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Ike Puts the 'I' in INSURV

From USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Public Affairs



Chief Damage Controlman Will Merchen speaks with Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) assessors in the hangar bay. (Photo by MC3 Anderson W. Branch)

The day has finally arrived for Sailors of the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) (Ike), to welcome the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) Feb 22.

The crew has eagerly anticipated and prepared to show the inspectors that they are ready.

For Ike's INSURV Coordinator, Lt. Kurt Bogart, it was gratifying to see the crew fired up under the intense scrutiny of the inspection team.

"The inspectors are ready and the crew is ready for them," Bogart said. "We have

INSURV is an inspection mandated by Congress to test the material readiness of Navy ships and to ensure all systems are functioning at the intended level. A successful inspection depends on the combined effort of the entire crew, in all departments, and the guidance and experience of officers and enlisted leaders.

"I have been thoroughly impressed by the teamwork of this crew and the cooperation across departments to get us ready for this day," said Ike's Executive Officer, Capt. Robert Aguilar, shortly before the INSURV team embarked. "I'm proud of this crew

sea trials, carrier qualifications, Crew Certification, and Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) and Final Evaluation Problem (FEP).

"I came on board eight months ago when we were coming to the end of our availability, and I knew we had a long way to go to get ready for this day," Aguilar said. "It was an all hands effort to prepare the ship for INSURV. Our Sailors and our families have sacrificed to bring our ship to this day. When I look around the ship today and see our Sailors ready to demonstrate the readiness of this ship, I know it was worth all of the hard work and sacrifice."

INSURV will conclude Feb. 25 and the crew looks forward to completing this milestone in order to focus on the next challenge of COMPTUEX and deploying this summer.

"INSURV is a true test of the character and strength of a ship's crew," he said. "We have put our best food forward in preparation for this day. When INSURV is over, I know the crew will walk away with an increased sense of pride in themselves and their ship. The Mighty Ike is back and fully operational."

"It was an all hands effort to prepare the ship for INSURV."

been working very hard in our preparations for INSURV and you can see the pride in our Sailors' eyes. You can see they want to do well."

Due to operational commitments, it has been nearly 10 years since Ike has gone through INSURV, much longer than the standard three to five years.

for what they have accomplished under our compressed work-up schedule and I'm as anxious as they are to show off our ship."

The compressed schedule Aguilar referenced began when Ike left Norfolk Naval Shipyard on Aug. 28 after a 23-month availability. In a little more than five months, Ike and her young crew have completed



China Has Open Invitation to Attend 2016 RIMPAC

China has an open invitation to attend this year's Rim of the Pacific exercise, Adm. John Richardson, chief of naval operations said Feb. 19.

RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime exercise, which is held every two years in Hawaii. Richardson noted that the United States relationship with China is multi-faceted and emphasized the need to have a dialogue with the nation despite its troubling behavior.

China has been accused of eschewing international laws by claiming sovereignty over disputed islands in the South China Sea. It has also begun building man-made islands and this week came under scrutiny after it was reported that the nation had deployed surface-to-air missile on Woody Island.

"Our relationship with a nation as complex as China is not one dimensional," Richardson said during the annual AFCEA/U.S. Naval Institute WEST 2016 conference. "While we have tremendous concerns [and] there's certainly some uncertainty ... there are a number of areas where China seems to advocate and behave very much in accordance with international norms."

These international laws, which were established after World War II, have greatly benefited Asia-Pacific nations, including China, he said.

Richardson noted that he keeps in close contact with his counterpart in the People's Liberation Army Navy. "I think that's very helpful so that we can have those conversations that we need to have about resolving that uncertainty and anxiety, expressing our concerns, but also looking for those productive ways that we can partner."

The United States is open to dialogue and a partnership with China, but it is still concerned about the nation's actions, he said. While "we

want to fight the temptation to collapse this thing to one dimension, we've got to be smart about it. I don't mean to be saying that we are naïve in any sense, but neither can we be kind of one dimensional about it."

