

THE WOLVERINE

AUGUST 2020

DISCUSSING DIVERSITY

FORD'S CMC SHARES
COMMAND'S PLANS
TO ADDRESS RACISM
IN THE WORKPLACE

WORDS FROM THE CO

AUGUST 2020
ADVANCEMENT
RESULTS



THE WOLVERINE

USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN 78)

MEET THE TRIAD

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

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FRONT COVER PHOTO

Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Angel Thuy Jaskuloski, from Salt Lake City, left, and Mass Communication Specialist Third Class Zachary Melvin, from Pensacola, Florida, assigned to USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) media department, conduct long exposure photography on Ford's flight deck July 29, 2020. Ford is underway in the Atlantic Ocean conducting an independent steaming event. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brett Walker)

THIS MONTH IN NAVAL HISTORY

August 5, 1882

The first U.S. Navy steel warships (USS Atlanta, USS Boston, USS Chicago and USS Dolphin), are authorized by Congress, beginning the New Navy.

August 15, 1845

General Order 40 establishes the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis Md., the former site of Fort Severn.

August 21, 1883

The installation of the first electric lighting on board a U.S. Navy ship is completed on board USS Trenton.

August 22, 1912

The Dental Corps is established by an Act of Congress.

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FOR MORE CONTENT

Want to see more about USS Gerald R. Ford? Visit us at:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/CVN78>



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@USSGeraldRFord

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U.S. NAVY'S FIRST BLACK FEMALE TACTICAL AIR PILOT TO EARN WINGS OF GOLD IN TEXAS

COAST GUARD DAY
AUGUST 4

CELEBRATING OUR BROTHERS-
AND-SISTERS-IN-ARMS



Tough Times don't last. Tough people do.

By Capt. J.J. Cummings, Commanding Officer, USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78)

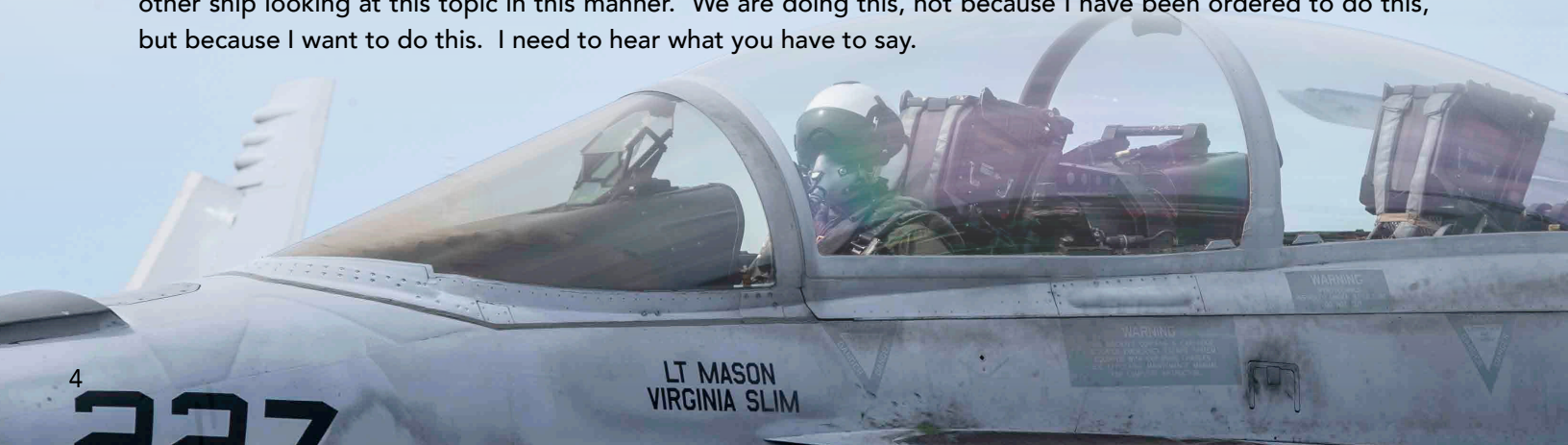
Without question, 2020 has been the toughest and most bizarre year of my personal and professional life, and I am sure the same goes for many of you. We walked off the brow in April to a locked down state in the middle of a nation-wide pandemic, and in June we came back to protests and raw anger over police brutality and racial injustice. In my 34 years in the Navy, I been through many turbulent and uncertain years: the end of the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, September 11th, and a global financial collapse. One theme remained constant through those crazy times, and that was the adaptability of our service and the support of my Navy brothers and sisters. We always find ways to support each other, innovate and then adjust to complete the mission, and that is why serving alongside people like you makes this the best job on the planet.

Like many of you, I was infuriated watching the video from George Floyd's arrest and murder. I have no idea how difficult it must be for many of you to watch those images. Growing up in a small, predominantly white middle-class suburban town outside of Boston, I have no idea what life is like for an African American in our country. However, I do know that the quality of the American experience varies greatly, depending on the color of one's skin.

Gerald R. Ford got a first-hand look at racism 84 years ago when Georgia Tech refused to play against Michigan, because the Wolverines' star player, Willis Ward, Ford's friend and away game roommate, was African American. We all know the story – the future President refused to play and decided to suit up only after Willis asked him to do so. Gerald R. Ford stood up against institutional racism by taking action. He carried on that tradition as an elected official by voting in favor of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, 1964, and 1968 which outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, as well as racial segregation in schools, employment, and public accommodations. He also voted for the 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which federally prohibited the execution of poll taxes, which prevented blacks and poor whites from participating in national elections, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which prohibited racial discrimination in voting.

The civil rights actions against racial injustice that President Ford took as a young man, a Congressman and the President make us proud to wear a patch that bears his name and the statement, "Integrity at the Helm." He did not hesitate to act, and now it is our turn.

Last month, the Chief of Naval Operations launched Task Force One Navy to take steps toward policy reform, demonstrating that the Navy does not tolerate racism or discrimination. Today, I want to announce an extension of these efforts in a collaborative, small group effort called Listen, Educate, and Attack Racism in the Navy (LEARN). Yes, LEARN, because I want to do just that -- listen and learn from you as to where you believe racism exists on our ship and/or in the Navy. LEARN is unique to GERALD R. FORD, and I am not aware of any other ship looking at this topic in this manner. We are doing this, not because I have been ordered to do this, but because I want to do this. I need to hear what you have to say.



