

There would be no  
*Presents*  
without forward  
**PRESENCE**

# Contents

4 A VERY NIMITZ HOLIDAY

6 WE ARE NIMITZ

12 NORAD TRACKS SANTA

14 FAMILY TIES

16 THROUGH THE LENS

18 ONE TRIBE ONE VIBE

20 SUGAR CHATEAUX

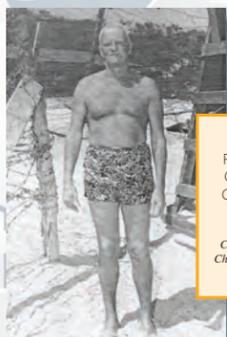
22 OLD SALT: GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST

24 DECKPLATE CHATTER

31 MWR

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"Six Eight" is an authorized publication produced by and for the crew of USS Nimitz and their families. Its content does not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, and does not imply endorsement thereby. Six Eight accepts submissions in writing. All submissions are subject to review and editing.



**Find Chester!**  
Ready for an adventure?  
Can you find Fleet Adm.  
Chester Nimitz hidden in  
this magazine?  
  
*Chester Nimitz, photographed by  
Chuck Brenkus at a picnic held at a  
beach in Hawaii in 1944.*

## Happy Holidays from USS Nimitz Media Shop

Lt. Cmdr. Alan Demeter; Lt. Benjamin Bushong; Lt. J.G. Giovanna De Vito; MCUS Ryan Tabios; MCJ Susan Lewis; MC1 Nathan Scripps; MC1 Eduardo Otero Santos; MC1 Nathan Laird; MC2 Jennifer Benedict; MC2 John Breon; MC2 Lorenzo Fekietz-Martinez; MC2 Caitlin Flynn; MC2 Preston Jarrett; MC2 Jared Manuoso; MC2 Justin McTaggart; MC2 Samuel Osborn; MC2 David Rowe; MC3 Joseph Calabrese; MC3 Carson Uroom; MC3 Hannah Kantner; MC3 Mykala Keckelsen; MC3 Lorain Kelly; MC3 Kenneth Lagadi; MC3 Caylen McCutcheon; MC3 Chase Sealey; MC3 Kevin Tang; MCSS Emma Burgess; MCSA Mariel Almonte Meregildo

# The jolliest bunch of... this side of the fleet



# Holiday Message

As 2022 comes to a close, we extend our greetings to our dedicated Sailors, Marines, Civilians, and their families valiantly serving around the globe. Additionally, we thank our current deployed members at sea and in harm's way. Your service, whether at home or abroad, allows all American families to enjoy the holiday season safely and securely.

Our world class Naval forces are hard-charging, proactive, critical-thinking people. Sometimes, in our drive for mission accomplishment, we get wrapped up in the mission and forget to take a step back, relax, and strengthen our relationships with our families, friends, and support networks. The holiday season provides the opportunity to do just that. We encourage everyone to unplug as you are able and make a point to spend time with your loved ones. Not only will it make you feel good now, but it will also build that social pillar of resiliency that is so important when times are tough.

We collectively work very hard all year to reduce the risk of mishaps in order to focus on the safety and well-being of our personnel. Unfortunately, we often see an increase in off-duty mishaps, to include motor vehicle accidents, due to increased travel and activity during this time of year. To combat this, we count on each of you to continue exercising sound judgement and prioritize safety during the holidays. That means wear your seatbelt, pay close attention to weather conditions, apply proper risk management, and use your training and common sense to do the right thing. Applying these tools and best practices will contribute to a successful and happy holiday season.

While this season is one of joy for many of us, for others, the holidays are fraught with hardship and emotion. Look around you and watch for those who might need a friend or a place to belong during the season. There are many people who require help during the holidays, and everyone can make a difference in their own unique way. We encourage you to stay connected with your friends and family this holiday season, and remind you to watch out for those who may struggle during this time of year.

Please, take time to relax this holiday season, recharge your batteries, build your resiliency, and be ever vigilant for the well-being of fellow Sailors, Marines, and Civilians. We look forward to another successful year in 2023!

RELEASED BY

*The Honorable Carlos Del Toro,*  
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

*Admiral Michael M. Gilday,*  
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, AND

*General David H. Berger,*  
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS.

# A Very Nimitz Holiday

It was the night before Christmas, as Nimitz steamed West  
Many Sailors still stirring, especially on the mess

Safety tags were hung by the breakers with care  
And hatches were shut to keep in the cold air

Sailors were nestled all snug in their beds  
While visions of flight ops danced in their heads

"This is the TAO", a crackly voice cried  
Missiles inbound on the port side

"Set general quarters," a command given twice  
Let's hope this drill is short and concise

Hit alpha, hit bravo, they come one by one  
Don't wear an armband and join all the fun

As we turn our attention up to the sky  
The shooters prepare to make these birds fly

As Santa calls out to all his brave freedom fighters  
"On Kestrels, on Cougars, on Sun Kings, & Providers"

While on duty's call, though far we may roam  
Look forward to the day we make to sail home

And although our loved ones aren't physically with us,  
They will be in our hearts and minds this Christmas

It is with these thoughts that we keep our minds afloat  
As we move through our days on this enormous boat

With all this time so far out to sea,  
we rely on each other, like family

Let us not forget that we have a job to do,  
Fighting for freedom and the red, white, and blue

So my shipmates, with naught left to say,  
Let us take comfort in a happy holiday!



## ADMIRAL'S CALL

### THE JOURNEY AHEAD

Rear Adm. Christopher Sweeney, Commander, Carrier Strike Group 11, joins Cmdr. Antonia Miggins, executive officer of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 139, and Yeoman 2nd Class Lamaysha Pleasant for a reenlistment ceremony. Pleasant reenlisted on the flag bridge to continue her journey in the Navy. Congratulations to YN2 Pleasant. Keep up the great work!



*Congrats YN2!  
So proud to be part  
of your reenlistment!  
You all are knocking it out of the park!  
Nimitz is operating extremely well. Continue  
to be safe and methodical! Wishing  
everyone a Happy Holiday, see you  
on the mess deck for Xmas.  
my best  
Chris Sweeney  
CLS-CL5671*



Merry Christmas, HT2 BOICE!! 🎄



MM1 KALMYKOV  
We are so incredibly proud of you and all that you do. We miss you so much and can't wait until you're home. We love you more than anything. You've got this! One day closer.



i cant wait to make more memories soon!  
merry christmas baby! i love you more!  
#fortunate



Merry Christmas to our favorite sailor,  
**AT1 PETERSON**



Chief Tim Marquis!  
We miss you this much and more



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
Looking forward to having you home at all future Christmases



Merry Christmas Kyle! We love you!



**MERRY CHRISTMAS Dad!**

It would be "snow" much better if you were here!  
You are such a "cool" dad! We love you so BIG!  
xoxo The Voigt Girls



GMI TIONQUAO RODRIGO G-2

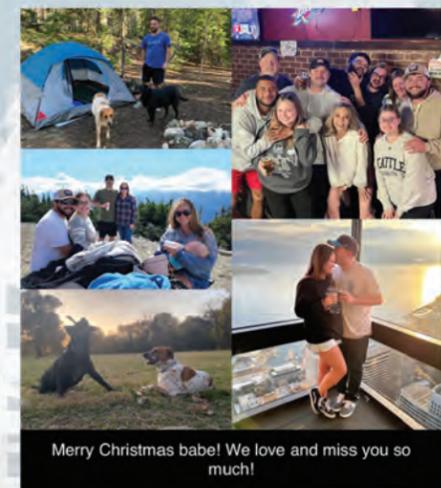
Sendin' you the very warm wish of Christmas love!



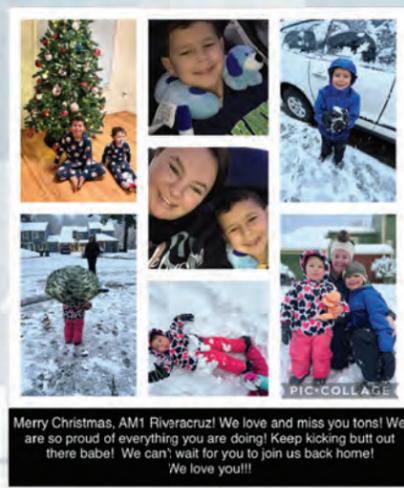
Love you Daddy



We love & miss you so much! Can't wait for you to be home to cuddle and cook for, your boys and I can't wait.  
Love Alissa, Bagel & Moose



Merry Christmas babe! We love and miss you so much!



