

the Almanac

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

12 January 2012

BHR Bids Farewell to San Diego



Capt. Jonathan Harnden, commanding officer of USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6), holds the torch as he prepares to light off one of two boilers on the ship prior to getting underway. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Marcus L. Stanley)

Family and Friends get Underway with Crew of USS Bonhomme Richard

Story by MC2(AW) Frank Andrews

On August 15th 1998 the amphibious assault ship, USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) was commissioned. For 12 years, BHR has operated from San Diego accomplishing big things around the world; participating in multiple deployments in support of combat operations like Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as leading relief efforts during natural disasters such as the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami and Operation Unified Assistance. *continued on Pg. 2*

From the Captain's Chair



We are nearly ready for our hull swap with USS Essex and I couldn't be more proud of the progress and dedication displayed by the crew of the Revolutionary Gator. In the past 12 months, we've completed a \$140M maintenance period, returned to a fully operational status early and exceeded expectations on every inspection that has come our way. At the same time, we've completed several underway periods allowing us to regain critical certifications in our preparation to transit to Japan.

Of course, all of this would never have been possible without your continued support from the home front. Our success is owed as much to each of you as it is to the hard work of the crew of USS Bonhomme Richard. A strong family makes for a strong crew and we do well on both fronts. The combined results of your support to your Sailors, and their dedication to excellence allows us to achieve the success we enjoy.

Next year promises new challenges aboard a new ship to bring up to the high standards that our crew expects and demands. My time in command here has been some of the most enjoyable of my career and I can't thank you all enough for the support through my tour as Commanding Officer of the best ship in the fleet.

Stay groovy and thanks for all you do every day!

BHR FAREWELL continued...

The unyielding determination of BHR Sailors has earned the ship a variety of awards and accolades over the years, including multiple CNO Safety Awards, Battle "E" awards and Warfare Excellence Awards, including a clean sweep of the 2010 Battle E and all warfare area awards, and she has been a stalwart standard setter on the San Diego waterfront through numerous inspections and assessments.

In the past year, after a 9 month dry-dock availability undergoing repairs and upgrades, BHR exceeded all expectations for the timely and quality completion of one of the largest availabilities in San Diego history and the accelerated certification of the ship and crew.

"We could not have done things as well as we have without the sustained effort and commitment of our crew and those who support them throughout this period," said BHR Commanding Officer, Captain J. L. Harnden. "It really has been a team effort. The support from our family members, friends and our sponsor organizations makes it all possible. Everything we've accomplished reflects their support and dedication."

One of those supporting relationships has been the unique bond the BHR shares with one city and its elementary school.

"Our relationship began in 2000 shortly after the ship arrived in San Diego" said Walter McIntyre, former Mayor of Indian Wells, Calif. "Capt. Douglas Keith was very enthusiastic regarding my idea of having the City of India Wells adopt the ship and the ship adopt our only school, Gerald R. Ford Elementary School."

Every year since then, Sailor's from BHR travel to Indian Wells and visit the classrooms to talk to the children about the Navy and BHR's history and current missions. The following day, the 5th Grade class tours the ship and has lunch with the crew. There are always more than enough Sailors willing to volunteer and, it has become a highlight of the school year for many of the children. According to McIntyre it is a relationship that is worth preserving. .. even after the ship itself moves to Japan.

"All the BHR Commanding Officers over the years have dedicated themselves to continuing the relationship... which certainly has become a legacy. I believe the legacy is strong enough to continue when the USS Essex comes home to San Diego. It is the crew that holds us together," said McIntyre.

BHR, now fully operational and polished will soon be passed on to another crew this spring when it will take the place of the USS Essex (LHD-2) as part of the forward deployed amphibious force for Expeditionary Strike Group Seven in Sasebo, Japan. The hull swap is scheduled for completion in the Spring of 2012.

"I believe that Expeditionary Strike Group Seven is getting the most capable ship in the fleet and I'm proud of the Sailors for the superb effort they've poured into getting the ship in top shape." said Capt. Harnden.

The ship exchange will be the end of an era in some respects... but marks the beginning of a new set of challenges and a new era for the crew as USS Essex steams into San Diego.