A day earlier at the conference, Adm. Scott Swift, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, said many U.S. allies in the region have expressed great concern about China's actions. Even if the United States were to station every one of its naval ships in the region, that would not be enough to allay some of those worries, he added.

Meanwhile, Richardson emphasized a need for increased innovation in the Navy. In the recently released president's proposed fiscal year 2017 budget, the sea service set aside funds for a new rapid prototyping experimentation division, he said.

"The first step is we're going to bring together a kind of a body of technical experts so that when we get an urgent need ... we've got a broad enough perspective to make sure that we're not missing some element of a technological or operational solution to that problem," he said.

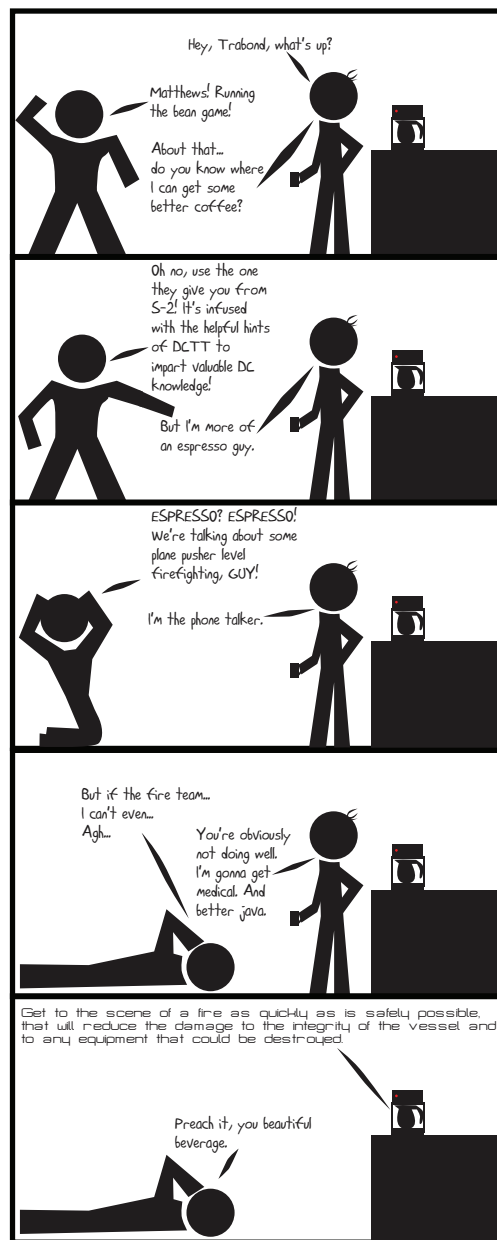
Starting out with just a small amount of funding will allow the service to bring ideas together, prototype them quickly and put them in the hands of sailors and Marines for experimentation, he said.

The service has also established the maritime accelerated capabilities office, a kind of speed lane to push through more established and mature programs and move them "through the wickets a little bit faster," he said.

In the fiscal year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress gave the service chiefs additional authorities when it came to acquisition, Richardson said. He will use these new authorities to speed up the acquisition process, he added. (AP)

THE STIXTY-NINERS THE MESS BY MC3 NICOLAS N. LOPEZ PART 2

"MESSED UP"



ESWS QUESTION OF THE DAY

The running light on the port side of the ship is what color?

- a. Purple
- b. Green
- c. Red
- d. Fuschia



EAWS QUESTION OF THE DAY

What does flight deck gear with a yellow jersey and blue vest identify someone as?

- a. Safety
- b. Officer
- c. Psionic
- d. Tractor King



EIDWS QUESTION OF THE DAY

Where was the first computer, the ENIAC, located?

- a. University of Pennsylvania
- b. Harvard University
- c. Silicon Valley
- d. Hangar 18



DC QUESTION OF THE DAY

Who leads the Damage Control Training Team (DCTT)?

- a. Commanding officer
- b. Master controller
- c. Executive officer
- d. Damage destroyer







U.S. Scrambles to Contain ISIS

The Islamic State's branch in Libya is deepening its reach across a wide area of Africa, attracting new recruits from countries like Senegal that had been largely immune to the jihadist propaganda — and forcing the African authorities and their Western allies to increase efforts to combat the fast-moving threat.

