

# the Almanac

USS BONHOMME RICHARD LHD 6

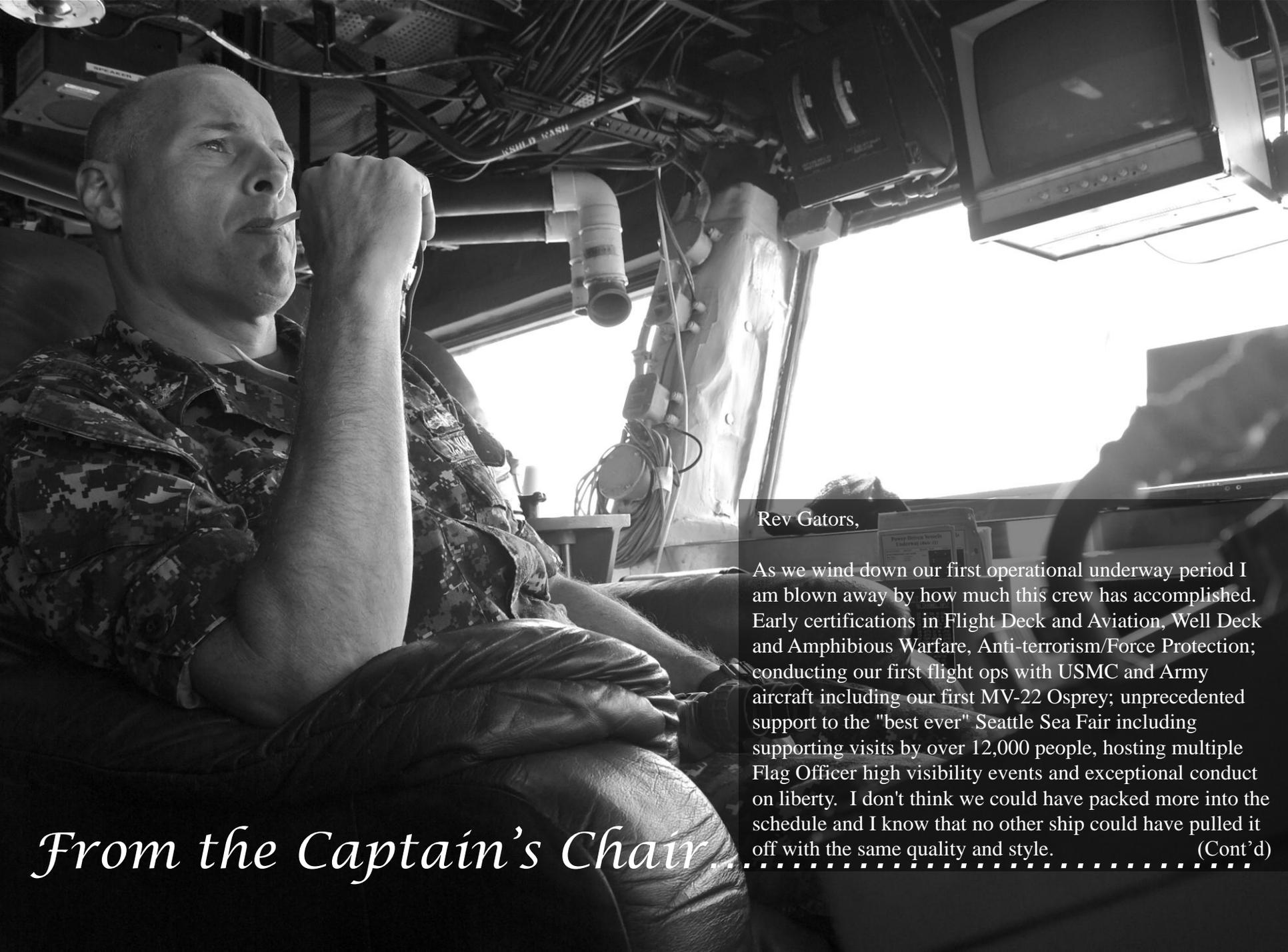
*"I have not yet begun to fight!"*

*—John Paul Jones*



USS Bonhome Richard LHD 6 returns to sea to after a ten month yard period.

