

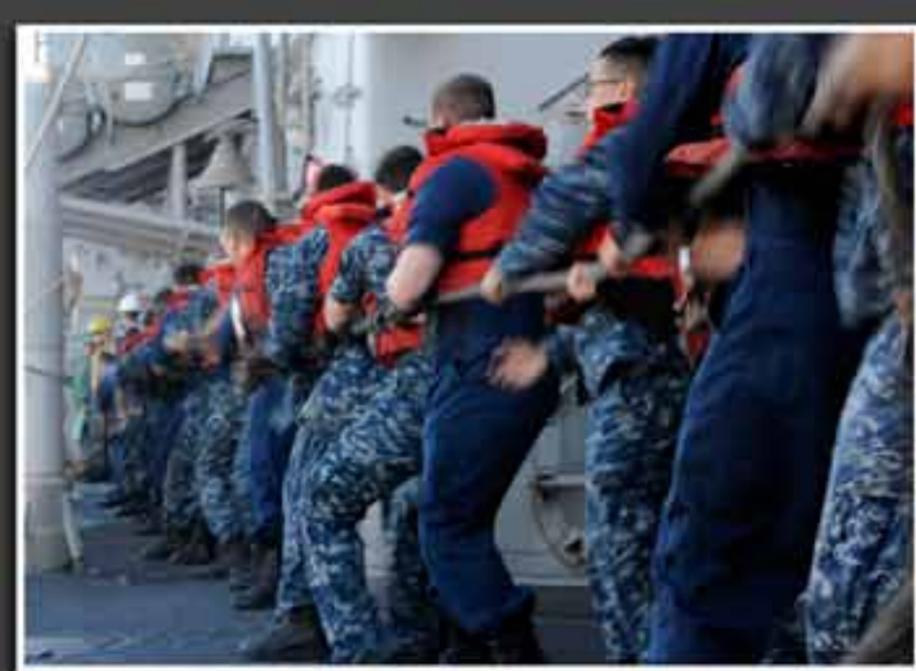
THE PATRIOT

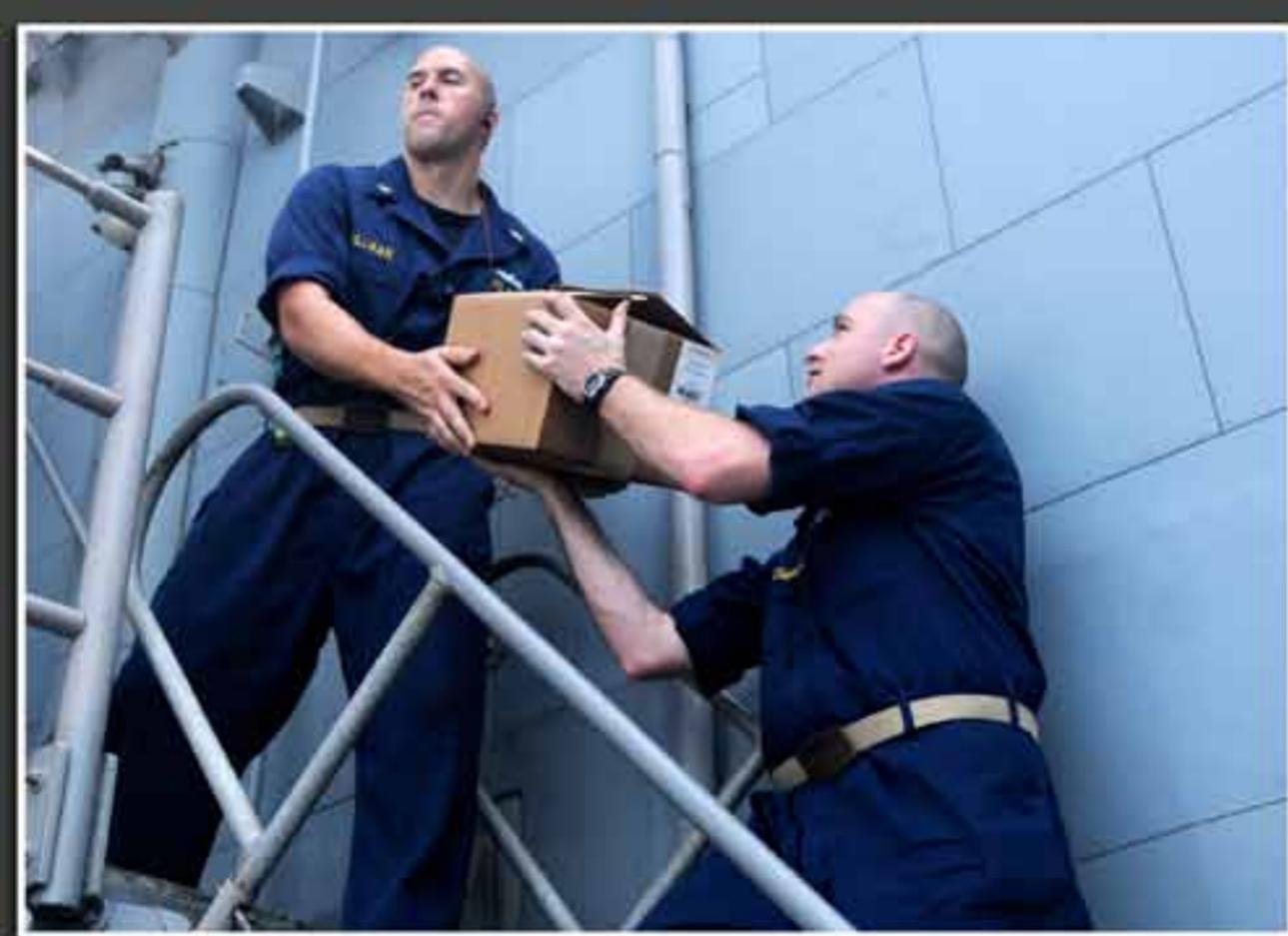
