



USS HOWARD DDG 83 The Dragon Times



PAO: ENS HAMMER

SEPTEMBER 2017

PAPO: MC2 PRESTON

HOWARD REACHES THE END OF MONTH THREE ENS ADAM HAMMER

INSIDE THE DRAGON:

**CO'S ALL HANDS CALL* 2

***PORT VISIT HIGHLIGHTS* 3
**ICE CREAM ON THE MESSDECKS!*

**83 OF THE WEEK* 4

**JIMMIE'S CROSSWORD* 5
**OMBUDSMAN CORNER*

**PHOTOS OF THE MONTH* 6

Hello, and welcome to our second issue of The Dragon Times: Deployment 2K17 Edition! We hope that families and friends back in San Diego (or wherever you may be...apparently we have a few Sailors from North Dakota here too) have enjoyed these past Summer months. Everyone's favorite Sailors have been busy and hard-working as always in the month since our last issue, here's a quick overview:

-Completed a successful port visit to Chennai, India for the MALABAR Exercise 2017. NIMITZ Strike Group was lucky enough to partake in this joint evolution with India and Japan. Sailors were able to take liberty and explore the City, try some authentic Indian food, and bring some Bisleri back home for the family (ask your Sailor for more info on that).

-Welcomed new Sailors to HOWARD. It's not every day you get to see/meet new people while underway (shoutout to our ship-riders). It's refreshing to see new faces, and the Crew gladly welcomed aboard new Dragons!

-Freshwater Wash Downs. HOW needs to look her best in front of all the ships that pass by. To keep her looking spick and



span, the Crew hoses her down with freshwater (while Chaps Adams aka "Deacon of Rock" DJs from the pilothouse.

-Port visit and repairs in Jebel Ali/Dubai, UAE. An unexpected and welcomed port visit for the Crew! Sailors got 5 days to keep HOWARD in top material condition and unwind in the Desert (and God Bless the wif and "Beer on the Pier"). Keep reading for more!

V/R
PAO



CO'S ALL HANDS CALL



Family, loved ones and friends of USS Howard Crew,

I hope this edition of the *Dragon Times* finds each of you well after a safe and enjoyable summer. As we transition into the second half of our deployment, I cannot easily describe how very proud I am of what we have accomplished to date. The crew's accomplishment of personal and professional goals and qualifications are simply too numerous to count. As a team, the collective achievements and successes are significant and not easily captured here. One thing is undeniable; HOWARD is answering the call each and every time and the Crew is squarely at the center of each of these accomplishments.

In between a busy schedule, we have enjoyed some well deserved time ashore, most recently in Jebel Ali and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The pictures within this issue and posted on our Facebook page certainly speak for themselves. While at sea, our schedule remains demanding with little downtime. The fast pace and grueling heat continues to create a very challenging work environment. Your emails, letters, care packages and simple words of encouragement are most appreciated and keep us going when the days seem extra long.

Recent news reporting has illustrated the effects of high operational tempos in the case of similar ships such as USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain. While our thoughts and prayers are with the Sailors of each ship and their families, I wanted to reassure you that we are reexamining our own processes and procedures aboard HOWARD to ensure we are operating safely to the greatest extent possible. Additionally, we have conducted ship-wide safety training

and discussions with each watchteam in order to identify potential challenges while mitigating risks. We will address each piece of feedback as a team in order to continue to improve as a team.

I am very proud of the crew's professionalism and their engineering, seamanship and technical skill. HOWARD is the best destroyer in the Fleet, simply because your Sailors are the very best at what they do. We will not be complacent, but continue to train and work as a team, keeping each other safe until we return to home to San Diego.

Thank you again, for the continued and unwavering support.

CDR Ryan B. Billington
Commanding Officer
USS HOWARD (DDG 83)



PORT VISIT HIGHLIGHTS

Your PAO staff wanted to know what Sailors' favorite part about our recent port visits to Chennai, India and Jebel Ali, UAE. So, we asked around and compiled a list so everyone back home can join in on the fun!

Chennai, India

-The Temples in Chennai. There were so many colors and beautiful details in the temples! It was a little strange walking around without shoes, but learning more about Indian culture and seeing these amazing buildings was an unforgettable experience.

-The cab drivers. They knew everything about the city, and would ask us if we wanted to stop and get food/souvenirs/gifts at any place we passed.

-The Hotels. The Leela Palace was literally a palace. I don't think I'll ever book a Best Western again after staying there.

-Sleeping. I'd forgotten how good sleeping in a large, soft bed felt. I was able to go full starfish across a queen-sized mattress and it changed my life for the better.

Jebel Ali, UAE

-The Burj Khalifa. Of course we had to go see the tallest building in the world! It wasn't cheap, but feeling that high up was definitely worth it. Plus, the view of the city from the top was incredible!

-Camel Rides. I know no one in my family has ever seen a camel outside of a zoo, so this was awesome. And the Hawk was cool and all but I don't mess around with birds...

-Atlantis Waterpark. I'd always wondered what it would be like to go to the park they show on commercials with the slide that goes under sharks and through an aquarium. The best part was probably the lazy river though!

