

# LAND

*The LandMark*



**HOOYAH!**  
**JR. OFFICER  
& SAILOR  
OF THE YEAR!**



**GET FLEET NEWS NOW**  
From Around the World

**USS TEXAS IS  
NUMBER ONE**  
The first tended mooring  
with a Virginia-class sub

**HERITAGE**  
Native American &  
Alaskan Indian

# Land Departs Subic Bay

View images from  
the Philippines



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**On The Cover**  
HT3 Michael Evans grinds a pipe while aboard USS Denver (LPD 9) in Subic Bay, Philippines.  
Photo by MC2(SW) Chris Williamson

# Captain's Call

**Captain Paul E. Savage**  
Commanding Officer  
USS Emory S. Land (AS 39)



Shipmates, I want to commend each one of you for our smooth, ongoing transition with the Frank Cable now that we have arrived in Guam. This integration is truly a testament to the professionalism of both of our crews, and I look forward to witnessing the heights to which we can accomplish our mission together.

I turn now to a more serious subject, as we honor the 70th anniversary of the devastating attacks on Pearl Harbor, HI on December 7th, 1941. One day later, the Japanese invaded Guam and occupied this island until 1944. It was a brutal time for the brave U.S. servicemembers and native Chamorro people here, whose patriotism in the face of occupation was unwavering.

Shipmates, it is of utmost importance that we take

a moment to reflect and honor those brave men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice, and use lessons from the past to prevent such tragedies from ever happening again. One of the most basic things we can do, on an individual and collective basis, is ensure that we and our Shipmates are practicing proper OPSEC.

You may meet acquaintances that seem to know more about ship movement and schedules than you do. Unfortunately, there will always be some Sailors with loose lips- but that should not be an invitation for you to become part of the problem. I have the highest faith in your professionalism and bearing, and expect the best from each one of you. Let's honor the memory of those who lost their lives in the tragedies of war and don't forget OPSEC in your daily lives.

# CMC Corner



Shipmates, welcome to Guam. I hope you all are taking advantage of time off and getting out and about, off the ship and exploring the island of Guam. If your looking for ideas of stuff to do around Guam, catch me on the deck plates or in my office, with my tenure on Guam, I can surely help provide some fun suggestions that will render lasting memories for you.

Our integration of Frank Cable Sailors is going very smoothly. In just a couple of weeks, Emory S. Land will become the Lead Maintenance Activity in Guam. We will certainly be busy providing repair and logistics support to deploying submarines. Ensure that you stay focused on your job and become the expert at your trade. This is a great opportunity for us to learn from Cable and implement practices and procedures that

have been tested through time. personally welcome aboard all our Cable Sailors. HOOYAH!

This time of year is always especially difficult when deployed and away from friends, family and loved ones while we are doing what our great nation calls on us to do. Some of us will have the opportunity to see family and loved ones this holiday, and I encourage you to enjoy that as much as possible. You have certainly earned it. For others of us, we either chose not to take leave or have plans further down the road for some family time or personal rest and relaxation. Remember to stay in contact with your families as much as you can. Whatever you do, be involved in something this holiday season and don't fall into the holiday blues.



# NEWS

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# FROM AROUND THE

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# FLEET



## MCPO(SS/SW) Rick D. West's Veteran's Day Message

“Veterans, Shipmates and Navy Families, on Veterans Day we pay tribute to all who have served and sacrificed in defense of our nation. Veterans Day was first celebrated

in 1919 as ‘Armistice Day’ as a way to remember the sacrifices that men and women made during World War I. In 1954, it evolved into ‘Veterans Day’ in order to honor all American veterans from all wars.

Since our country’s beginning, there have been men and women willing to fight to guarantee the freedoms that we hold so dear. It is that attitude of ‘service before self’ and ‘the choice to serve’ that we honor and celebrate. From the American Revolutionary War to our current Overseas Contingency Operations, our veterans have honorably served and sacrificed throughout the world when our nation called.

Our veterans represent the best of America coming from every background and every walk of life. They represent the rich tapestry of our nation and many have paid the ultimate sacrifice. It is with eternal gratitude that we take the time this day and every day to honor the memory of our fallen while bringing alongside and thanking those heroes still among us.

Each day I’m grateful for the efforts and sacrifices you make in support of our great Navy and our nation; whether deployed at sea, on the ground or here at home where all of our loved ones enjoy the liberties your sacrifices preserve. These efforts and the challenges you are willing to face ensure we continue to enjoy the freedoms we have been afforded by the veterans who went before us.

Thank you veterans and thank you to the service members in uniform today, many in harm’s way, for your continued service to our great nation. Happy Veterans Day and HOOYAH!”