VOLUME 5

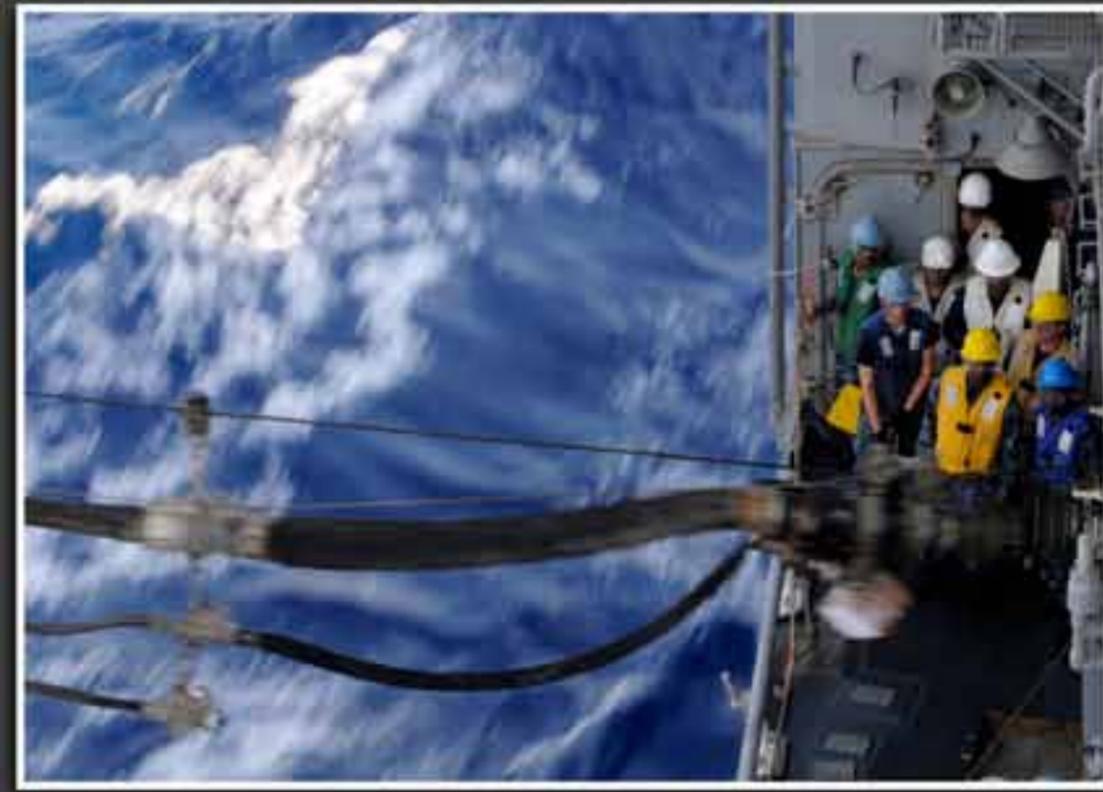
