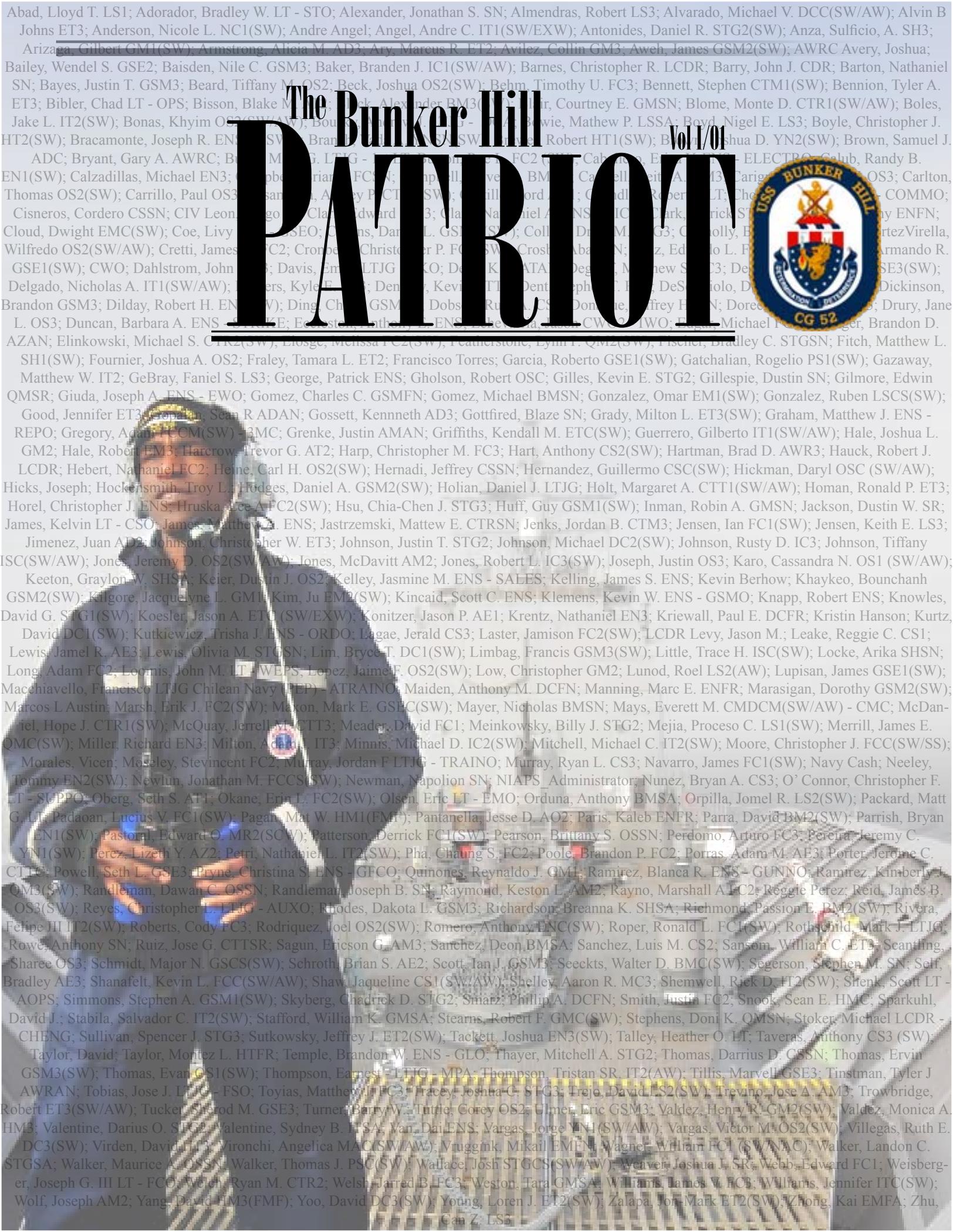
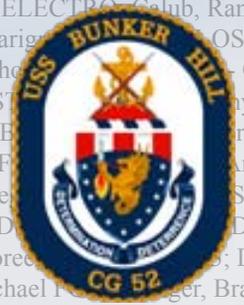


# The Bunker Hill PATRIOT

Vol 1/01



# Happening Now



Sailors aboard USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), stand low visibility watch on the ship's forecastle.



