

TAKE NOTICE



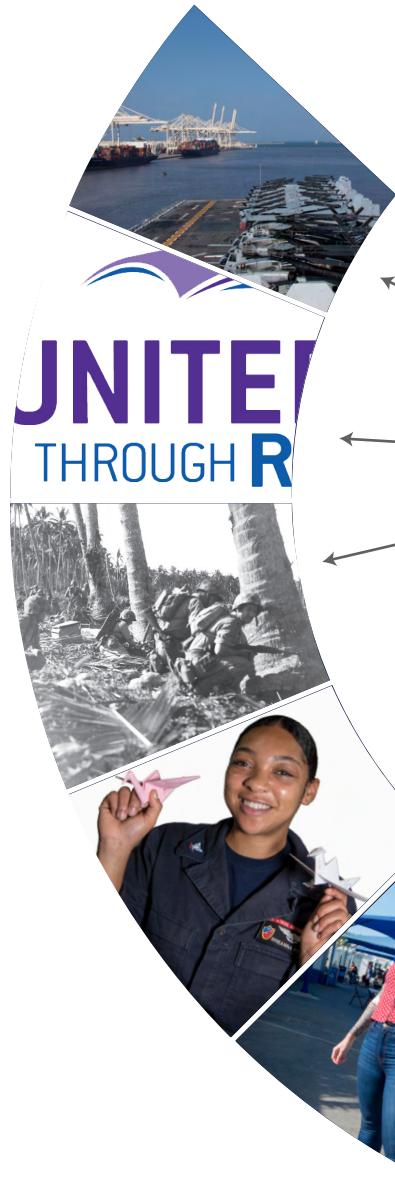
The Voice of the Iron Gator

28 February, 2019



Featured

in this edition



JNITE
THROUGH R

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Essex Departs Dubai

Story by MC3 Jacob Owen

Sailors and Marines aboard USS Essex (LHD 2) took advantage of fun, relaxation and the chance to engage in cultural exchange during a four-day port visit to Jebel Ali and Dubai.

During the port visit, Essex's Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) offered a variety of ways for Sailors and Marines to relax and have fun, including trips to water parks, desert safaris and several inner city tours.

"The Sunset Safari Tour started off with an enthusiastic "Bollywood" looking tour guide who took us out into a desert," said Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Kaleb Smith. "We rode up and down the sand dunes, drifting all over the place, then like magic out of nowhere there appears a little historical looking lounge



area where I got to sit down with all the lovely people I rode there with, eat exotic food and watch belly dancing. At night the dunes looked like something out of a Dali painting."

MWR also offered the Big Bus tour, a hop-on, hop-off bus ride, which offered people the chance to take a bus around all of Dubai while a guide gave information about its various tourist attractions and popular sites in the area.

"It was the best tour I had in Dubai hands down," said Information Systems Technician 1st Class Frank Vasquez. "If I had to choose just one, it'd be the Big Bus tour! It was definitely the best way to see all the main tourist areas of the city. I even got to see areas of the city that I didn't even know existed. I definitely enjoyed it."

Others took time to enjoy the shopping opportunities Dubai had to offer. The area boasts a large

variety of shopping areas including the Mall of Dubai, one of the largest shopping malls in the world, as well as the Mall of The Emirates, Dubai's first mall with an indoor ski lodge.

"The Mall of Dubai was the most unique and the design, layout, and décor was stunning," said Religious Program Specialist 1st Class Royce Jones. "It was definitely the biggest and the most beautiful mall I've been to, and most importantly, it had the best selfie backgrounds."

Essex's visit to Jebel Ali and Dubai provided some much-needed rest for the ship's crew before leaving the 5th fleet area of operations.