The American airstrikes in northwestern Libya on Friday, which demolished an Islamic State training camp and were aimed at a top Tunisian operative, underscore the problem, Western officials said. The more than three dozen suspected Islamic State fighters killed in the bombing were recruited from Tunisia and other African countries, officials said, and were believed to be rehearsing an attack against Western targets.

Even as American intelligence agencies say the number of Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria has dropped to about 25,000 from a high of about 31,500, partly because of the United States-led air campaign there, the group's ranks in Libya have roughly doubled in the same period, to about 6,500 fighters. More than a dozen American and allied officials spoke of their growing concern about the militant organization's expanding reach on rules of anonymity because the discussions involved military planning.

Islamic State leaders in Syria are telling recruits traveling north from West African nations as well as others streaming up through Sudan in

eastern Africa, not to press on to the Middle East. Instead, they are being told to stay put in Libya. American intelligence officials say the Islamic State's immediate goal is to carve out a new caliphate in Libya.

The rising threat from Libya comes as President Obama is being asked by many of his top military and intelligence advisers to approve the broader use of American military force in Libya to open another front against the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL.

"The jihadist threat emanating from Syria and Iraq cannot be defused without addressing the growing danger posed by the terror groups' co-conspirators in Libya," said Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., who heads the House Intelligence Committee.

Before resorting to any wider military action, however, the White House and Western allies are trying to help create a unity government in Libya. The goal is to use such a new central authority to rally dozens of fractious militias to fight against a common enemy — the Islamic State.

"Our strong preference, as has always been the case, is to train Libyans to fight," Obama said last week at a news conference in California. "There's a whole bunch of constituencies who are hardened fighters and don't ascribe to ISIS or their perverted ideology. But they have to be organized and can't be fighting each other." (NYT)

Random Shots on Deadly Night for Kalamazoo

The shootings came out of nowhere, one after the other, and with no apparent connection.

A woman was shot multiple times as she stood in the parking lot of her suburban townhouse complex in Kalamazoo County. A few miles away, and a few hours later, a man and his son were fatally shot outside a car dealership. Minutes after that, along an interstate highway just outside Kalamazoo, four women were shot to death, and a teenage girl was gravely injured, as they sat in their cars at a Cracker Barrel.

The authorities said that a single gunman, Jason B. Dalton, a driver for Uber, was responsible for the night of terror in this county, and investigators were looking into reports that he was ferrying his passengers before the shooting began and perhaps even in between some of the shootings.

One customer said Dalton had taken him on a harrowing ride around 4:30 p.m. on Saturday less than two hours before the shootings. Another said Dalton had agreed to provide her a ride late Saturday night, after the attacks were over.

In all, six people were killed and two injured in three shooting scenes that unfolded across Kalamazoo County, in Southwest Michigan between Detroit and Chicago.

Dalton, 45, a former insurance company salesman, was arrested without incident in the parking lot of a downtown Kalamazoo bar about six hours after the rampage began.

"There's this sense of loss, there's this anger, there's fear, there's all these emotions," Jeffrey Getting, the Kalamazoo County prosecutor said. "You put on top of that: How do you go and tell the families of these victims that they weren't targeted for any reason than they were there to be a target?"

The authorities did not immediately provide a motive. "There is some information out there about what was happening" in the suspect's life, Getting said. He added, "You know, of course, it doesn't come anywhere near to explain what he's done."

Dalton, who was in custody on Sunday and was expected to face formal charges as early as Monday, had no criminal record. He was described by neighbors as quiet and polite, though he caught their attention when he occasionally shot a gun out the back door of the house he shared with his wife and two children. He had worked for Progressive Insurance until mid-2011.

An Uber official said that Dalton had passed a company background check. (NYT)

Apple Holds Keys to Cloud Service Reluctantly

In Silicon Valley, Apple is being hailed for digging in its heels on a court order requiring it to aid the F.B.I. in gaining access to an iPhone used by one of the attackers in the December mass shooting in San Bernardino, Calif.

