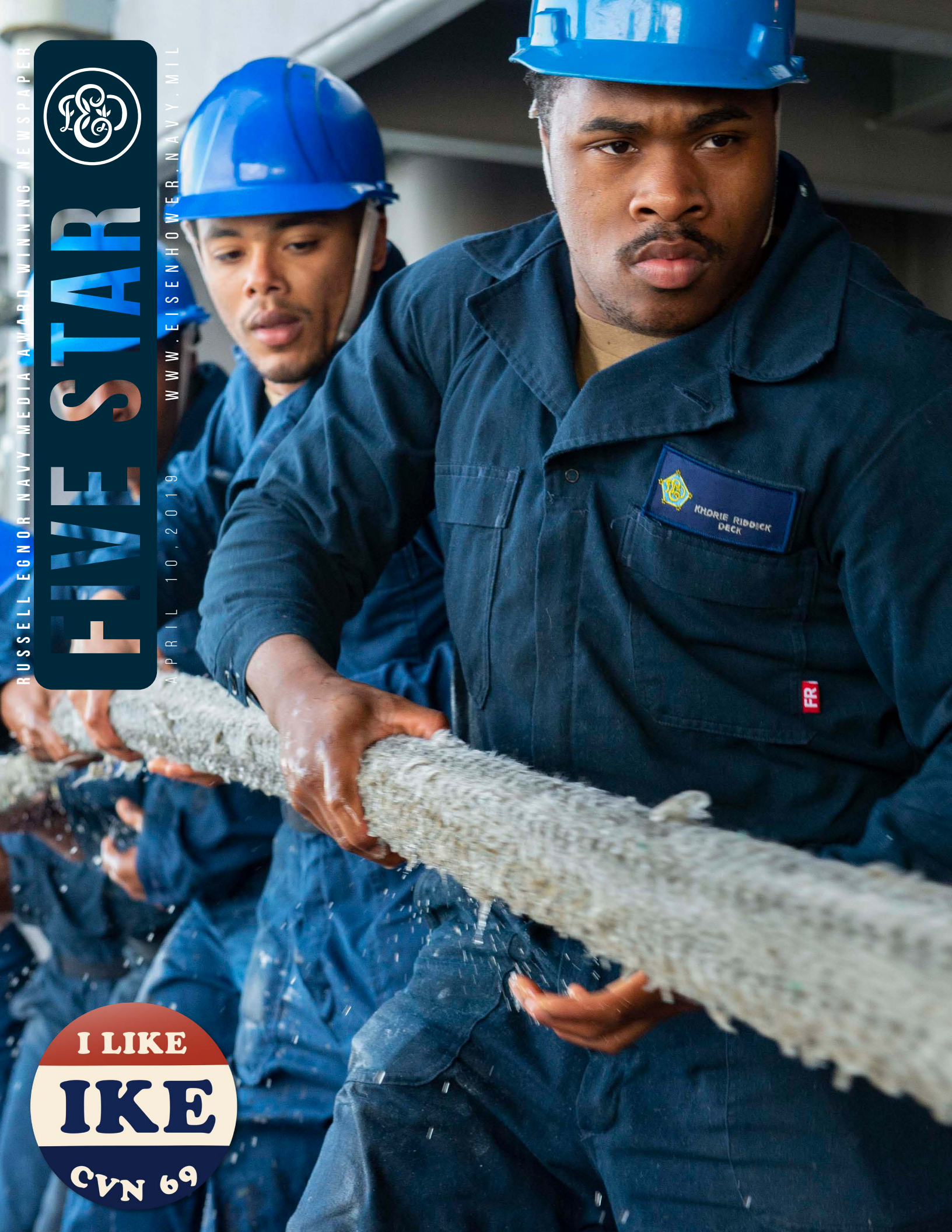


RUSSELL EGNOR NAVY MEDIA AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER



FIVE STAR

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APRIL 10, 2019



IKE DEPARTS FOR FLIGHT DECK CERTIFICATION

BY USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Seaman Devon Dixon looks through binoculars while standing forward lookout aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Photo by MCSA Trent Hawkins.

USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) got underway from Naval Station Norfolk for flight deck certification, April 8.

"Flight Deck Certification is the first major event for IKE now that we've entered the basic phase of the Optimized Fleet Response Plan (OFRP)," said Capt. Kyle Higgins, Ike's commanding officer. "Having Air Wing 3 back on board, ready for action, is what's makes this exciting for the entire crew. This ship was built to launch and recover aircraft and that's what we'll do -- first out here in the Virginia Capes, and then wherever the nation needs us."

The last time Ike conducted flight operations was in the summer of 2017. The ship recently completed a planned incremental availability at Norfolk Naval Shipyard as part of the maintenance phase of the OFRP.

"It's really cool to see the progress we've made," said Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Caitlyn Holder, the Education Service Office's leading petty officer. "I

think it's awesome seeing how far the Ike has come in the last two years."

Sailors are excited to have aircraft aboard the ship once again, especially members of Ike's air department.

"This extended availability period allowed air department a lot of time to prepare and train for the return of aircraft to the flight deck of Mighty Ike," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class Eric Mattone, V-1 Division Fly 3 Petty Officer. "This is only the beginning and we have a lot of work to do in order to come together as a team, but overall we're very excited to have the air wing back aboard our war ship."

This underway will include the aircraft and crew of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 3. CVW 3 includes Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 7, Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 74, Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 130, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 123, Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 32, Strike Fighter Squadron

(VFA) 105, Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 83 and Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 131.

"The last time we were on the Ike was during deployment, and we had a ton of fun," said Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic Chris Sarvis, assigned to VFA 131. "It's been a while but we're excited to get back into the groove and get some quality training."

After completing flight deck certification, Ike will continue training at sea and conducting carrier qualifications as the crew prepare for a future deployment as part of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 10.

CSG 10, also known as the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group, includes the Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruisers USS Monterey (CG 61), USS San Jacinto (CG 56), and USS Vella Gulf (CG 72); the ships and staff of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 26; and the squadrons and staff of CVW 3.

IKE OBSERVES SAAPM

BY MC3 NEO B. GREENE III



Sailors pose after the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month Ceremony. Photo by MC3 Neo B. Greene III.

Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) held a ceremony observing Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) on April 4.

The purpose of the ceremony was to inform and empower Sailors, while making it clear that Ike Sailors will not tolerate sexual assault. The commanding officer of Ike, Capt. Kyle Higgins, endorsed this message by signing a proclamation at the ceremony.

Chief Logistics Specialist Vicky Pages, Ike's command Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) point of contact, wanted the significance of the month to be seen through the ceremony.

"The Significance of SAAPM Is that it's celebrated throughout the entire Department of Defense to bring awareness to the prevention of sexual assault in the hopes to eliminate it in the future," said Pages. "The goal is to stop it from happening at all."

Higgins' signing of his proclamation further endorsed this year's theme of SAAPM, "Protecting our Sailors Protects Our Mission", and is expected to spur Sailors into action.

"This proclamation is important," said Pages "Because it shows that our chain of command from the commanding officer downwards is officially saying that we are participating in this effort. For Ike Sailors, it means that they know they should be active in the efforts that our CO is making. It's a call to action on eliminating sexual assault."

Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Desirae Guapi, the assistant SAPR

point of contact, felt that having Sailors come together to acknowledge and celebrate SAAPM helps others gain the same consciousness.

"When we have Sailors who are coming together and raising awareness, speaking out and against sexual assault, it gets other people tuned into it a bit more," said Guapi. "It's like something that everyone just pays more attention to and then one or two Sailors who were taking an interest in eliminating sexual assault becomes three or four Sailors and so on."

The Ike SAPR team wants everyone who has and has not come forward to know that they, and the chain of command, are there to care for and support them through any sexual violations. They are there for sexual assault victims, not just this month, but for every day of the year. They are committed to helping sexual assault victims heal and become survivors.

"Our whole role as a SAPR point of contact," said Guapi "Is not just to be there for someone who needs help, but to keep people from needing help in the first place."