WARRIORS OF THE DAY



*HM2 Jonathan Hadnot
Los Angeles, CA*

*AWS3 Tyler Kirk
Rockingham, NC*



*HM2 Alyssa Gupiteo
Vallejo, CA*



*CPL Taran Cady
Cato, NY*



History and Heritage

1. What is the significance of the 1776 raid on the island of New Providence in the Bahamas?

2. After the deployment of the ironclad, what was the Confederate Navy's next achievement?

3. Who was instrumental in quickly ending the Spanish-American War?

4. What was the role of the Air Corps in WWI?

5. What ships were introduced during WWII?

mime sweepers.

5. Landing ships, frigates, attack cargo ships, transports ships, barracks ships, net tenders, repair ships, radar pickets, mine layers and

forces.

4. They supported surface anti-submarine

3. Commodore George Dewey.

2. The development of the submarine.

Maries.

1. This raid was the first amphibious operation carried out by the American Navy and

**“Nothing
matches a
Sailor’s
kiss
coming
back home
where he
belongs.”**

— Sameh Elsayed



*CTR3 Iliana Ortiz
Mesa, AZ*



*LCPL Kyle Lukes
Mercer, WI*



*AD3 Shingo Ikeda
Yokohama, Japan*

USS Essex Sailors and Marines Bridge the Distance Through Reading

Story by MC3 Molly DiServio

40 million bedtime stories are missed every year by military children.

According to unitedthroughreading.org, more than 100,000 military parents deploy, every year, leaving nearly 250,000 children at home. Even with a conservative deployment only lasting six months, here are still 180 nights a child goes without a parent there to put them to bed with a story.

Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Essex, along with other ships and naval bases, join with United Through Reading (UTR) to help alleviate some of those feelings of home sickness and separation throughout the holiday season and the remainder of deployment. Aiding in UTR's mission to connect military families and close the gap through a read a-loud experience so that no military child has to go a night without a bedtime story.

"The United Through Reading program helped me deal with my separation anxiety by providing a positive outlet to communicate with my children while encouraging them to learn," said Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 1st Class Melissa Deleon. "My children love books and bed time stories, and with this program I am able to read them a bed time story at the push of a button."

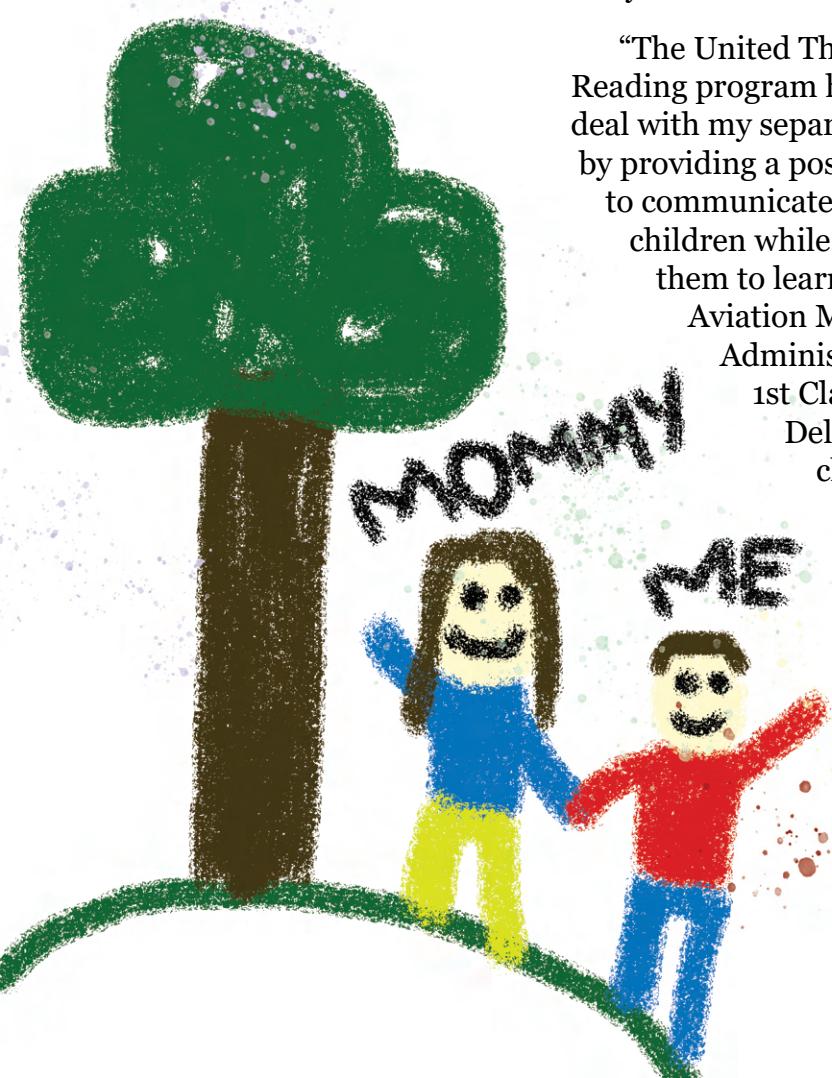
Deleon has four children back home with her husband; Angelica 16, Jose 11, Liliana 4 and Prince 1.