Timothy D. Cook, Apple's chief executive, emphasized on Tuesday in a letter to customers that helping the F.B.I. essentially hack into one of the company's own phones would be a dangerous precedent. What's more, Apple said it would have to create new software to do this.

While company executives have embraced the notion that Apple is no longer able to intervene for law enforcement when investigators want access to an iPhone, it has repeatedly cooperated with court orders for access to online services like its iCloud — an Internet service Apple customers can use to back up information that is stored on their devices.

Every few months for the last few years, tech giants like Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Twitter have published transparency reports, which are lists of instances in which a company turned over data on users at the behest of a court order in the U.S. or

other countries.

In its most recent report, covering the first six months of 2015, Apple received nearly 11,000 requests from government agencies around the world regarding data on roughly 60,000 devices. Apple provided some data in roughly 7,100 of those requests, the report said.

The operative phrase to understand the difference between Apple's cooperation and its resistance is "technically able."

In the fall of 2014, with an update to its iOS, Apple switched off its ability to retrieve data from its phones and tablets. iCloud is a different story. Apple encrypts that data on its servers and holds on to the key. iCloud exists to save backups in the event that, say, you drop your phone in a swimming pool. Apple needs to have that key to get your data back for you.

"They're a consumer-focused company, not a defense contractor," said Steven M. Bellovin, a professor of computer science at Columbia University. "If someone loses their phone or forgets their password, they still want to be able to get their data back." (AP)



Samsung Unveils Virtual Reality Camera in Phones

With competition continuing to heat up in the handset market, Samsung Electronics is relying heavily on virtual reality to help distinguish its smartphones.

The South Korean manufacturer, which is the world's largest phone maker by units, on Sunday announced two new Galaxy smartphones along with Gear 360, a camera for recording virtual reality videos. Samsung made the announcements at the Mobile World Congress, a tech industry event for mobile products, held in Barcelona, Spain.

The Gear 360 accompanies Samsung's Gear VR, the virtual reality headset that the company developed with Facebook's Oculus, which was released in November. The Gear 360 has two cameras — one on the front and one on the back — to allow consumers to shoot 360-degree videos. The videos can then be viewed through the Gear VR, which works only with Samsung's Galaxy phones.

As for the phones — the Galaxy S7, with a 5.1-inch screen, and the Galaxy S7 Edge, with a 5.5-inch curved screen — there isn't much new. The devices are water-resistant up to five feet deep, and the cameras have been improved to autofocus on images faster.

The gadgets also have what Samsung calls Always-On screens that constantly light up just the pixels needed to show the time or calendar notifications; it turns off when the phone is tucked away in a pocket or purse.

Samsung did not reveal price details on the new products. The phones will be released on March 11 in the United States, and the Gear 360 will be available later this year. (NYT)

A Quest to Return the Oscars to Former Glory

The last time Chris Rock hosted the Oscars, he was judged by many to be a bust.

"Loud, snide and dismissive, he wasn't just a disappointment," wrote the USA Today critic Robert Bianco in 2005. "He ranks up there with the worst hosts ever." Other reports noted that the audience for Rock's show had dropped by 5 percent, to about 42.2 million viewers, from the year before, when Billy Crystal did the honors.

But it would take nine years for another host to beat Rock's audience. That was Ellen DeGeneres, who got 43.7 million viewers in 2014 — and, measured against a larger population, she actually fell a bit short of his Nielsen ratings.

As for snide and dismissive, almost anything that gets the numbers up when Rock takes the Oscars stage on Sunday will most likely be fine with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which grants the Oscars, and ABC.

Returning after 11 years, Rock inherits a ceremony in crisis, as the academy grapples with a deeper problem than the television ratings: diversity.

For the second straight year, Oscar voters snubbed minorities in the acting categories. Would-be viewers who are angry about that may not watch the telecast as a result. (Last year, the number of black viewers fell 20 percent, according to Nielsen data.)

