



# Happening Now



Second Class Petty Officer Sailors onboard USS Bunker Hill take their First Class Petty Officer Exam in the ship's mess decks.



Master Chief Fire Controlman (SW/AW) Adam Gregory stands watch over the ship's "Morale Day" beverages.



Operation Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Victor Vargas plots points during a man overboard training scenario.



The moon illuminates USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) as she cuts through the Arabian Sea.



USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) is seen sailing in the Arabian Sea.



Sailors watch a movie on the flight deck of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) during the ship's "Morale Day" hosted by the MWR (Morale Welfare and Recreation) team.



Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class (SW) Alexander Black directs a helicopter on the ship's flight deck.



Operation Specialist 3rd Class Sharee Scantling verifies course data while standing watch onboard USS Bunker Hill (CG 52).



Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Kristen Hanson fires a .50-caliber machine gun on the ship's fantail.



Hull Technician Fireman Montez Taylor participates as a lead nozzleman in a simulated fire fighting exercise onboard USS Bunker Hill (CG 52).



Explosive Ordnance and Disposal Technicians attached to USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) perform a fast rope maneuver on the flight deck of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52).



The city of Dubai is seen off the port side of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) as she pulls into Jebel Ali as part of a scheduled port visit.



Bunker Hill (CG 52) Commanding Officer, D. DeSciscio, pilots one of the ship's rigid hull inflatable boats.



USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) basks in the afternoon sun while coasting through the Arabian Sea.



Quartermaster 2nd Class (SW) Lynn Featherstone looks on as Quartermaster Seaman Doni Stephens cleans lighting on the ship's aft mast.



Sailors don Chemical, Biological and Radiological gear during a CBR attack drill onboard USS Bunker Hill (CG 52).

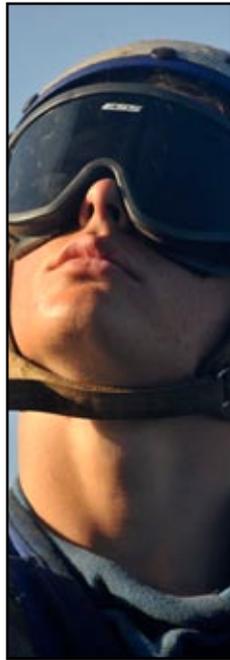
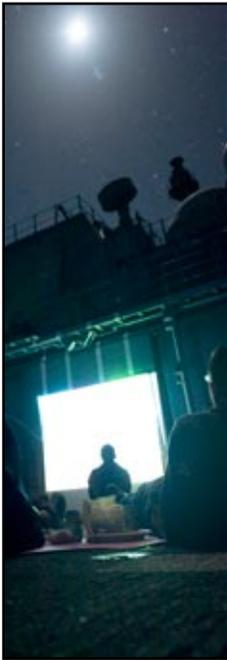


Lt. j.g. Dan Holian, a helicopter pilot attached to "Scorpions" Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HSL-49), monitors the status of an engaged helicopter from the landing signal officer shack onboard USS Bunker Hill (CG 52).



Sailors pose for a picture on an MWR Safari Sunset Tour.

# Getting Started



*March has found the crew of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) taking advantage of training, advancement and qualification opportunities. After a month of continuous maintenance, drills and watches, the crew earned a refreshing “Morale Day” and well deserved port visit to Jebel Ali, getting a taste of the local culture and volunteering their time at a special needs center for children.*

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# Commanding Officers Call

**D**ear Families, Friends, and Loved Ones of BUNKER HILL, As we enter the fifth calendar month of deployment (actually sixth if you count the day we deployed, Nov 30!) your Sailors continue to perform magnificently in one of the most dangerous and challenging environments in the world!

The turmoil in this part of the world has also brought its share of uncertainty to our port visit schedule. Having passed the 45-day mark of being continuously underway since departing Malaysia in January, we paused a few hours recently to enjoy 'Morale Day' on a sunny afternoon in the North Arabian Sea. With the BUNKER HILL "Patriot" band providing the entertainment at a steel beach picnic, each Sailor was entitled to two cans of beer in keeping with the longstanding Navy tradition. Not long after that our luck finally turned (at the 54-day mark) and we were given the opportunity to conduct a port visit to Jebal Ali in the United Arab Emirates. While certain safety and security measures kept the Sailors from venturing too far away from the pier area, they were nevertheless able to enjoy some MWR-sponsored recreation and entertainment in the nearby city of Dubai, which included a desert safari, a water park, world-class shopping, as well as a nighttime dinner cruise. And thanks to the CPO Mess the crew also enjoyed some less flashy but just as relaxing card playing, entertainment and libations of our own BUNKER HILL Oasis right on the pier next to the ship. As has consistently been the case with this amazing crew, several Sailors gave up a portion of their hard-earned liberty time to a worthy cause by spending it with the faculty and students of the Al-Noor Training Center for Children with Special Needs. No sooner did we get back underway to continue our important mission here in the region when we took time to recognize Women's History Month with a presentation and cake-cutting ceremony on the mess decks honoring the contributions of women in our society and in our military, both past and present.

With the bulk of the deployment behind us we are entering what traditionally becomes the nightmare period for the commanding officer; that is the Sailors begin to replace hard work and alert watch standing with daydreaming and premature celebration. Not so with your superstars. They continue to absolutely amaze me every day with their courage and stamina in the face of uncertainty, and if anything they have improved their game and ability to adapt and overcome the challenges of this the ever changing region. They are a pleasure to command.

