

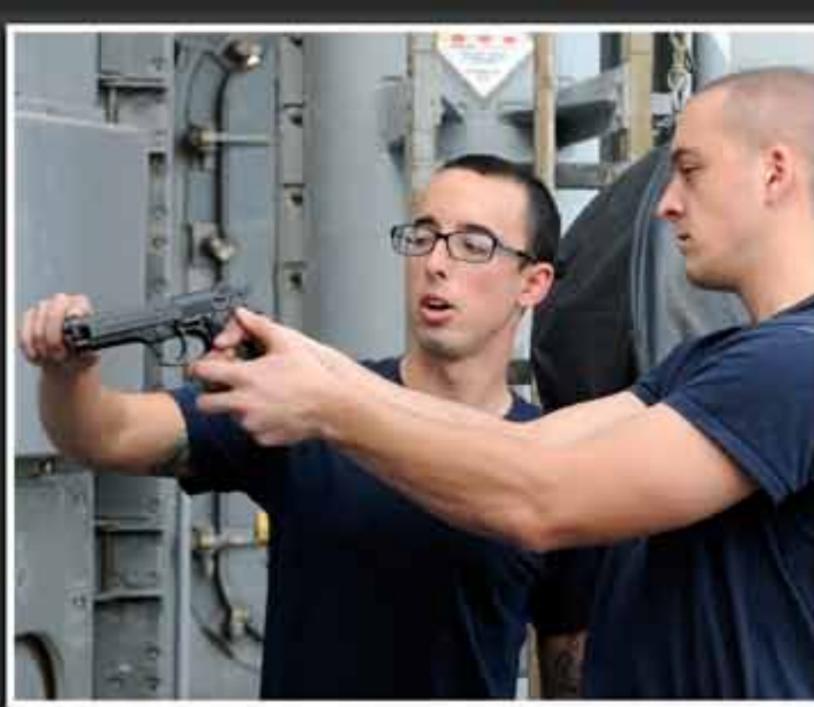
# THE PATRIOT

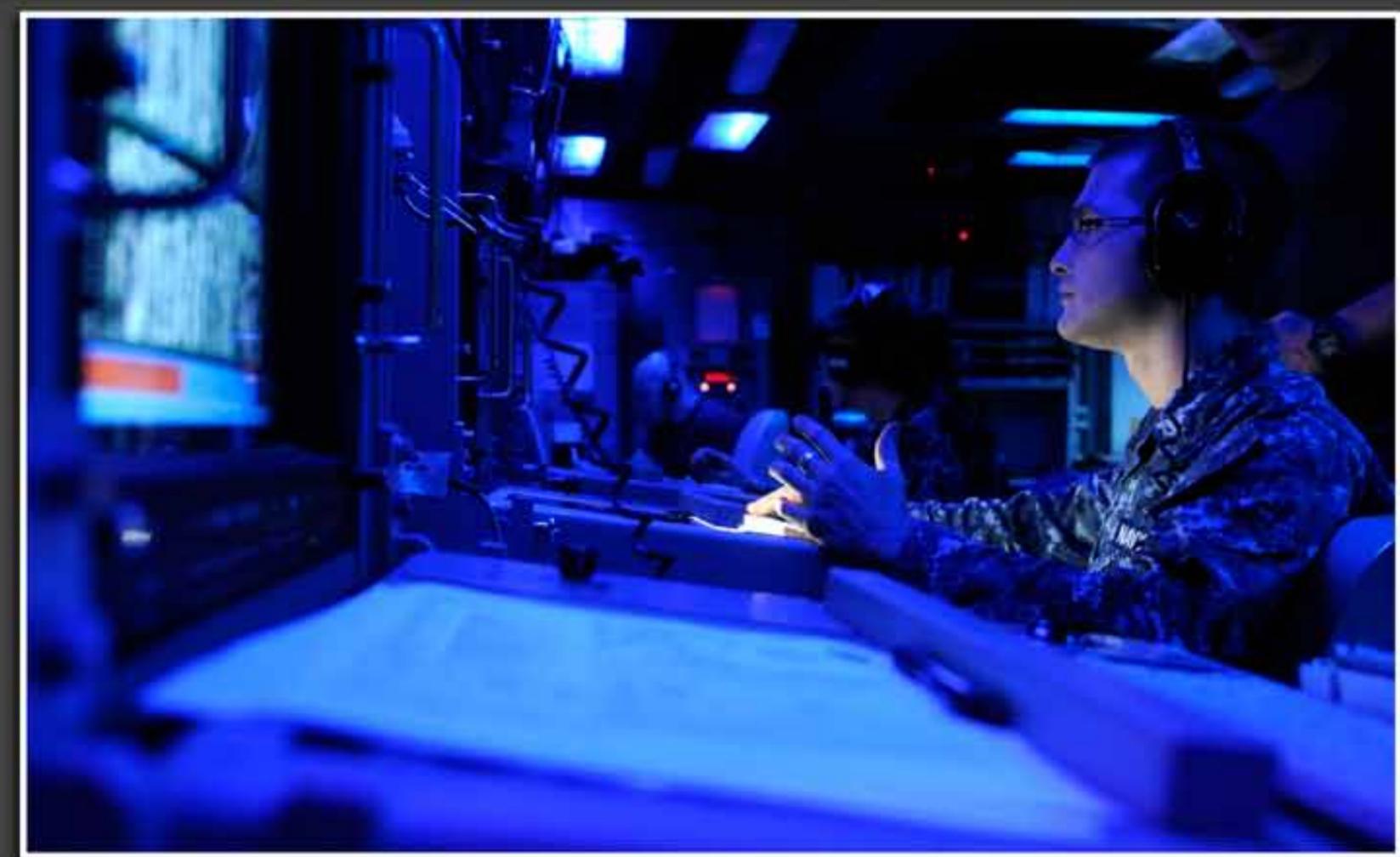
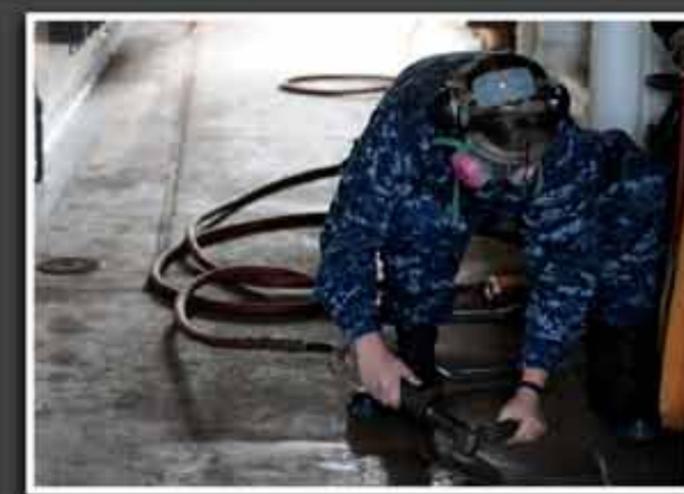
VOLUME 3



52

FEBRUARY 2012





# CO



# XO



Greetings to all BUNKER HILL families and friends from the Arabian Gulf. I hope you are all enjoying a fine February. Your team is performing superbly and I am happy to report they have made it to the scheduled halfway point of cruise with flying colors. All mission tasking has been conducted superbly and your team has earned kudos for "executing on all cylinders" from the Commander, Fifth Fleet.

After completing over a month of operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the North Arabian Sea, BUNKER HILL and CARL VINSON made our way into the Gulf for some well earned R&R in Jebel Ali/Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. We were able to enjoy four days in port and batteries were recharged as the team caught up on sleep, spent a little of that tax-free money they have been collecting and saw the sights including some wonderful water parks, sunset safaris, dhow cruises and even the world's tallest building. It was an eventful four-day visit and I am sure it helped make up for the 49 days of underway time since our previous stop in Hong Kong. I know many are hoping for a return visit!

I will note for all the CARL VINSON Strike Group supporters that we did lose a shipmate while we were in port Dubai when an HT1 from the CARL VINSON drowned in a pool at the Seaman's Center. I ask that you all join me in keeping this fine sailor's family in our thoughts and prayers as they deal with this tragedy.