The LEARN goals are:

1. Listen, learn and educate one another about racism and institutional racism.
2. Establish LEARN groups to help us understand the problem, develop ideas to increase awareness and ultimately disrupt racism.
3. Establish an enduring awareness and action plan based on input from LEARN groups.

The LEARN gameplan for the September/October underway:

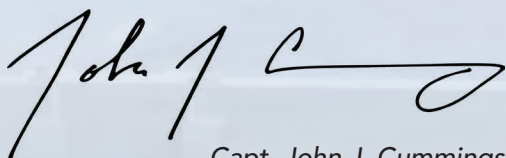
1. Request volunteers to participate in small, rank-based groups.
2. Conduct interactive discussions about racism and institutional racism on GRF and/or in the Navy.
3. Identify themes and generate ideas to present to the Triad.

As your Commanding Officer, it is my duty to ensure that every Sailor under my charge is given every opportunity to grow as a person and a Sailor so we can achieve the mission of ship, our Navy and our nation. Racism and institutional racism can prevent me from accomplishing this, and this is unacceptable. So, together, let's adapt, let's be innovative and let's start the conversation.

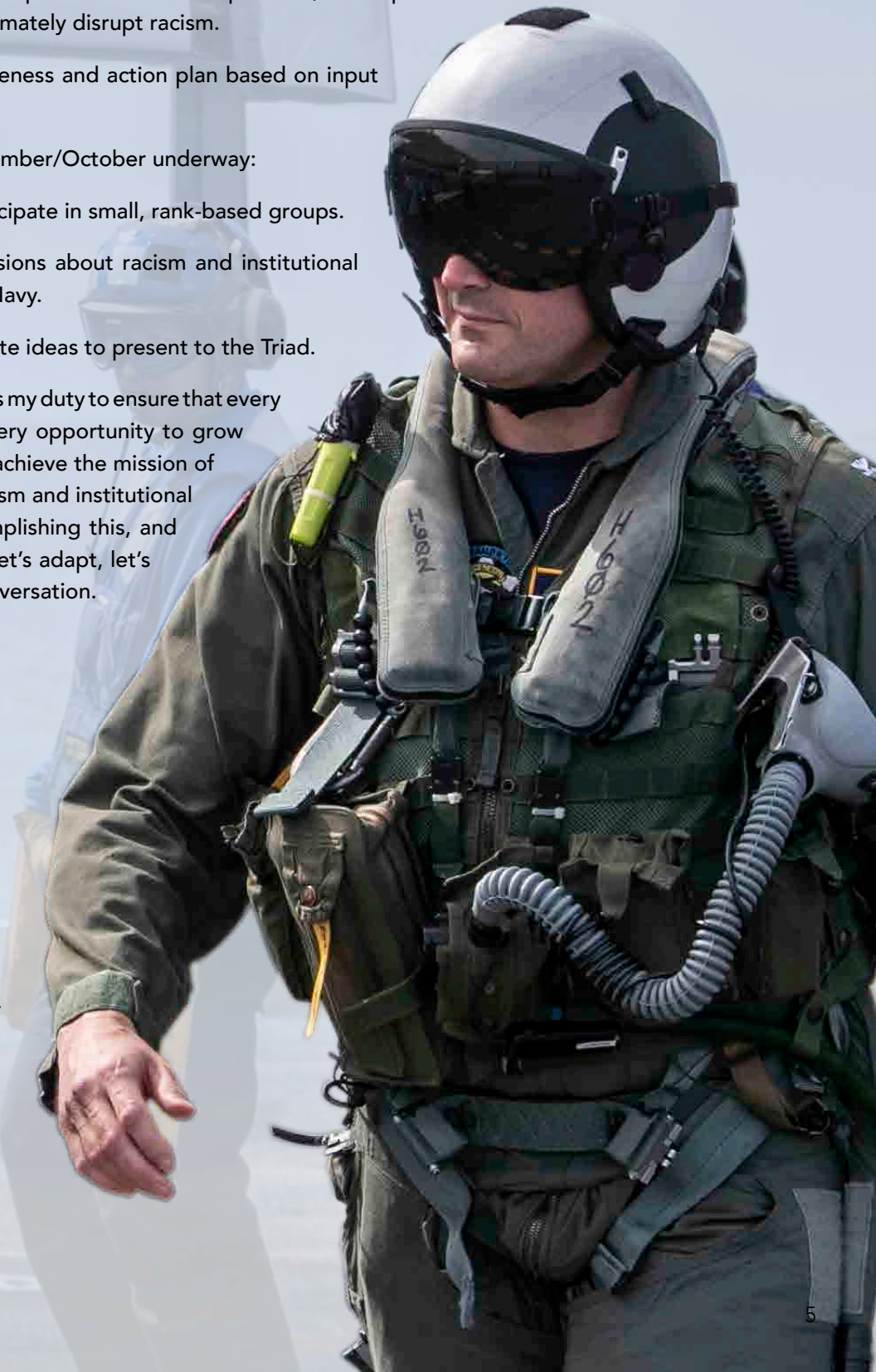
We need to do this.

It's time to act.

WE ARE WARSHIP 78.



Capt. John J. Cummings
Commanding Officer
USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78)



Ford Family: **CMC on Diversity and Inclusion**

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Angel Thuy Jaskuloski

Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Angel Thuy Jaskuloski sat down with USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) Command Master Chief De'Andre Beaufort to talk about diversity and inclusion in the Navy.

MCSN Jaskuloski: What value does diversity bring to the workplace?

CMDCM Beaufort: When you have a diverse workplace it's more functional. You see a lot of achievements happening and we bring different things together. Everybody, no matter where they're from, has something great to bring to the group.

MCSN: [The Navy] has tried to promote diversity for a long time--why is this a discussion point now?

CMC: We have always talked about diversity. From my time in the Navy, the 90's up until now, we've always asked how we can improve the workplace. The reason why it's brought up now is because if you look around our country, or you look around the world, now it has a spotlight.

MCSN: A lot of the media and civilian side of things are focused on systemic racism. Can you elaborate on what that is and how we might see it in the Navy?