COMMANDING OFFICER

Captain J. L. Harnden

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Captain Charles Litchfield

CMC

Master Chief Ted Verschueren

PAO

MCCS Joe Kane

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

MC1 (SW) Kurt Riggs

MC1 (SW) Duke Richardson

MC1 (SW) Janell Alvarez

MC2 (AW) Frank Andrews

MC3 Marcus Stanley

MC3 Katherine Barkley

MCSN Nathan Lang

MOVIE SCHEDULE**Channel 3****0700**

Ice Age

Dawn of Dinosaurs

0900

Up

1100

Kung Fu Panda

1300

Princess and the Frog

1500

How to Train Your Dragon

Channel 4**0700**

Back to the Future

0900

Raiders of the Lost Ark

1100

X-Men: Wolverine

1300

Star Trek

1500

Night at the Museum 2

Captain John Paul Jones and the Battle of Flamborough Head

For five weeks a young Scottish-born captain in the new Continental Navy had been sailing around the British Isles, raiding towns and cities, capturing or sinking many valuable merchant ships, and generally raising alarm and havoc under the nose of the greatest naval power on earth.

All that changed on September 23, 1779, when forty one sail were sighted off Flamborough Head, on the north-east coast of England. Captain John Paul Jones knew he had found the great Baltic convoy, the very lifeblood of England's naval dockyards. Jones ordered his small squadron to attack and prepared for action.

Between Jones and the convoy lay the Royal Navy escorts, the 44-gun ship Serapis, and the 20-gun ship Countess of Scarborough. Serapis was a 44-gun brand-new two-decker with frigate lines, commanded by a seasoned captain and crew. Jones's ship, the Bonhomme Richard, was a weary fourteen-year-old East Indiaman converted into a 40-gun ship and lent to the Continental Navy by King Louis XVI of France.

Though Jones was flying the British ensign and wearing an English-style uniform, his adversary, Captain Richard Pearson, R.N., was highly suspicious that this was "Paul Jones the Pirate" and prepared for action.

Within musket shot range (80 yards) in deepening twilight, Jones realized his ruse de guerre had run its course and ordered the Stars and Stripes raised, which was followed immediately by broadsides from both ships. On the second broadside, two of Jones's old double-shotted 18-pounders exploded, killing or wounding several gun crews and rendering useless his heaviest guns.

Jones was now severely handicapped and engaged with a superior enemy in a running battle, with Bonhomme Richard being out-gunned and outsailed nearly two to one by Serapis. After an hour of terrible punishment, Jones took advantage of a fortuitous gust of wind and pulled ahead of Serapis, in an attempt to cross Serapis' bow and rake her. Bonhomme Richard lost way, causing the two ships to collide, and became locked together, bow to stern, in a deadly embrace, their sides grinding together.

During the next two-and-a-half hours of furious combat, Serapis fired both her gun decks through Bonhomme Richard's lower decks, virtually cutting her in half. With five feet of water in the hold and rising,

Jones was in command of a burning, sinking ship, on a hostile lee shore, with half his crew dead or wounded.

When one of his own crew called: "Quarters, quarters, our ship is sinking," Jones in a rage threw his empty pistols at them, fracturing the skull of one, as the other ran for cover.