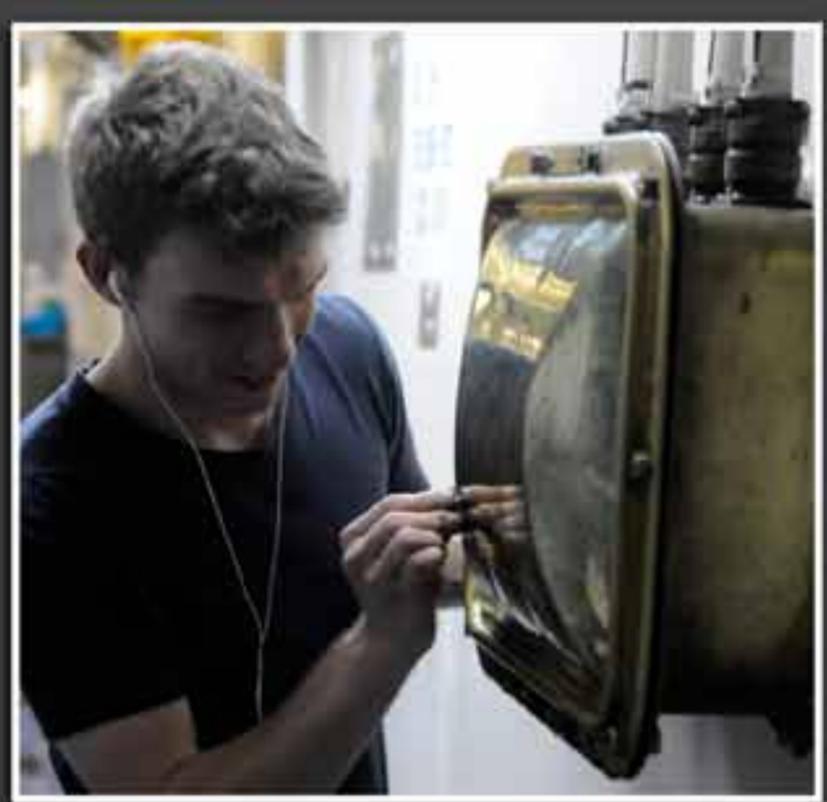
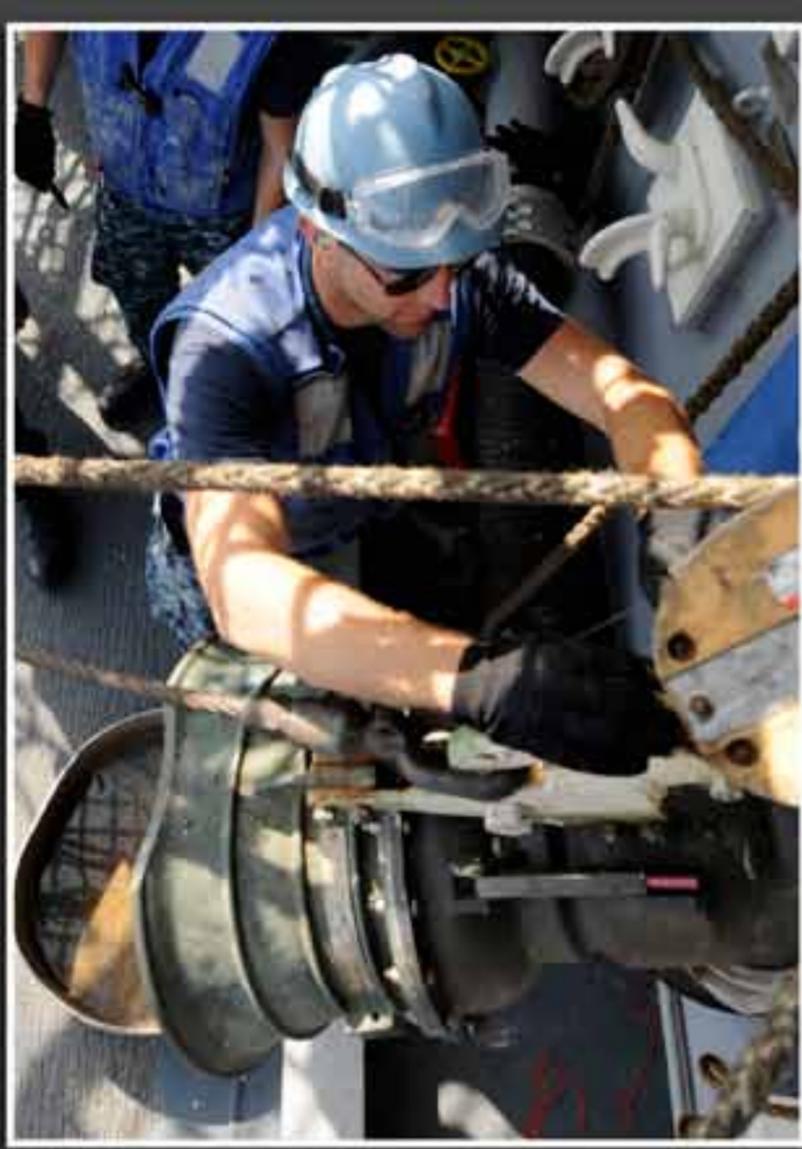