CMC: I think everyone understands the difference between systemic racism and individual racism. Individual racism is an act that you're doing [based on] a certain color, directly on an individual. Systemic racism in the country and in the Navy is more of, is this race being seen or actually given the [same] opportunities as another race? It also comes down to where one race feels they are superior over another race.

MCSN: You've been in the Navy for 26 years, how has the environment

changed since you joined?

CMC: The Navy has changed a lot since I joined. In the early 90's you still had people in the Navy that were in the Navy from the late 60's to 70's and 80's. Even though the Navy was trying to, and the country had changed and we had integrated, the Navy still had areas to where you saw that it was still segregated. As time went on I've seen the Navy change. You have a lot of people of color, gender, that are ascending to higher spots in the Navy and getting more opportunities compared to what I saw when I joined in the 90's.

MCSN: During the 60's you had the civil rights movement, so you have all of these people that were probably against the movement and they were all cycling out [of the Navy] as you were coming in.

CMC: Right, they were all cycling out. The way people talk to each other now in the Navy, compared to the way we spoke to each other in the 90's--it's totally different. You care about a person's feelings and how the words you're going to say are going to affect one of your shipmates. That's one of the biggest things that has changed, and then also the opportunities with jobs, education, and training. I believe everybody now, in the Navy, has the opportunity to be what they want to be in the Navy. It's about how much value and what you're bringing to the team.

MCSN: What kind of obstacles did you face in the beginning [of

your career] that your counterparts from other ethnicities may not have experienced?

CMC: When I first joined it was harder being an African American kid from the south. People kind of judged you on the way you talked and the way you looked. You got the speech of "hey if you want to make it you need to get educated, get your qualifications, get this, and make sure you do more than the person that joined the Navy on the same day as you and may look different than you because that person is going to have an easier road than what you're going to have going up." When I joined I can't remember seeing one African American Command Master Chief, to where now I look around and you have a lot. It gives younger Sailors a vision to "hey if he can get there, I can get there." I believe the road is paved a little better for them.

MCSN: What kind of actions do you take now to support your Sailors?

CMC: Over these past 26 years, everything that has happened to me in the Navy has been a lesson. I take those teaching points that people gave me, no matter if it's negative or positive, and I try to use those now to make sure I'm not that same person. When I see my Sailors, no matter who it is, I give them all the same experience. Everybody gets the same CMC Beaufort.

MCSN: How should we foster an environment that empowers people of different backgrounds?

CMC: Every Sailor is in the fight and it's not about the state you come from, where you come from, or how you are—it's training. We as the command are going to help you get to the [next] level as long as you are putting the work in. We're not going to use anything in the way you look or the way you talk or where you're from against you. I'm going to empower you to be great because of who you are and your personality. From what I see in 2020 right now, I will say that we have come a long way in the Navy.

MCSN: What is our ship doing to address diversity and inclusion?

CMC: We are coming up with a diversity working group and we're going to bring in Sailors from all different walks of life and ask the same groups the same exact questions to see what their responses are going to be to the questions. Towards the end, we're going to bring them all together and explain the responses and get to "how can we better our institution moving forward to where no Sailor feels that they're being discriminated against." What we're trying to do is ensure that every Sailor gets the same opportunity across the board. We also have some Sailors that see things that happen away from the Navy and it bothers them and it hurts. We want to address that to show them that hey, as your leadership, we are here to ensure that you, along with everybody else, your feelings are being heard.

MCSN: It's also important to empower those people that might feel discriminated against to know that the triad is on their side and that there is no place for racism or prejudices on our ship or anywhere.

CMC: Yes, that's big also, the empowerment. Everybody isn't going to voice their opinion because some

people fear retribution. I want to empower them to let them know that they are as important as any person that walks across the quarterdeck in the Navy.

MCSN: How do we facilitate these discussions that are difficult and sometimes uncomfortable to have?

CMC: The first thing you have to do is recognize it and you have to talk about it. Some people don't like talking about race, racism, and systemic racism. It's very uncomfortable so you have to come out of your mold and talk about it. You have to discuss it because I, as a person, I won't know if you're hurting at times if you won't talk to me. If you don't talk about it and bring it up to the person, they'll never know. We're all from different walks of life. That's the thing that in the Navy makes us great. That we're not all from the same spot and that we get the opportunity to meet different people and serve with different people. With the working groups we're giving them the opportunity to bring it out. Talk about it.

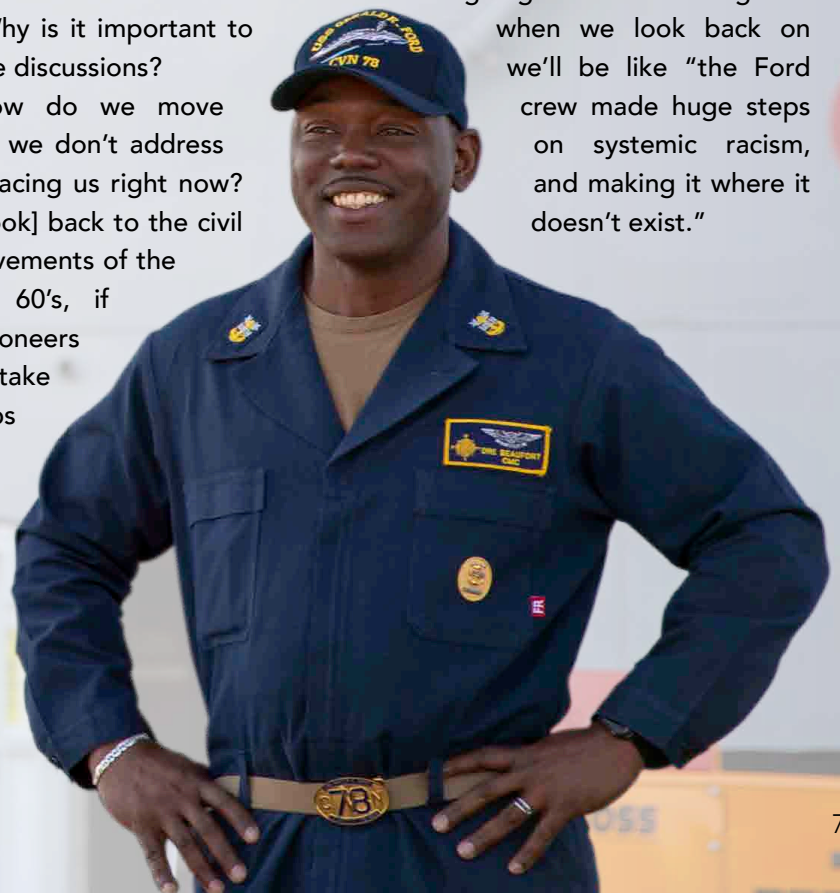
MCSN: Why is it important to have these discussions?