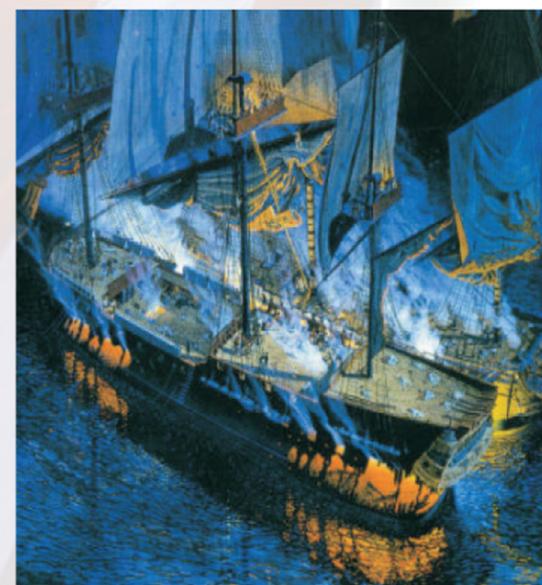
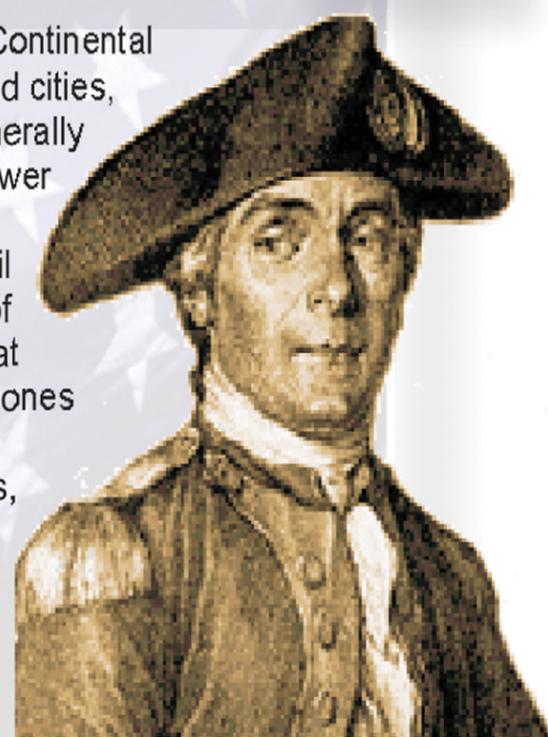
Hearing the cries for "Quarters," Captain Pearson emerged from beneath his quarterdeck, and shouted to Jones "Do you strike?"

Striding to the leading edge of his quarterdeck bulwark, Jones' legendary words have resounded through American history:

"I have not yet begun to fight!"

For another twenty minutes the battle raged on, until a Scottish seaman carried a bucket of grenades to the end of the Bonhomme Richard's mainyard, directly over Serapis's deck, and threw a grenade down Serapis' main hatch. The grenade struck the lower gun deck hatch coaming and rolled aft along Serapis's lower gun deck, where it exploded among many black powder cartridges. The resulting explosions and intense flash fires killed more than twenty English seamen, and put Serapis's lower gundeck out of action.

At this point, Captain Pearson called for "Quarters," and hauled down his ensign himself, ending one of the hottest single-ship actions in the age of fighting sail.



USS BONHOMME RICHARD

USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6)



The Expeditionary Strike Group's main battle platform is the Amphibious Assault Ship, USS Bonhomme Richard. Homebased in San Diego, Calif., the ship's primary mission is to embark, deploy and land elements of a Marine Landing Force in amphibious assault operations by helicopter, landing craft, amphibious vehicle or any combination of these methods. BONHOMME RICHARD embarks the Commander of the Expeditionary Strike Group, the Commander of the Amphibious Squadron and their staffs. With the embarked Marine Expeditionary Unit, USS BONHOMME RICHARD is equipped to play a key role in combat and humanitarian operations.

AH-1W Super Cobra
Utility or attack helicopter. As an attack craft, it is armed with missiles, rockets, cannons and machine guns. Used against tanks, helicopters and for troop support.

AV/8 Harrier
Its primary role is to respond quickly to calls for group troop support, which it can do in 10 minutes - faster than any other support aircraft. It can be used as an air to air fighter and light-attack air to ground bomber. Four engine-exhaust nozzles, two on each side, rotate to allow vertical or horizontal takeoff and provide greater in-flight maneuverability.

CH-53E Super Stallion
Heavy-lift Navy and Marine helicopter carries up to 37 troops as well as equipment and supplies. Has a crew of three. The Super Stallion, carries cargo to ships underway and is the military's biggest helicopter.