Damage Controlman 1st Class (SW) Bryce Lin, the Flight Deck Crash and Salvage On Scene Leader aboard USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), observes Sailors working on the flight deck through a hangar bay window



Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Bryan Nunez, takes toasted sandwiches out of a convection oven.



Aviation Electronic Technician Airman (AW) K Dean, ties down a helicopter attached to the "Scorpions" Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HSL-49).



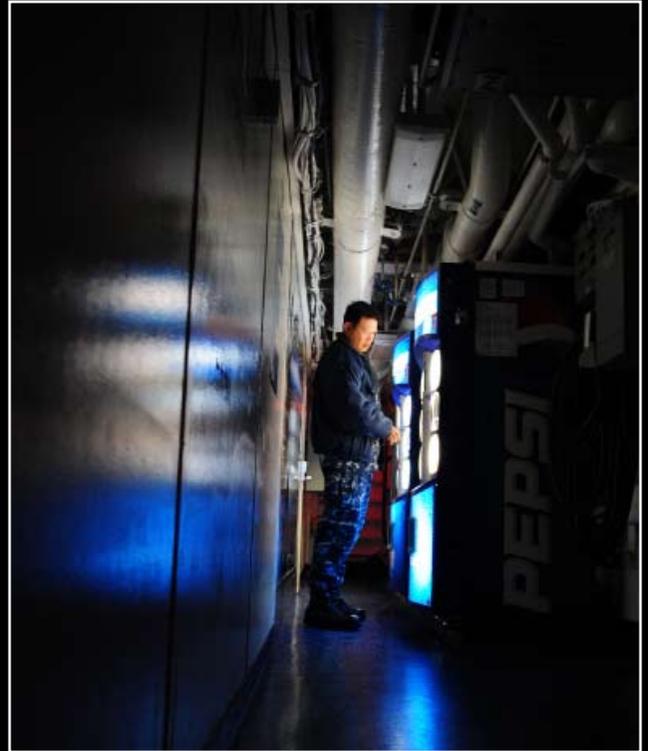
At the pilot house aboard USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), Quartermaster 2nd Class Lynn Featherstone maps coordinates using navigational aids.



USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) cuts through the Pacific Ocean during a sunset at sea.



Lt. Heather Talley, attached to “Scorpions” Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HSL-49), checks the status of a helicopter from the landing signal officer platform (LSO) on the flight deck of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52).



Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW/AW) Walter Seeckts surveys the ship's vending machines before making a selection.



USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) receives fuel and supplies from USNS Yukon (T-AO-202) during a re-fueling and vertical replenishment at sea.



On board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), Quarter Master Seaman Doni Stevens stands early morning watch on the ship's bridge.



Sailors on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) heave lines during a replenishment at sea with the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment ship USNS Guadalupe (T-AO-200).



In front of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), USS Stockdale (DDG 106), USS Gary (FFG 51), USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), and USS Gridley (DDG 101), perform a transiting exercise.



A Sailor takes aim prior to shooting a shot line at the starboard side of the Military Sealift Command Fleet replenishment ship USNS Guadalupe (T-AO-200) during a replenishment at sea.



Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Ericson Sagun runs equipment testing on the Landing Signal Officer shack on the ship's flight deck



Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW) Lucius Padoan performs pressure gasket maintenance on a close in weapons system (CIWS).



On the port side of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), the California coast illuminates the night sky as the Ticonderoga-class Cruiser cuts through the ocean water.



Boatswain's Mate Seaman Michael Gomez mans the helm aboard USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) during a surface contact training evolution.



The visit, board, search and seizure team (VBSS) aboard USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) returns from a training evolution after securing their primary training objective.



USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) pulls away from USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) during a group sail as part of Carrier Strike Group 1.



Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Lord Edward Castillo and Aviation Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Kenneth Gossett perform maintenance on a helicopter in the hangar bay of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52).



Logistic Specialist 3rd Class Keith Jensen, stands outside of the landing signal officer platform (LSO).



Ensign Jasmine Kelley, the Helicopter Control Officer aboard USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), awaits a radio transmission from the ship's bridge before green lighting the flight deck for an incoming helicopter. watch on the ship's forecastle.



The Culinary Specialists on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) prepare dinner for the crew.

