

# TAKE NOTICE



The Voice of the Iron Gator

28 February, 2019



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**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
**USS ESSEX (LHD 2)**  
**UNIT 100150 BOX 1**  
**FPO AP 96643**

## **Shipmates, Family and Friends,**

As you flip through the pages of this magazine, you look back on a deployment of great hardships and greater achievements. Now, we can share a piece of that story with our family and friends who have come aboard for this Tiger Cruise. With all the issues of Take Notice that have been published throughout deployment, you can see week-by-week the fruits of our labor, as well as the many ways we have blown off steam to stay mission ready.

We were the first to send the next generation of fighters into combat operations in the 5th fleet area of operation. The nation's finest have willingly gone into harm's way time and time again. They used an advanced arsenal to rain fire and fury upon our enemies. Every hand aboard, from below decks to tip of the mast, took pride in knowing their actions will live on forever in the pages of U.S. Naval history. More than that, we can be comforted that we have done a small part to keep you and the rest of our nation safe.

Our Sailors and Marines conducted joint operations and exercises with Malaysia, Djibouti and the United Arab Emirates. We strengthened partnerships with our allies, proving us to be capable and dependable neighbors in a world of divisions and shifting loyalties. Our skills remain sharp through diligent practice and sticking to our routines alongside partner nations. We maintain readiness for whatever comes so that we can safely navigate in calm waters and stormy seas.

We broadened their horizons with our visits to Kota Kinabalu, Doha, Bahrain, Dubai and Phuket. After weeks and sometimes even months underway, we got the chance to experience new cultures in a variety of ways. Some went on MWR tours, enjoyed the nightlife of new cities or simply relaxed in hotel rooms with the creature comforts hardest to find on a ship at sea. We came home with arms full of souvenirs to give and stories to share of the wide world we have traveled.

Nobody ever said what we do is easy. Through the long days, the separations, the emergencies and more, our friends and families were there to support us. They stood by on the shore ready to send us care packages and receive emails and phone calls to remind us that there's something back home worth fighting for. That's what keeps a ship afloat. That's what keeps a plane in the air. That's what keeps a crew running. That's what makes a Sailor or Marine ready to do their nation proud.

For those reading this who served with me during this time, I offer my deepest thanks and congratulations. Let this serve as a beloved testimonial of your time aboard the finest vessel in the United States Navy. For the friends and family who helped us get through deployment, we can never thank you enough for what you have done for us. Hopefully, this humble newsletter will find its way into your collection of memorabilia from your time here. It tells the stories of our shipmates and the lives they have lead in and out of service. It showcases imagery of our daily operations as well as MWR events. It's full of trivia, history, comics and jokes alongside timely relevant news pertinent to our mission. Most of all, its cover bears our ship's slogan, which dates back to the first ship to bear our name. Take Notice!

Sincerely,

CAPT Brian T. Mutty

*Brian T. Mutty*

# WARRIORS OF THE DAY



PFC Jamison  
St. Louis, MO

HT2 Scoggins  
Sacramento, CA



LCPL Flynn  
Poughkeepsie, NY



History and Heritage

**1. What happened Aug. 2, 1964, that escalated U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War?**

**2. Who said, “We have met the enemy and they are ours?”**

**3. What does the word “bamboozle” mean?**

**4. What was the first USN vessel named after a woman who served in the Navy?**

**5. Who was the only Person ever to receive the title of “Admiral of the Navy?”**

5. Admiral George Dewey.

4. USS Higbee.

3. To deceive a passing vessel by flying another nation's colors.

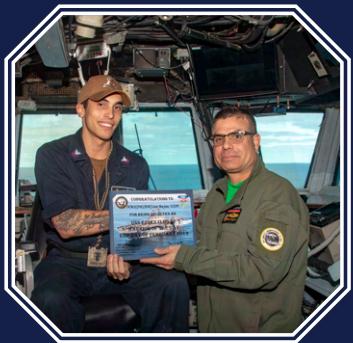
2. Oliver Hazard Perry during the Battle of Lake Erie.

