

FIVE STAR



242nd
Navy
Birthday

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IKE COMMEMORATES NAVY BIRTHDAY

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By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Grant Wamack



For centuries now, the Navy has answered the nation's call to safeguard its interests and promote security, democracy and peace around the world. Since its inception on October 13, 1775, the Navy has proven itself as a model for progress, diversity and tradition. From humble beginnings in a time of great need, it has risen to a fighting force that has stood the test of time and the crew of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) (Ike) is part of that history, proving the Navy and its Sailors are prepared to do what it takes for "sea power to protect and promote."

In the early stages of the burgeoning U.S., a need for an American Naval force was a necessity to defend the Colonies' coastline, protect shipping lanes and seek aid from foreign countries. Recognizing the need for maritime protection and security against the British Empire, the Continental Congress created the Continental Navy with the purchase of two sea vessels, which saw plenty of action and several victories against the British. Two hundred and forty two years later, the Navy has expanded into a major sea force, a branch full of proud

Sailors, customs and traditions. Although once envisioned as a force to primarily protect the homeland and ensure economic prosperity, today the Fleet ensures the prosperity, peace and security of all nations.

From its commissioning in 1977 to 2017, the "Mighty Ike" has been a key component of this proud heritage and a strong forward presence for more than 40 years. Ike has participated in several military operations including Operation Eagle Claw during the Iran hostage crisis in 1980, the Gulf War in the 1990s and maritime support in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also was a model for diversity. During its 1994 deployment, Ike became the first major combatant to fully integrate females. As the Navy continues to evolve, Ike, along with all components of the Fleet, will continue to leave its mark in the Navy story through the work its Sailors.

One of Ike's Sailors recognizes the importance of the Navy and the opportunities afforded to service members aboard the ship.

"The Navy gave me a chance to give back to the country that gave me and others

the freedom to be whatever we want to be," Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Tyshawn Brumfield, Automated Data Processing helpdesk technician. "No matter the race, color, gender, we all fight for the same reason."

Another Sailor fights for different reasons, but speaks fondly of the cohesiveness and the vast support system in the Navy.

"Being in the Navy means you always have a family," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) 3rd Class Dantrell Clark, departmental supervisor. "With the Navy, you can provide for those care about and they're able to provide for you as well."

With more than 324,460 active duty Sailors, 279 deployable battle force ships, and 3,700 operational aircraft, the Navy continues to be one of the world's greatest military forces. Standing as a constant deterrent against international aggression and acting as a source of assistance to those in crisis around the globe, the Navy has and will continue to display and exemplify "sea power to protect and promote."

★★★★★ THEN & NOW ★★★★★

THE FLEET THEN

During the outbreak of open hostilities with the British in April, 1775, little consideration had been given to protection by sea until Congress received news that a British naval fleet was on its way. In November, the Continental Navy was formally organized, and on December 22, Esek Hopkins was appointed the first commander in chief of the Continental Navy. Congress also named four captains to the new service: Dudley Saltonstall, Abraham Whipple, Nicholas Biddle and John Burrows Hopkins. Their respective vessels, the 24-gun frigates Alfred and Columbus, the 14-gun brigs Andrew Doria and Cabot, as well as three schooners, the Hornet, the Wasp and the Fly, became the first seven ships of the Navy's fleet. Five first lieutenants, including future American hero John Paul Jones, five second lieutenants and three third lieutenants, also received their commissions.

NOW

Today, the U.S. Navy contains 271 battle-ready, deployable ships. The modern Navy encompasses 10 aircraft carriers - more than the rest of the world combined - 90 surface warfare vessels and 72 submarines. Forty-Four additional ships are planned and approximately 26 ships are under construction, including the new aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford. The Navy's remaining ships can be found in its reserve fleet. The Navy's modernized vessels are more capable than the ones used by John Paul Jones, although their numbers are nearly the smallest they have been since 1917. With a schedule to send close to 60 percent of our Navy's ships to the Indo-Asia-Pacific region by 2020, approximately 30 ships must be added in order to maintain a consistent presence in other regions around the world.

TECHNOLOGY NOW

With global technology on the incline, much has improved since the old ways of sailing ships. Nowadays, navigating is much simpler. All large ships today rely on Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers. The U.S. Navy is also starting to upgrade its stealth capacities and firepower. USS Zumwalt, which was christened on April 12, 2014, at Bath Iron Works in Maine, is the Navy's first stealth destroyer. At 610 feet long and 80 feet wide, its about 100 feet longer and 20 feet wider than ships in the Navy's current fleet of Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, but the canopy and the rest of the Zumwalt is built on angles that help make it 50 times harder to spot on radar than an ordinary destroyer.

In its current configuration, Zumwalt will carry a considerable arsenal of weapons, including two Advanced Gun Systems (AGS), which can fire rocket-powered, computer-guided shells that can destroy targets 63 miles away. That's three times farther than ordinary destroyer guns can fire.

PUNISHMENT THEN

On June 30, 1775, the Second Continental Congress established 69 Articles of War to govern the conduct of the Continental Army. Later, on April 10, 1806, the United States Congress enacted 101 Articles of War, which applied to both the Army and Navy. These articles were not significantly revised until more than a century later. However, roughly 160 years ago, the Navy collectively decided to abolish a more gruesome way of ascertaining its reach over wrongdoers —flogging. "The Master-At-Arms [assisted the prisoner] off with his shirt, leaving him naked to the waist, but throwing the garment loosely over his shoulders. Removing the port gangway ladder, his wrists were made fast, with a lashing, to the brass man-rope eyebolts, and his anklets to a small grating laid on the deck. Thus standing straight up, his arms were stretched considerably above his head. The assistant surgeon then stepped up close on one side of the man to see that the punishment was not excessive. The boatswain had, in the mean time, produced a green baize bag, which contained the 'cats.' These consisted of a wooden handle, about 15 inches long, covered with cloth, with nine tails of white line... One of these cats was handed to the chief boatswain's mate, who was mildly cautioned by the captain to 'do his duty and not favor the man, or he would be triced up himself.'"

