

# USS *Bonhomme Richard* Nets 4th Safety Award

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USS *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6) Sailors demonstrated they are still among the best on the waterfront by winning the 2002 Pacific Fleet Surface Force Ship Safety Award. This is the ship's 4th consecutive such award.

"Safety always has been the number one priority in the ship," said ATC(AW/SW) Steve Dixon, the safety department's leading chief petty officer. "We're bringing standards up to a higher level in order to keep the ship on top."

Dixon said enlisted safety committee meetings enable his office to work with different shipboard workcenters to prevent mishaps by discussing potential hazards and new safety instructions. During such monthly meetings, division representatives discuss their individual safety concerns.

The ship's 2002 track-record testifies to the safety team's effectiveness: *Bonhomme Richard* launched 281 AV-8B Harrier combat sorties and spent 88 continuous days at sea without any major safety incidents.

The amphibious assault ship also transferred more than 10 million gallons of fuel during under-way replenishments and received 750 loads via connected replenishments—all without major mishaps.

"We work hard [at keeping the crew safe] to win these awards," said BM1(SW) Timothy Satcher. "We don't, however, take it for granted. This isn't a safety department award. It's a BHR [*Bonhomme Richard*] award." ☺

Members of the crash-and-salvage crew aboard the amphibious assault ship USS *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6) watch an AV-8B Harrier make a vertical landing on the flight deck. The ship recently won its 4th consecutive ComNavSurfPac Ship Safety Award.



Photo by PH3 Chris Reynolds