In other news, we welcomed aboard a new Command Master Chief this month in CMDCM Santiago and said farewell to our longtime shipmate, CMDCM Everett Mays. CMC Mays did a superb job leading our sailors and providing me sound and experienced advice. He will be missed. After some time off, he will be putting his leadership skill to good use as new CMC for AGU 1 in San Diego. They are certainly getting a winner. I hope you will all join me in welcoming the entire Santiago family to the team. We all look forward to getting to know you and working together in the coming months.

That is it for this month. Please know that we are safe here and are conducting routine operations. We appreciate all your continued support as we push to the second half of deployment and look forward to seeing you in a few months.

CAPT Mike Ford

BUNKER HILL family,

Newsletter articles in the middle of deployment can be challenging to write - not because there isn't a lot going on, but because everything seems routine to those of us on board. Routine is good. It means that we have gotten in to a rhythm, and that days pass more quickly, which means we get back home to all of you more quickly. So...what have we been up to? A lot more of what we wrote about last month: we are running drills, escorting the CVIN as she sends planes in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and finishing qualifications.

There have been a LOT of qualifications! One of the benefits of being on deployment is that almost every sailor on board rises up a level in watchstanding. Many of our Sailors have finished up their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) qualification and many officers have completed their Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) or Surface Warfare Supply Corps Officer (SWSCO) qualification. These are the career credentials which entitle the person to wear "the pin"; but more importantly they signify that the wearer has completed a challenging course of qualifications and have been accepted into the fraternity of professional mariners and warfighters.

We also had the opportunity to pull in to the port of Jebel Ali, in the United Arab Emirates. After 49 days of continuous operations the crew was very ready for a little time off, and BUNKER HILL Sailors took full advantage of the opportunities to relax and did an excellent job representing the US as ambassadors. Lastly, I'd like to take a moment to welcome Master Chief Santiago to the BUNKER HILL family (reporting aboard as our new Command Master Chief).

Sincerely,

Brian D. Connolly  
LCDR USN  
Executive Officer

# CMC



# CHAPS



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

It is hard to believe that this month will be my last month onboard! It is also hard to believe that after 27 months as the Command Master Chief of the mightiest cruiser afloat that I will be leaving this month for my next assignment and turning this proud warship over to my relief, Master Chief Santiago an awesome Sailor and a true friend. As always, however, it is not the CMC alone, but the 352 incredible Sailors who continue to propel BUNKER HILL forward from success to success. And this past month was no exception.

February began with us outside the Arabian Gulf conducting our important mission of supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Additionally, we were performing our very important mission of maritime security and presence in one of the world's most economically critical waterways. Operating and navigating in this busy place (with the added challenge of poor visibility due to all the blowing dust and sand) made for long hours of some pretty intense watch standing. Before too long however, we safely transited the famous Strait of Hormuz and resumed our operations in the Northern Arabian Sea. We also took some time out from our constant training and maintaining to recognize African American/Black History month with a very impressive and thought-provoking presentations on "Black Women in American History and Culture," provided by our Diversity Committee. As the month drew to a close we paused to have some fun with a four day port visit to lovely city of Dubai, UAE.

I reluctantly close with one last farewell to you all along with my deep appreciation for the patient love and support you've given to your Sailor over these past few months of deployment. The greatest ship in the Navy is nothing without her crew, and this crew is surely the finest group of fighting men and women ever to put to sea. I cannot fully convey how proud I am of them and their many accomplishments, and how deeply honored I feel to have been their Command Master Chief. They are simply the best. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless BUNKER HILL and her crew.

Family and Friends of USS Bunker Hill,

This past month has flown by for us and I hope it has done the same for you. With our support of carrier operations and then a much deserved port call in Dubai. Several of our Bunker Hill sailors got to participate in a community relations project during the port call. Nine sailors went to the American School of Dubai and six sailors visited the Al Noor School for children with special needs. Both teams demonstrated those qualities that make our sailors the best in the fleet.