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April 2012







CO

April greetings to all our BUNKER HILL friends and family!



I hope this newsletter finds you all happy and healthy. We have just wrapped up a very exciting month and are looking forward with great anticipation to our return to our loved ones within the next few weeks. But first to the highlights of the month.

April began with the wrap up of our time in the Fifth Fleet Area of Operations. We completed a final turnover of material and duties with the ABRAHAM LINCOLN CSG and then began our transit east. As we departed, we received our final graded report from the Commander, Fifth Fleet which indicated that your BUNKER HILL sailors knocked it out of the park over the course of their 2.5 months in the theater. You can be very proud of your sailors for their performance as the Shotgun for CARL VINSON and the Air Defense Command Ship for the Strike Group.

Our first stop as we headed east was the Bay of Bengal on the east coast of India. Here we conducted a very unique and rewarding port visit to Chennai, India. The visit was a first for almost the entire crew and gave the team some new insights into life in one of the most densely populated countries in the world. While it was a working port in support of a bilateral exercise (Malabar 2012), your team enjoyed some liberty and also completed a number of Community relations events. They also put together and hosted a marvelous reception for military and civilian leaders conducted as part of our exercise. Upon leaving port on the 10th of April, we next conducted 6 days of operations with the Indian Navy. The exercises went very well and your team helped build enduring ties to some of the military leaders of the largest democracy in the world.

Following the Malabar exercise, we transited south and completed a rousing "Crossing the Line" ceremony as we passed the equator. We rid this mighty ship of all her pollywogs and welcomed new shellbacks into the Realm of King Neptune! It was a wonderfully managed event and one that I am sure will last in the memory of every sailor. We then kept heading south to the land down under. On 24 April, we pulled into the port of Fremantle and for the next 5 days, your team experienced all the sights, sounds and hospitality that Fremantle/Perth has to offer. It was a much anticipated port visit and initial reports are that it fully lived up to the hype that had surrounded the visit for over 5 months. We all came out happy (but a bit lighter in the wallet) and made our way safely underway yesterday to continue our journey east.

So that was April for Team BUNKER HILL. It was a busy month but one with many firsts for our team. Now we move to transit mode. It will mean some training and maintenance over the next few weeks but I am confident the time will fly by. We look forward to seeing some of you in our next stop as we prepare for Tiger Cruise. For the rest...keep those e-mails coming and know that we are all looking forward to seeing you soon!

Have a great start to May and we'll see you all on arrival.

XO



Greetings BUNKER HILL Family and Friends,

April marked a busy month for us as we officially started the voyage East towards home! It was a month balanced with a lot of training underway and some much needed time in port. Our visit to India for MALABAR 2012 was a fantastic opportunity to exchange information and train with our Indian Navy counterparts. The exercise consisted of an inport and at sea phase. In addition to the planning conferences, tactical discussions, and receptions, the time in port provided a great opportunity for the crew to get off the ship and enjoy some Indian culture. The At Sea period had a multitude of events that expanded our understanding of how we each conduct our missions at sea. We hosted several Indian crew members onboard for the week and a few BUNKER HILL sailors were lucky enough to spend some time on their ships. Overall, I believe it was a great experience to interact with the Sailors of the Indian Navy. MALABAR was a very worthwhile and important engagement for our Navy and our country. I hope we continue to expand on that relationship in the future.

Following a transit across the Indian Ocean, we headed down to the land down under for a visit to Fremantle, Australia. Our time in "Freco" and nearby Perth provided a chance for the crew to enjoy some quality liberty ashore. I personally enjoyed my first Australian Rules Football game! I am not sure what was more fun - the game itself or watching the Australian "Footy" fans. There was certainly a consensus from the crew that the Australians were very welcoming and friendly to our visit and I'd consider our time there a great success.