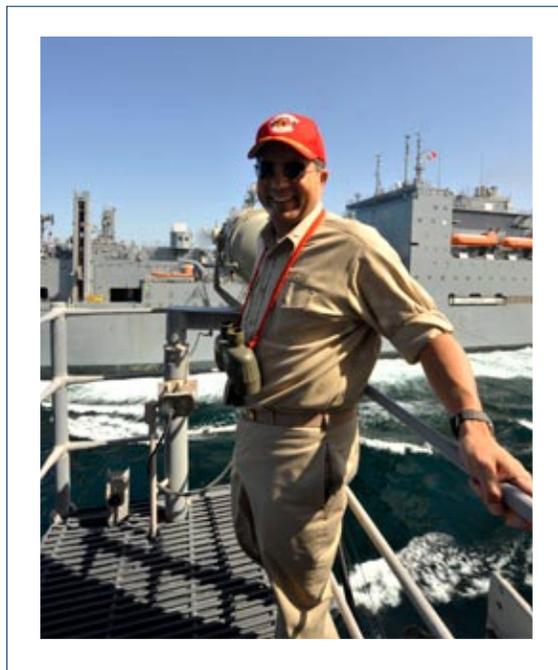
As always, the success of our mission depends on all the love, support and prayers you provide each day, especially now as we begin the final two months of this incredible journey. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless BUNKER HILL and her crew.

Sincerely,

D. DeScisciolo

Captain, U.S. Navy

Commanding Officer, USS BUNKER HILL (CG 52)



# Executive Officer's Call

BUNKER HILL Family,

Greetings from the Gulf! Our BUNKER HILL Sailors continue to inspire and impress!

What have we been up to?

We're tracking every airplane (civilian and military), every helicopter, every surface ship and every submarine every minute throughout the region. We do this while overseeing the carrier's air wing launching planes to protect US forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. Our sailors keep all equipment up and running despite sandstorms and harsh conditions; and keep each other running with everything from encouragement to good food. We're launching, flying and recovering helicopters; planning and conducting complex operations, using our small boats, readying weapons, creatively repairing almost everything onboard and even keeping the XO happy by finding the time to make the ship clean.

Successfully completing even one day of operations here in 5th Fleet takes the complete attention and focus of every sailor on board. Maintaining that performance for weeks or months is a unique challenge and our Sailors are excelling!

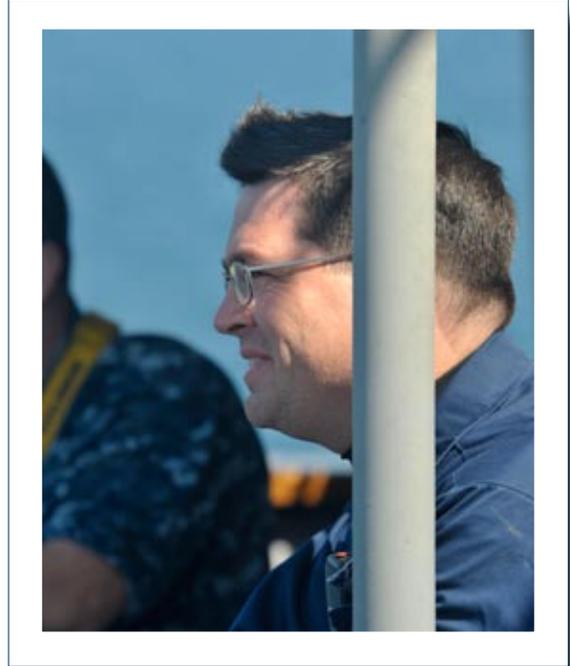
All work and no play...

That isn't to say we never take a break. We were able to schedule a "Morale Day" – as close to a day off as you can get and still be underway. We grilled burgers, had our band playing, played a few games and even managed to have a beer (not usually allowed on board, but this was an official special occasion).

Also this month we pulled into the port of Jebel Ali in the United Arab Emirates. With the tensions in the regions elevated we kept our liberty close to the ship, but it was still a good opportunity to pull in, shut everything down and give the crew some well-earned rest.

Back to work!

As I write this we're already back to the daily grind. We will continue to get our jobs done here and ensure that each other are safe so that we can move on to our next mission and the one after that...eventually they will lead to our favorite part of deployment – coming home!



Sincerely,

Brian D. Connolly  
LCDR USN  
Executive Officer

# Command Master Chief's Call

BUNKER HILL Family and Friends,

We have reached the halfway mark of our deployment and we are heading with momentum down the back stretch with the ultimate goal of a successful deployment and reuniting with family, friends, and love ones.

March was a very productive month for BUNKER HILL. We spent over 45 consecutive days at sea that allowed the crew to enjoy a refreshing beer day. Every crew member received two cold 12 oz cans of beer with a selection choice of Miller Light, Heineken, and Miller Genuine Draft. Everyone had a blast on the day we labeled Morale Day. We had a very light day overall for the ship so the crew could enjoy themselves the best way possible for all the hard work they do onboard BUNKER HILL.

BUNKER HILL's band provided music for that day and our magnificent Chefs onboard prepared an excellent Steel Beach Supper for us. The crew broke out the fishing poles, cigars, water balloons, and other recreational games.