Aug. 15, 2011



Rev Gators,

As we wind down our first operational underway period I am blown away by how much this crew has accomplished. Early certifications in Flight Deck and Aviation, Well Deck and Amphibious Warfare, Anti-terrorism/Force Protection; conducting our first flight ops with USMC and Army aircraft including our first MV-22 Osprey; unprecedented support to the "best ever" Seattle Sea Fair including supporting visits by over 12,000 people, hosting multiple Flag Officer high visibility events and exceptional conduct on liberty. I don't think we could have packed more into the schedule and I know that no other ship could have pulled it off with the same quality and style. (Cont'd)

*From the Captain's Chair...*

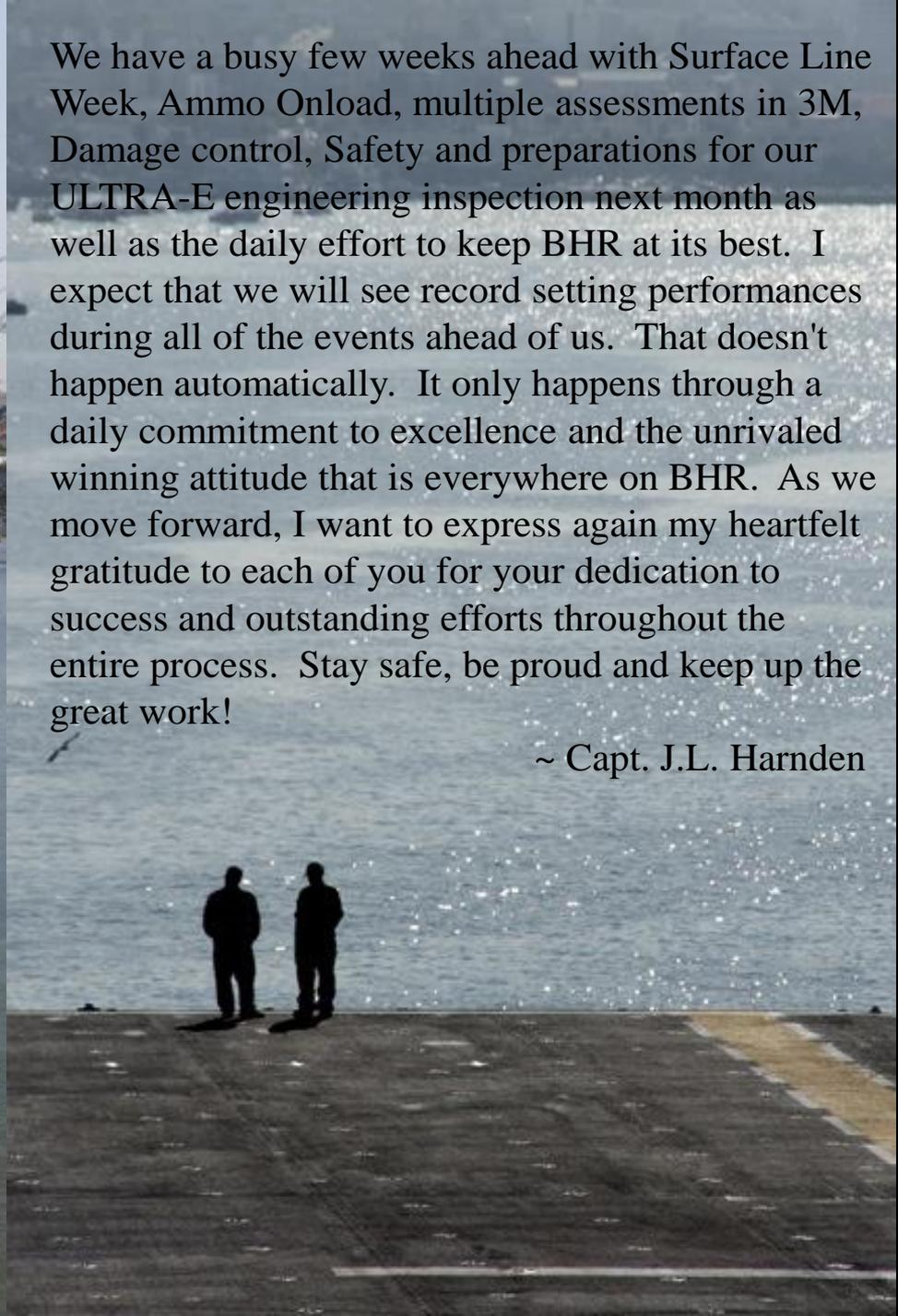


*(Cont'd... Capt.'s Chair)*

The foundation for the record setting pace we are on was established during the recent 10 month yard period. The efforts exerted by the crew, and the support from friends and families have been nothing short of exceptional. I can't thank everyone enough for all of the hard work, perseverance and dedication these past few months as we have again taken our ship to sea. Through it all the Sailors and Marines have demonstrated the pride and professionalism that makes our command the best on the waterfront.