-Ferrari World. Never thought I would be able to sit in a Ferrari...I mean I definitely can't buy one yet, but it was great to know what it felt like to be in the driver's seat.

-Sleeping again. I got a full ten hours of sleep for two nights in a row and I'm pretty sure it gave me the strength to make it through the rest of deployment.



"We can stop here and you can buy meat. You can buy any type of meat you want as long as it is chicken"

-Chennai Uber Driver

ICE CREAM TOPPINGS (AND WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT YOU!)

Sailors onboard HOWARD have come to appreciate some culinary consistencies in their weekly schedules. Taco Tuesdays have resurfaced, Burger Wednesdays are a mid-week milestone, and Brunch has become a Sunday staple that we couldn't leave behind in San Diego (shout-out to Hash House A GoGo, Snooze, and Great Maple for the bottomless mimosas that we couldn't bring with us - we miss you). However, one event seems to outshine the rest in the hearts and minds of HOWARD's Sailors: Ice Cream on the Mess Decks!

Each Saturday, different Sailor associations (CSADD, CPO Mess, Wardroom, etc.) take charge in providing the Crew with its favorite dairy delight. Anyone who's experienced ICOTMD knows that the ice cream is only half the fun - without the toppings, you're not reaching your full potential. Here are some of the Crew's favorite toppings and what they say about you!

1) Crushed Oreos: you know there are 3-ish months of deployment left, and 8 months until Summer. That's plenty of time to work

on your summer body, so chase your bliss!

2) Reese's Peanut Butter Cups: You know that chocolate is the priority in life, even if it's slightly melted and looks like some kind of exotic food you'd see on Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown.

3) Chopped Snickers: You need that chocolate fix, but you also need to make sure you're keeping up with your required protein consumption. You may or may not have body-building supplements stashed in your rack.

4) Coconut: You have very specific taste, and you're lucky we just so happen to have this topping. You might be hard to shop for.

5) Pecans: Really?

6) M&M's: You came to party. You're probably going to go on some awesome MWR tour with your friends on the next port call, and you'll get a 100% on your upcoming spotcheck. Congratulations!



83 OF THE WEEK

OS3 MEDINA

OS3 is an extremely hard-working Sailor from HOWARD's Operations Department. During his time onboard, OS3 has contributed greatly to the Combat Information Center's ability to maintain situational awareness and tactical decision-making. BZ, OS3!

MM3 PONDILLO

MM3 Pondillo is the HOWARD's go-to Sailor for RAST equipment, which safely moves our helicopters in and out of the hangars, making them readily available for flight operations. His technical expertise ensures that our air department is able to move, launch, and land their helicopters in order to support HOWARD's mission. BZ, MM3!

MM3 USEO

MM3 Useo is a proud member of HOWARD's Auxiliaries Division (aka "A-Gang"). His initiative and dedication played a large role in major repairs made to various pieces of engineering equipment, allowing HOWARD to Sail Safe and carry out her mission. BZ, MM3!

GM3 WILLIAMS

GM3 Williams is one of the many hard-working Sailors in the Weapons Department and consistently provides HOW with the Force Protection capabilities needed by watch standers in order to keep our Crew safe. BZ, GM3!

AT2 BOWES

AT2 Bowes is a member of HOWARD's embarked Air Department, HSM-75. AT2's hard work was instrumental in the repairs to equipment vital to communication between HOWARD and her helicopters, ensuring flight operations are possible and allowing HOWARD to safely carry out her mission. BZ, AT2!

IT3 ARMENTA

IT3 Armenta is one of the hard-working Sailors that the Crew depends on for reliable computer and internet access. IT3 provides more than just a solution to computer-related stress; he is a key part in the team that ensures HOWARD is able to communicate with other ships, aircraft, and families back home. BZ, IT3!

DC3 ANDERSON

DC3 Anderson is an essential member of HOWARD's Repair Division. Over the past weeks, she has completed an extensive list of checks on HOWARD's damage control and personal protective equipment, allowing the Crew to conduct multiple drills. She is also a member of HOWARD's Flying Squad; the group of Sailors responsible for immediate action in damage control scenarios. Her work helps keep HOWARD in top shape when it comes to damage control. BZ DC3!