After taking a moral day break, we followed that up with a port visit to Jebel Ali in United Arab of Emirates where we enjoyed four days of liberty off the ship. Crew members shopped, toured, and got a chance to get off the ship. In addition, several of the Sailors, with the Chaplain and Commanding Officer, teamed up and supported a Community Relations project at Al Noor Training Center (A school for special needs children) helping kids and doing various projects around the center. It was a rewarding a fulfilling time had by all Sailors involved.

Towards the end of the month BUNKER HILL Diversity Committee again put on another stellar production and performance in celebration of the observance of Woman's Month.

Overall a very successful month for BUNKER HILL. With the hard work and dedication every Sailor gives onboard, I'm proud to be their Command Master Chief. We will be making the long journey home soon, so keep us in your thoughts and prayers. One thing I can guarantee you, is that BUNKER HILL will not disappoint you. We'll cross the finish line with pride, dedication, determination and with deep sense of satisfaction of accomplishment. We'll be glad to be home with our love ones who supporting us every step of the way.



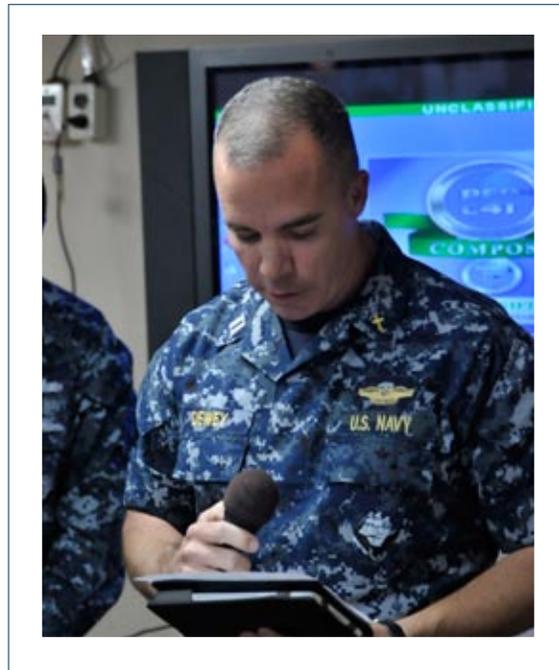
Sincerely,

CMDCM (SW/AW) Everett M. Mays

# Chaplain's Call

Greetings Family, Friends and Crew of USS Bunker Hill,

Thank you for the emails welcoming me to the Bunker Hill family. It is wonderful to be part of a crew that is tight knit and willing to work together to get through the deployments. As we near the home stretch of the deployment I wanted to make you aware of some great resources in preparing for your loved ones return. If you are a book reader then I suggest *Surviving Deployment: A Guide for Military Families*, by Karen M. Pavlicin. This book is full of great stories to which you will relate and great techniques to incorporate into your homecoming. If you are only a website reader then check out <http://www.militaryspousehelp.com/index.html> or <http://www.survivingdeployment.com/index.html> as well as our Fleet and Family Service website <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/SanDiego/FleetAndFamilyReadiness/index.htm?ssSourceSiteId=CNRSW>



Let's be realistic about homecoming: problems will surface. We are human and all have our own expectations. When these expectations are not met we have great disappointment, so I encourage you to have open and honest communication now to lessen the problems. If you need to contact me about anything please do not hesitate to do so and know that your communication is confidential and goes no further than my inbox.

Know that your loved one is doing an incredible service aboard our mighty warship. I am always here to serve you.  
With God's Blessings,

Chaplain Jim Dewey  
LT, CHC, USN  
[deweyj@cg52.navy.mil](mailto:deweyj@cg52.navy.mil)

# THE WOMEN OF USS BUNKER HILL

SENIOR NAVY COUNSELOR CRYPTOLOGIC  
 SPECIALIST INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST  
 NC1 (SW) Nicole Anderson, GMSN  
 Courtney Blair, FC2 Rae Burton, Ens. Erica Caballero, CTR2 (IDW) Molly Carpenter, CTT2 (SW) Ashley Casamassa, Ens. Susan Choate, Lt. j.g. Emily Davis, CS3 Ruth Dobsos, CTT3 Tiffany Doree, OS3 Jane Drury, FC2 (SW) Melissa Elosge, ET2 Tamara Fraley, ET3 Jennifer Good, NC1 (SW) Laura Gutierrez, GM3 Kristin Hanson, CTT1 (SW/AW) Margaret Holt, ISC (SW/AW) Tiffany Johnson, OS1 (SW/AW) Cassandra Karo, Ens. Jasmine Kelley, GM1 Jacquelyne Kilgore, Ens. Trisha Kutkiewicz, STGSN Olivia Lewis, SHSN Arika Locke, CTI1 (SW) Amorita Malagon, GSM2 (SW) Dorothy Marasigan, CTR1 (SW) Hope McDaniel, FC2 (SW) Erin Okane, Lt. j.g. Sarah Oleen, OSSN Brittany Pearson, AZ2 Lizeth Perez, Ens. Christinia Pryne, Ens. Blanca Ramirez, QM3 (SW) Kimberly Ramirez, SHSA Breanna Saxer, BM2 (SW) Passion Richmond, OS3 Sha-ree Scantling, CS1 (SW/AW) Jaqueline Shaw, Lt. Heather Talley, HM3 Monica Valdez, ITSA Sydney Valentine, DC3 (SW) Ruth Villegas, GMSA Tara Weston, ITC (SW) Jennifer Williams, Wil-

MAN ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN  
 MAN SWAIN'S MATE  
 FIRE CONTROL  
 MAN SYSTEM TECHNICIAN  
 DAMAGE CONTROLMAN INFO  
 MAN ADMINISTRATIONMAN GU  
 MAN OPERATION SPECIALIST  
 SENIOR NAVY COUNSELOR CRYPTOLOGIC

Throughout history, women have made major contributions to our military's story. Since the founding of our country, women have preserved their rights as accomplished participants in our country's war efforts, becoming Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines.