BHR Specifications
Class: One of eight ships in the WASP class designation - LHD.
Commissioned: August 15, 1998
Crew: 1,200
Troop carrying capacity: 1,800
Cost: 1.1 billion dollars
Dimensions: 844 feet long, 106 feet wide.
Displacement: 40,500 tons
Speed: 20+ knots
Propulsion: Two conventional steam propulsion plants.
Medical: 600 beds including 6 operating rooms.
Homeport: San Diego, California

Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV)
Enclosed aluminum hull which carries up to 25 equipped Marines on the over land. Equipped with mounted 12.7mm machine



M-1 Abrams Tank
The military's main battle tank used by the Army and Marines. Has a 120mm cannon which determines speed, temperature and wind before firing.



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USS BONHOMME RICHARD

1 NATO Sea Sparrow Surface Missile System (NSSMS)

Uses radar-guided Sparrow missiles with high-explosive warheads to counter threats from cruise missiles and aircraft. BONHOMME RICHARD has 16, forward and aft, eight cell missile launchers.



2 RIM-116 Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM)

A supplement to the Sea Sparrow, it is used for supersonic short range missile defense. Launched from two MK-49 RAM launchers, fore and aft.



3

Phalanx Close-In Weapon System

Provides last ditch defense against cruise missiles and aircraft. Automatic gun control system that tracks and automatically fires up to 3,000 rounds per minute from 20mm gatling type gun. The depleted uranium used in each round is 2.5 times heavier than steel.



MV-22A Osprey

The V-22 is a joint service, multi-mission aircraft with vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) capability. It performs VTOL missions as effectively as a conventional helicopter while also having the long-range cruise abilities of a twin turboprop aircraft.



CH-46 Sea Knight

Troop carrier first procured for the Marines in 1964 during the Vietnam war. Being replaced by the MV-22, it carries 22 troops to shore and has a crew of four.



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e gun.

Landing Craft Air Cushion

Travels more than 45 mph over sea and land so that Marines and their equipment can penetrate deep into a battle zone from a ship that is beyond the horizon. The air cushion enables LCACs to reach 70 percent of the world's coastline. Their heavy payload means more troops reach shore more quickly. BONHOMME RICHARD carries three LCACs in her welldeck.



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FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY CRUISE 2012 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TIME	TASKING	LOCATION
0500-0800	Guest check-in (Give PQS and pamphlet to each guest. Collect payment)	Upper V
0600-0800	Continental Breakfast	Sponsor's Mess
0730-1400	Kid's Play Area (Parent will supervise their own children)	Upper V
0800	Underway	Flight Deck
0830	CO's Welcome Aboard Speech	1MC
0900, 1000	Tours include DC Demo/Firefighting/Flotation Device, Air Crash and Salvage Static Display	Starts in Hangar Bay
1000-1030	CH53 Fly-bys	Flight Deck
1100-1300	Lunch	Sponsor's Mess

USS BONHOMME RICHARD LHD-6 FAMILY DAY CRUISE MENU LUNCH 1100-1300

Chicken Noodle Soup
French Onion Soup
Grilled Cheeseburgers
Chicken Nuggets
Black Bean Vegetable Burgers
French Fried Potatoes
Assorted Chips
Baked Beans
Green Beans
Cookies
Assorted Cakes and Pies