# Getting Started



*This issue of the Patriot is a look at this years earlier events. From those that took place in the past to those taking place in the present. With Compuex completed, the men and women of USS Bunker Hill are beginning their 10' - 11' Deployment.*



# Commanding Officers Call

Dear Families, Friends, and Loved Ones of BUNKER HILL,

On behalf of the officers and crew I wanted to pass on a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! With the New Year upon us let me begin by bringing you up to date on all that has happened since returning from our last deployment. And what a year it has been...

We returned to San Diego from our South America deployment on April 12 after steaming nearly 21,000 miles since departing home last January 8. After a well deserved leave period following deployment we were right back at it in May and June. Our first big event of the summer was the Portland Rose Festival. The voyage up the scenic Columbia River was well worth the trip. With an overnight stop in Astoria and three days in the beautiful city of Portland your BUNKER HILL Sailors were warmly welcomed and treated like the heroes that they are! And we returned the hospitality by showcasing our ship and our Navy to nearly 3,000 residents of the Pacific Northwest during the festival. We made such a splash in Portland that we were soon asked to be the host ship for the visiting Russian Navy cruiser VARYAG in San Francisco. Before the month of June was over we were moored at Pier 17 in downtown San Francisco welcoming our Russian visitors to tours of the ship, an evening reception onboard, and a sports day complete with an American-style barbecue afterwards. During July and August we spent several weeks at sea completing our final qualifications and certifications in preparation for deployment, capping off a very busy summer indeed. This period also included embarking our helicopter detachment for the deployment; the "Dirty Birds" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) FOUR NINE Detachment FOUR. September through November was a time for some well deserved leave, and except for a brief 4-day trip up to Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach to load up our magazines for deployment, the crew was able to enjoy some good quality time with family and loved ones.

At 9:53 a.m. on Tuesday November 30th, USS BUNKER HILL officially set sail on our 2010-2011 deployment with the USS CARL VINSON Strike Group. We began the deployment with a three-week exercise off the coast of San Diego, where – according to the exercise judges – your Sailors turned in some of the best performances seen in recent Strike Groups. I tried to act surprised by this news, knowing all along that I am blessed to serve alongside the finest group of men and women ever put to sea! After completing the exercise we commenced our journey west in earnest, celebrating a rare Christmas at sea (the first for many of our shipmates). Santa and his helpers (our Morale Welfare and Recreation Committee) made it all the way out to BUNKER HILL to distribute presents to her crewmembers on Christmas day, spreading a little cheer in the process. Christmas day also brought the news of a problem with a bearing on our starboard propeller shaft, necessitating repairs here in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (where we are at this writing), prior to joining back up with the strike group few days from now. As we are moored not far from the USS ARI-ZONA Memorial, we are reminded of our commitment to the defense of our nation – and of the dangers that may lie ahead. The unscheduled stop has also allowed your Sailors a brief respite from the pace of the past few weeks, as well as a few hours to enjoy the downtown Waikiki night life. Not a bad way to finish up this tremendous year onboard America's proudest warship, BUNKER HILL.

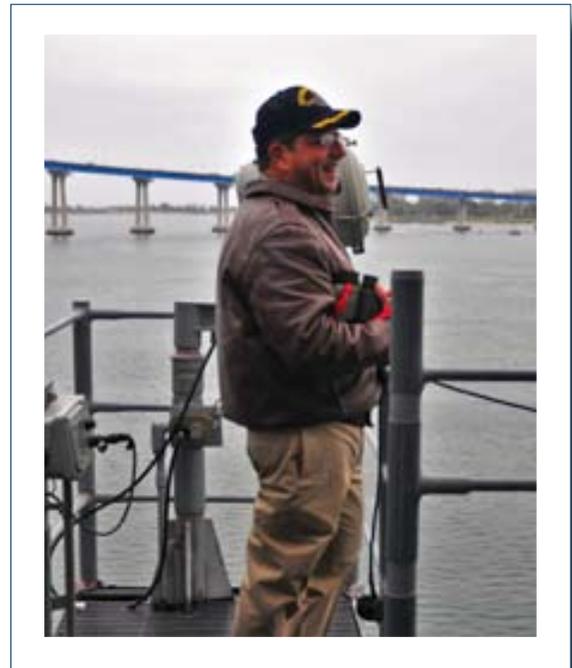
I close one more time by saying thank you for your support and all your continued prayers for our safe journey home. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless BUNKER HILL and her crew.