The women onboard the Ticonderoga-class Cruiser USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) are no different. As Sailors, they hold a variety of different jobs and responsibilities that would make most occupations seem ordinary. Their selfless duty to their nation, mission and fellow shipmates is both profound and bold.

For Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Monica Valdez, her beliefs are held at a high standard. She enlisted in the Navy close to five years ago because she wanted the training and opportunities to develop and grow that only naval service could provide.

"In the Navy, you have unlimited experience," said Valdez. "You have a lot more opportunities as a corpsman to train than you would as a civilian." As one of the three corpsman onboard, her experience is definitely paying off. Before deploying, along with fellow corpsman HM3 (SCW/SW) David Yang, she organized the crew's medical records, keeping Sailor inoculations, dental appointment and eye exam records up to date; ensuring the crew's physical readiness prior to departure.

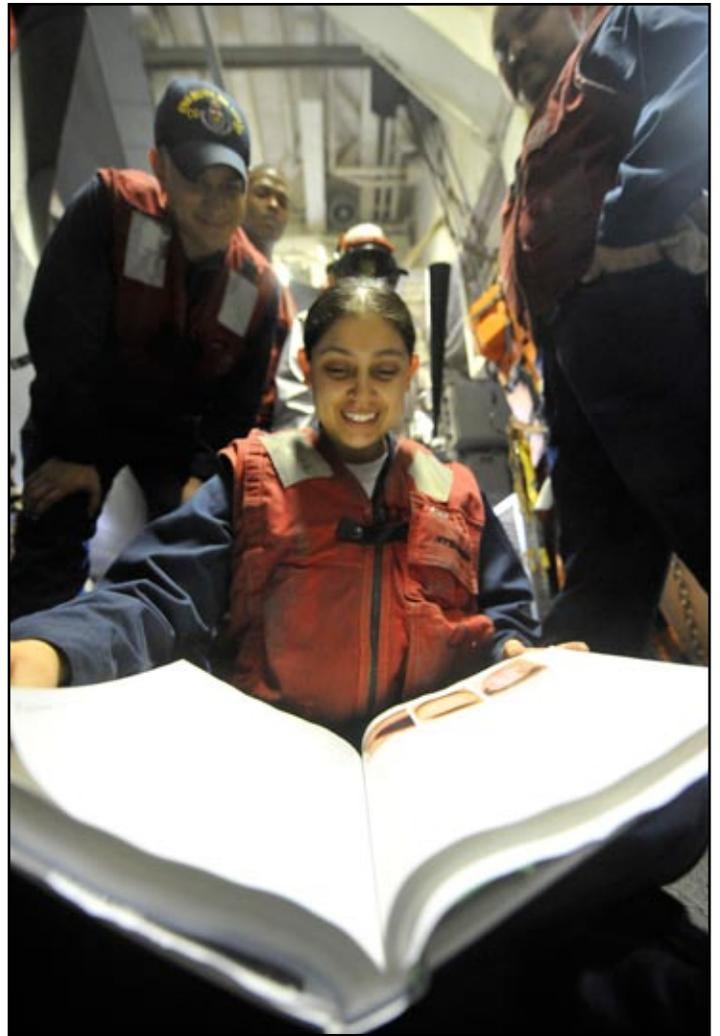
Every day she diagnoses her patient's symptoms, at times tending to serious and minor ailments. Her higher standard comes with a respect for other Sailors' personal issues and problems. She said she is glad she can be of help when those around her need more than a healing hand.

"I think it's a plus sometimes," said Valdez. "People can come to me because they feel more comfortable on certain issues."

Keeping the ship afloat is Damage Controlman 3rd Class (SW) Ruth Villegas. She enlisted in the Navy for many reasons. Her older sister spoke of the adventures and the experiences had in other countries and cultures, thus sparking Villegas' interest.

"I wanted to see all these places she was talking about," said Villegas. "I got tired of all the post cards."

After the tragic attacks of September 11, 2001, Villegas' thoughts about enlisting were cemented. She



Damage Controlman 3rd Class Ruth Villegas studies in the ship's hangar bay during flight quarters, while her shipmates look on.

saw the unspoken bravery of the firemen and police officers that risked their lives to save those who were trapped in the wreckage. This also influenced her decision to become a Damage Controlman.

"If 9/11 had never happened, I might not have been here," said Villegas.

*"One day when I leave, someone has to take my place to carry on the watch."*

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**WOMEN**, From Page 12

Villegas has been part of the crew for over three years and is currently a fire party team leader. She oversees and trains her Sailors, and is an active member of the ship's rapid response team. She is always present for flight quarters as a crash and salvage team member and spoke about the responsibility included.

"Night flights can come as a surprise," said Villegas. "Sometimes you don't get a lot of sleep because of those all nighters."