1. The Gulf of Tonkin incident.

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

— Sameh Elsayed

*HM2 Bayne  
San Antonio, TX*



*CPL Duran  
New Britain, CT*



*CTR3 Edgin  
Laurel Hill, FL*



# TIGER CRUISE ESSEX 2019

*Most jobs offer their employee's friends and family a chance to see what they do. The Navy does something a lot more special than just a "bring your child to work" day. Essex Sailors and Marines got to bring their loved ones along for an eight day underway, showing off the life they lead at sea. This tradition is known as a "tiger cruise," and Essex's cruise is winding down as the ship returns to its homeport of San Diego.*

STORY BY MC2 CHANDLER HARRELL

Guests, or "tigers", got to experience how the crew lives on a day-to-day basis. Tigers sleep in berthing, eat Navy chow and get a firsthand look at the various jobs performed on the ship through tours of the major spaces.

The tigers got to see the ship perform operations ranging from flight ops to live fire exercises. The "Avengers" of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 211 put on an air show to display the capabilities of the F-35B Lightning II, which Essex was the first to bring into combat operations. They also witnessed the close-in weapons system (CIWS), 25 mm gun, .50-caliber gun and 40 mm saluting cannon. Tigers had the opportunity to observe well deck operations including craft such as the landing craft, air cushion (LCAC) and landing craft utility (LCU).

"The best part about Tiger Cruise was the F-35s," said Elijah McBride, brought aboard by his father, Marine Corps Capt. Lukhma McBride. "The ice cream was pretty good too, but the jets were my favorite part. They were cool!"

It wasn't "all work and no play", thanks to Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) events and other displays hosted by various committees. They were treated to a Multicultural Extravaganza, where the ship's Multicultural Committee performed dances from Latin America and the Pacific Islands alongside other presentations. Other activities included a talent show, karaoke nights, ice cream socials, a steel beach picnic, art therapy and more.

"The multicultural extravaganza was pretty cool," said PS2 Tiana Street, brought aboard by her sister, IT2 Giana Street. "It reminds

people that even though we all have different cultures, we're still a team. The event highlighted differences as a celebration."

Tiger cruises are important for a number of reasons. Not only do they allow the crew to show off their hard work, they also help build relationships between civilians and the military. They can see the importance of the Navy's mission, and the sacrifices people make every day to see it through.

"I didn't just stick to the tours," said Melissa Parker, sponsored by her son, ABHAN Devin Washington. "I made sure to hang out with the Sailors on the flight deck and chow hall. It has really given me an insight into what my son and his fellow Sailors go through on the day to day. How do they make it through eight months?!"

Perhaps most importantly, tiger cruises allow Sailors, Marines and tigers a chance to relax and bond after months of separation. While many will wait until their return to homeport to reconnect with family and friends, those who brought tigers aboard can share their experiences firsthand with those they love. The experience culminates in strengthened relationships, better understanding and a much deserved time to relax and appreciate what they have done together.

**SPONSOR: CAPT. LUKHMA McBRIDE  
TIGER (SON): ELIJAH McBRIDE**

“The best part about Tiger Cruise was the F-35s,” said Elijah McBride.

“The Ice Cream was pretty good too but the jets were my favorite part.  
**THEY WERE COOL!**



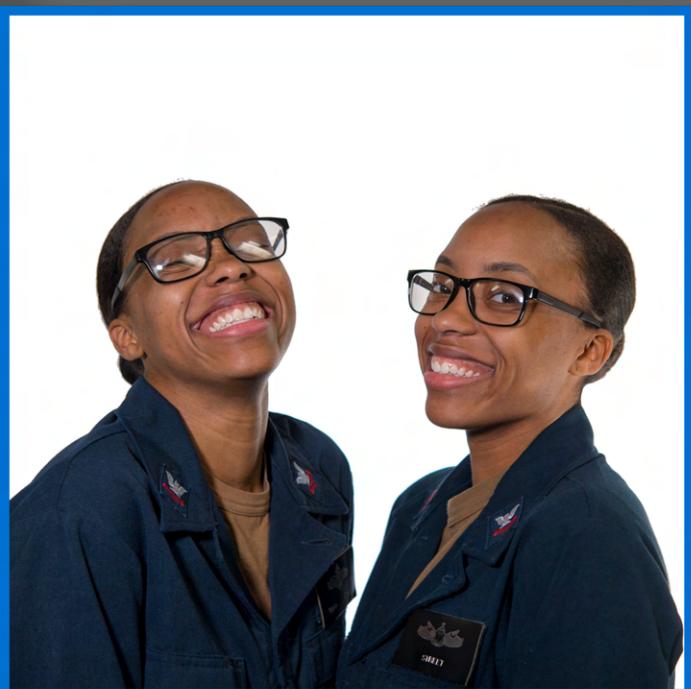
**SPONSOR: ABHAN DEVIN WASHINGTON  
TIGER (MOM): MELISSA PARKER**

“I didn't just stick to the tours, I made sure to hang out with the Sailors on the flight deck and chow hall,” said Melissa Parker. “It has really given me an insight into what my son and his fellow Sailors go through on the day to day. How do they make it through eight months?!”