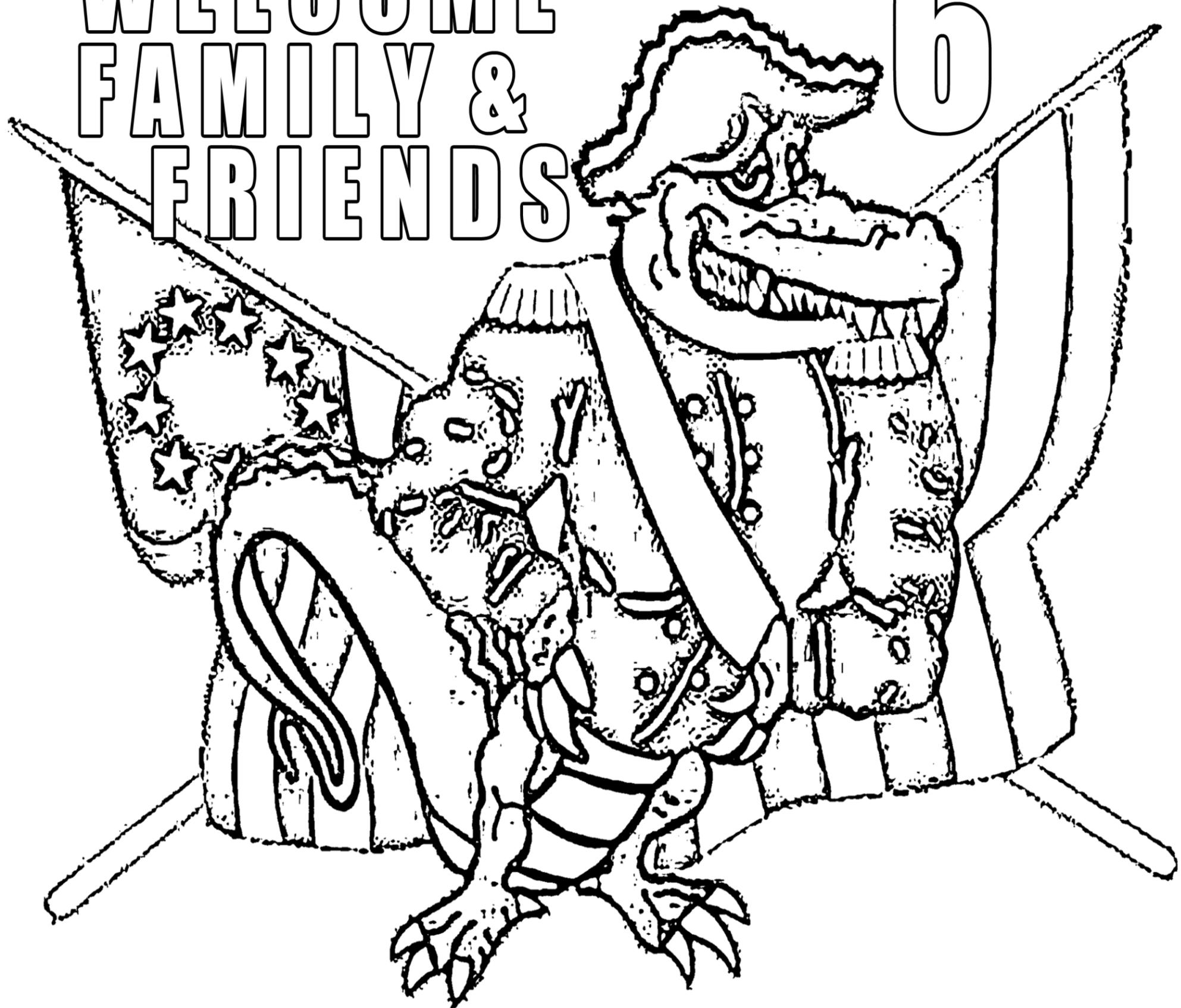
WORD SEARCH

SAILOR - ANCHOR - HELM - HULL
- CAPTAIN - MESSDECK
RACK - BRIDGE - AFT
JOHN PAUL JONES - BULKHEAD
FANTAIL - DECK - FLAG
FORECASTLE - FORWARD
GALLEY - HATCH - LADDERWELL
- NAVY - QUARTERDECK
STARBOARD - PORT - UNIFORM
WELLDECK - LIBERTY

