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BY HOWARD CARTER



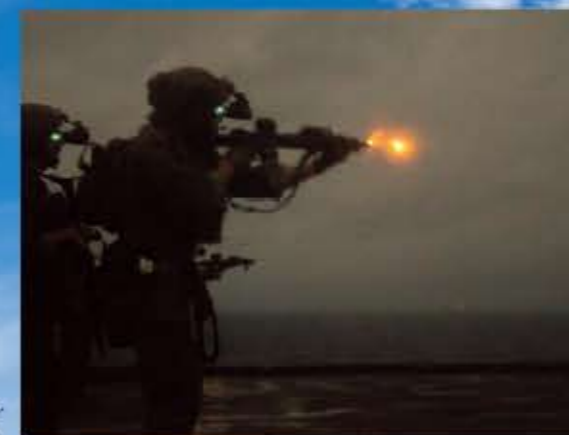
Sailors aboard the *San Antonio*-class amphibious transport dock ship USS *Arlington* (LPD-24) directs Landing Craft Utility LCU-1662 into the ship's well on 8 March 2021 in the Atlantic Ocean. (USN/John Bellino)



Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Benfold* (DDG-65) fires its MK45 5-inch gun for a live-fire exercise during the annual US-Japan Bilateral Advanced Warfighting Training Exercise. BAWT focuses on joint training and interoperability of coalition forces. (USN/Deanna Gonzales)



US Marines with Kilo Company, Battalion Landing Team 3/4, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), conduct well deck operations in preparation of a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief site survey aboard dock-landing ship USS *Ashland* (LSD-48), off the coast of Peleliu on 1 March. The 31st MEU is operating aboard ships of Amphibious Squadron 11 in the 7th Fleet area of operations. (USMC/Brienna Tuck)



Marines and Sailors with Force Reconnaissance Platoon, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, participate in a moving drill aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS *Germantown* (LSD-42) in the Philippine Sea on 25 February. These drills train Marines to be able to engage targets while on the move. (USMC/Brandon Salas)

Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Barry* (DDG-52) transits the East China Sea. Commander, Naval Surface Forces (CNSF) announced *Barry* as the winner of the 2020 Battle Effectiveness (Battle "E") Award for Destroyer Squadron 15 on 26 February 2021. This marks the seventh Battle "E" in *Barry*'s history and the first award since 2013. *Barry* is assigned to DESRON 15, the Navy's largest forward-deployed DESRON and the 7th Fleet's principal surface force. (USN/Sam Hardgrove)