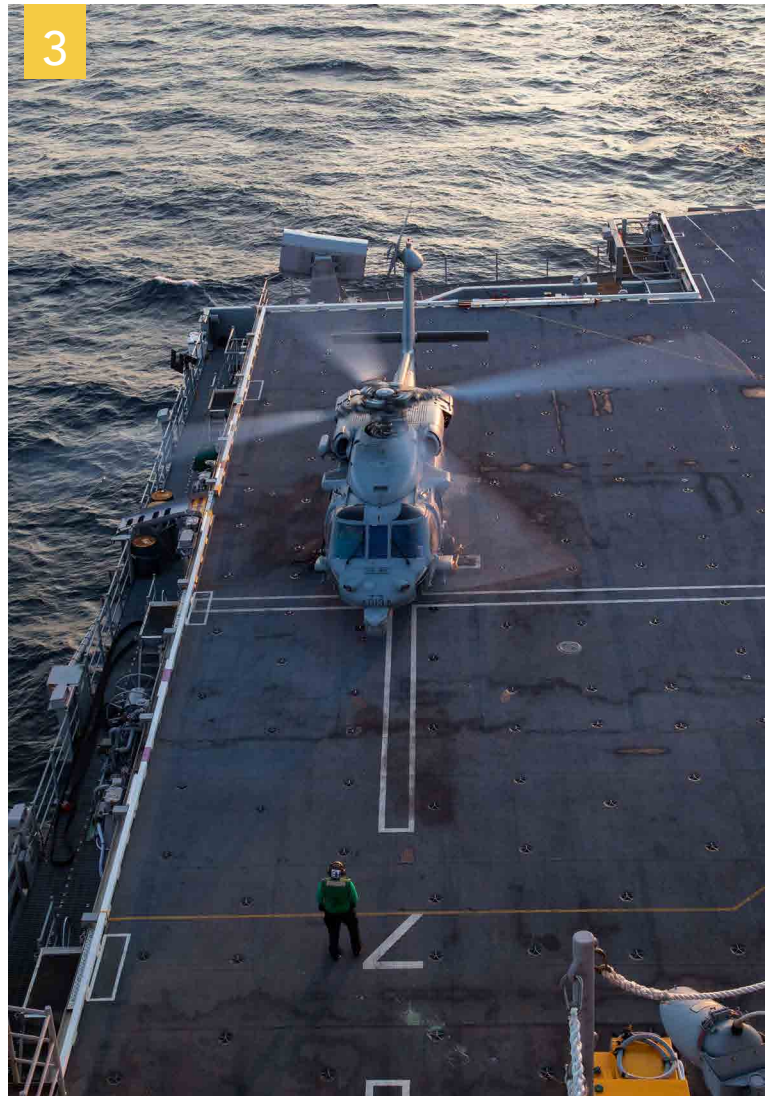
CMC: How do we move forward if we don't address what [is] facing us right now? When I [look] back to the civil rights movements of the 50's and 60's, if those pioneers did not take those steps to bring it to

forefront then today we could be doing the same thing. It could still be segregated in the United States. It took those pioneers in the civil rights movement to get us to this point. When I leave the Navy, I don't want [future Sailors] to experience anything I experienced in my time in the Navy. I want it to be to where it's not one of those things we talk about a person's color or ethnicity or gender or culture. Let's talk about how great this person is, how hard this person is working, and how this person is going to benefit in the Navy moving forward.

MCSN: Do you have anything else to add?

CMC: I take all my experiences from my past and I try to be better and to make it to where all my Sailors have an opportunity. If it takes me to get down to the grind with them to help them be better, that's part of my job. When I leave, I want my legacy to be that "this guy cared." Through us having these talks, I believe this is going to be something that when we look back on we'll be like "the Ford crew made huge steps on systemic racism, and making it where it doesn't exist."

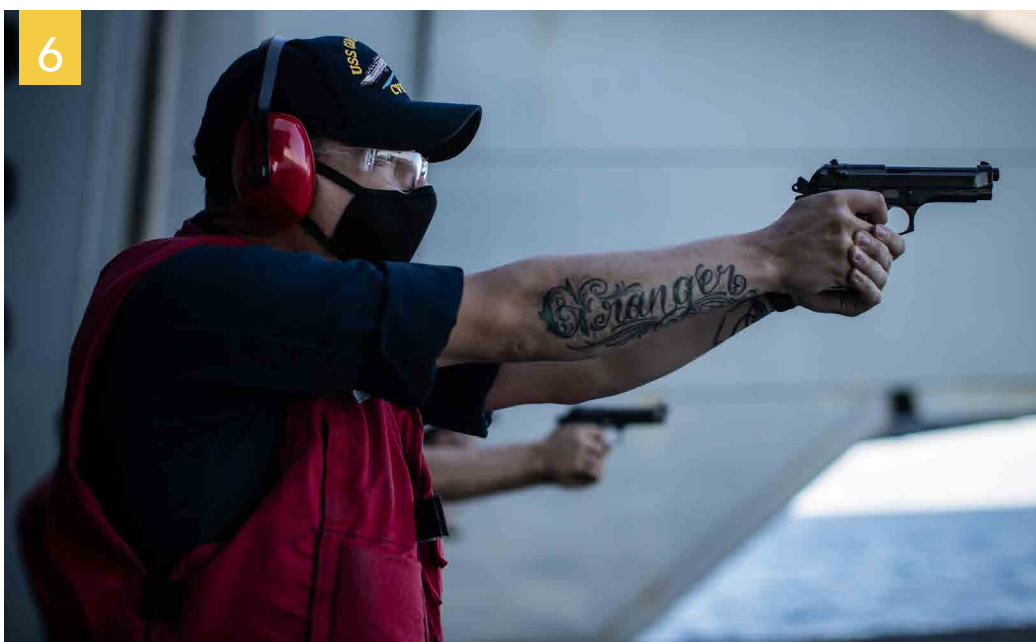




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PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