Her two oldest have experienced deployment multiple times, but she has never been away from the two youngest. UTR has helped them keep a little part of their routine intact while she is not there.

"When I first started the UTR program on board USS Essex, it was hard for me to get through a book without crying," said Deleon. "But once I saw the videos of my kids happy, it became easier and more comfortable to read to my children as I do at home."

United Through Reading (UTR) was founded in 1989 by the wife of a Naval flight surgeon after he came home from Vietnam and their daughter didn't recognize him. The program's mission is to unite military families facing physical separation by facilitating the bonding experience of reading aloud. More than two million military mothers, fathers and children have sustained bonds and fostered literacy by sharing stories across even the greatest distances.

The process begins with a service member setting up an appointment and choosing a book. At the session the service



member will record themselves reading the book out loud to the child. Lastly the video and the book are sent home to be enjoyed over and over as the children read along.

"I usually coach the reader to read a few chapters and at the end of their time ask the child to finish reading the book and report back how the story ends and/or how they liked the book," said Lily Carlton, UTR National Program Manager, Navy West. "This will encourage reading at home and open up more communication."

According to UTR's official website, reading aloud with military children on a regular basis can encourage early

literacy and language skills, vocabulary development and growth, and fosters a love of reading.

The Defense Center of Excellence contributes

communication, closeness, emotional ties, support and nurturing to a child's positive

psychological health. United through Reading encourages all of these factors through the read-aloud experience and connection, promoting psychological health and wellness for the service member, caregivers and military children.

"UTR has helped me during this deployment because it still keeps me connected with my son," Said Damage Controlman 3rd Class Timothy Ray. "Every time I send him a video I make sure to add something special at the end so he knows that each one is different. When I call to see his response, he just laughs and says 'Daddy you're silly' and giggles his little butt off."

Ray is the father of a three-year-old boy, and this is their first deployment. He says UTR is important to helping connect with his son and feel like he is actually do something with his son instead of being off far away in the middle of the ocean.

"UTR allows my son to see that his daddy is still there and cares," Said Ray. "I want to be a part of his life and help him learn something new even though I am not physically there. Reading develops his speech and language skills. My son reads along with me on the video and sometimes he reads to me because apparently I read too slowly."

Military life is a tough road to walk. There are holidays passed and memories missed, but programs like UTR are helping keep families close and connected no matter the distance. Essex and UTR work together to

bridge the distance between service members and loved ones back home through reading.

To find out more about United Through Reading, visit www.unitedthroughreading.org.



