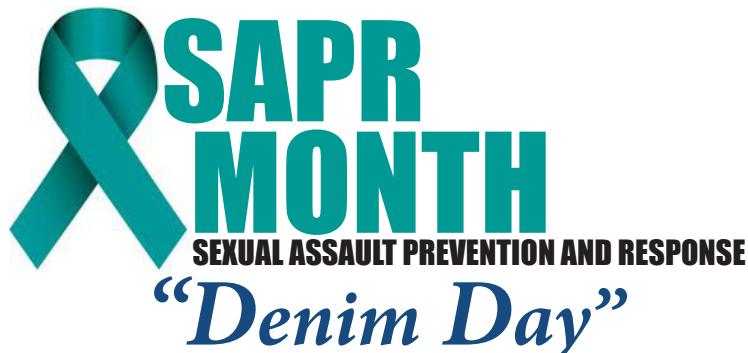
Sailors currently on board BHR, particularly those who have walked its decks for quite some time, know that the day they turn the ship over to the Essex crew is going to be a bittersweet day. "Bitter" due to a new book which is about to be opened upon which the pages will be filled with a whole new series of challenges which will once again put their mettle to the test. "Sweet" because they know that they went through a lot to get Bonhomme Richard in the pristine condition it is in today as it sails towards Sasebo to fulfill its new role as a forward-deployed asset.

"I am proud to have been a part of the BHR," said Cryptologist 1st Class John Angel. "I am proud of all of the accomplishments we have had on this ship and all of the work we have put in to make it what it is today. This is history and I am happy that we are going to deliver the Essex crew a good ship. I know they will be very appreciative of our efforts."

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Ship Store Note: Please Read

Ship store operation will secure at 1200 today for hull swap inventory and turnover, and will be closed until completion of the LAN migration aboard USS Essex (LHD 2). Please stock up on all gee-dunk, toiletries, Monsters, Gatorade, water, cigarettes and purchase any BHR emblematics as this will be your last opportunity to purchase these items aboard the "Revolutionary Gator." Also, for hull swap inventory and turnover, all vending machines will be secured April 7, at 1300. So, stock up on RedBull and gee-dunk in advance. To help accomodate the crew, bulk orders can be paid for at the store registers or the Sales Office and will be delivered the following day. Orders, must be paid for before 1300, April 7.



Saturday April 7, 2012

Movie Schedule Friday, April 6



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

ch.3

0600/1830 Anchorman
0730/2000 Austin Powers:
Man of Mystery
0930/2200 Austin Powers:
Gold Member
1130/2330 Blade Runner
1330/0130 Conan The Barbarian
1600/0330 Die Hard

ch.4

0600/1900 The Adams Family
0800/2100 The Guardian
1030/2330 Tron Legacy
1300/0200 Tyler Perry's Meet
The Brown
1500 Remember Me
1700 Prince of Persia: Sands of Time

ch.8

0600/1630 The A-Team
0800/1830 Despicable Me
1000/2030 Ghost Rider
1200/2230 How To Train
Your Dragon
1330/0030 Taken
1500/0230 Paranormal Activity 3



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