Sincerely,

D. DeScisciolo

Captain, U.S. Navy

Commanding Officer, USS BUNKER HILL (CG 52)



# Executive Officer's Call

BUNKER HILL family,

In November I was given the privilege of relieving CDR Michael Hill as the ship's Executive Officer. Having been on board now for just over a month I am pleased to report that you should be very proud of your sailors.

The day we got underway we began a series of exercises designed to challenge and stress the battle group. We were indeed challenged (and very stressed) but all hands worked as a team to complete the exercises successfully. With a few lessons fresh in our minds we turned west and began our transit across the Pacific.

Spending holidays at sea (away from loved ones) is always difficult, but Christmas on BUNKER HILL proved to be especially challenging. Instead of sleeping in a bit and trying to catch up on some overdue paperwork we spent the day landing and launching helicopters, preparing for small boat operations in seas that just wouldn't cooperate, and dealing with a significant problem to our starboard shaft.

That last item caused us to pull in to Pearl Harbor, HI for a few days to get some help. Here again I was very impressed with this crew. Despite the distractions that Hawaii has to offer, the focus of Officers and Crew remained on doing whatever they could to get BUNKER HILL fixed and back to sea. We left port yesterday and are moving swiftly across the Pacific Ocean to catch back up to the Carrier Strike Group.

As we close out 2010 and open 2011 I'd just like to take a moment to thank all of you for your work and efforts. It's the sacrifices that YOU make that enable us to come out and do what we do. I look forward to getting to know you all better in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Connolly  
LCDR USN  
Executive Officer



# Command Master Chief's Call

Family and Friends,

I like to start off our deployment by saying I hope all of you had a very Happy Holiday season and will have a very prosperous New Year!

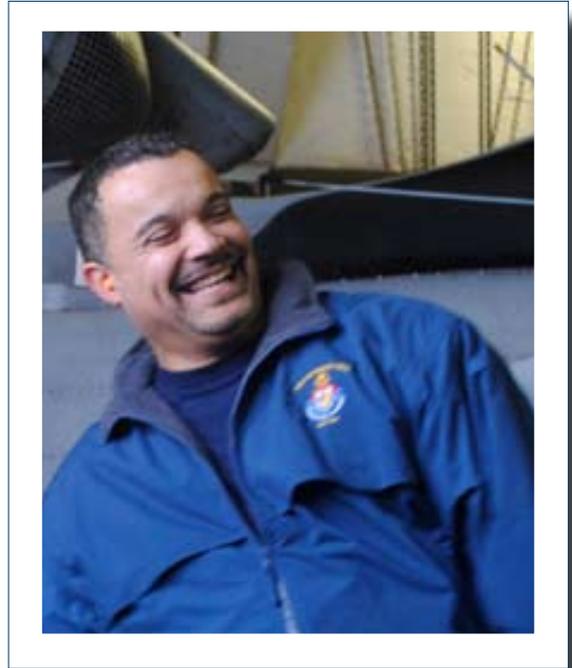
BUNKER HILL has started this deployment with great energy, determination and vigor. We conducted a twenty one day COMTUEX exercise along side CARL VINSON and several other ships that made her battle group.

During this time, Sailors were giving the opportunity to become proficient on the day to day operations that we do at sea to keep our nation safe.

We know that being away from loved ones is hard, especially during the Holiday season. On board BUNKER HILL we tried to spread some joy on Christmas by having gifts raffled off by the ships Morale Welfare Recreation committee. In addition, Santa Claus was onboard to take pictures with the Sailors. Our gifted and talented Culinary Specialists prepared and served an full course Holiday meal that the left the crew talking about it for days.