As we celebrated another Valentines Day apart, I hope that you are doing those things that can help keep you and your loved one connected. There is a great book titled The Five Love Languages which proposes we each communicate love via words of affirmation, spending quality time together, receiving gifts, acts of service, or physical touch. Now I know we cannot do all of these while deployed, but we can express in words to each other how we would go about showing each other our love if we were together. So instead of just talking on the phone or sending an email with a description of all the problems you are each facing share a dream and a hope you have of when we return. Communicate that love language and watch how your relationship takes off again.

It is not too early to think about homecoming and another great resource to pick up at the exchange is Surviving Deployment: A Guide for Military Families, by Karen M. Pavlicin. She describes that homecoming process and gives some great strategies in overcoming some of the apprehension we sometimes face.

Lastly, we have two new Bunker Hill babies to welcome to the family: Pyper Moynihan was born to EN1 Patrick Moynihan and his wife Renee. Lincoln Bibler was born to LCDR Chad Bibler and his wife Amanda. Congratulations to our families!

God's blessings on you and your family.

Chaplain Jim Dewey  
deweyj@cg52.navy.mil

# WELCOME ABOARD

## CMDCM BEDA V. SANTIAGO



BUNKER HILL Family,

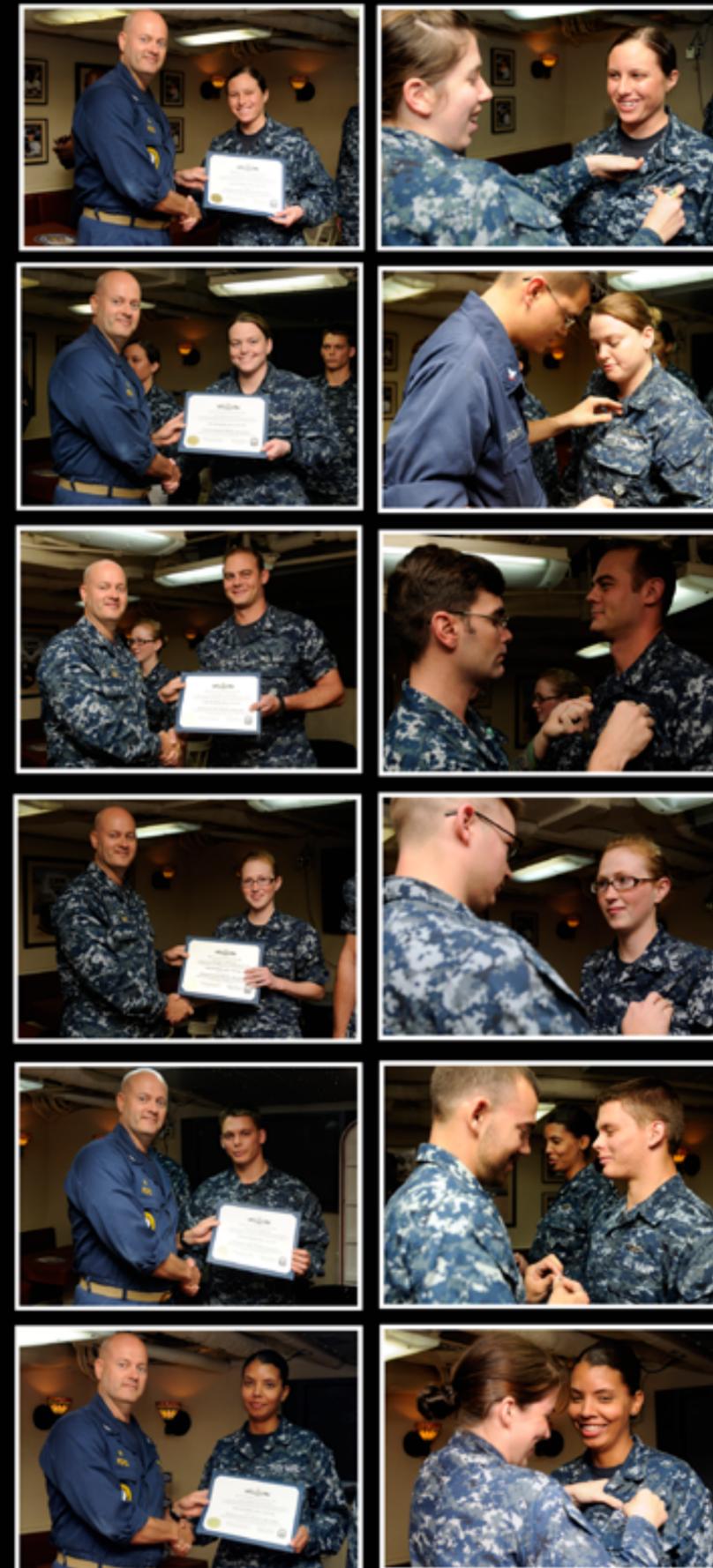
My name is Beda Santiago and I am the new Command Master Chief aboard the finest guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill (CG 52). My wife Belinda and son Francis are thrilled to be a part of the BUNKER HILL family. I detached in Singapore from the USS MAKIN ISLAND LHD-8 which is currently forward deployed, then attended Command Master Chief training at the Command Leadership School in Newport, Rhode Island. Following the training in Rhode Island, I flew to Dubai to report to USS BUNKER HILL moored pier side in Jebel Ali. I basically travelled around the world to meet the best cruiser in the Navy. I reported onboard the ship on February 18, 2012 while the crew was enjoying a well deserved liberty in Jebel Ali/Dubai. BUNKER HILL is my 5th ship and this will be my 10th deployment. Every BUNKER HILL Sailor I have met onboard has been in high spirits and mission oriented. I can tell you that the men and women of BUNKER HILL are serving the Navy and our country with honor, courage and commitment.