**SPONSOR: IT2 GIANA STREET  
TIGER (SISTER): PS2 TIANA STREET**

“I brought my sister on board this Tiger cruise because I attended hers on the USS Pearl Harbor (LSD-52) in 2018. It was my first experience being out to sea and I wanted to repay the favor.”

“The multicultural extravaganza was pretty cool. It reminds people that even though we all have different cultures, we're still a team,” said PS2 Street. “The event highlighted differences as a celebration.”



# THIS WEEK



# IN PHOTOS



# THIS WEEK



# IN PHOTOS



# SAFETY STAND DOWN

ALL HANDS ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- POST DEPLOYMENT SAFETY FACTS
- TRAFFIC SAFETY/MOTORCYCLE SAFETY
- OFF DUTY RECREATIONAL SAFETY
- TAGOUTS
- GAS FREE ENGINEERING
- HAZMAT

All briefs will be broadcasted on SITE TV 25-29 March

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**to order today!**

# The Navy Jack

It is widely believed that when the Navy was established on Oct. 13, 1775, ships of the Continental Navy flew a “jack” consisting of alternating red and white stripes, having the image of a rattlesnake stretched across it with the motto “Don’t Tread on Me,” symbolizing America’s independent spirit and resistance to tyranny. This flag is commonly referred to as the “rattlesnake” jack. While there is no firm historical evidence that this flag was the first Navy jack, it is well documented that the rattlesnake and the motto were used together on several flags during the War of Independence.

On Dec. 3, 1775, Lt. John Paul Jones, having just

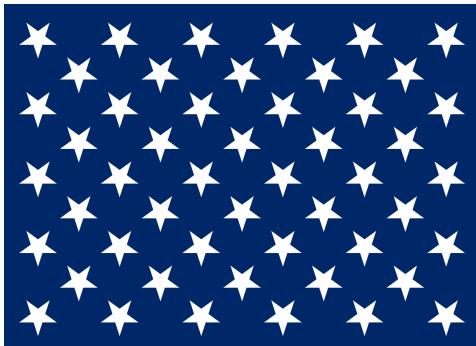
received his first commission, hoisted the Grand Union Flag, also known as the First Navy Ensign, aboard the warship Alfred. This flag consisted of thirteen alternating red and



white stripes with the British Union flag of the time in the canton. It was the first time the American flag was raised over an American naval vessel and marked the beginning of a number of traditions related to the raising of the flag the Navy

observes to this day.

The Navy jack eventually evolved into a blue flag containing a white star for each state. Commonly referred to as the “union” jack, it remained the Navy jack until 1976 when the rattlesnake jack made a one-year return in honor of the nation’s bicentennial. In August 1980, the Secretary of the Navy directed that the oldest ship in commission in active status was authorized to display the rattlesnake jack. Then in 2002, the Secretary of the Navy directed the use of the rattlesnake jack in place of the union jack for the duration of the Global War on Terrorism.



On February 21, 2019, NAVADMIN 039/19 directed the Navy to return to the union jack beginning Tuesday June 4, 2019, marking the anniversary of the Battle of Midway. The change signifies the Navy has entered a new era of competition

and highlights our recommitment to the core attributes that made us successful at Midway: integrity, accountability, initiative, and toughness. For more than two hundred and forty years, the Union Jack, flying proudly from jackstaffs aboard U.S. Navy warships, has symbolized these strengths.

# THE FACES of S-2



Don't believe the scuttlebutt. The corndogs are not deadly flying projectiles. Chief did not put his foot in those greens for flavoring. The eggs are not tofu.

The truth is, the Sailors assigned to S-2 work 24/7, seven days a week to provide a crew of 3,000 with one of the most basic necessities. Food.

***"Food Service Divisions are vital to the moral of the ship," said CSCS Breaux. "It's the life of the crew. We cannot survive without it and sometimes it's one of those necessities we take for granted."***

Sure, we all have a perfect welcome home meal planned in our heads following an eight-month deployment. For some, it may be delivery. For others, it's mom's meatloaf and mashed potatoes. Regardless, take a moment to reflect and give thanks to arguably one of the hardest working divisions on the ship.