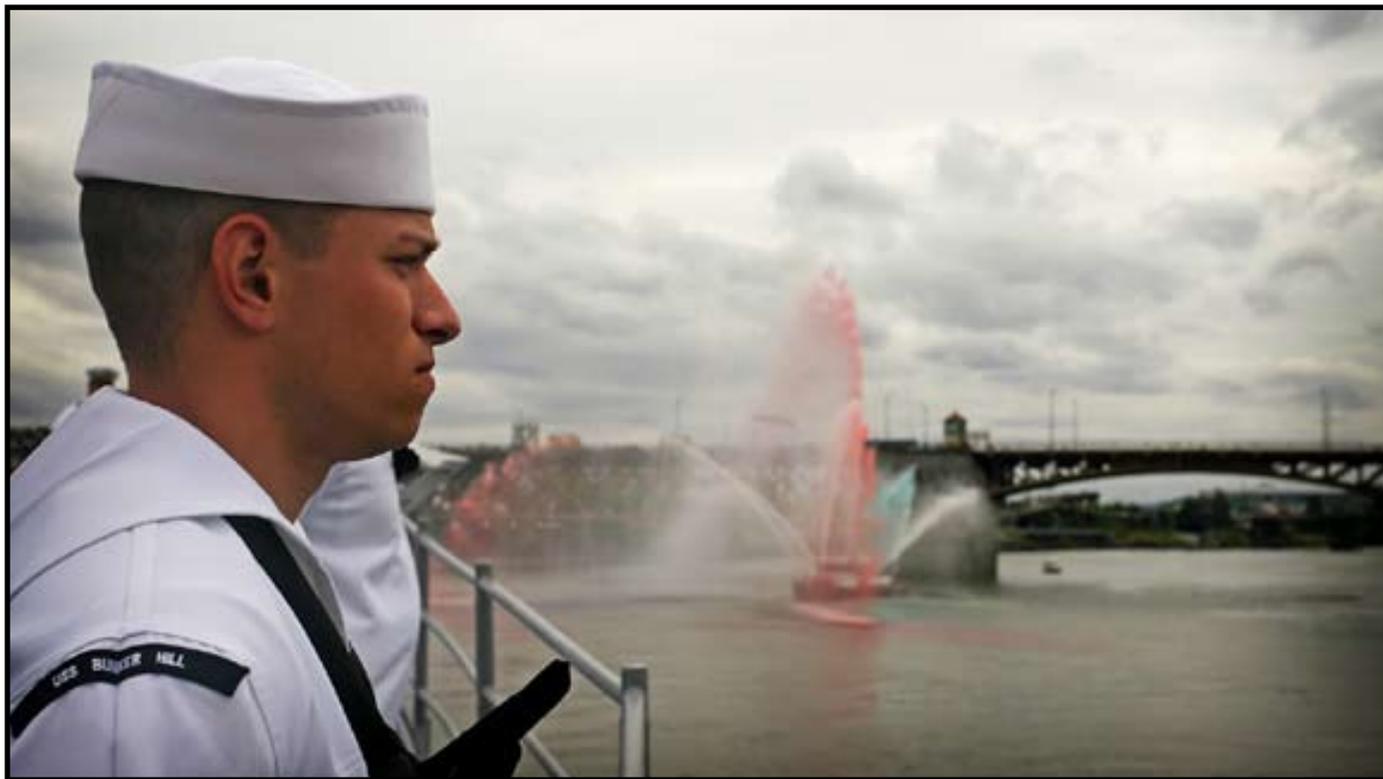
BUNKER HILL this month also received a little more Holiday Bliss by making a unscheduled port visit to Honolulu, Hawaii. It gave the Sailors a little rest and relaxation while we made some needed voyage repairs so that we could get back in action and catch up with the rest of our battle group.

To all of our families and loved ones who support us ashore, I thank you for your continued support. We couldn't have done it without you.



Sincerely,

CMDCM (SW/AW) Everett M. Mays



# Portland Rose Festival





# FLIGHT DECK SHOWS PERSONALITY



Sailors on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) direct a helicopter on the ship's flight deck prior to launch.  
Photo by AM3 Ericson Sagun.

The flight deck of an aircraft carrier has the capability to launch numerous types of aircraft unlike the flight deck of the smaller Ticonderoga-class Cruiser, which only launches and recovers helicopters.

The differences are varied, not only in size and numbers, but the way they approach flight deck operations. Aviation Boatswain's Mates traditionally chalk, chain, direct, and drive the tractors on the flight deck of a carrier, but on USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), diversity is their answer. Non air rated Boatswain's Mates pull the weight of their air brethren here, and Logistic Specialists are right beside them. When they're not lowering or manning a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB), or assisting in the ship's storerooms, the two can be found supporting a variety of other jobs.