One of those night fliers is Lt. Heather Talley. As a pilot attached to "Scorpions" Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 49 (HSL-49), she acts as the Ship's Aviation Maintenance Officer in charge of helicopter maintenance, repair and overall performance; That is, with the help of her Sailors of "Dirty Birds" Helicopter Detachment 4.

Prior to her commissioning, she was recruited to play soccer at the United States Naval Academy. There, she found interest in the aviation community and decided to pursue becoming a helicopter pilot.

Now, after prior deployment experience under her belt, she's an accomplished aircraft commander in charge of training her junior co-pilots and air crewman (also Search and Rescue Swimmers) that

See **WOMEN**, Page 14

**ESWS WARRIORS**

- FC2 (SW) Timonthy Behm
- GM3 (SW) Edward Clark
- CTT3 (SW) Jerrod McQuay
- FC2 (SW) Stevincent Mosely

**RE-ENLISTMENTS**

- NC1 (SW/SCW) Nicole Anderson
- CS1 (SW) Reggie Leake
- CS2 (SW) Tony Hart
- BM3 John Dahlstrom
- OS2 Joshua Fournier
- OS3 Justin Joseph

**SWSCO WARRIORS**

- Ens. Jasmine Kelley

**SWO WARRIORS**

- Ens. Nathaniel Clark



Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Passion Richmond (Seen here as a RIG Captain) directs Sailors during a replenishment at sea.

**WOMEN**, From Page 13

accompany her flights. Her team's primary mission is to act as an extension of the ship's radar capabilities, looking out for surface contacts and visually indentifying submarines.

"The goal is by the end of deployment, that we have qualified aircraft commanders, and trained aircrew men," said Talley.

Her team's flight capabilities are also used for emergency medical evacuations, humanitarian aid, rescue work, and re-supplying the ship during vertical replenishments.

Speaking of replenishments, Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Passion Richmond, the 1st Division (Deck) Leading Petty Officer, is the overseer of 25 Sailors during some of the ship's most dangerous evolutions. When she's not standing-in as a rig captain for the ship's connective replenishments, launching away rigid hull inflatable boats, directing helicopters or standing watch, she takes her role as a mentor and divisional career counselor seriously.

"I love my Sailors; they're like my home away from home," said Richmond. "One day when I leave someone has to take my place to carry on the watch."

Richmond is also a qualified Master Helmsman and Boatswain's Mate of the Watch. She believes in training her Sailors and ensuring proper watching standing and regulations are adhered to.

"It's my responsibility that all my junior guys are informed," said Richmond.

These are just a few examples of the highly trained, hard working women on board USS Bunker Hill. Most serve singularly as the only females in their divisions. This situation plays no heed to the day to day work they put forth to support Bunker Hill as the Guided Missile Cruiser moves forward.

*"In the Navy, you have unlimited experience."*



Lt. Heather Talley prepares for a mission before flying off the flight deck of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52).

# SUPPLY: THE SHIPS LOGISTIC EXPERTS



Supply Department Sailors pose for a photo on the forecandle of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52).

The Supply Department on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) ensures the ship and crew are fueled and ready to perform. The Department's three divisions (S-1, S-2 and S-3) provide all the essential and non essential supplies and parts to keep the Ticonderoga-Class Cruiser afloat.

Three-hundred plus hungry stomachs are fed morning, noon and night by the S-2 Division's Culinary Specialists. Thanks to the Ship Servicemen in S-3 Division, Sailors are able to grab a quick snack at the ship's store and vending machines between watches, and no piece of equipment goes unnoticed by the Sailors in S-1 Division as replacement parts are ordered, received and used to repair equipment.

The work accomplished by Supply Department Sailors allow the ship to stay at sea for extended periods of time. In order to sustain the ship and needs of the crew, Supply Sailors carry a heavy demand on their shoulders.

The Logistic Specialists (LS) from Supply Departments S-1 Division act as the bargainers, traders, and negotiators for the ship. They take on the ship's financial responsibility by tracking and paying all maintenance and non-maintenance related part orders. They pay the fueling bills for the ship and the ship's aviation detachment.

Fuel is important when parts are flown on board via

helicopter. These are the parts needed quickly for mission critical repairs. The equipment casualties range from radar systems and engineering machinery repairs, to the ship coffee makers and industrial washing machines. No matter how large or small the repair, replacing the necessary parts is vital to maintaining the ship's mission readiness and the crew's morale.

When the LS's aren't processing the ship's part orders or fueling receipt, they're sorting through the 400 plus pounds of mail that arrives. The arrival of mail from family, friends and loved ones is a huge morale boost for the crew and S-1 Divisional Mail Petty Officer, Logistic Specialist 2nd Class (AW) Roel Lunod understands this. "People get really excited when they hear mail is called," said Lunod.

He sorts and processes all out-going mail as well. Letters, packages, boxes and important documents find their way off the ship in a timely manner. Providing aviation supply support is Logistic Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Jomel Orpilla. He is responsible for all aviation part orders, by maintaining an accurate account and expediting the orders when necessary so the ship's helicopters are clear to fly.

"It's pretty important," said Lunod, "They'll call and

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come down asking the status of the parts they've ordered; if they don't get the part, they don't fly."

As a crew at sea, adapting to a variety of different working environments and stress levels throughout each work day can be a difficult challenge. To help ease that stress, the Ship Servicemen (SH1 (SW) Matthew Fitch, SHSN (SW) Graylon Keeton, SH3 (SW) Sulficio Anza, SHSN Arika Locke, SHSN Breanna Saxer) in Supply Departments S-3 Division are providing the many facilities and amenities the crew uses every day.