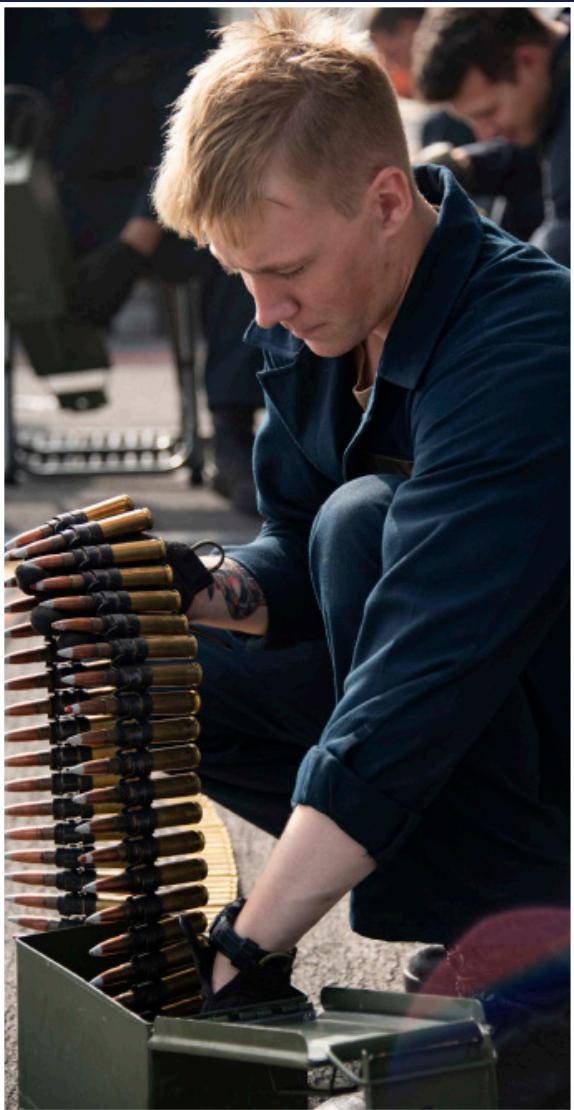
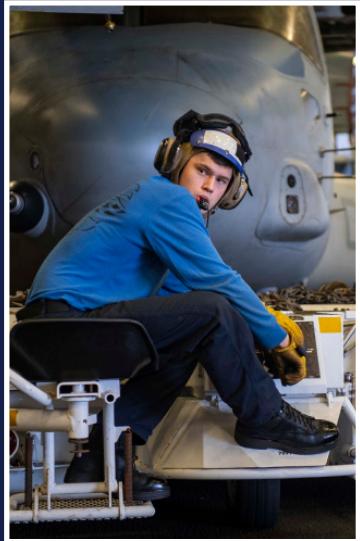
THIS WEEK



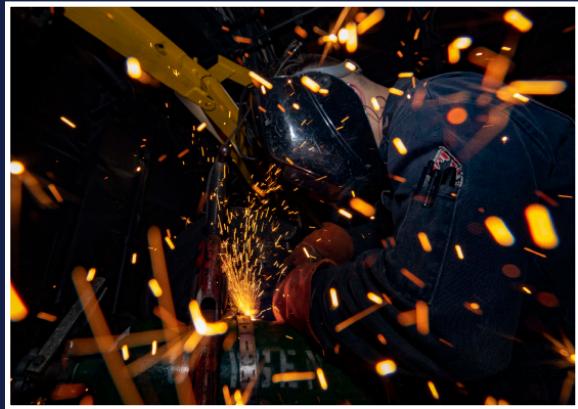
IN PHOTOS



THIS WEEK



IN PHOTOS



**Makeup
cruisebook photos
will be taken in
SITE TV (02-98-1-Q)**

**Sunday Dec. 16
&
Monday Dec. 17
0800-1000
1900-2100**

**Cruisebook
sales will be
held in the
library with
MWR reps until
Dec. 22!**

Thailand Tours

For sale through Dec. 19

Singapore tour sales will be available
Dec. 19-23

Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist

The Navy Jack

The Guadalcanal Campaign, also known as the Battle of Guadalcanal and codenamed Operation Watchtower by American forces, was a military campaign fought between 7 August 1942 and 9 February 1943 on and around the island of Guadalcanal in the Pacific theater of World War II. It was the first major offensive by Allied forces against the Empire of Japan.