AUGUST 2020

1. A Sailor assigned to Ford's air department, inspects a C-2A Greyhound, attached to the "Rawhides" of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 40 during flight operations July 28, 2020. (Photo by MCSN Angel Thuy Jaskuloski)

2. A C-2A Greyhound, attached to the "Rawhides" of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 40, taxis on Ford's flight deck during flight operations July 27, 2020. (Photo by MCSN Ford)

3. An MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter attached to the "Nightdippers" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 5, prepares to take off from Ford's flight deck, July 27, 2020. (Photo by MC3 Walker)

4. An MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter attached to the "Nightdippers" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 5, flies over the Atlantic Ocean after taking off from Ford's flight deck, July 27, 2020. (Photo by MC3 Walker)

5. MA2 Carlos Martinez, from New York, assigned to Ford's security department, tests a long-range acoustic device (LRAD) during sea and anchor detail July 25, 2020. (Photo by MCSN McDowell)

6. MA1 Brian Schutt, from Staten Island, New York, assigned to Ford's security department, fires a 9mm pistol at a target during a live fire exercise July 26, 2020. (Photo by MC3 Melvin)

7. A C-2A Greyhound, attached to the "Rawhides" of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 40, approaches Ford's flight deck during flight operations July 27, 2020. (Photo by MCSN Ford)

8. CSSN Dorion Edwards, from Chicago, assigned to Ford's supply department, prepares chicken wings in Ford's main galley during an evening meal July 18, 2020. (Photo by MCSN Angel Thuy Jaskuloski)

Ford Sailors Feel the Heat during Security Training

From USS Gerald R. Ford Public Affairs

Sailors assigned to USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) In-Port Security Force (ISF) training, participated in a security reaction force oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray course in Norfolk, July 2.

The OC spray course is a required part of the ISF training to get qualified to be a part of Ford's first line of defense.

"This final practical helps the Sailors understand what it feels like to be OC sprayed," said Lt. j.g. Mark Greer, Ford's assistant security officer. "They need to understand so if they ever get cross-contaminated or sprayed by OC, then they will still have the ability to fight through the situation."

Sailors who participate in the OC course need to be motivated and confident in order to pass. It is no simple trial to overcome the pain, so only the most qualified pass the course and become part of ISF.

"I think this course is going to be fun," said Airman Tyler Owenby, from Kingsport, Tennessee, assigned to Ford's ISF. "It is hot outside today, but I think we can overcome the heat and the spray and just have a fun time overall."

Ford periodically has ISF courses throughout the year, but this one was slightly different. Due to the

coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the OC spray course had to be slightly altered to incorporate appropriate mitigation protocols.

"The hardest part we had to overcome was the fact that this is a close-contact course," said Greer. "We have to maintain all the [DoD safety] regulations with COVID-19 and we did our best to maintain social distancing for the course."

Sailors who go through ISF training are selected from all 20 departments on Ford. After departments send in their selections, personnel who meet the minimum requirements are selected for the course, go through the training, and eventually stand security watch while the ship is in port.

"I believe it's important to go through all of this," said Owenby. "It's important to know how it feels to be OC sprayed so that we know what the person we spray is going through. We don't want to overdo subduing anyone and since we know how it feels we will know what point we need to go to in order to subdue someone."

The OC course may be known as an unpleasant one, but Sailors come out stronger in the end and more prepared to fight to keep the ship safe.

Boatswain's Mate Seaman Riva Redding, from Norfolk, assigned to USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) security department, is sprayed with oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray during a security reaction force basic training course in Norfolk, July 2, 2020. (Photo by MC3 Brett Walker)





Purple Heart Day

August 7, 1782

George Washington issued the order to create the Badge of Military Merit August 7, 1782. Known among Americans as the "Purple Heart," the medal is primarily given to recognize meritorious action. In 1932, it was permitted to be given to servicemembers who had been wounded in battle. After Pearl Harbor, the Purple Heart was permitted to be given posthumously. While many changes and guidelines have defined the parameters for awardees, the Purple Heart remains highly regarded. We honor those who either gave the ultimate sacrifice or were willing to in the face of battle.



Ford Sailors Promoted After Long Anticipated Announcement

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brett Walker

The aircraft carrier USS Gerald R Ford (CVN 78) announced the promotion selection of 210 Sailors July 24, 2020.

29 Sailors advanced to petty officer first class, 78 to petty officer second class and 103 to petty officer third class.

Following the announcement on the ship's one main circuit (1MC), Ford's Commanding Officer Capt. J.J. Cummings offered a word of encouragement for those Sailors moving onto the next paygrade and the ones that will continue to strive for excellence in order to advance next cycle.

"Congrats to all the first, second and third classes that just made it," said Cummings. "Job well done to all of you. For all of those who didn't make it, the next time is your time."

This advancement comes on the wake of rescheduled test dates, and alternate board convening dates for promotions across the Navy in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. As Ford continues to progress through her Post Delivery Test and Trials phase of operations, the newly frocked Sailors will begin to take on increased responsibility and new leadership roles.

Although every rank increase in the military comes with its own share of authority and responsibility, the jump from petty officer third class to petty officer

second class is perhaps more dramatic because it places the Sailor in a direct leadership role and demands much more in the way of taking care of Sailors.

"I'm planning on picking up more collateral [duties] outside my department," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Bradley Norton, from Houston, assigned to Ford's medical department and selected for petty officer second class. "I've been in for 10 years, and it feels like the weight of this challenge has been lifted off my shoulders."

Sailors selected for advancement have the opportunity to participate in Enlisted Leadership Development Continuum course designed for each paygrade. Each specially designed course focuses on character, ethics, self-awareness and decision making; contributing directly to Sailor development and investing in the future of Navy leadership.

"I was nervous during the announcement because I was one of the last people called," said Aviation Machinist's Mate Airman Alexander Traxler from Mentor, Ohio, assigned to Ford's aviation intermediate maintenance department, and selected for petty officer third class. "It felt great to be congratulated instantaneously after the announcement by all of my peers."