We're now headed across the Pacific towards home. Although we're no longer conducting the mission on station in the Middle East, our days are still pretty busy training to maintain our proficiency and qualifications before we head into the summer months in San Diego. Some of you may be joining us for Tiger Cruise very soon. I look forward to meeting you all. I think we have a very fun week planned for your voyage! For the rest, hope to see you in San Diego when we return.

Thanks again for your support.

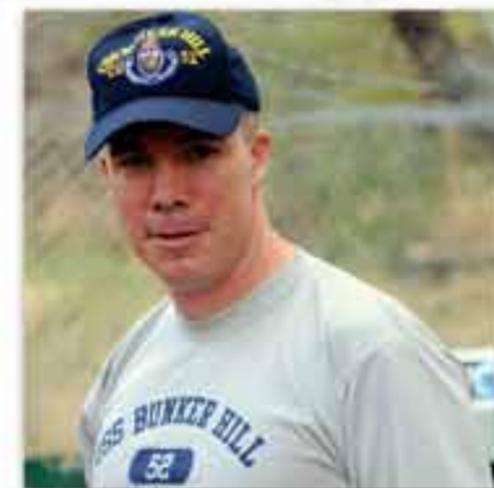
Very Respectfully,

LCDR Jason P Patterson
Executive Officer

CMC



CHAPS



BUNKER HILL Family,

BUNKER HILL had a busy April. The CPO Mess celebrated the Chief Petty Officers 119th birthday with the crew while MWR put together a "Know your Chief contest" to spice up the week. Your Sailors did an outstanding job preparing the ship for a 3 day port visit in Chennai, India to kick-off the highly successful Malabar Exercise with the Indian Navy. The port visit started with ship tours and a Community Relations Project, BUNKER HILL left an everlasting impression with the host nation and improved camaraderie with our Indian Navy counterparts. Heading south, King Neptune boarded the ship with Davie Jones to help BUNKER HILL's mighty shellbacks cleanse the unworthy pollywogs of their slime and transform them into worthy shellbacks. After the eventful Crossing the Line ceremony the Wardroom fired up the grills for a well deserved steel beach picnic. The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Team put together a 2 hour Chief of Naval Operations mandated Fleet wide Sexual Assault Awareness Month training. Then the Strike Group headed to Australia where BUNKER HILL moored in Perth, Australia for a 5 day port visit. The visit coincided with Australia's ANZAC Day similar to our Veteran's Day, your Sailors participated in various events commemorating the Australian holiday and Chaps lead 2 Community Relations Projects with the Native Animal Rehab Center and Breast Cancer Care of Western Australia.

Currently onboard are Fleet and Family Service Center representatives giving Sailors return and reunion briefs. Heading south of Australia through rough seas, high winds and rains on the way home. Your Sailors are excited and looking forward to return home to their love ones. See you soon!

Homecoming information will be posted on the OMBUDSMAN and Bunker Hill Facebook pages for your awareness.

CMDCM Beda V. Santiago

Family and Friends of Bunker Hill,

Hello from off of the coast of Australia. I am happy to say that we are heading the right way towards home and we are just as excited to see you as you are to see us.

This past month has been an extremely busy one as we left 5th Fleet and made our way to India and then Australia. While in Chennai India your Bunker Hill sailors participated in a COMREL project that cleaned up the banks of the Mudichur Lake. The lake is used by the village for irrigating fields as well as a bathing spot for water buffalos as we saw first hand. We were in Chennai during Easter weekend and some of us got to experience going to church in that foreign land.

While in Fremantle and Perth, your Bunker Hill sailors participated in two COMREL projects. The first project took us to Native ARC, an animal rehab center for wild animals. We hoped to see something furry but fortunately the only visitors at the time were several birds. Your sailors busted down a limestone wall, put up new fencing for the aviary, and replaced a water sump for the duck enclosure. The second project took us to the home of a woman battling cancer. Our sailors partnered with Breast Cancer Care of Western Australia to do some yard maintenance that our new friend could not do herself. All of these COMREL projects give sailors an opportunity to explore the culture of the host nation in ways that we normally would not be able to. I hope that you share with me in the extreme pride that I have in our sailors and their willingness to give of themselves during these port calls.

Lastly, we have our friends from the Fleet and Family Service Center aboard giving us our return and reunion briefs. I encourage those of you that think you could benefit from some pre-homecoming training to contact the F&FSC and talk to them about ways to make the homecoming adjustment a little bit easier.

May God's blessings be on you and your family during our absence.