Ship Serviceman Seaman (SW) Graylon Keeton and Ship Serviceman 3rd Class (SW) Sulficio Anza graduated from a month long Shipboard Barber School. There, they developed their techniques and skill sets from qualified military barbers. An estimated forty Sailors, by appointment or walk-in, come to the barber shop daily. The process of getting a haircut for these Sailors is more than just the haircut itself, it's about unwinding.

"The ship rocks, so you have to keep your balance and go with it," said Anza, "you get better and better, especially during under way time and deployments."

Bags of laundry are brought to the Servicemen every day. Tracking over 300 uniforms for 300 Sailors can be a tricky process. To alleviate the difficulty, they recently employed the help of temporary assigned Sailors in the laundry facilities.

"It's been a major help, just having one or two more people lend a hand with our daily duties," said Keeton. Every day the ship's store and vending machines are replenished with consumables for the crew. This requires the accurate record keeping and management of supplies and various inventories. Toiletry items, food, beverages, uniform items, media entertainment, and other miscellaneous items are purchased by the crew in the ship store.

Despite having many areas of responsibility and a never ending list of tasks, the Ship Servicemen continue to work tirelessly. This type of service has allowed the crew to focus more freely on their jobs and the ship's mission.

Music can be heard from the ship's galley, where S-2 Division Culinary Specialist's (CS) are preparing the crews next meal. They begin their day at 0400 and depart the kitchen at 2000 when the night shift begins, cooking all day and all night.

Hundreds of pounds of food are prepared and cooked every day. For breakfast alone, 60 dozen eggs are used to defend against the crews appetite. With a quantity of food that large, time management is crucial. Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Cordero Cisneros said making work fun is also important.

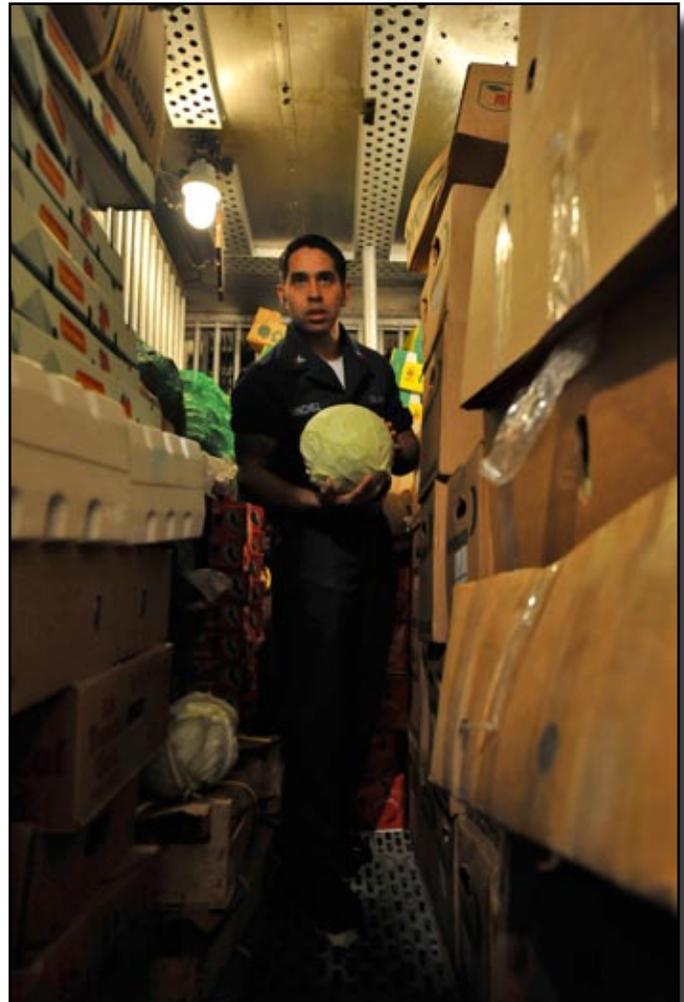
"We're on our feet all day," said Cisneros. "You gotta have fun when you're working long hours."

The ship's Officers in the wardroom and the ship's Chief Petty Officers in the Chief's Mess are also taken care of by Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Ruth Dobson, Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Murray and Culinary Specialist Seaman Thomas.

Culinary Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Luis Sanchez is lending a helping hand one deck below. He's the ship's dry provisions, freezer and chill box store rooms' petty officer. He collects and issues the food items for the next day's meals. Once the items are set aside, that shifts watch captain comes down and signs off for them. This is part of the inventory process and helps maintain proper record keeping so the ship is aware of future food orders.

"They asked me if I wanted to be in charge here, and I said yes," Said Sanchez. "It's a good way to learn and it helps me advance."

To preserve and keep the food fresh, Sanchez cleans and inspects food items daily; checking for dented cans, open



Culinary Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Luis Sanchez checks the inventory for recently stocked produce.