K	T	S	F	L	F	S	F	I	N	T	K	X	T	S	B	E	W	D	G
D	P	L	T	R	D	O	A	G	I	Z	U	V	A	R	L	E	E	U	G
L	A	D	S	A	R	P	C	S	A	M	L	D	I	T	H	E	L	M	U
G	R	O	G	E	R	A	R	Q	T	B	G	D	S	U	M	J	L	C	E
S	R	O	W	H	N	B	C	G	P	S	G	A	H	C	R	H	D	F	Z
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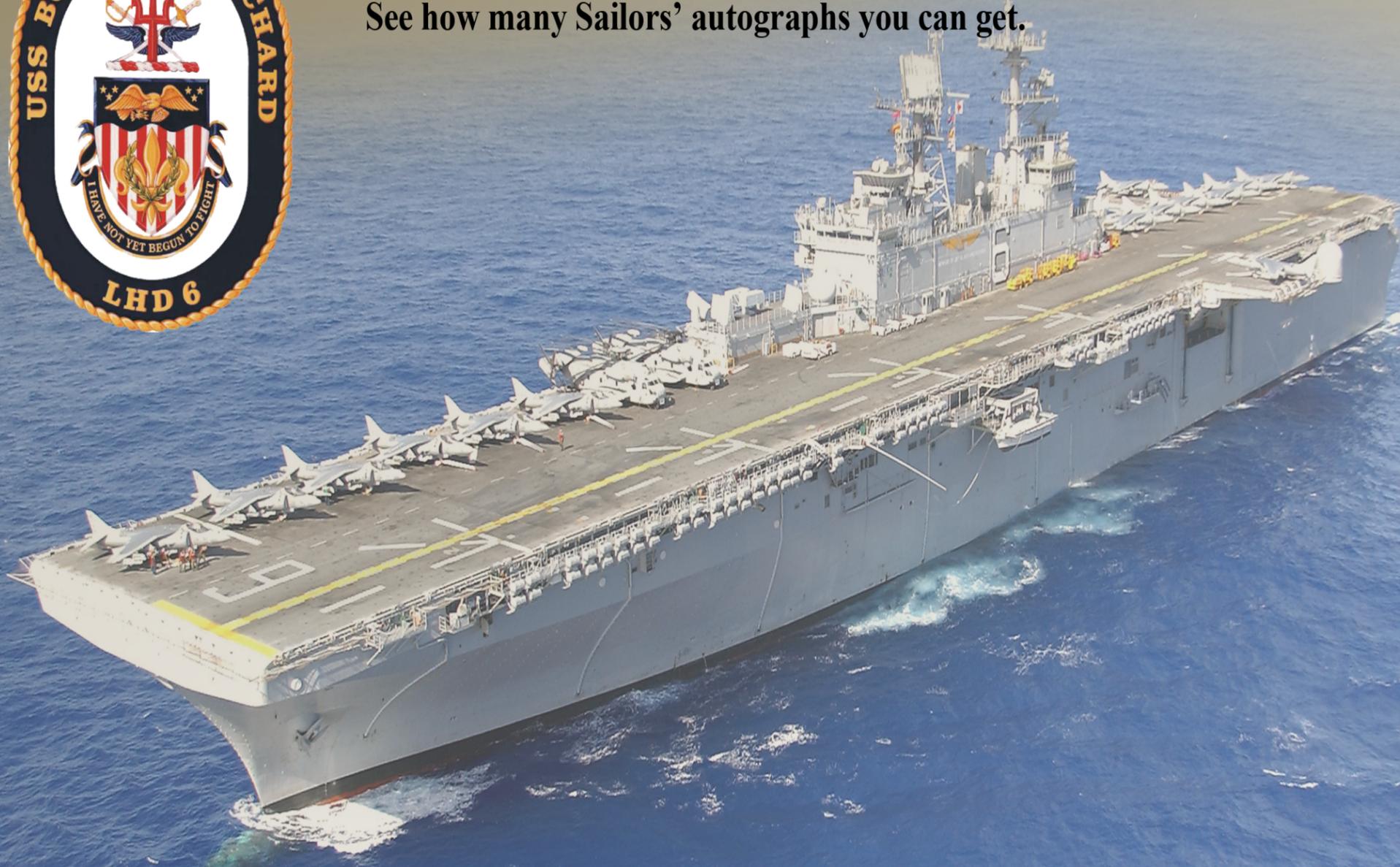
WELCOME
FAMILY &
FRIENDS

6



AUTOGRAPHS

See how many Sailors' autographs you can get.



USS BONHOMME RICHARD LHD 6

The Revolutionary Gator

Professional Qualification Standard (PQS)

1. Find a scuttlebutt _____
2. Learn to read a bullseye _____
3. Dog down a hatch _____
4. Find out the weight of a link in the anchor chain _____
5. Locate the forecastle _____
6. Salute an Admiral _____
7. Shake the Bull Ensign's hand _____
8. Visit the scullery _____

YOU MUST HAVE A SIGNATURE FROM A BHR SAILOR