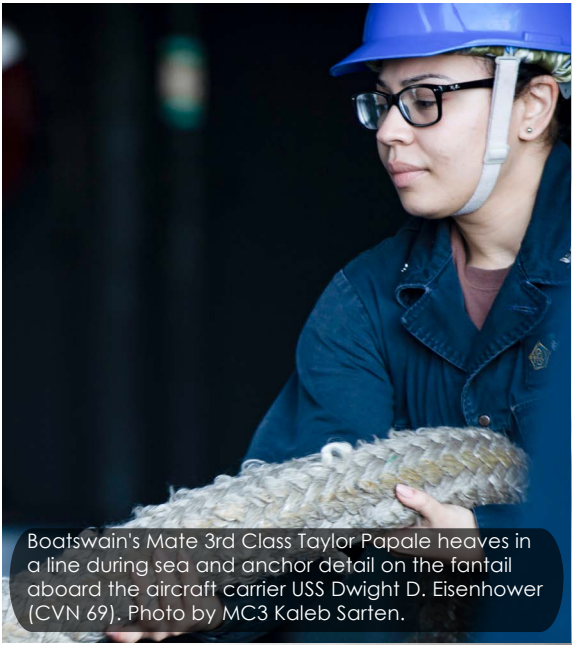
Sailors are encouraged to be active bystanders and prevent sexual assault year-round. SAAPM is just a month to call people to action, said Guapi.

Sexual Assault is a danger not only to Sailors, but civilians as well. Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault and every Sailor should do all in their power to prevent it from happening.

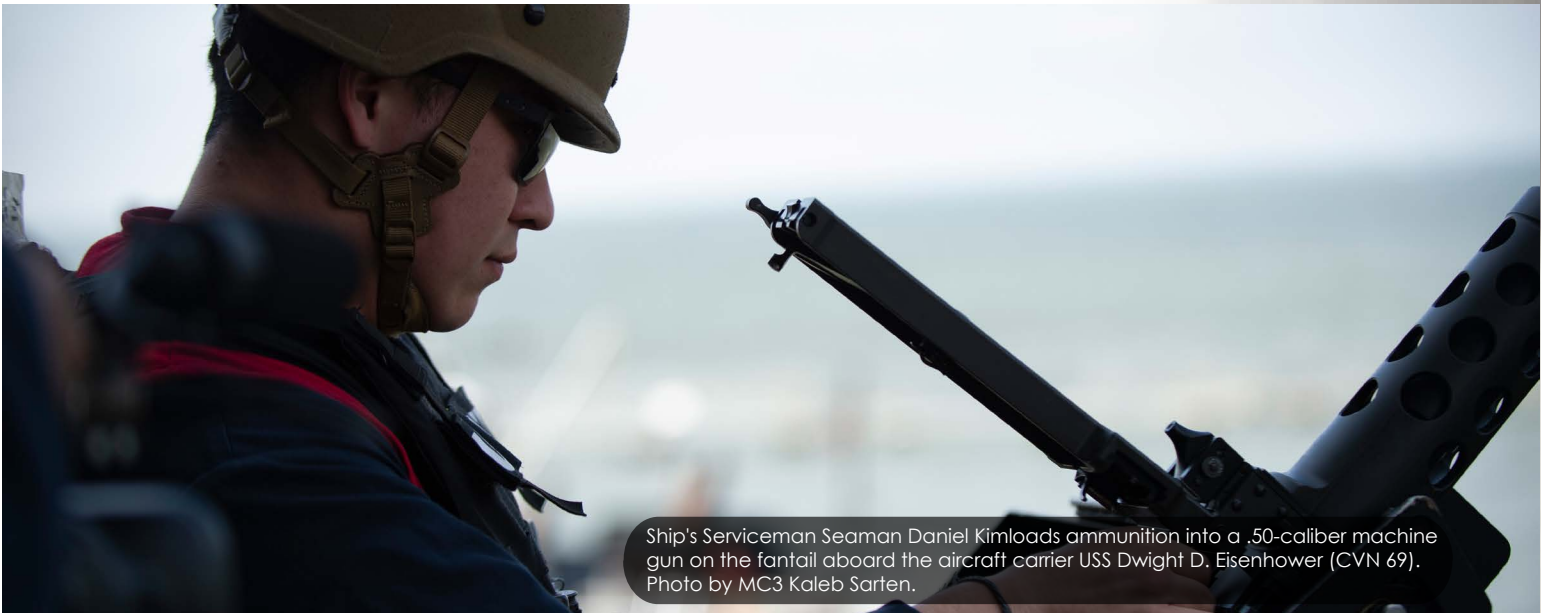
"If there was one thing Ike takes away from this month," said Pages. "It's to take action and intervene if they see something. It doesn't matter if it's direct or indirect, take action so that we can help in the elimination of sexual assault."