Chaplain Jim Dewey
deweyj@cg52.navy.mil

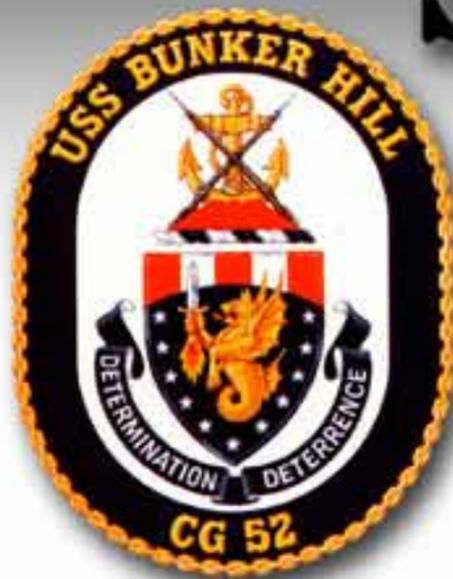


FSA APPRECIATION

FIRST CLASS PETTY OFFICER ASSOCIATION



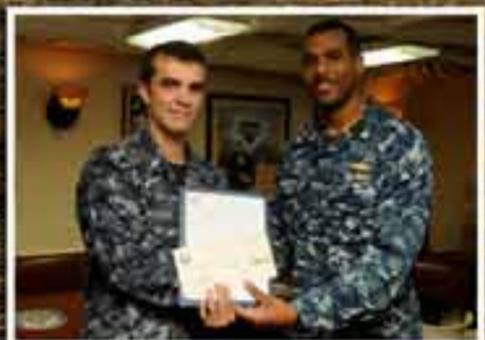
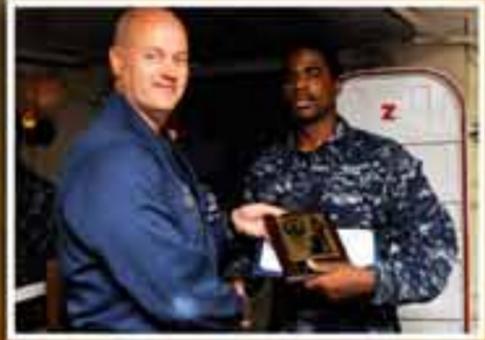
GETTING STARTED