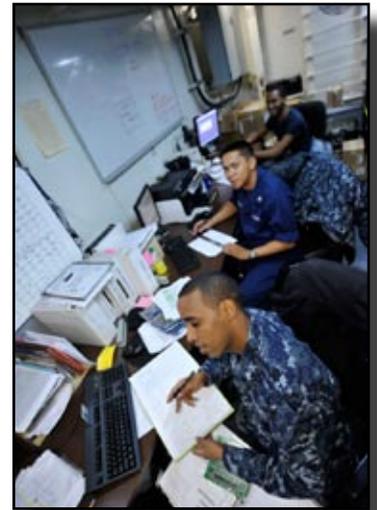


In the galley, Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Bryan Nunez prepares supper for the ship's crew.



Ship Serviceman Seaman Arika Locke rings up beverages in the ship's store.

packages, tears and rips. This attention to detail is important in eliminating the threat of food borne illnesses, pathogens and pests. "If something spills, it has to be cleaned and disinfected immediately," said Sanchez. "If it's not checked it can spoil our food, and contaminate our storage area." When parts are missing and someone is in need, Supply Department is there to resolve the problem. They tie together all the loose ends and strengthen the ship's overall integrity. They're the movers and shakers and their services are always in high demand. Whether their cooking the ship's meals, providing ship services or delivering a part, the Sailors in Supply Department bring it all together.



S-1 Division Sailors hard at work in Supply Support.



Mail is everywhere in S-1 Division's Supply Support.

*"You gotta have fun when you're working long hours."*

## WEAPONS SAILORS PROVIDE SHIPS FIRE POWER



Gunner's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Henry Valdez fires a M240 machine gun from the starboard side of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) during a live fire exercise.

**“Click, Boom!”** A 5-inch round is fired from the forecastle on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52). The ship shudders as smoke fills the air and shelling thuds against the deck. A scuttle opens and Sailors emerge from below, hurriedly moving shell mats before descending once again. This is just an exercise.

Weapons Department Sailors onboard Bunker Hill are no strangers to the sounds and smells of gun powder. From ammunition and ordnance handling, to the deployment, firing and maintenance of their weapons, these Sailors make the job look natural.

They're trained to defend the ship and strike group allies from land, sea and air engagements, and these realities strike home when distress calls from merchant vessels are heard on the ship's bridge. Pirate attacks are frequent in the 5th fleet area, and the crew's weapons training is put to use when Bunker Hill is needed to respond.

Small craft attack teams (SCAT) are called away on short notice, and in a matter of minutes the ship's attack teams are armed and ready to engage any and all incoming threats. Teams of two, man the posts; one gunner and one loader. The Sailors are fully donned in flak jackets and helmets. The only thing separating the contact from the ship is the gunner's situ-

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Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Anthony Orduna checks his firing accuracy on a 25 mm weapons systems.

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ational awareness, knowledge of his weapon and his level of firing precision.

To prepare for such situations, the Gunner's Mates in Weapons CG division are training and qualifying the crew in small arms across the board. They've utilized the time out to sea to conduct this training, by holding live firing exercises as frequently as possible to keep the weapon training fresh in the minds of the weapon users.

This training also serves to qualify in-port watch standers and top side security rovers. They train the Sailors, testing their reloading, response and casualty troubleshooting; all the while firing is being scored based on target precision. Before and after the exercise, safety fundamentals are taught to thwart any possible mishaps.

"We learn just as much as the shooter does," said Gunner's Mate 1st Class (SW/AW) Arizaga. "We see things that we didn't notice before when we're participating in training exercises."

Outside of small arms realm, six unique Sailors can be found performing daily maintenance on

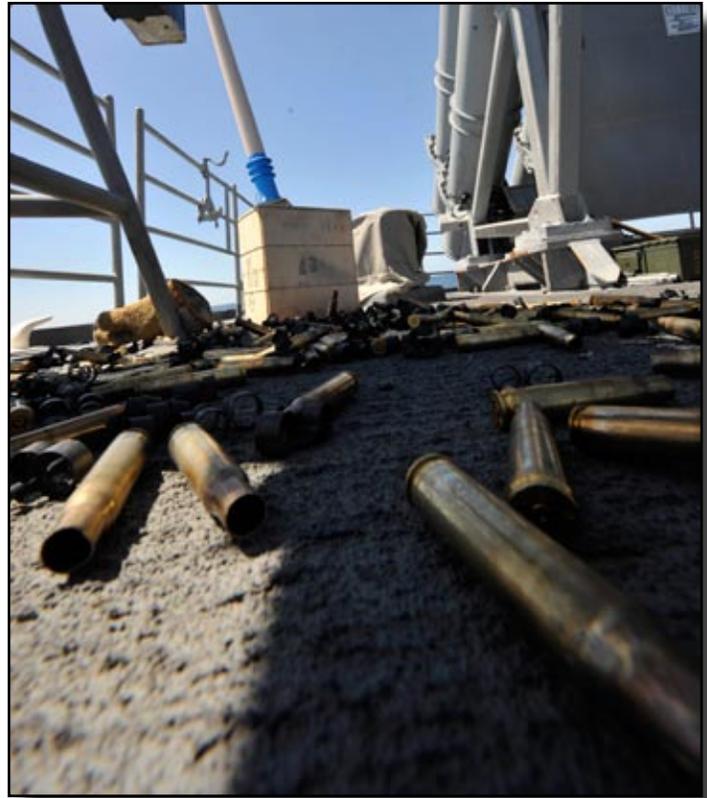
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Sailors on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) push an inflatable target "Killer Tomato" off the ship's fantail.



The 25-mm weapons system is fired off the starboard side.



Expended 50-caliber shells are seen on the ship's fantail.