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR SHIPMATES WHO ADVANCED!

FIRST CLASSES

ABE1 PHILIP CASTONGUAY
ABE1 ROBERT VANN
ABE1 DAVID VONBEHREN
ABF1 LYDIA KOCUREK
ABH1 PAULO GOMEZLOPEZ
ABH1 HANNIBAL JOHNSONBEY
ABH1 RYAN LITTLE
AC1 BINTI GREEN
AO1 JUSTIN CORTEZ
AO1 JACKIE OSORIO

CS1 OMOLOLA OLAWALE
CS1 BENNETTE WALTON III
EM1 NATHAN BEPLATE
EMN1 LUCAS BILODEAU
ET1 CHRISTOPHER BRICKHOUSE
ETN1 DANIEL HOEPELMAN
FC1 CHRISTOPHER CLIFFORD
FC1 BENJAMIN ROSINO
GM1 DUSTIN JONES
HM1 JEREMIAH MAINES

IC1 MATTHEW WERKLEY
IT1 CHRISTOPHER NOONAN
LS1 BRANDON HATCH
MM1 DAVID MORGAN
MMN1 JAMES BRYANT III
MMN1 AUSTIN MILLER
MMN1 ANDREW OBRIEN
OS1 HECTOR GONZALEZ
YN1 ALIVIA PRINGLE

SECOND CLASSES

ABE2 LOUIS ZANELOTTI II
ABH2 KANAUTICA BROWN
ABH2 KRISTOFER PETTERA
ABH2 HANSEL SOTO
ABH2 KARLON WEBB
AC2 DAMONTRE ALLEN
AC2 MIGUEL DELEON JR
AC2 FREDRICK JOHNSON
AC2 JUSTIN SOUTO
AC2 COLTON STONE
AC2 BRADLEY TREGONING
AO2 KYWON CARTWRIGHT
AO2 JEREMI GOOD
AO2 LEONCIO LANDEROS
AO2 DAKOTA LIVERMORE
AO2 MARKARTHUR VALENZONA
AO2 BENJAMIN WALDEN
AO2 CEDRIC YOUNG
AO2 RUSSELL ZIMMERMAN
AS2 GABRIELLE CRUMLEY
AS2 JOSHUA GREENE
AS2 JUAN VAZQUEZ
AS2 BAILEY WALKER
AZ2 DAMONTRE ALLEN
AZ2 ALEJANDRO DOMINGUEZ
AZ2 MAKAYLA LOWERY
BM2 DANDREA FENNELL

CS2 ZION HARDY
CS2 ZHIJUN MIAO
CS2 CHEYENNE SANCHEZ
CS2 VICTORIA SHERWOOD
CTT2 ROSSIN HABARADAS
CTT2 KEVIN TURNER
DC2 THOMAS FRASE JR
DC2 EDILBERTO GONZALEZ
EM2 OLAN EZELL
EM2 DOMINIC LIMBRICK
EM2 BLAKE LINDEMANN
EM2 MITCHELL MCBRIDE
EM2 CAMERON POOLER
EM2 DANIEL SHONK
EM2 MATTHEW WELCH
EN2 DEMARCO HOWARD JR
EN2 DANIEL LEYVAMENDOZA
ET2 ANDONI MOAWAD
ETN2 TYLER FAWCETT
ETN2 CODY FRANKS
ETN2 ERIC GROETEKE JR
FC2 MAXWELL CLARK
FC2 JEREMY VIAR
FC2 MICHAEL VILLAJIN
GM2 DAYRON DAVIS
GM2 BRANDON DECKER
GM2 HECTOR MEJIA

HM2 BRADLEY NORTON
IC2 DANE PORTERFIELD
IC2 COREY REED
IT2 SAMANTHA BLAKE
IT2 CYNTHIA BROWN
IT2 SAVANNAH HINSON
IT2 RYAN STJOHN
LN2 JULIO SOLARES
LS2 WEIMING KUANG
LS2 DAYSI ORTIZCASILLAS
LS2 JENZEL RAZ
LS2 JOHN REED
LS2 GREYSTEN SAXTON
LS2 TAYLOR STUBBLEFIELD
LS2 GEORGE VELEZ
MA2 STEVEN CRAGUE
MA2 SHAWN KIRBY
MA2 ADAM VASQUEZ
MM2 MICHAEL BOWIE
MM2 KYLE GARRISON
MMN2 AUSTIN KEYSER
MMN2 MILTON OBISPO
OS2 TERRENCE MELENDEZ
OS2 VICTORIA PALMER
OS2 ANDREW RODRIGUEZ
OS2 GENESIS WILLIAMS