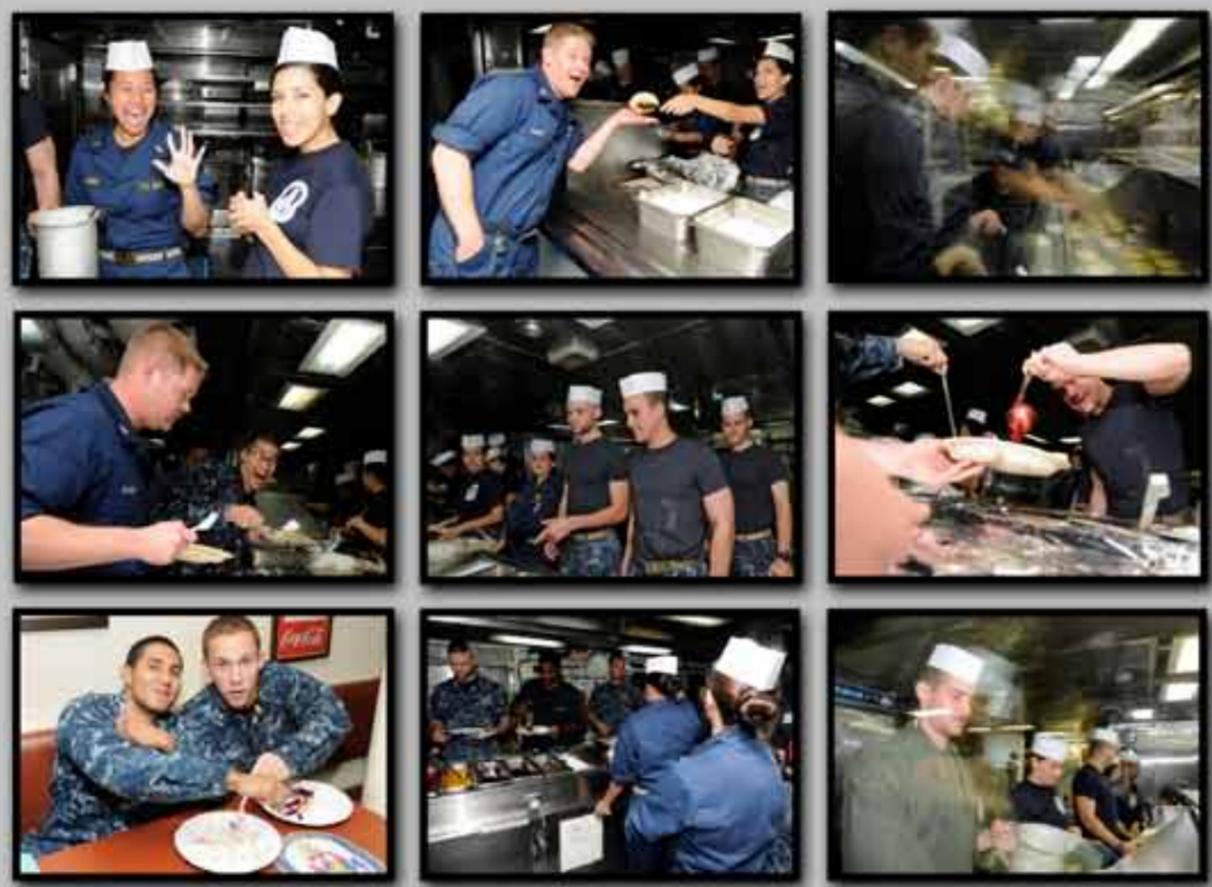
I want to share some events that we have done on the ship this month of February. The crew bid farewell and following seas to CMDCM Mays who is leaving to take over as CMDCM of Assault Craft Unit-1. His legacy will be written in BUNKER HILL history. OSC Karo coordinated a Black History Month celebration in honor of Black Women accomplishments with opening remarks from Captain Ford and concluded with a cake cutting. CS1 Shaw and CS3 Thomas prepared a delicious red velvet cake for the ceremony. Command Indoctrination kicked off for this month, we welcomed ENS Kinoshita, ENS Byrd, GSM2 McKinney, QMSR Taylor, SN Morse, GSMFR Ngohekeme, GMSA Hillier, FC3 McIntosh, FC3 Cosmann and ITSN Fredricks. OSC Karo and QMC Merrill are coordinating this deployments Tiger Cruise. They will be sending out Tiger Cruise Forms to family and friends that want to experience a portion of a world class underway on the mighty BUNKER HILL from Pearl Harbor to San Diego. Additionally, there will be a BUNKER HILL Tiger Cruise T-Shirt design contest for the crew. FCCS Newlun has also launched a Safety Poster and Slogan Contest to promote safety awareness around the ship. As I write this letter the Ice Cream Social is commencing on the mess decks, the First Class Petty Officer Association is serving the ice cream in support of MWR. I additionally want to congratulate the Supply Department on receiving the Supply Excellence Blue "E" Award.