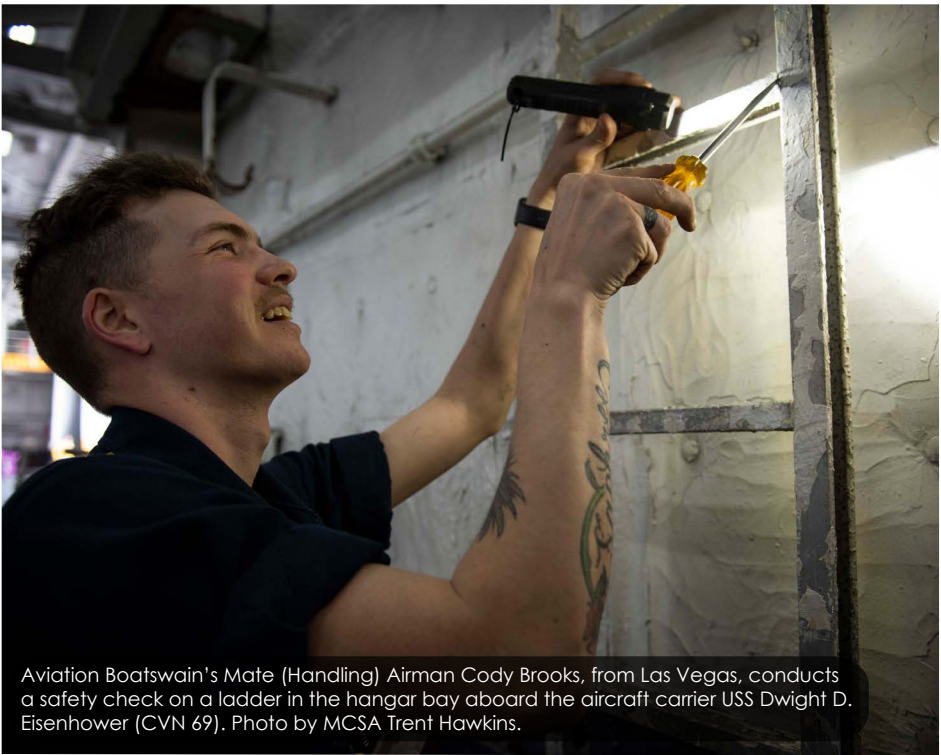
Quartermaster Seaman Christina Finley takes bearings in preparation to go underway aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Photo by MCSN Jairus P. Bailey.



Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Taylor Papale heaves in a line during sea and anchor detail on the fantail aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Photo by MC3 Kaleb Sarten.



Ship's Serviceman Seaman Daniel Kim loads ammunition into a .50-caliber machine gun on the fantail aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Photo by MC3 Kaleb Sarten.



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman Cody Brooks, from Las Vegas, conducts a safety check on a ladder in the hangar bay aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Photo by MCSA Trent Hawkins.



Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Mariah Lopez conducts maintenance on an ordnance rack aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Photo by MCSN Tyler Miller.



Aviation Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Kirsten Jensen, from Las Vegas, attaches a safety wire to an inlet-nozzle adapter in the jet shop aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Photo by MCSA Trent Hawkins.

NAVY FIGHTER READINESS NEARING 80 PERCENT MISSION

CAPABLE TARGET

BY BEN WERNER, U.S. NAVAL INSTITUTE



An F-35B Lightning II aircraft assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 121 lands on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1). Photo by MC3 Benjamin F. Davella III.