Others may be turned off by the crackle of racial politics around a show that they view as pure entertainment. Quincy Jones, one of at least a dozen black celebrities lined up to appear as presenters, has said he would hand out a trophy only if given five minutes to address diversity.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson, president of the Los

Angeles Urban Policy Roundtable, said last week in an email that his group and others were continuing to back what they call the "White Oscars Tune-Out."

The ratings numbers are of paramount concern to the academy, which derives the largest part of its income from the awards ceremony. A ratings collapse of the kind in 2008 — contributing to a 16 percent drop in revenue the next year — could squeeze ABC by reducing future ad rates, and a boycott that reduced viewership could dent ABC's brand.

So much depends on Rock, who is not known for diplomacy. Scott Rudin — a producer of Rock's most recent film — suggested that Rock will be served by his time spent working along cultural edges. "When you talk about who can walk a tightrope, he makes Philippe Petit look like an amateur," Rudin said, referring to a real-life high-wire artist who walked between the World Trade Center towers. (AP)

5G is a New Frontier

On the outskirts of this commuter town just south of London, plans are underway to build the fastest cellphone network in the world. The work is being done at the University of Surrey. Researchers and big tech companies, including Samsung, are collaborating to offer mobile Internet speeds more than 100 times faster than anything now available.

Their work on fifth-generation, or 5G, wireless technology is set to be completed in 2018 and would let students download entire movies to smartphones or tablets in less than five seconds, versus eight minutes with fourth-generation, or 4G, technology.

Companies also could connect millions of devices — including smartwatches and tiny sensors on home appliances — to the new cellphone network, and automakers could potentially test driverless cars around the suburban campus.

"A lot of the technology works in a laboratory environment," said Rahim Tafazolli, director of the university's research center that oversees the 5G project. "Now, we have to prove it works in real life."

Fueled by people's appetite for accessing videos, social media and other entertainment on their mobile devices, many of the world's largest carriers, like AT&T and NTT DoCoMo of Japan, are rushing to be the first to offer customers this next-generation ultrafast wireless technology.

The competition has led to research worth billions of dollars from telecommunications equipment makers like Ericsson of Sweden and Huawei of China, which are hoping to secure lucrative contracts to upgrade the mobile Internet infrastructure of operators like AT&T from the United States and China Mobile in Asia. Those plans have become even faster paced as tech giants including Google consider their own ambitions for the latest, and fastest, high-speed Internet. (NYT)