On 7 August 1942, Allied forces, predominantly United States Marines, landed on Guadalcanal, Tulagi, and Florida in the southern Solomon Islands, with the objective of denying their use by the Japanese to threaten Allied supply and communication routes between the United States, Australia, and New Zealand; powerful American and Australian naval forces supported these landings.

The Allies also intended to use Guadalcanal and Tulagi as bases in supporting a campaign to eventually capture or neutralize the major Japanese base at Rabaul on New Britain. The Japanese defenders, who had occupied

those islands since May 1942, were outnumbered and overwhelmed by the Allies, who captured Tulagi and Florida, as well as the airfield – later named Henderson Field – that was under construction on Guadalcanal.

in early November, with the defeat of the last Japanese attempt to bombard Henderson Field from the sea and to land with enough troops to retake it. In December, the Japanese abandoned their efforts to retake Guadalcanal, and evacuated their remaining forces by 7

February 1943, in the face of an offensive by the U.S. Army's XIV Corps.

While the Battle of Midway is viewed as a turning point in the Pacific War, Japan remained on the offensive, as shown by its advances down the Solomon Islands. Only after the Allied victories in Guadalcanal and New Guinea were these large-scale Japanese offensive actions stopped. Strategic initiative passed to the Allies, as it proved, permanently. The Guadalcanal Campaign ended all Japanese expansion attempts and placed the Allies in a position of clear supremacy. The Allied victory at Guadalcanal was the first step in a long string of successes that eventually led to the surrender of Japan and the occupation of the Japanese home islands.



Surprised by the Allied offensive, the Japanese made several attempts between August and November to retake Henderson Field. Three major land battles, seven large naval battles (five nighttime surface actions and two carrier battles), and almost daily aerial battles culminated in the decisive Naval Battle of Guadalcanal



The five Sullivan brothers (George, Frank, Joe, Matt and Al) enlisted in the US Navy on January 3, 1942, with the stipulation that they serve together. All five were assigned to the light cruiser USS Juneau.

Early in the morning of November 13, 1942, during the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, Juneau was struck by a Japanese torpedo and forced to withdraw. Later that day, as it was leaving the Solomon Islands' area, the

Juneau was struck again. The torpedo likely hit the thinly armored light cruiser at or near the ammunition magazines and the ship exploded and quickly sank.

Captain Gilbert C. Hoover, commanding officer of the light cruiser USS Helena, ordered his ship to continue on as he believed that it would be reckless to look for survivors and expose his wounded ship to any lurking Japanese submarines. Instead, a US B-17 bomber on patrol was to notify Allied headquarters, which they were not able to do for several hours. The report regarding possible survivors got mixed in with other pending paperwork actions and went unnoticed for several days. Of the 100 surviving crewmembers, many of whom were seriously wounded, ten were rescued eight days after the attack. The survivors

reported that Frank, Joe and Matt had died instantly, Al had drowned the next day, and George had survived for several days before being driven insane with grief at the loss of his brothers and going over the side of his raft.

Security required that the Navy not reveal the loss of Juneau or the other ships, but as time went on, rumors started to circulate back home as letters from the Sullivan sons stopped arriving. Alleta Sullivan, their mother, wrote to the Bureau of Naval Personnel in January of 1943. On January 13, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote back, informing the family that her children were missing in action, but the day prior they had received word from military officials that none of their sons had survived the attack.