The Navy now boasts its Super Hornet fleet is routinely 63 to 75 percent mission capable, a significant jump from the fall when the Navy struggled to keep half of its F-18s ready to fly.

In September, then-Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis issued a memo to the service secretaries mandating “a minimum of 80 percent mission capability rates for our FY 2019 Navy and Air Force F-35, F-22, F-16 and F-18 inventories assets that form the backbone of our tactical air power and reducing these platforms’ operating and maintenance costs every year, starting in FY 2019.

At the time, on any given day close to 50 percent of the Navy’s Super Hornet strike fighters were not mission capable. Responding to the Mattis memo, the Navy invited industry leaders to evaluate its process for maintaining Super Hornets and delivering replacement parts, Rear Adm. Scott Conn, the Navy’s director of air warfare, said during a Thursday hearing before the House Armed Services tactical air and land forces subcommittee.

“We reduced planned maintenance for Super Hornets from 120 to 60 days,” Conn said.

The Navy received help from logistics specialists from airlines, including Southwest, Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer said at an event last year.

For example, Spencer said, the Navy shaved weeks off the time it takes to replace rudder actuators on F-18s. The Navy completely overhauled the part’s logistics system, and staff training improved. What took more than a month to ship is now sent to maintainers in about two days.

“It’s a critical part and it’s one of the reasons I had such horrible availability with the F-18,” Spencer said in December.

The Navy also reduced the amount of time it takes to inspect fighters after repairs. Now Super Hornets are back flying in a week, and in many cases within four days, Conn said during Thursday’s hearing. The Navy invested in bringing artisans on board to work on Super Hornets, and Conn said

they changed the culture. Repairs are scheduled and completed on a predictable schedule, in a way Conn likened to doctors in an operating room. The goal is to get the fighters operational within three days of maintenance.

“We’ve looked at treating artisans as surgeons,” Conn said. “Surgeons don’t leave the patient and don’t leave the operating in the middle of the operation. You keep the artisan focused.”

Currently, between 63 and 76 percent of Super Hornets are mission capable, Conn said.

The mission capable rates were about 46 percent for F/A-18Es and 49 percent for F/A-18Fs when the Mattis memo was issued.

Even before the Mattis memo, the Navy and Marine Corps had taken steps to improve their strike fighter readiness. In addition to pouring funding into spare parts, engineering support, depot maintenance and other readiness-related funding accounts, the sea services also looked into other barriers to readiness. Navy and Marine Corps officials detailed for lawmakers their strategy for reducing Class C mishaps, which involve damage to aircraft or a non-fatal injury, that were frequently occurring during repair work or while towing aircraft, Rear Adm. Roy Kelley, commander of Naval Air Forces Atlantic, told lawmakers during a June 2018 hearing.

However, even with such gains, lawmakers remain concerned the Navy is still taking risks in the way it manages strike fighter readiness, Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-Mo.), the ranking member of the House Armed Services subcommittee on tactical air and land forces, said in her opening statement Thursday.

“[The Navy] has an identified shortfall of 54 aircraft, which amounts to one carrier air wing,” Hartzler said. “We need to better understand what impacts this has to overall readiness and what we can we do to improve the situation from a modernization standpoint,” Hartzler said.

The F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter program – which the Navy and Marine Corps are still in the early stages of incorporating into the fleet – has a high readiness rate for all three fighter variants, Vice Adm. Mat Winter, the F-35 program executive officer, said during Thursday’s hearing.

“We’re on a trajectory to reach 80-percent capability by the end of the year,” Winter said.

Currently, the F-35A variant used by the Air Force has an availability rate of 61 percent, the F-35B short take-off and vertical landing variant has an availability rate of 64 percent, and the F-35C carrier variant has an availability rate of 84 percent, Winter said.

When F-35 squadrons deploy, Winter said they now bring spare parts packages with them. With those packages, Winter said, “those mission capability rates average between 65 and 85 percent.”