The ship is at the half way point of the deployment, I'm sure you're excited to see your Sailors back in San Diego. There is a lot of work to be completed on the way back to San Diego to sustain the ships mission capability and to be ready to be called away at a moments notice. Our OMBUDSMAN Danice Toyias has done a terrific job keeping our families and friends informed. Three months is approaching fast, be safe back home and I am excited to meet all of you.

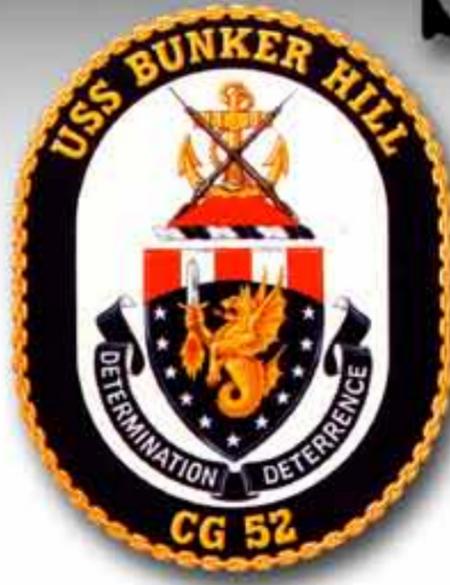
CMDCM Beda V. Santiago

# ESWS





# GETTING STARTED



This Issue of the Patriot is the second of the New Year. We have chopped our way into the gulf after a long awaited port visit to Dubai. Bunker Hill Sailors stay vigilant during these times of hardship. The crew make evident there excitement to get home to their loved ones after reaching our half-way point on this 6 month deployment.



# FLIGHT OPS



# LIVE FIRE

# PACFIRE



# UNREP



# STEEL BEACH PICNIC





**SEARCH  
AND  
RESCUE**

# VBSS

# STRAIT OF HORMUZ



# DUBAI