MAP of P H U K E T





LEGEND

402	Main Road
402	River
402	Bus Terminal
402	Airport
402	Port
402	Police Station
402	Temple
402	Mosque
402	University
402	Government Office
402	Post Office
402	Immigration Office
402	Waterfall
402	National Park
402	Weekend Market
402	Beach
402	Diving
402	Golf Course

THE FACES OF V5

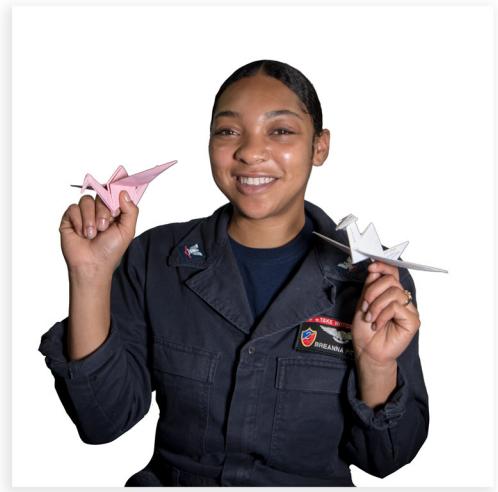
Air Traffic Controllers play a key role in the effective use of Naval air-power throughout the world. Aboard ESSEX, they are the eyes in the skies that keep our pilots safe and ready to execute the mission.

"Unlike other jobs, we are not allowed to make mistakes," said AC1 Kline. "A mistake for us means life or aircraft could be lost."

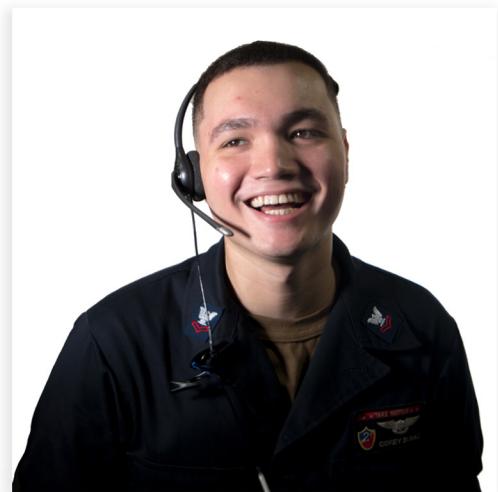
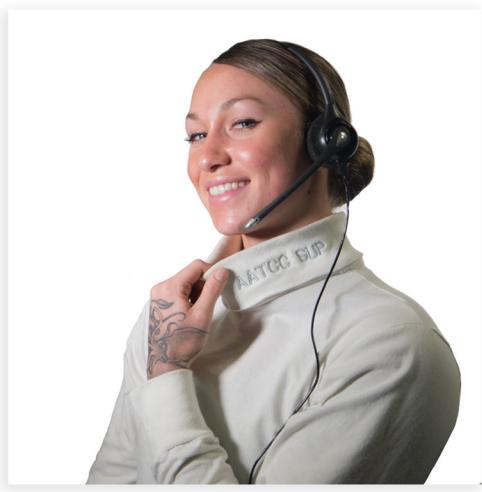
Sure, Air Traffic Controllers are vital to the mission but the Sailors assigned to V5 make sure to take care of one another as well.

"I'm proud because of our mission, but I'm prouder of how we treat each other like family and constantly challenge each other to do better," said AC1 Kline.





"V5 is like a family," said AC3 Ortiz. "I know I can always count on everyone to have my back."



AROUND THE DECKPLATES

WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST OBSTACLE ON DEPLOYMENT?



"Getting to work on time. I set my clock 15 minutes fast.... But I'm still trying to overcome that one."



"Staying mentally stable. I go to the gym and music."



"Wranglers..."

-FN Cole George &
FN Robert O'Brian
Huntsville, AL &
Dallas, TX



"Motivating Sailors to keep a positive attitude after the deployment extension."

-LT Lameron Williams
Atlanta, GA



"Relying on our brothers and sisters during hard times. Being at sea for long periods we understand the foundations that were set before us, we understand what was done and appreciate the sacrifice that was done so we can live a better life, and we carry on that traditions."