Winter’s office has worked with to suppliers to build up spare part inventories at depots and on the flight line, Winter said. Now maintainers have the right parts on hand, so they don’t have to keep going back to the manufacturer to order more parts. The F-35 program is doing a better job of keeping maintainers stocked with parts such as canopies, blade shields and wingtips. And when possible, Winter said, flight line maintainers now have the authority to fix parts.

“We can get spare parts to maintainers one of two ways – get new parts to flight lines, but also giving the authorities for maintainers to fix parts on the flight line,” Winter said.

Plus, as the program has matured and is nearing full-rate production, Winter said the production line ironed out many of the problems that caused the first F-35s to require more maintenance.

“The aircraft itself, lot over lot over lot, is getting more reliable,” Winter said. “Therefore, it doesn’t break as often, so therefore it’s more ready.”

F/A-18 SUPER HORNET

A twin-engine, carrier-capable, multi-role fighter aircraft variant based on the McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet



AIRSPEED	CREW	RANGE
Approx. 1,380 mph.	1 (F/A-18E) or 2 (F/A-18F)	1,275 nautical miles
UNIT COST	MAX WEIGHT	
\$57 million dollars	66,000 lbs.	

Source- navy.mil/navydata

SPRING 2019 CYCLE 1 PHYSICAL FITNESS ASSESSMENT WEIGH-IN SCHEDULE

DEPARTMENTS		TUESDAY, 9TH	WEDNESDAY, 10TH (STRAGGLER'S)
AIR	DECK	BCA: 0700-1100	BCA: 0700-1100
ADMIN	MEDIA	BCA: 1300-1600	BCA: 1300-1600
INTEL		BCA: 1800-2100	BCA: 1800-2100

The Department of Defense's policy on transgender servicemember changes April 12.

Under the new policy, Sailors will not be separated based on a diagnosis of gender identity alone. An individual diagnosed with gender dysphoria on or after April 12 will be retained if a military medical provider determines gender transition is not medically necessary to protect the health of the individual, and the member is willing and able to adhere to all standards associated with their biological sex and meet all deployability standards.

No otherwise qualified service members shall be involuntarily separated, discharged or denied reenlistment or continuation of service solely on the basis of gender identity.

Appropriate civilian attire, as outlined in the Navy Uniform Regulations, will not be determined based on gender. This means service members are permitted to live socially in their preferred gender while off duty.

Regional commanders can make more policy on this based on local conditions.

Treating all members of the IKE 5-Star Team with dignity and respect is something expected at all times. There is zero tolerance for harassment, hazing or bullying of any service Member in any form.

SAILOR OF THE DAY



WEAPONS / G-1

ADAN AARON JAMES CLARK

FROM KINGSLAND, GEORGIA

JOINED THE NAVY JUNE 18, 2018

REPORTED TO IKE OCTOBER 30, 2018

WANTS TO EARN HIS WARFARE PINS

FAVORITE MOVIE - SHREK



IKE'S MOVIE PLAYLIST

★★★ TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH, 2019 ★★★

CHANNEL 5

0815/2015: *SAILOR OF THE DAY'S CHOICE*
1045/2245: ROUGH NIGHT
1315/0115: ONLY THE BRAVE
1545/0345: THE FAMILY MAN
1815/0615: SPY

CHANNEL 6

0815/2015: MAX
1045/2245: TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS
1315/0115: MONSTERS, INC.
1545/0345: ANTWONE FISHER
1815/0615: CHAPPAQUIDDICK

CHANNEL 7

0815/2015: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
1045/2245: DESPICABLE ME
1315/0115: ALOHA
1545/0345: MIKE AND DAVE NEED WEDDING DATES
1815/0615: THE GOOD DINOSAUR

IKEMEDIA

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER Capt. Jon Bradford
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF CMDM (SW/AW/EXW) Todd A. Mangin
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER Lt. Cmdr. Rick Chernitzer
ASSISTANT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER Ensign Lewis C. Aldridge
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MCSA Trent Hawkins

ON THE COVER:

(April 8, 2019) Seaman Khorie Riddick heaves a line during sea and anchor detail on the fantail aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Photo by MCSN Jaius Bailey.

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