One of those jobs is being top performers on the ship's flight deck. When squadrons come aboard USS

See FLIGHT, Page 11



Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Keith Jensen removes chalks and chains from a helicopter

## FLIGHT, From Page 10

Bunker Hill, they don't provide these essential personnel. They're here to maintain and work on the helicopters needed to perform and complete the strike-groups mission.

The ship solves this problem by enlisting the help of non-traditional air rates to perform the jobs of their counterparts. In order to execute these jobs the ship stresses that frequent training become a part of daily life.

Logistic Specialist 3rd Class Keith Jensen, a qualified helicopter handler on board USS Bunker Hill, said that he was an undesignated Deck Seaman when he learned the tools of the trade. By showing his enthusiasm, he gained the attention of his ship's leadership.

"It's something I wanted to do when I came to the ship," said Jensen, "I kept showing up during ships flight quarters and I let everyone know that I was interested in being part of the team."

They enabled Jensen to become qualified through observation and on the job training. Weeks of layered training processes and pre-requisites allowed him to interact with others who were qualified, and eventually his knowledge paid off. He was working with and securing helicopters on the flight deck.

"It mixes things up," said Jensen, "it's a nice break from your day to day duties on the ship." His duties include being one of the ship's Master Helmsmen and storeroom managers.

For Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class (SW) Alexander Black, his interest started on the USS Gridley (DDG 101).

While Black was an undesignated Deck Seaman, he assumed temporary assigned orders to USS Gridley and immediately became interested.

After nine months on the Gridley, Black returned to the Bunker Hill and was sent to Learning Signalmen Enlisted School. For one week Black trained and was ready for on the job training. He continued to hone his skills and in a few short months he was directing helicopters. "When I showed that I wanted it, they showed that I could have it," Said Black, "When flight quarters are called away, I'll be out there."

These Sailors working on the flight deck are only one example of the ship's rate to rate exchange of knowledge. Every day, Sailors on board USS Bunker Hill are learning from one another and developing skills and appreciation for each other's jobs.



Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class (SW) Alexander Black directs a helicopter on the flight deck of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52).



## ESWS WARRIORS

- GSM2 Bounchanh Khaykeo
- LS2 David Trejo

## PROMOTIONS

- SH3 (SW) Sulficio Anza
- LS3 Kieth Jensen
- CS3 Ryan Murray
- GM3 Keith Cantrell
- LS3 Robert Almendras
- IT3 Adam Milton
- OS3 Sharee Scantling
- GM3 Colin Avilez
- BM3 Anthony Orduna
- GSM3 (SW) Francis Limbag
- QM3 (SW) Kimberly Ramirez

## RE-ENLISTMENTS

- OS2 (SW/AW) Jeremy Jones
- DC3 (SW) David Virden

# San

# Francisco





# VBSS TAKES MISSION OVERBOARD

**A**board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), Sailors are beginning their three-week Composite Unit Training Exercise (COMPTUEX) by running continuous drills and training evolutions day and night. Though part of Carrier strike group 1, the Ticonderoga Class Cruiser has specific evolutions targeted for its functionality and size.

One particular training evolution taking place is comprised of an elite group of highly trained Sailors with different job backgrounds and technical skill sets. These men and women come together during strenuous training conditions to undergo urgent expeditions.

The Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure team members (VBSS) on board USS Bunker Hill require the highly disciplined forethought and decision making needed when any given mission can change unexpectedly.

When a contact of interest is spotted or reported, the VBSS response team is called away. Without delay, each member is armed and outfitted before being lowered into one of the ship's rigid hull inflatable boats (RHIB). With coordinates radioed in, the unit speeds away to engage its contact. "You're heading toward your objective and you're getting sprayed with sea water," said said Cryptologic Maintenance Technician

1st Class (SW) Stephen Bennett, A VBSS Leading Petty Officer in Charge, "I can't help but think that's the best part of my day." Each of their missions has a different objective, and they're trained to treat each with tactical caution and sensitivity. Contraband, intelligence, and other types of data may be secured by the unit, but that's not the only reason they're there.

Sometimes other specialists are required for their work, such as linguists for communication. Forming those networks of social interaction with different vessels creates good repore and feeds them intelligence they may not

See VBSS, Page 15



The VBSS (Visit Board Search and Seizure) team aboard USS Bunker Hill speeds toward an objective during a training exercise.