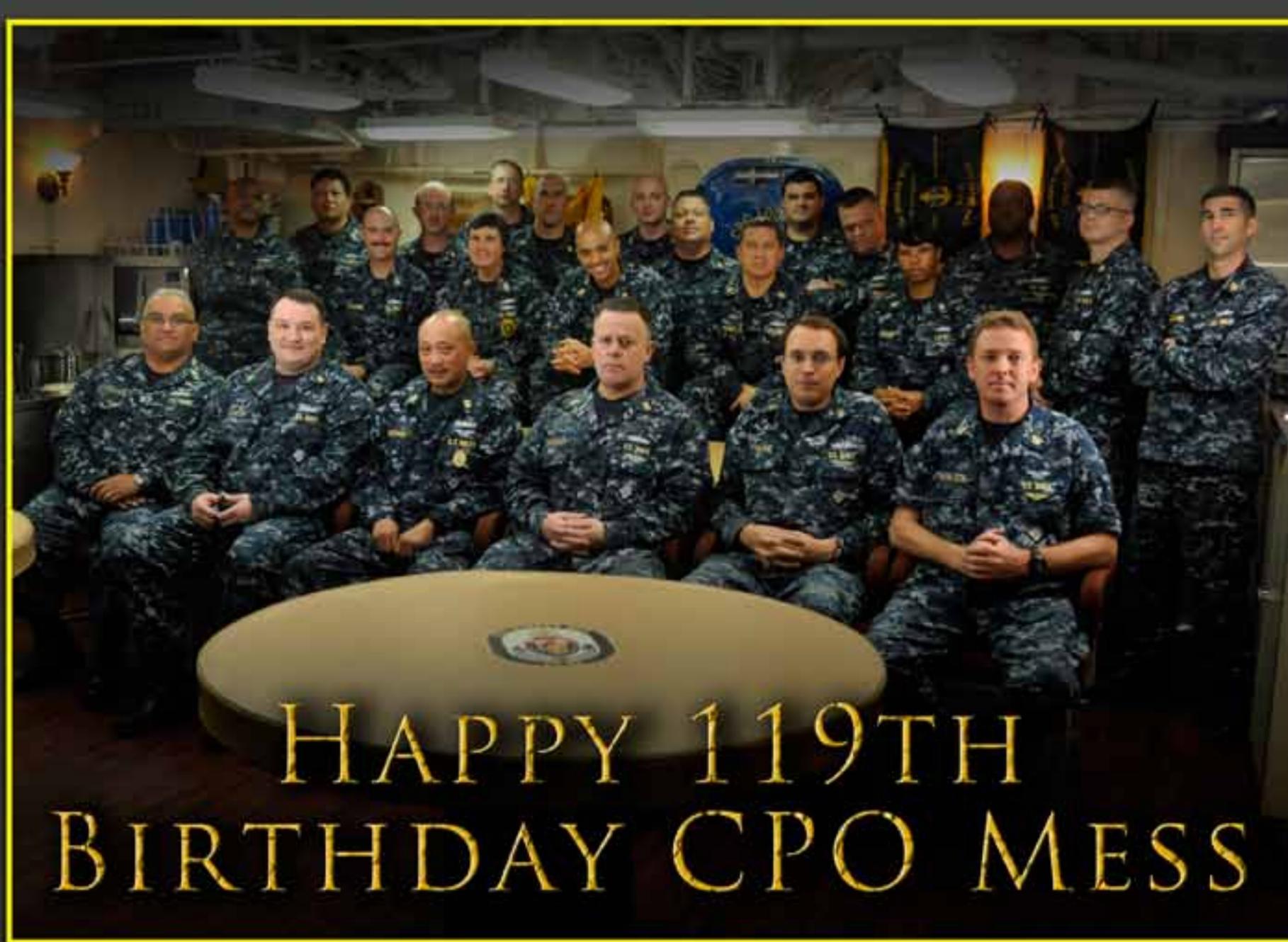


This issue of the Patriot covers the past events and ports our Sailors aboard the Bunker Hill have endured and enjoyed. Damage control drills, community relations projects, ESWS and Malabar 2012 has kept the month of April an eventful one. On our way home our Sailors anticipate their homecoming and are working diligently to ensure everyone gets home safe and that the ship arrives as planned.