A 5-inch round fired from the forecastle on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) lands next to a floating target during a live fire exercise.

**WEAPONS**, From Page 20

one of the ship's most vital weapons system. The close in weapons system, also known as CIWS, serves as a last line of a defense for the ship and also as a deterrent for anti-piracy and incoming small craft. The Sailors that work on these weapons are both highly trained and qualified as operators and technicians.

The gun system is used for both anti-surface and anti-air defense by firing a barrage of 20mm rounds towards its incoming target, hopefully maiming or destroying it in the process.

"Some people like to think of it as R2-D2 (Star Wars) with a Gatling Gun," said Fire Controlman 3rd Class Matthew Degraff.

On the search for underwater tracks are the Sonar Technicians from CA Division. These Sailors monitor the ship's sonar equipment around the clock looking for large underwater signatures and possible submarine contacts. When necessary, they can communicate with ship's anti-submarine helicopters to pin point submarine locations via the helicopter's sono-buoys. This broadens the range of search for the Sonar Technicians and is a vital asset for the ship's underwater defensive capabilities.

Offensively the sonar technicians along with the ship's gunner's mates can be found in the ship's torpedo magazine store rooms, loading torpedoes into the ship's torpedo weapon system. Once the location of a submarine is pin pointed, the sonar technicians can engage and fire.

"We do our jobs," said Sonar Technician 2nd Class (SW) Mitchell Thayer. "We enjoy what we do and learn a lot in the process."

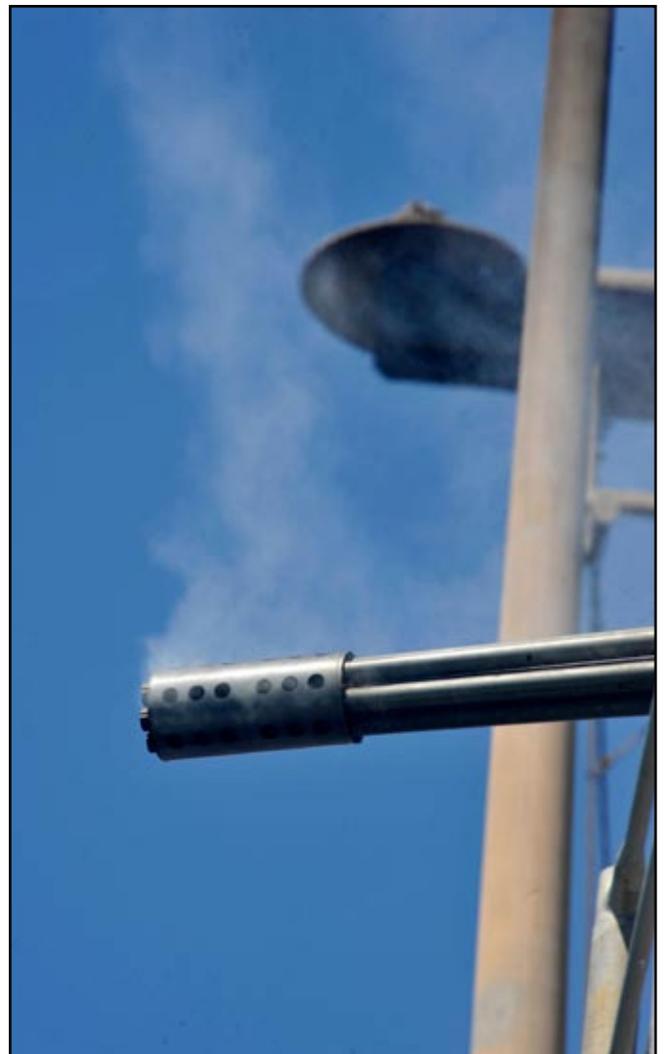
But when they're not on the search, the Sonar Technicians are assisting in the safe navigation of the ship.

Through depth readings, they provide to the ship's Navigation Team a helping hand while the ship is transiting in and out of port and out at sea.

Communication is vital among all Weapons Department Sailors. Whether they're loading, firing or performing maintenance or training; the Gunner's Mates, Fire Controlmen and Sonar Technicians are keeping the ship prepared and providing the necessary firepower for battle.



Gunner's Mate Seaman William Stafford checks round alignment before firing a twin .50-caliber machine gun off the ship's fantail.



Heat rises from the barrel of a close in weapons system on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), during a live fire exercise.

**BUNKER HILL SAILORS' BUILD FOUNDATION WITH DUBAI COMMUNITY**





**M**arch 23, 2011 was an amazing experience for the twenty-seven sailors that volunteered to spend their day with the children at Al Noor Special Needs Center. They had the honor of touring the Al Noor facility and participating in sports activities, arts and crafts, music class and workshops.

It started off with a video screening of the facilities, showcasing the purpose and importance behind Al Noor and what it has done for its special needs children. After the screening and tour, the Sailors broke into groups and began their volunteer laboring. Some of them laid down a brick walkway for the facilities new security personnel housing, while others took care of some general landscaping.

Inside Sailors and children played sports together like basketball and tennis, while others played songs with a guitar that was brought along. Sailors had the chance to do some arts and crafts with the children in their classrooms, and at the end of the COMREL the Al Noor center was presented with a picture of USS Bunker Hill that was signed by all the twenty seven sailors.

It is a great program that they have for all of the children at Al Noor. We all hope to go back if future deployments allow, and see all of them again.