## Transition Benefits Provided by the Navy



Navy Personnel Command (NPC) established a transition assistance information page on their website providing Sailors and leadership a central location to find transition assistance information and resources.

“Transitioning Sailors need to work with a career counselor or transition counselor to ensure they fully understand their eligibility and benefits, but, this Web page provides Sailors a place to easily locate and learn more about opportunities available to them,” said Senior Chief Navy Counselor

(AW) Kelly Strickland, force career counselor of NPC.

Sailors can find a link to The Transition Assistance Handbook which explains key transition benefits for all transitioning Sailors. The page also features links to the latest transition news that can help Sailors learn about new and upcoming services, benefits and upcoming initiatives.

The page also features a link to the pre-separation counseling checklist guide.

“The pre-separation counseling checklist is a mandatory checklist that guides Sailors through every step of their transition,” said Strickland.

For more information, visit the NPC website.



# USS TEXAS ARRIVES

Story and Photos by MC2(SW) Chris Williamson  
USS Emory S. Land Public Affairs



Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Texas (SSN 775) moored alongside Land in Subic Bay Nov. 10, for a visit as part of its deployment to the Western Pacific.

Texas is the first Virginia-class submarine to ever visit the Philippines, and the second of its class to deploy to this region.

“This ship and crew have performed beyond all expectations during this Western Pacific deployment,” said Cmdr. Robert A. Roncska, Texas’ Commanding Officer. “The ship’s motto, ‘Don’t mess with Texas,’ clearly embodies the ship’s capabilities and the crew’s spirit. Texas is proud to contribute to the overall priorities of maintaining regional security and international relations, and we are looking forward to experiencing beautiful Subic Bay with our close regional allies.”

Measuring more than 377 feet long and weighing more than 7,800 tons when submerged, Texas is among the quietest attack submarines in the fleet. This submarine is capable of supporting a multitude of missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, irregular warfare and mine warfare, and shallow water operations.

“This port visit will be a great opportunity for the crew to get some much deserved rest and relaxation,” said Senior Chief Machinist’s Mate (Submarines) Matt Harris, Texas’ Chief of the Boat.

For many of the approximately 140 crew members, this is their first time visiting the Philippines. However, some crew members are of Filipino descent, and look forward to visiting family in Subic Bay.

“It is an honor to be a part of Texas’ first deployment in the western Pacific,” said Chief Torpedoman’s Mate Leonard Anderson, a native of the Philippines.

Anderson said he looks forward to introducing his family to Texas and showing his shipmates some of the cultural sites that Subic Bay has to offer.

“In its short years in service, Texas has surpassed all milestones,” said Anderson. “This historic deployment is an example of how great this crew really is. Pulling into the Philippines in support of U.S. and Southeast Asian relations sets the standard for future Virginia-class platforms and is a great opportunity to show the world the best submarine crew in the Navy. Hooyah Texas!”



# PHILIP





# PINES

Photo Illustration by MC1(AW) David R. Krigbaum



Anti-Terrorism Officer

LT  
**BITNER**

Junior Officer of the Year

Story and Photos by MC2 Elizabeth Fray, MC2(SW) Chris Williamson  
USS Emory S. Land Public Affairs

“I never thought they’d give this to an old dog like me,” said Lt. Brian Bitner, a wry smile on his face. “This kind of stuff is usually for the young guys”.

But it’s his years of experience and leadership that set him apart, leading him to be named Junior Officer of the Year. “I was very, very surprised, but it’s very cool. My wife is very excited too; it’s been a long year away from home, and to be recognized like this, it’s really an honor.”

It certainly has been a long and busy year for Lt. Bitner. In his first six months aboard, he was the

Assistant Weapons Officer, mainly handling reams of paperwork and administrative tasking, including the gunholder, ammunition, and anti-terrorism force protection records, in-port security plans, and waivers.

He also earned his SWO pin in less than half the allotted time, further demonstrating his motivation and capabilities.

In the past six months, Bitner became Land’s Anti-Terrorism Officer, handling all deployment and in-port security plans, day-to-day-security, force protection training and drills. Even with his heavy workload, Bitner also found time to act as the

Damage Control Assistant, writing the Standard Operating Procedures for at-sea emergencies.

“It’s not easy”, he said. “We have a very seasoned and mature wardroom on this ship. Many of us have over 15 years in the Navy, and have a lot of experience. I’ve learned to manage my time, focus on what I need to do during the day, and get my tasks done ahead of time if possible.”