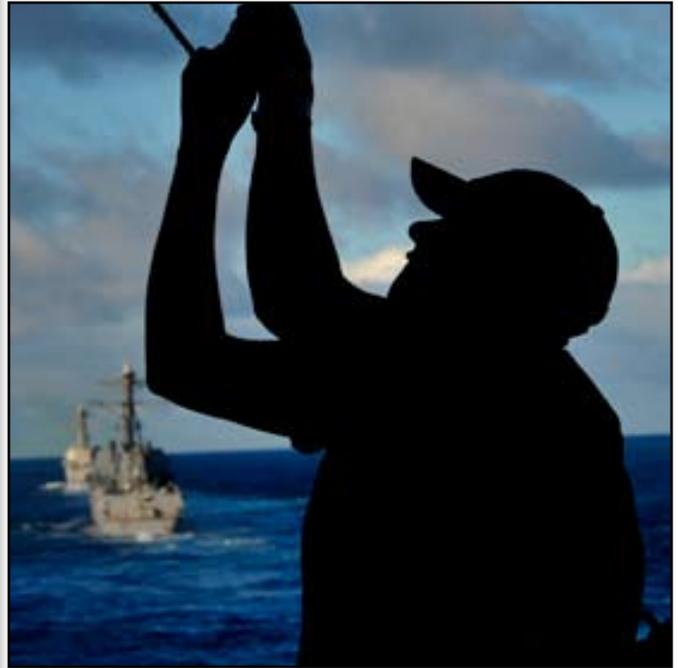
# Religious Ministries

## CHURCH SERVICES

-Sunday-  
1000 & 1030

-Wednesday-  
1900

In the Ship's  
Classroom



On board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), Boatswain's Mate Seaman Deon Sanchez ties down an all weather cover on the starboard side of the ship's bridge wing.

VBSS, From Page 14 have had otherwise. No matter the objective, the unit's training and teamwork are crucial for success. While observing a training evolution, Chief Fire Controlman (SW/AW) Chris Moore, the ship's VBSS Leading Chief Petty Officer said that he values the teamwork and efforts put forth by the VBSS Sailors during the training evolutions, and that being part of the team is more than just executing the mission.

"It's not just a ship or a department, it's a small unit out there," said Moore. "I want the Sailors

who really want to be a part of this team."

To qualify for the team, these Sailors are sent to a difficult three week course where the basic and advanced tactics of VBSS are learned. Scenario driven training is a major component to VBSS School, where tactical weapon handling, boarding tactics, and communication are applied.

The type of teamwork instilled at the VBSS School enables Sailors to cross train with other VBSS members from different units around the world. This cross training proves vital when augmenting

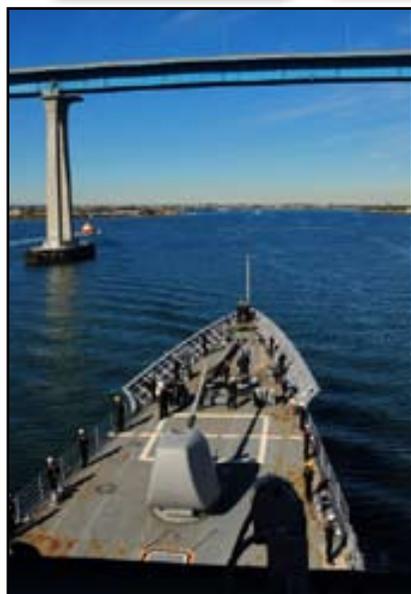
another VBSS unit is necessary.

"The beautiful thing is everyone is trained the same," said Bennett, "We're trained to the degree that we know what to expect from one another."

Whether polishing their respective trades, standing watch, or manning the ship's RHIB, the VBSS unit aboard USS Bunker Hill remains vigilant and continues to train. These evolutions play an integral role in preparing the crew for future missions and their upcoming Western Pacific deployment with Carrier Strike Group 1.

# Manning the Rails







# Replenishment @ Sea







# DOOR CONTEST WINNERS

*Air* 1st



*CIC* 2nd



*ER-09* 3rd



# Hawaii

The word "Hawaii" is written in a large, black, serif font. Behind the letters is a large, stylized sun with concentric orange and yellow circles. To the right of the sun are two palm tree silhouettes. Below the word "Hawaii" is a grey reflection of the word, and below that are two more palm tree silhouettes.