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY
★★★★☆

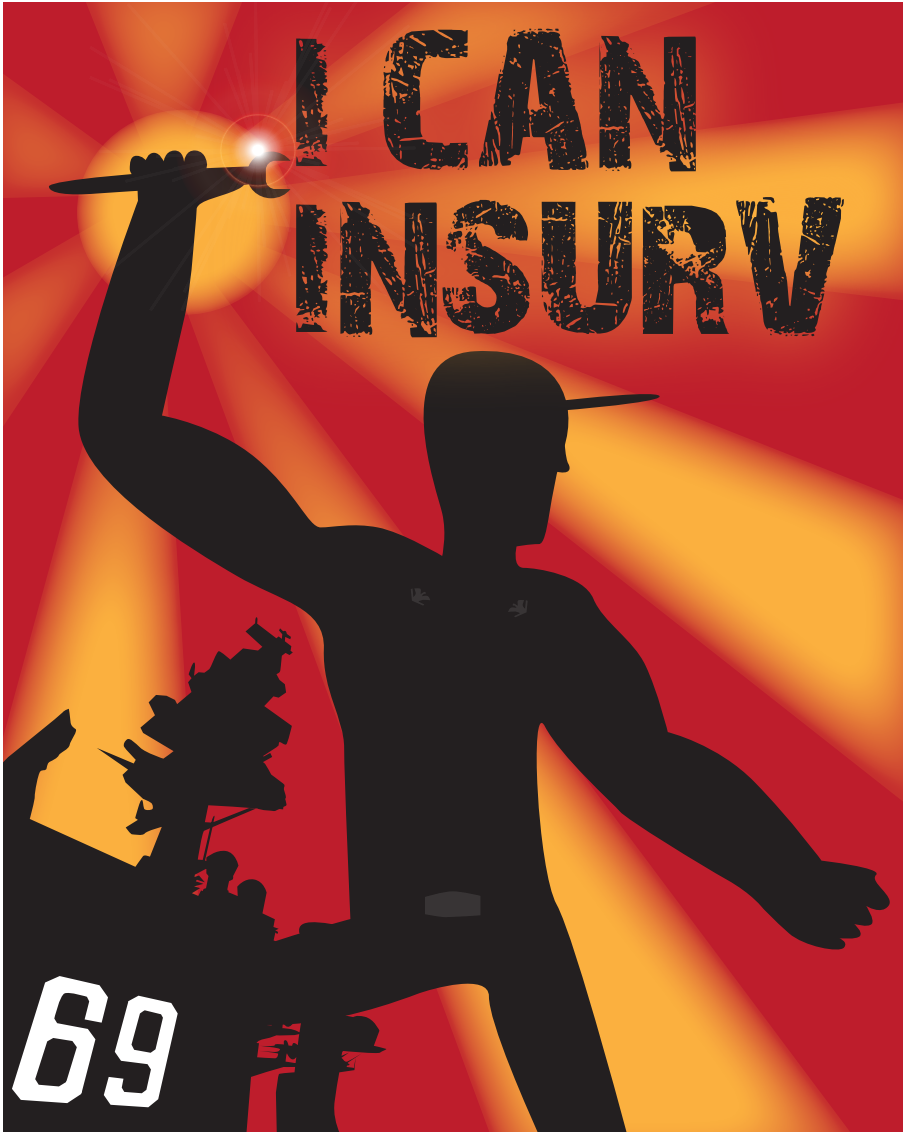
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IKE MEDIA

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Capt. Robert Aguilar
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
CMDM(SW/AW) Shay Langejans
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Lt. Cmdr. Rebecca Rebarich
ASSISTANT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
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MC3 Lisa Reese
MC3(SW/AW) James Veal
MCSN Nathan Beard
MCSN(SW) Matthew Thompson
MCSA Casey S. Trietsch

Cover: Seaman William Thorpe inspects a flight deck life-preserver in the hangar bay. (Photo by MC3 Anderson W. Branch)

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MOVIE PLAYLIST

— FEB. 23, 2016 —

CHANNEL 10

0800/2000 - THE PEANUTS MOVIE
1030/2230 - MONSTER HOUSE
1300/0100 - MONSTERS INC.
1530/0330 - MONSTER UNIVERSITY
1800 - PARANORMAN

CHANNEL 12

0800/2000 - BATTLESHIP
1030/2230 - THE INCREDIBLE BURT WONDERSTONE
1300/0100 - HUNGER GAMES: MJ PART 1
1530/0330 - HUNGER GAMES: MJ PART 2
1800 - DOLPHIN TALE 2

CHANNEL 13

0800/2000 - IRON MAN 3
1030/2230 - SPIDERMAN 2
1300/0100 - MAN OF STEEL
1530/0330 - SUPERMAN: THE MOVIE
1800 - THOR: THE DARK WORLD

CHANNEL 7

TRAINING / IKE ON

CHANNEL 15

AFN PRIME

CHANNEL 16

AFN SPECTRUM

CHANNEL 17

AFN SPORTS

INSURV IS HERE

DAY 01

2	6	7	3	5	9	1	8	4
5	9	8	7	4	1	2	6	3
3	1	4	6	2	8	7	5	9
9	4	5	8	3	2	6	1	7
1	8	2	9	7	6	4	3	5
6	7	3	5	1	4	8	9	2
7	5	6	2	8	3	9	4	1
8	3	1	4	9	7	5	2	6
4	2	9	1	6	5	3	7	8

4	2	3	6	5	1
6	3	1	5	2	4
2	5	6	4	1	3
3	4	2	1	6	5
5	1	4	2	3	6
1	6	5	3	4	2

Question
of the Day
Answers:
C, D, A, C