AWARDS & REENLISTMENTS

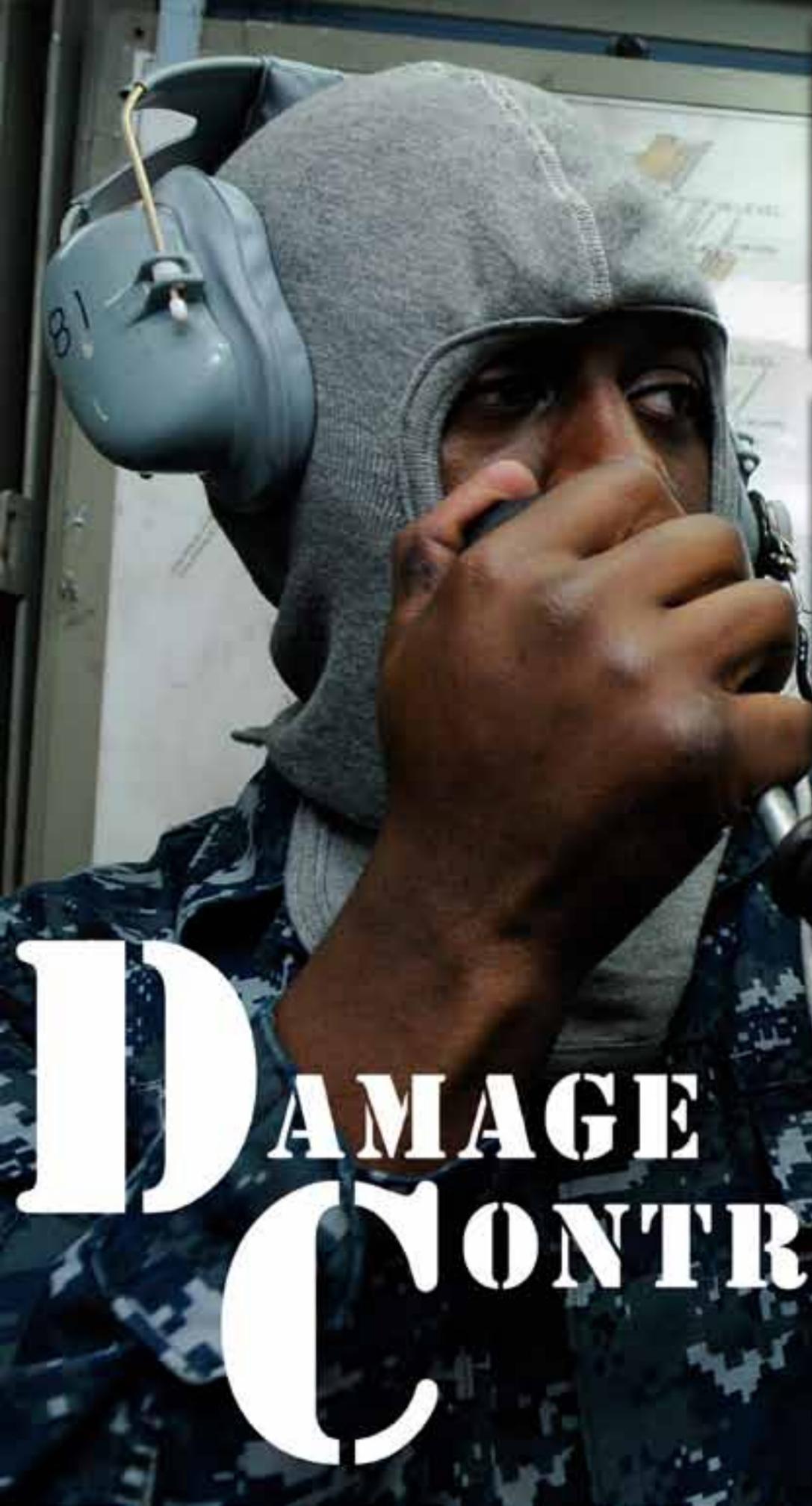




HAPPY 119TH
BIRTHDAY CPO MESS



DAMAGE CONTROL





ARRIVAL



INDIA COMREL

ENVIRONMENTALIST FOUNDATION OF INDIA





INDIA RECEPTION



MALABAR



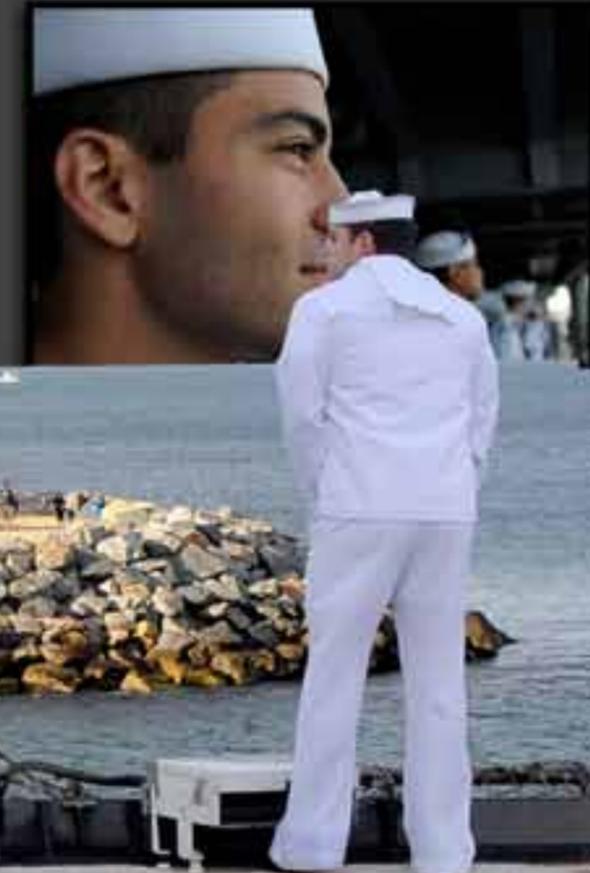
2012



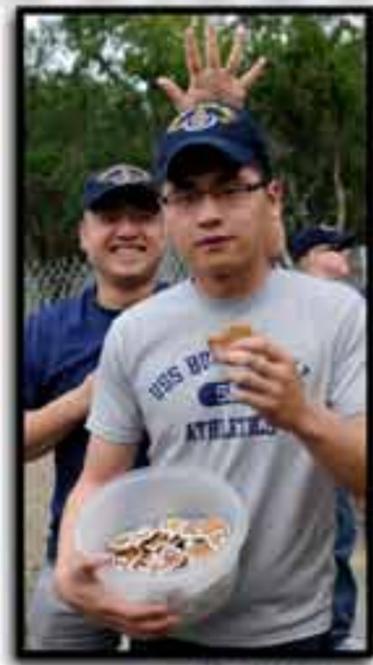


CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONY





ANIMAL REHABILITATION CENTER COMREL



AUSTRALIA



COMREL CANCER FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA