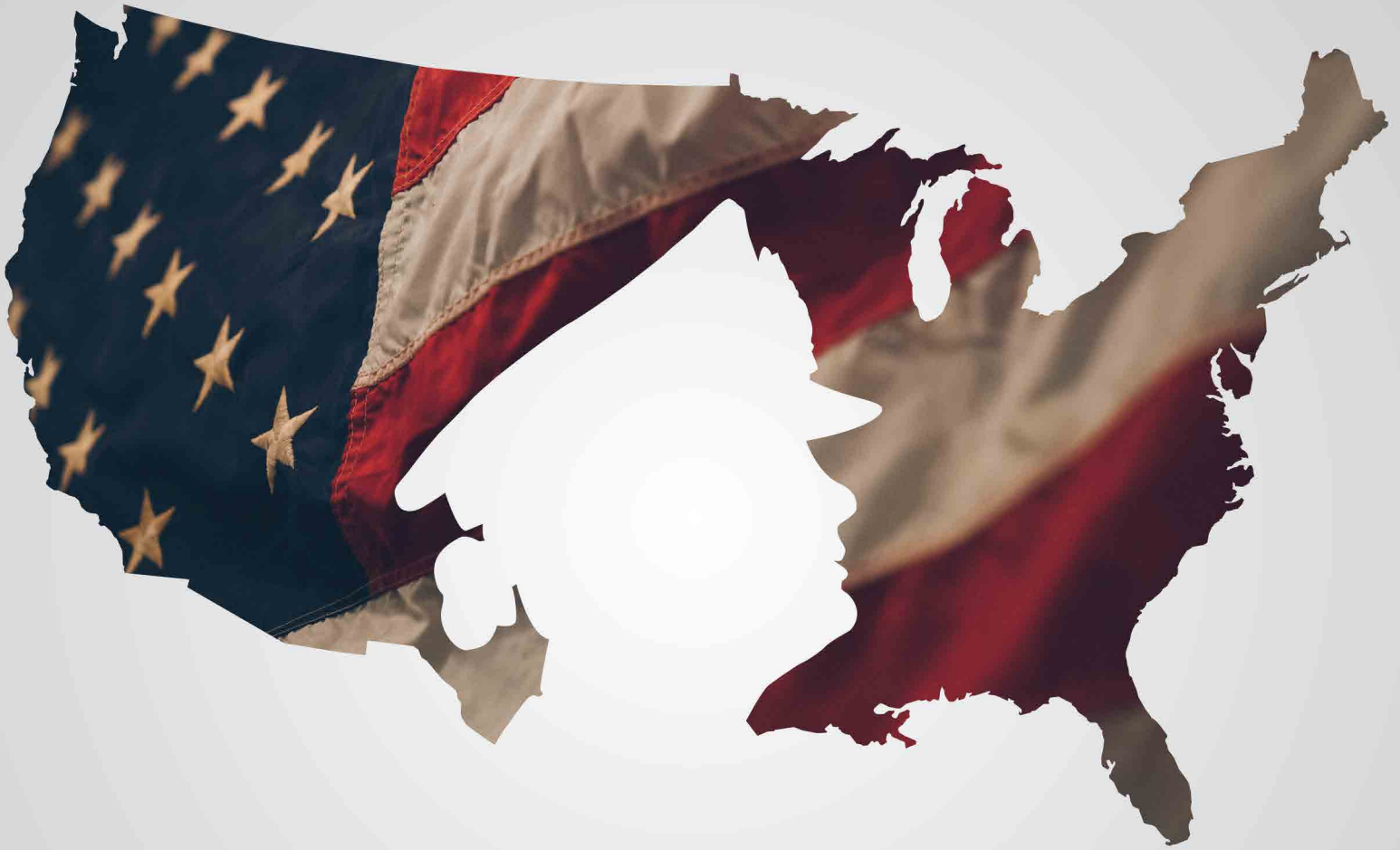
THIRD CLASSES

ABE3 HARRISON CANCINO
ABE3 JAYLIN CARDWELLWATTS
ABE3 BRANDON CARRASQUILLO
ABE3 REBECCA CLARK
ABE3 KVON FLUITT
ABE3 RYAN LUCERO
ABE3 LACARSHA MITCHELL
ABE3 MAABEGAIL ODVINA
ABE3 JOSHUA PHILLIPS
ABE3 STEPHANIE RAMOS
ABE3 CAMERON STROUP
ABE3 SHAIHEEM SWINDLER
ABE3 AARON WALTERS
ABF3 JACOB CLAUS
ABF3 GUNNAR CONLEY
ABF3 SERGIO ORTEGACARDENAS
ABH3 BRIAN ANDERSON
ABH3 SOPHIA ANDERSON
ABH3 CHRISTIAN BYNUM
ABH3 DANIEL CATON
ABH3 SANTOS CAZARES
ABH3 MARC CINOCCO
ABH3 HEATHER COLLIER
ABH3 CYNTHIA CUNNINGHAM
ABH3 MONREJO DANIEL
ABH3 ISSAC FLEMING
ABH3 TRAVIS FORTIER
ABH3 CODY GALL
ABH3 JOANNA GODOY
ABH3 DYLAN HOSKINS
ABH3 TIMOTHY JORDAN
ABH3 ANTWON LEWIS JR
ABH3 LEANDRO MARTINEZPEREZ

ABH3 JOHN MOORE
ABH3 DALTON MORELL
ABH3 CELESTE PLASCENCIA
ABH3 NICHOLAS RAGLAND
ABH3 JONATHAN SALCEDO
ABH3 ADAM TERRAZAS JR
ABH3 CODY THOMPSON
ABH3 GREGORY WESTON
ABH3 ANTHONY ZAZUETA III
ABH3 STEVEN ZIEGLER
AC3 JOHNATHON CARTER
AC3 JAVIER CHAVEZ
AD3 RON CAFFACUS
AD3 ALEXANDER TRAXLER
AM3 XANDER EVANS
AO3 ANTHONY LAYUG
AO3 ZACKERY MYERS
AO3 MICHAEL ROGERS
AO3 DONIVYN TAJERON
AO3 WILLIAM WHELAN
AS3 ELARIO CINTORA
AS3 JUAN HERNANDEZ
AS3 ISAIAS MENDIOLA
AS3 GIANNA MORRISON
AS3 DARWIN POLO
AT3 BRANDON BARKOWSKY
AT3 MARK BODIFORD
AT3 SAXON BONITO
AT3 MITCHELL BUCKMASTER
AT3 SHAYNE DENNISON
AT3 FELIX ESCOBAR JR
AT3 KAYLA STEPHANSON
AZ3 SHAMIAH FARROW

AZ3 COREY GREEN
AZ3 EDWARD SIANIASALANOA
CS3 DORION EDWARDS
CS3 MARILYN MEJIASANCHEZ
CS3 KEVIN RIVERA
CS3 KORINA RIVERA
CTR3 ALLISON KEGG
CTT3 KRISTIN PALMGREN
EM3 DESTINY CALEY
EM3 ANTHONY CHRISTIANS
EM3 JORDAN IVES
EM3 ADRIAN PEREZ
EM3 MICHAEL STAPLES
GM3 GERALDINE MAGANA
HT3 STEVEN EGGERT
HT3 JAMES SWITZER JR
IC3 DANIEL BILICKI
IC3 JARED DAVIS
IC3 CAMERON GREEN
IC3 HONGQING JIAO
IC3 CHAQUIERA PARSONSWHARTON
IC3 KEVIN SMITH
IT3 IAN DELLORCO
LS3 DOMENICK MCMILLIAN
MA3 DANIEL GREENWAY
MA3 JORDAN MCCORMACK
MC3 DALTON LOWING
MM3 JUANCARLOS TAPIA
OS3 XAVIER MCGRUFF
OS3 DASHAWN PARKES
PS3 ANDRE CARDWELL
PS3 ARTHUR WAKE
QM3 NICKLAUS HUGHES

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WOMEN'S
EQUALITY DAY

AUGUST 26

U.S. Navy's First Black Female Tactical Air Pilot to earn Wings of Gold in Texas

By Lt. Michelle Tucker, Chief of Naval Air Training Public Affairs

The U.S. Navy's first Black female tactical air (TACAIR) pilot is set to earn her Wings of Gold, marking a significant milestone for Naval Aviation.