“In fact, the best advice anyone ever gave me was when I was a 3rd Class Petty Officer aboard my first ship, a Senior Chief told me, ‘Opportunities are never assigned.

## Anti-Terrorism Weapons Aboard Land

USS Emory S. Land is classified as an auxillary ship. Today, there are only two of her kind left in commission. The Navy is expanding, and creating faster and bigger ships with faster and bigger guns. Though Land is not a warship, her crew can still be defensive with such guns as:

M-240B machine gun  
12 gauge shotgun  
M-16 rifle  
M-9 pistol



### “It was a surprise.”

You need to go find them before someone assigns them to you—then it becomes an obligation.’ So, I always strive to be ahead of the game. I think ahead, and try to anticipate what will be asked of me. Basically, be proactive, not reactive.”

Lt. Bitner enlisted in the Navy 22 and a half years ago from Fremont, Calif. He was commissioned as a Limited Duty Officer in 2006 and currently lives in Buckley, Wash.



## Land's Sailor Spotlight 2

# SAILOR OF THE YEAR

Story by MC1(AW) David R. Krigbaum, Photo by MC2 Elizabeth Fray  
USS Emory S. Land Public Affairs

“Quartermaster 1st Class Fleischli is submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) Sailor of the Year.

“I thought to myself finally all the hard work paid off; when I checked onboard I had told the CMC that becoming Sailor of the Year was my long range goal.”



A motivated Sailor, Fleischli volunteered to run Land's vacant 3M Coordinator billet, which had been “gapped” for nine months. During his tour aboard the tender he's also been Current Operations LPO, Watch Bill Coordinator, ESWS Coordinator, Assistant Section Leader, First Class Petty Officer Association Secretary and President.

Fleischli joined the Navy in 1998 as a Signalman and has previously been stationed aboard USS Essex (LHD 2), USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3) and converted to the Quartermaster (QM) rate while serving aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68). After seven years of sea duty he was assigned shore duty at Map Support Office Naples. During his tour he earned an Associate's Degree in Management Studies and a Bachelor's Degree in Business thru the University Of Maryland Europe Branch.

Now aboard Land he has this advice for other Sailors aspiring to make Sailor of the Year: “Get involved and finish strong. It's a one year tour so make the most of it. If you don't get that pat on the back everyday, you should be proud of yourself off of the simple fact of you knowing what you accomplished.”

Land Celebrates...

# Native American Heritage Month

Story by MC1(AW) David R. Krigbaum  
USS Emory S. Land Public Affairs

USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) recently celebrated Native American and Alaskan Native Heritage Month with a ceremony in the ship's mess. Speaker for the event was Cmdr. Eric Oxendine, Supply Officer and a member of North Carolina's Lumbee Tribe.

"I enjoy speaking to and educating groups about my heritage," said Oxendine. "After numerous years of explaining my culture, eliminating myths or just educating the masses, I have found that many seek to learn about American Indians given the stereotypes reflected in today's media or the school classroom."

Oxendine spoke to the gathered Sailors about the long tradition of service that Native Americans have, touching on Native American Sailors who served the Continental Navy, fought for the North and South during the Civil War and the World War II Navajo code talkers, whose code was never broken. At the same time he also talked of his family's almost as long service that started with the Civil War fighting the Confederacy and service during both World Wars and Vietnam.

"A common theme throughout this oratory has been "sacrifice regardless of inequity" and "self determination," he said as his speech drew to a close. "It's up to us to shape our future."

The ceremony was hosted by the tender's Heritage Committee. Yeoman First Class Aaronda Parker, Head of the Heritage Committee was impressed with how the celebration went and it made her curious to learn more. "I encourage more ESL Shipmates to take part in our Heritage Committee," she said. "The more you know about others culture the more you understand people and the way they think, work, communicate.....you understand their heart."

The first formal Native American Heritage Month was approved by President George H. W. Bush in 1990.



*Clockwise from above: Native Americans with Marine Signal Unit, 1943; MAJ Gregory Boyington, USMCR; Choctaw Code Talkers, 1918; Pfc Ira Hayes, USMC; CDR Eric Oxendine celebrates Native American Heritage Month aboard USS Emory S Land (AS 39).*

# USS Emory S. Land

# SEA WARRIORS

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## SWO Qualification

LT Foltz

LT Perez

## ESWS Initial Qualification

EM3 Cheng

ET3 Folds

EN3 Li

IT3 Pack

HT3 Nuesse

GM2 Sprunk

ET3 Wood

## ESWS Re-Qualification

SHC Thomas

LS1 Dimalanta

BM1 Marsh

ND1 Sharp

EM1 Sia

BM2 Gutierrez