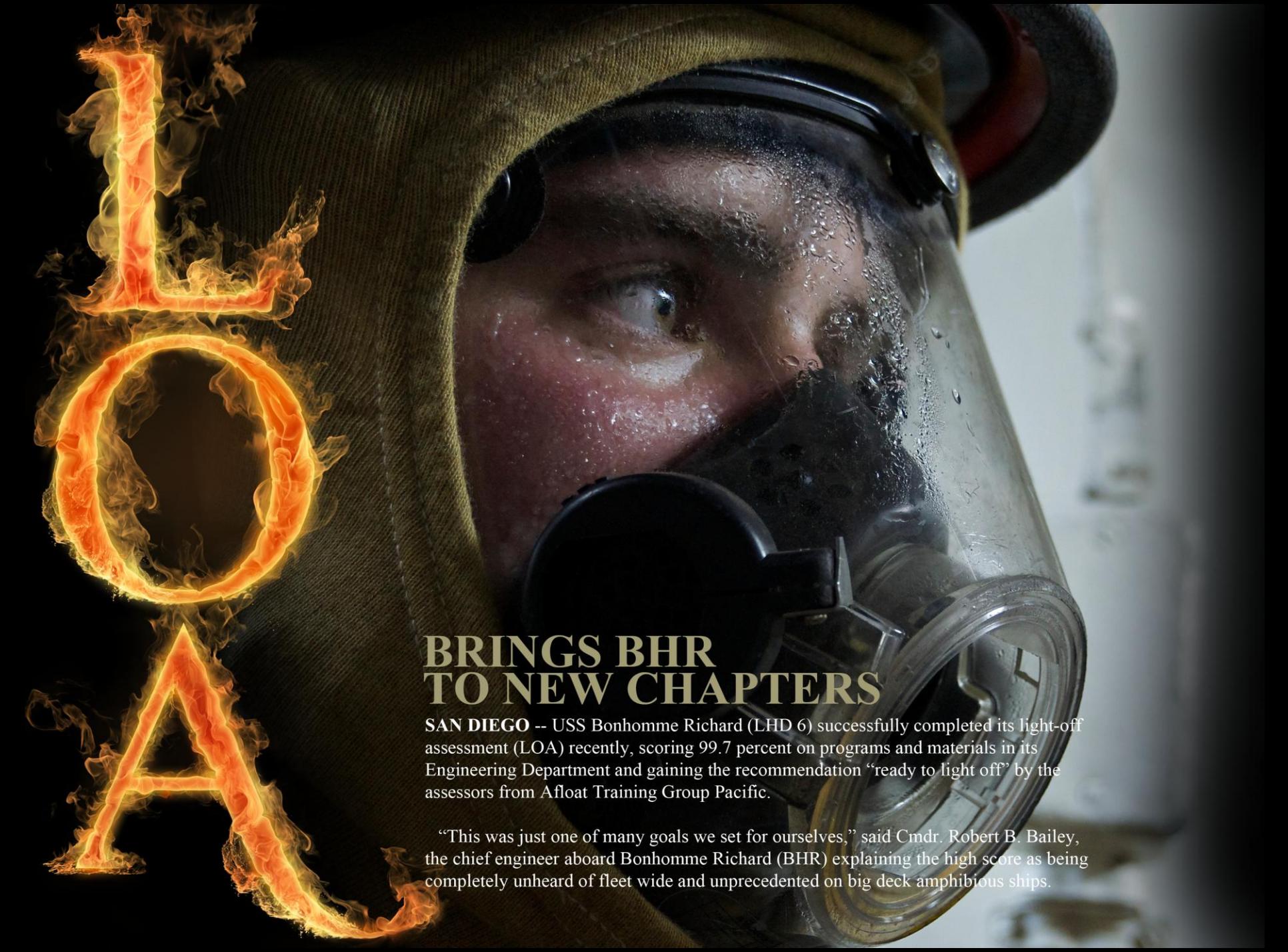
We have a busy few weeks ahead with Surface Line Week, Ammo Onload, multiple assessments in 3M, Damage control, Safety and preparations for our ULTRA-E engineering inspection next month as well as the daily effort to keep BHR at its best. I expect that we will see record setting performances during all of the events ahead of us. That doesn't happen automatically. It only happens through a daily commitment to excellence and the unrivaled winning attitude that is everywhere on BHR. As we move forward, I want to express again my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your dedication to success and outstanding efforts throughout the entire process. Stay safe, be proud and keep up the great work!

~ Capt. J.L. Harnden





*PACIFIC OCEAN (July 12, 2011) Sailors aboard amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) conduct a FOD walk-down on the flight deck. (U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Joe Kane)*



# LOA

## BRINGS BHR TO NEW CHAPTERS

**SAN DIEGO** -- USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) successfully completed its light-off assessment (LOA) recently, scoring 99.7 percent on programs and materials in its Engineering Department and gaining the recommendation “ready to light off” by the assessors from Afloat Training Group Pacific.

“This was just one of many goals we set for ourselves,” said Cmdr. Robert B. Bailey, the chief engineer aboard Bonhomme Richard (BHR) explaining the high score as being completely unheard of fleet wide and unprecedented on big deck amphibious ships.

*(LOA cont'd...)*

LOA is a comprehensive assessment of all engineering, machinery and administrative programs

“The checks are observations or demonstrations involving watch standers to show material readiness,” said Ensign George Strobel, an Engineering Department division officer. “Every space and piece of machinery is inspected for safety, labels, leaks, parameters, calibration, and cleanliness.”

Sailors from each division within Engineering Department worked more than 80 hours a week for a month in preparation for LOA.

“We worked agonizing hours, but we engineers live for this,” said Damage Controlman 2nd Class Benjamin Cascario. “To put in so many hours and not do well would be catastrophic. We have a lot of pride in our machinery and we hold ourselves to the highest standards.”

“Everyone plays a role in LOA,” said Strobel. “All watch standers demonstrate machinery and material condition to the engineering assessors. In preparation for LOA, all hands were in the spaces cleaning, performing maintenance, and practicing machinery checks. Coming out of such an intense yard period, and maintenance availability demands strict attention.”

Passing LOA brings BHR into new chapters as the ship prepares for its future operational schedule.





*PACIFIC OCEAN (July 28, 2011) An MV-22 Osprey lifts off from the flight deck of amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6). This is the first time an Osprey has operated from the newly upgraded ship. (U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Joe Kane)*

BONHOMME RICHARD PASSES

# ATFP

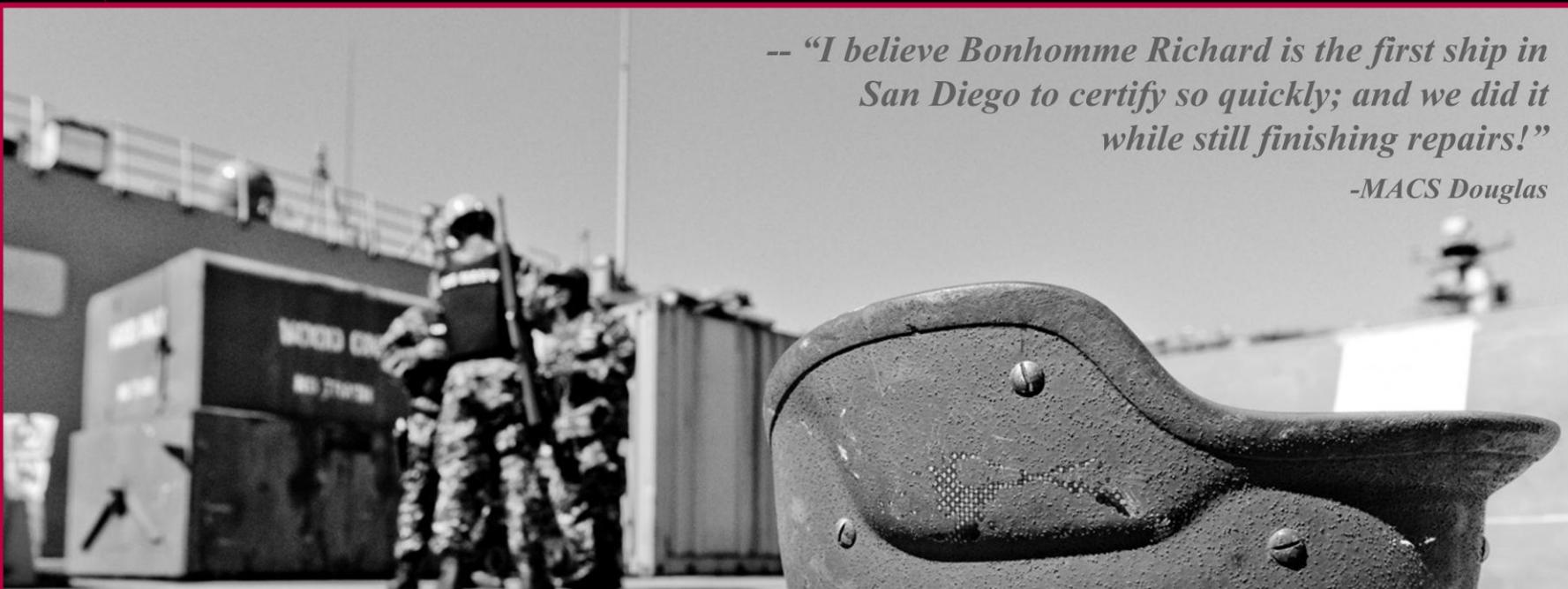
AHEAD OF SCHEDULE



Story by: MC3 Katherine Barkley

*-- "I believe Bonhomme Richard is the first ship in San Diego to certify so quickly; and we did it while still finishing repairs!"*

*-MACS Douglas*



**SAN DIEGO**—The crew of amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) successfully earned their anti-terrorism and force protection (ATFP) program certification meeting all of the requirements ahead of schedule, June 28.

The ATFP assessment measures the crew's ability to combat and defend against land, air and water terrorist threats to the ship. Preparation for the drills took five months of training and planning resulting in an observed assessment of three separate team drill performances.

*(...cont'd Pg. 3)*

*Photo by MC3 Marcus Stanley*

*(ATFP cont'd...)*

Senior Chief Master at Arms (SW/AW/EXW) Johnny T. Douglas said the recent assessment for Bonhomme Richard was unique in that the ship just completed a shipyard maintenance period and was able to pass certification about a month ahead of schedule.

“I believe Bonhomme Richard is the first ship in San Diego to certify so quickly,” Douglas said. “...and we did it while still finishing repairs!”

The training teams for the certification consisted of approximately 10 groups pulled from Bonhomme Richard’s chiefs’ mess and several officers. The teams trained participants in their individual areas of expertise to include apprehending suspected terrorists and handling a suspected small boat attack.

“They laid the groundwork for proper watch standing during the drill scenarios,” said Douglas. Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Fuels) 2nd Class Omari J. Fields participated in the ATFP drills acting as a first responder for the quarter deck and standing an armed sentry watch during protective measures.

“The drills were repeated for months to prepare for the certification day,” said Fields “But we just kept performing our best and being flexible. Ultimately I think when it was game time, we did really well because we train how we fight.”

Douglas said the environment on the ship was still one of “under construction” as the contractors and crew finished all the maintenance and upgrades to get underway. While ATFP drills were being conducted the ship was also certifying for Damage Control and Light Off Assessment. He said all three certifications had to coordinate around the current construction.