Virginia native Lt. j.g. Madeline G. Swegle will be designated a naval aviator and presented her Wings of Gold during a small ceremony at Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville, Texas, July 31.

Swegle is assigned to the "Redhawks" of Training Squadron (VT) 21 under Training Air Wing 2 at NAS Kingsville and completed her final undergraduate TACAIR training flight in a T-45C Goshawk jet trainer aircraft July 7.

Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. Robert Westendorff oversees all undergraduate flight training from NAS Corpus Christi, Texas.

"We are all incredibly proud of Lt. j.g. Swegle," Westendorff said. "This is a wonderful personal achievement and a testament to her dedication and drive to succeed in the tactical air training pipeline. I wish her every success at the next level learning to fly her fleet aircraft."

A 2017 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Swegle reported to Naval Aviation Schools Command at NAS Pensacola, Florida, where she completed Initial Flight Screening and Aviation Preflight Indoctrination. She completed Primary flight training with the "Boomers" of VT-27 at NAS Corpus Christi, and after selecting the TACAIR or Strike pipeline, Swegle progressed to Intermediate and Advanced training with VT-21.

Swegle is part of a new generation of TACAIR pilots to qualify on state-of-the-art Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE) unique to aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78): the Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) and Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG). She completed carrier qualifications in the Atlantic Ocean off the Florida coast, May 20.

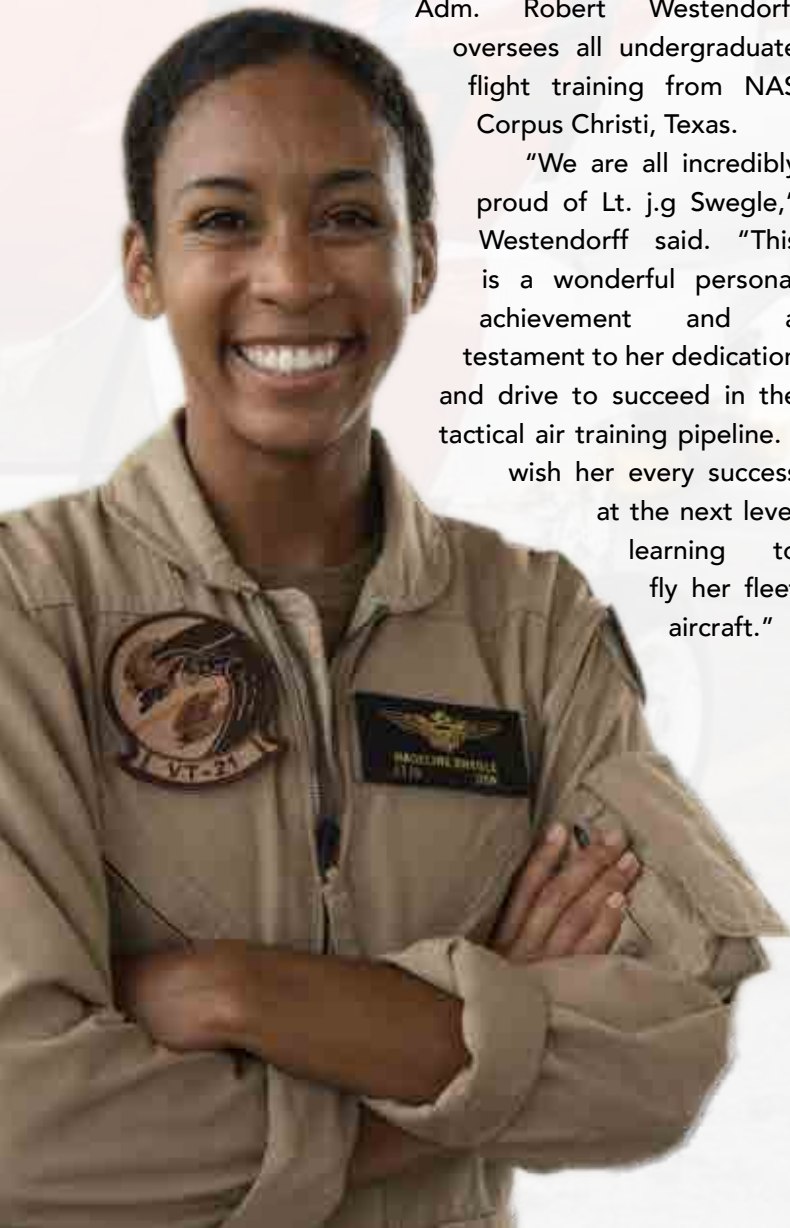
"I'm excited to have this opportunity to work harder and fly high performance jet aircraft in the fleet," Swegle said. "It would've been nice to see someone who looked like me in this role; I never intended to be the first. I hope it's encouraging to other people."

Swegle and her classmates will advance to graduate flight training at their respective fleet training squadrons. Specific platform selection (F/A-18 Super Hornet, EA-18G Growler, or F-35C Lightning II) typically occurs shortly before the winging ceremony.

Swegle follows in the footsteps of Brenda E. Robinson, the Navy's first African American female naval aviator. Robinson earned her Wings of Gold June 6, 1980 and was the 42nd woman to be designated a naval aviator.

"Lt. j.g. Swegle is part of a select group of incredible men and women who have answered the call to defend our nation from the air," Commander, Naval Air Forces Vice Adm. DeWolfe Miller III said. "Recruiting and retaining Americans from all backgrounds is a strategic imperative to the success of Naval Aviation now and into the future."

Chief of Naval Air Training, headquartered in Corpus Christi, trains the world's finest combat quality aviation professionals, delivering them at the right time, in the right numbers, and at the right cost to a naval force that is where it matters, when it matters.



USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN78) RECOGNIZES

NATIONAL AVIATION DAY

AUGUST 19, 2020