SEAPOW



*To protect
— and —
Promote*

For the past two centuries America has entrusted us with the confidence to protect her interests afar and her shores at home. We must stand up in the face of adversity and continue to defend our country from attack and preserve American influence around the world.

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As we take the duties and responsibilities of those who have gone before us we must remember that even though we continue to evolve... our mission stays the same.



LETTER FROM THE CO

One year ago we celebrated our Navy's birthday from the Arabian Gulf. Since then, this mighty warship and crew have travelled the oceans, visited foreign ports, celebrated the Fourth of July with our Canadian allies, qualified hundreds of pilots, hosted guests from around the world and fought for those who cannot fight for themselves.

This crew has much to celebrate this year and I am proud of all of your accomplishments. Your dedication to the mission and your selfless service is what makes our Navy the best in the world. Without you, this ship is just a machine; YOU are what makes us strong, resilient and lethal.

Take today to reflect on what your service means. What it means personally, to the Navy and to your country. You are part of our great Navy's 242 years of history. Be proud of your service and to be a part of this family -- no matter how long you choose to serve, whether it is four years or 40.

You are what make us great and greater each and every day. Happy 242nd birthday, Ike.

Capt. Paul C. Spedero Jr.
October 13, 2017

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

COMBAT SYSTEMS

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Grant Wamack



Plenty of Sailors walk the passageways aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) (Ike) carrying two-way radios, commonly referred to as “bricks,” for communication purposes. These devices, technically known as hierarchical yet dynamic reprogrammable architecture (HYDRA), beep loudly, alerting the Sailor to an important message. These messages travel throughout the deckplates almost instantaneously. However, the Sailors who maintain this equipment are not nearly as visible as the HYDRAs themselves.

These Sailors work in the CS-9 division of Combat Systems. They are led by their Work Center Supervisor (WCS) Electronics Technician 2nd Class Gregory Valdez, an Army and Air Force brat who claims both El Paso, Texas, and Fredericksburg, Virginia, as his hometown. Valdez has been in the Navy for 11 years and aboard Ike since August 2015.

“I didn’t like school and I thought I could figure things out in the military,” said Valdez. “I wanted to do something cool in the Navy and see the world. I like to say I’m going to make it a career, but I take it one enlistment at a

time.”

Valdez understands the importance of communication and tries to instill this value into his Sailors. The division takes care of two main satellite systems that keep the HYDRAs, j-dial phone lines, Internet and off-ship connectivity running smoothly.

“People mainly know us for the HYDRAs,” said Valdez. “If they got rid of our division and everything we have, you wouldn’t have radios, you wouldn’t have off-ship connectivity, you wouldn’t be able to launch and land planes and you wouldn’t be able to talk to anybody. It’s like trying to coordinate something without being able to talk.”

Aside from managing the HYDRA system, Valdez said his division is also responsible for all satellite communications, Navy multi-band terminal equipment and the commercial broadband satellite program.

“We provide communications for the ship to complete the mission,” Valdez said. “Everything ties into each other. We’re here for the ship to successfully communicate, navigate and ensure the weapons do what they do best.”

Valdez said he considers himself a humble person who easily overcomes adversity and continues to move forward. This modest temperament helps him stay grounded and motivated when times get rough.

“I like to think of myself as a pretty positive person,” he said. “Some people ask why are you still trying? For one, my pay keeps going up and

the work itself is not bad. Keeping doing what you’re supposed to be doing. It’s pretty simple.”

Valdez considers himself a car person so it makes sense why he chose this rate and enjoys working on the equipment when it comes to maintenance and upkeep.

“I just like electronics,” said Valdez. “As a whole, I like getting into equipment and working on it. Now, I’m guiding instead of doing. As far of the rate, I really enjoy working on electronics.”

Even though working on electronics is Valdez’ forte, he plans to expand his skillset and take his leadership skills into the wardroom as an officer. Currently however, he hopes to promote to the rank of 1st class petty officer, before taking the dive into the Seaman-to-Admiral 21 program.

In the meantime, Valdez said he doesn’t consider himself the best leader, but his chain of command’s decision to make him LPO tells him he has the potential to be one though and he works hard at it every day. The next time a Sailor uses shipboard radio communications, perhaps they might stop and think about the Sailors, such as Valdez, who make this possible.





IC3 Julieannflor Giron

Interior Communications Technician

- From Norfolk, Virginia
- Joined the Navy June 9, 2015
- Wants to make second class petty officer

IT2 Dustin Hutchens

Domain Administrator

- From Wagoner, Oklahoma
- Joined the Navy August 12, 2015
- Wants to work for Google in the future



SAILOR OF THE WEEK

AOAN Joshua Lerma

WEAPONS LAGGING TEAM

- From Brownsville, Texas
- Joined the Navy January 20, 2015
- Reported to Ike May 13, 2015
- Wants to make third class petty officer
- Plans to become a history teacher

CIVILIANS OF THE WEEK





IKEMEDIA

COMMANDING OFFICER **Capt. Paul Spedero Jr.**

EXECUTIVE OFFICER **Capt. Craig Sicola**

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF **CMDCM (SW/AW/EXW) Todd A. Mangin**

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER **Lt. Cmdr. Rick Chernitzer**

ASSISTANT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER **Lt. j.g. Katie Diener**

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Sailors prepare a meal aboard USS Herbert J. Thomas (DD-833) during the complete of her Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization program at Mare Island on August 25, 1965.

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