"Other Sailor's Negative attitudes. I talked to them about how their poor attitudes affect everyone else's day. I helped them find something to help them distress and be more positive."

-ABFAN Londyn Soileau
Lake Charles, LA

- OS3 Richard Dewayne
Leesville, LA

-ET2 Catarina Terry
Lebanon, IL

Sampaga's Joke Corner

How do you find Will Smith in the snow?
You look for the fresh prints.

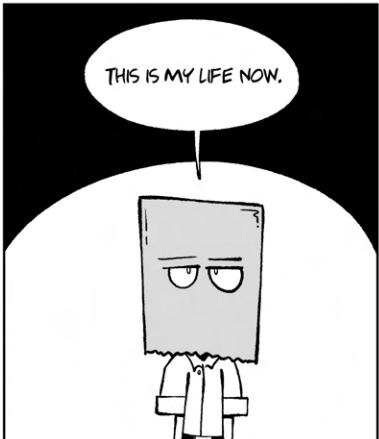
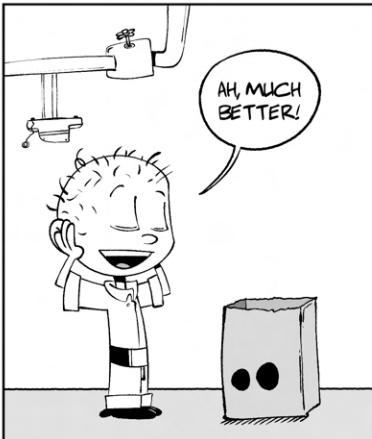
What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?
A rebel without a Claus.

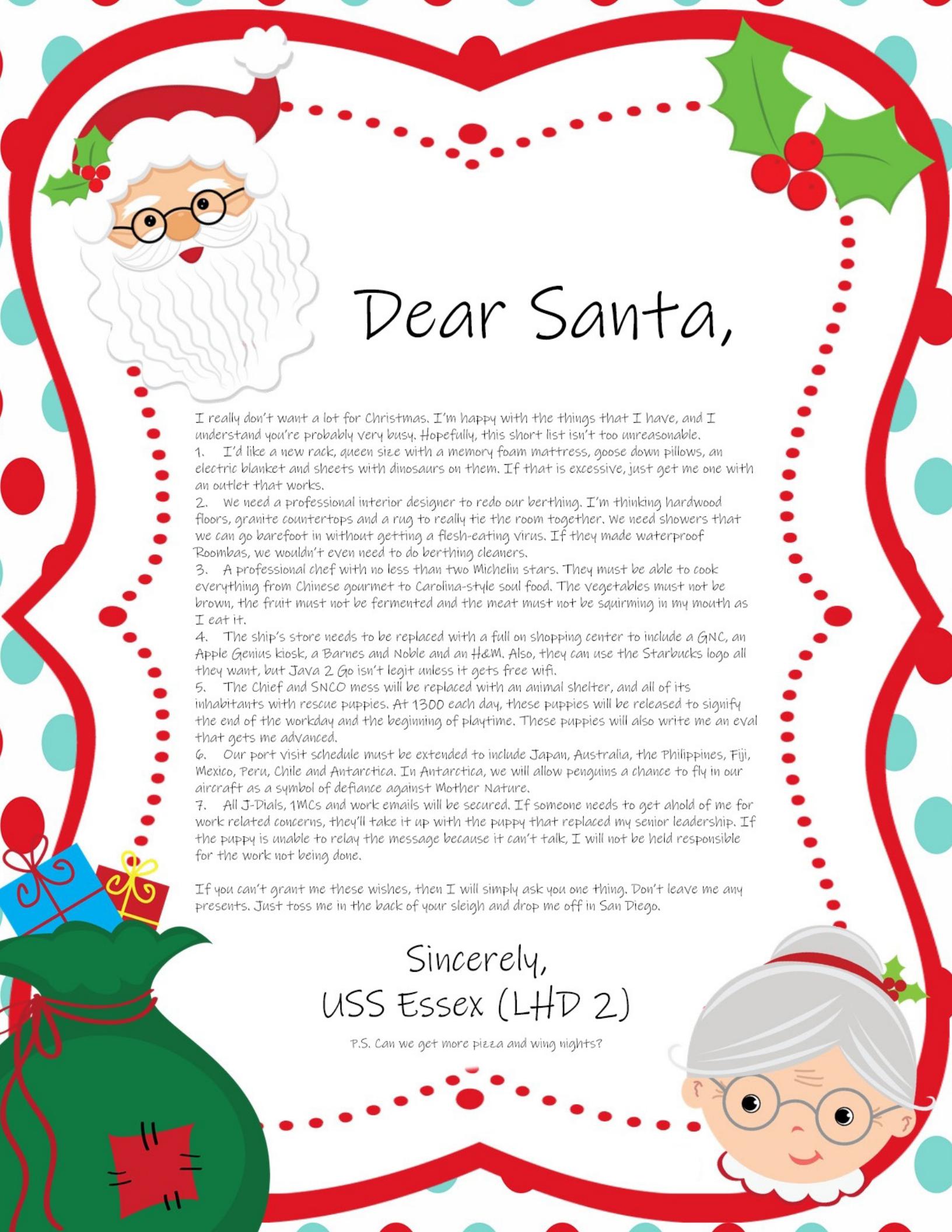
What's a good holiday tip?