***"There is a huge difference between cooking for four to almost 3,000 people," said CS1 Santiago. "No matter what tasking we are given, the food service division will get it done no matter what!"***

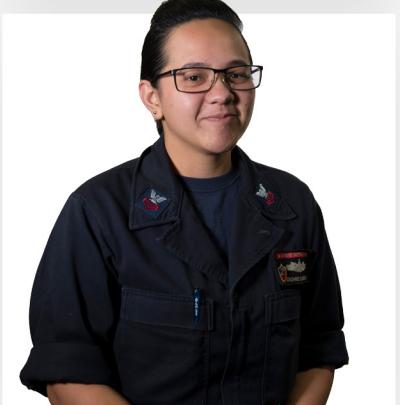
Without the Faces of S-2 you'd likely be surviving on microwavable ramen and energy drinks...which is preferred by a select few on this ship. For the rest of us, we thank these Sailors and Marines for keeping our bellies full and spirits high.



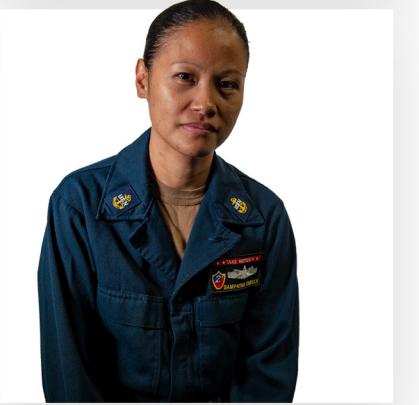


*"We are two underway  
replenishments away from losing  
the war," said CSCS Breaux.  
"Don't complain about working  
parties. Do your part."*





***"If you have time to lean, you have  
time to clean," said CS1 Santiago.***





**"Oui - Chief Sampayan!"**  
**said CS2 Spencer.**  
**"How many hotplates you need?"**



# AROUND THE DECKPLATES

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT THE TIGER CRUISE?



"I really enjoyed watching the recovery of the F-35s – the way it hovered above the ground was really amazing. I also enjoyed the CIWS shoot, and touring inside the tanks."

"I love to see my mom's face light up when she gets to see something new. This is a once in a lifetime experience for her."



"My favorite part of tiger cruise is the steel beach picnic. It was an awesome experience to see the Sailors and Marines enjoy music, food and games on the flight deck with friends and family."

- CWO2 Kelly Williams  
Needmore, PA



"My favorite part was being able to experience life on a Navy ship during a deployment. Also seeing the different departments, that make the ship operate daily."

- Mark Staufser  
Kent, OH



"Spending time with my family after being apart for the duration of deployment."

- SN Tyler Dangelo  
Galoway, NJ



"My favorite part of the tiger cruise was hanging out with my daughter on the mess decks where we talked, painted, colored, and had ice cream socials."

"My favorite part was getting to show my mother what I've been doing the last eight months."

- Vicki Amero &  
OS2 Natasha Amero  
Reno, NV



"I enjoyed seeing all the equipment that all the Marines and Navy use."

- Madison Faleide  
Louisville, KY

# Sampaga's Joke Corner

Why don't EMs like surprise parties?

They are shocking.

Submitted by DC3 Hunt

Why can't BMs go SCUBA diving?

Because Boats will sink.

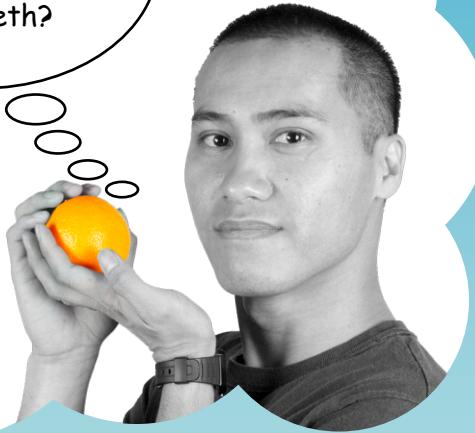
Submitted by DC3 Hunt

What do you call a fake noodle?

An impasta.

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

If you have more  
than one bluetooth  
device, do you have  
bluetooth?



WHAT'S THIS?

CHECK OUT  
SHEET, DUDE.



AH, FINALLY  
GETTIN' OUTTA  
HERE, HUH?



YEP, REALLY  
GONNA MISS  
THIS PLACE!



BAHAHAHAHA!!  
AHAHAHAH!!



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DUUUDES...



WE ARE ALMOST  
HOME!