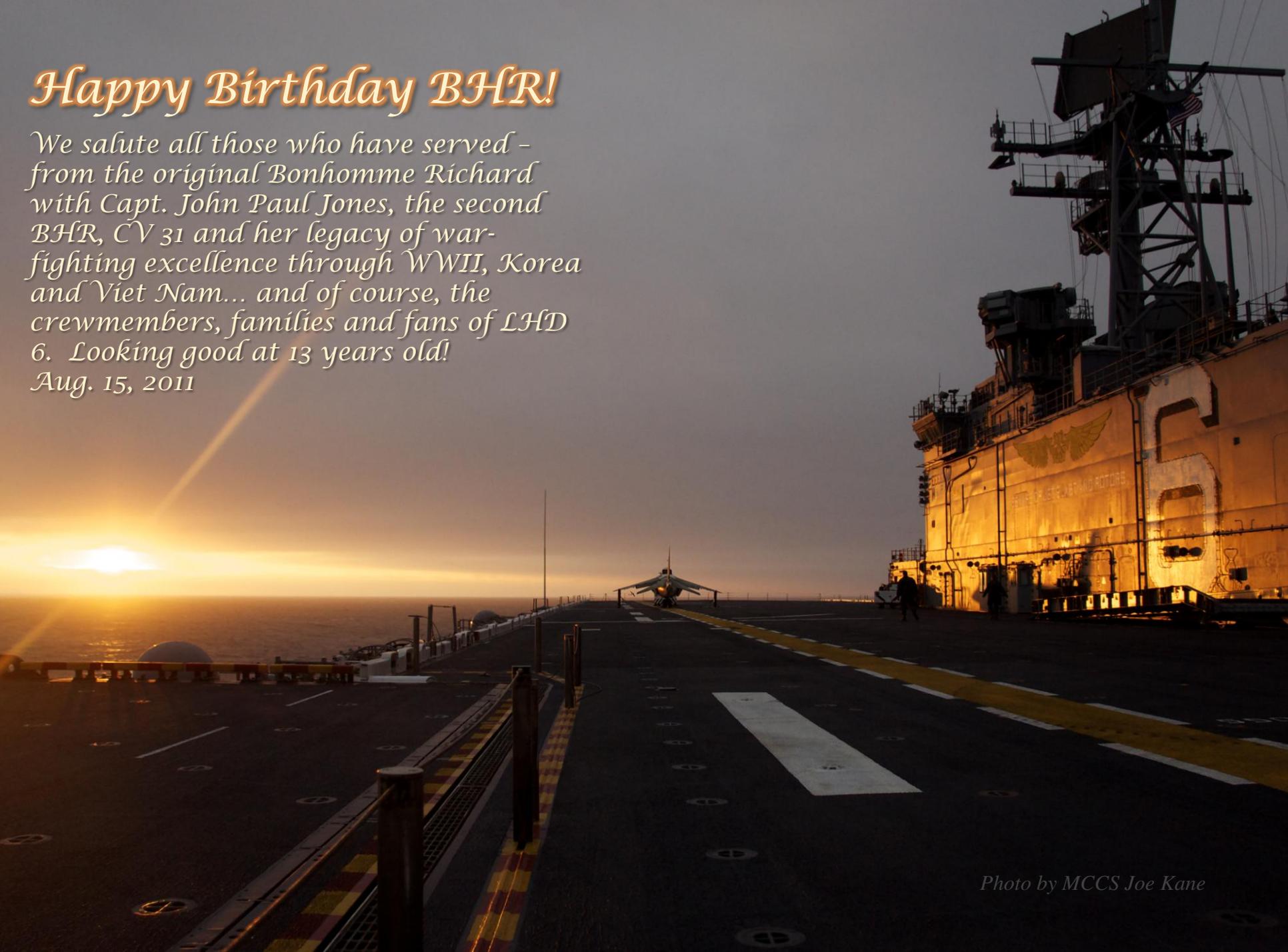


*SEATTLE, WA (Aug. 2, 2011) Sailors assigned to amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) man the rails as the ship arrives in Seattle for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Seattle Seafair. The ship had more than 10,000 visitors during the four-day visit!  
(U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Joe Kane)*

# *Happy Birthday BHR!*

*We salute all those who have served - from the original Bonhomme Richard with Capt. John Paul Jones, the second BHR, CV 31 and her legacy of war-fighting excellence through WWII, Korea and Viet Nam... and of course, the crewmembers, families and fans of LHD 6. Looking good at 13 years old!*

*Aug. 15, 2011*



*Photo by MCCS Joe Kane*

## BHR Media Team

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## The Almanac

All photos released for public use. Questions or comments should be directed to MCCS Kane @ [PAO@lhd6.navy.mil](mailto:PAO@lhd6.navy.mil).

For more photos and and info about BHR go to [www.facebook.com/ussbhr](http://www.facebook.com/ussbhr)