AO2 POAGE

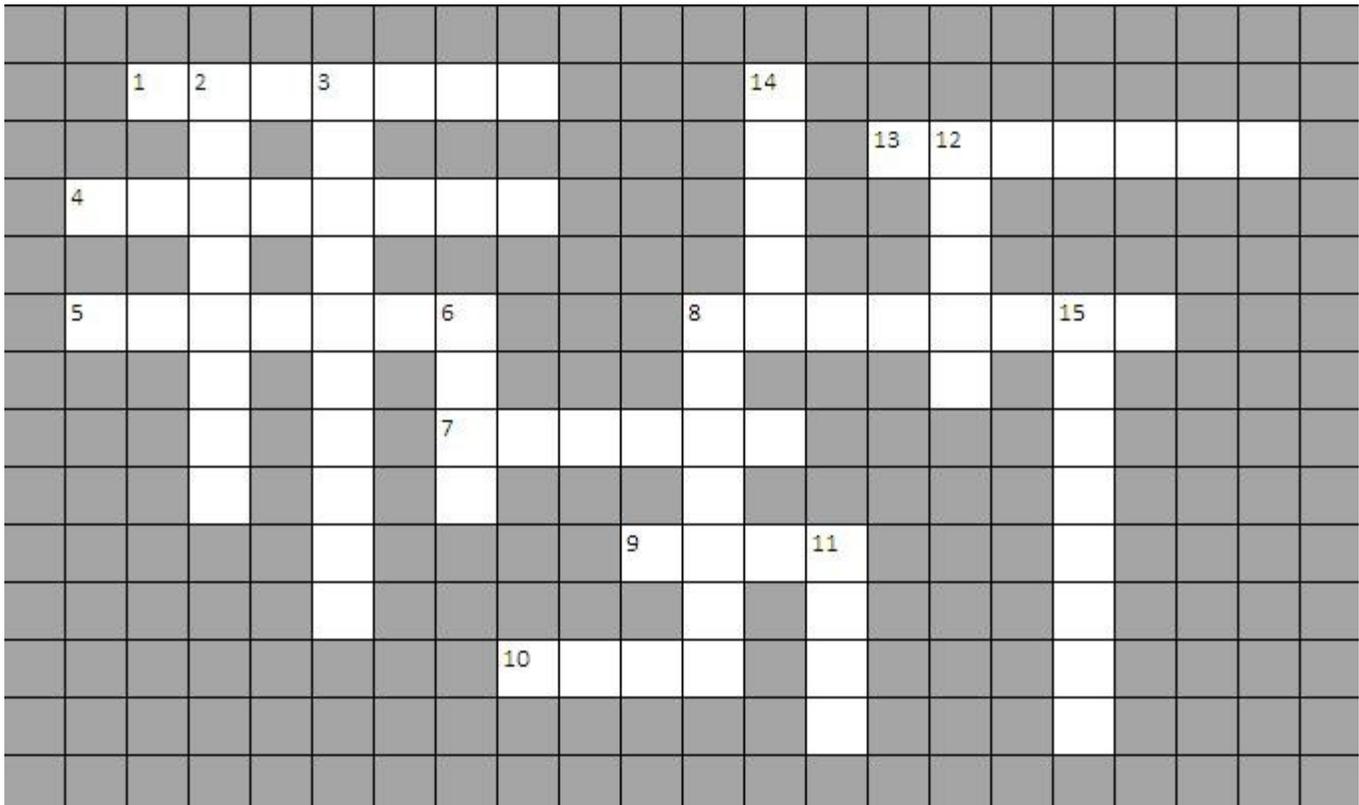
AO2 Poage is a proud member of HOWARD's Air Department. As an Air Ordnance-man, AO2 ensures that HOWARD's helicopters are armed correctly for the mission at hand, and that any ordnance is loaded correctly and safely. BZ, AO2!

CTR3 PANSEGRAU

CTR3 Pansegrau is one of the few Sailors who works in HOWARD's signal exploitation center. Her work directly allows HOWARD to maintain situational awareness on ships and aircraft in the surrounding surface and airspace. BZ, CTR3!



JIMMIE'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. HOWARD is propelled by four GTMs, which stands for Gas _____ Modules.
4. USW stands for _____ Warfare
5. USS NIMITZ is a Nimitz Class Aircraft _____.
7. _____ Department ensures HOWARD receives all needed parts, food, tools, etc.
8. Chester W. Nimitz was one of the US Navy's few Fleet _____.
9. Jimmie Howard was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on _____ 488.
10. USS HOWARD was built in the city of _____, Maine.
13. Jimmie Howard called in Air _____ during the battle for which he earned the Medal of Honor.

DOWN

2. When a vessel is not anchored, made fast to land, or aground, it is considered _____.
3. Jimmie Howard was born in the city of _____, North Carolina.
6. "ORM" stands for "Operational _____ Management."
8. USS HOWARD is an _____ Burke Class Guided-Missile Destroyer
11. Naval Vessels fly this flag when HERO conditions are set.
12. San Diego Naval Base falls under United States _____ Fleet's area of responsibility.
14. HOWARD's Captain, Executive Officer, and Command Master Chief make up the "Command _____".
15. Looking at a Nautical Chart, the horizontal lines running parallel to the equator are lines of _____.

Answers Below!

OMBUDSMAN CORNER

A command Ombudsman is a direct link between the Crew on-board a ship and their families back home. HOWARD's Ombudsman is Mrs. Elizabeth Brantley, and she is a great source of information in case of loss of communications or similar situations.

You can contact Mrs. Brantley at:



howardombudsman@yahoo.com

You can also "like" the "USS HOWARD Ombudsman" Facebook page (in addition to the "USS HOWARD (DDG 83)" and "USS HOWARD FRG" Facebook Pages) to keep yourselves in the loop with all things HOWARD!

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