Don't catch snowflakes with your tongue until
all the birds have gone south for the winter.

Submit your jokes to
jenna.dobson@lhd2.navy.mil

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.





Dear Santa,

I really don't want a lot for Christmas. I'm happy with the things that I have, and I understand you're probably very busy. Hopefully, this short list isn't too unreasonable.

1. I'd like a new rack, queen size with a memory foam mattress, goose down pillows, an electric blanket and sheets with dinosaurs on them. If that is excessive, just get me one with an outlet that works.
2. We need a professional interior designer to redo our berthing. I'm thinking hardwood floors, granite countertops and a rug to really tie the room together. We need showers that we can go barefoot in without getting a flesh-eating virus. If they made waterproof Roombas, we wouldn't even need to do berthing cleaners.
3. A professional chef with no less than two Michelin stars. They must be able to cook everything from Chinese gourmet to Carolina-style soul food. The vegetables must not be brown, the fruit must not be fermented and the meat must not be squirming in my mouth as I eat it.
4. The ship's store needs to be replaced with a full on shopping center to include a GNC, an Apple Genius kiosk, a Barnes and Noble and an H&M. Also, they can use the Starbucks logo all they want, but Java 2 Go isn't legit unless it gets free wifi.
5. The Chief and SNCO mess will be replaced with an animal shelter, and all of its inhabitants with rescue puppies. At 1300 each day, these puppies will be released to signify the end of the workday and the beginning of playtime. These puppies will also write me an eval that gets me advanced.
6. Our port visit schedule must be extended to include Japan, Australia, the Philippines, Fiji, Mexico, Peru, Chile and Antarctica. In Antarctica, we will allow penguins a chance to fly in our aircraft as a symbol of defiance against Mother Nature.
7. All J-Dials, IMCs and work emails will be secured. If someone needs to get ahold of me for work related concerns, they'll take it up with the puppy that replaced my senior leadership. If the puppy is unable to relay the message because it can't talk, I will not be held responsible for the work not being done.

If you can't grant me these wishes, then I will simply ask you one thing. Don't leave me any presents. Just toss me in the back of your sleigh and drop me off in San Diego.

Sincerely,
USS Essex (LHD 2)

P.S. Can we get more pizza and wing nights?