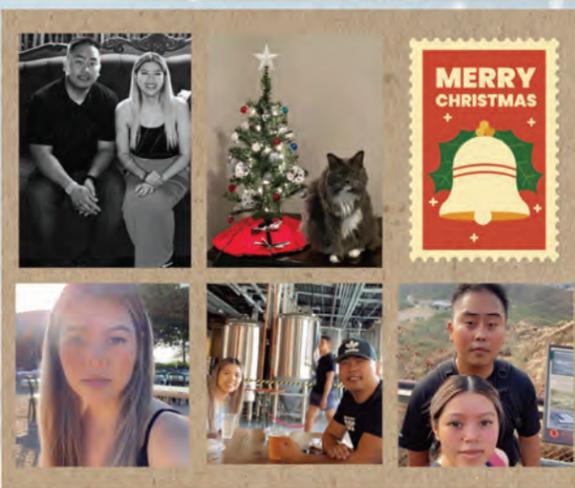
Merry Christmas, AM1 Rivasacruz! We love and miss you tons! We are so proud of everything you are doing! Keep kicking butt out there babe! We can't wait for you to join us back home! We love you!!!



WE LOVE AND MISS YOU DCC RINOLBAUER! CAN'T WAIT TO HAVE YOU HOME!



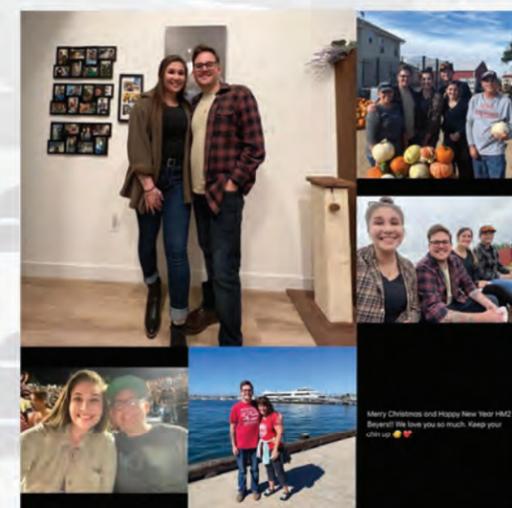
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH  
AOC POLANSKI, XOXO



MERRY CHRISTMAS



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
ITI BRADLEY POTTS



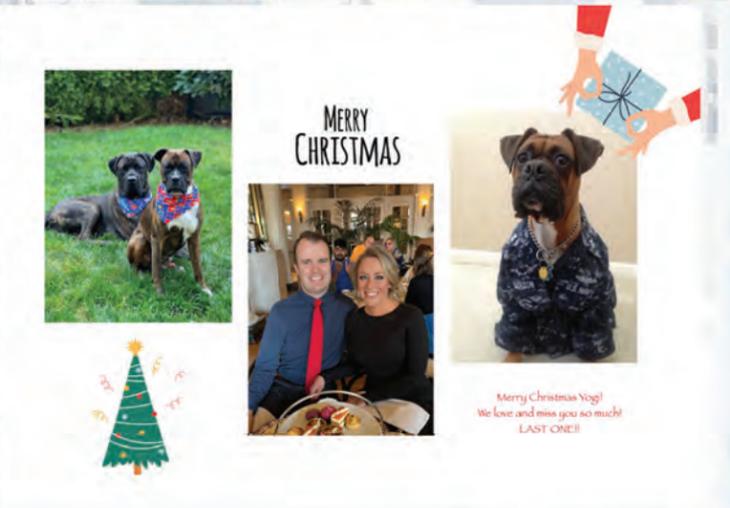
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year HAZ! Be safe!! We love you so much. Keep your chin up! ❤️



Happy Holidays MA2 Nelson!  
We love you daddy! Stay safe & be well.



merry christmas SN Morgan from kristin and dylahn!!! here's some of my favorite memories from this year...i love you so much, no matter what!!



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas Yogi!  
We love and miss you so much!  
LAST ONE!!





Merry Christmas!  
We miss you!  
XoXoXoXo ETI Sohranek



Matt Wantock, it's not the same without you.  
Love & miss you!



To: CS1 Maxey  
We miss and love you so much Merry  
Christmas Daddy!



Merry Christmas my Love!  
Emmitt and I love you so much,  
and wish you were here!



Merry Christmas ASI Saxon  
We love you and miss you so much  
Love,  
Jenn, Bailey, Zoey & Madi



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the best dad in the world.  
We love you so much. We miss you everyday but soon  
we will all be together again. Big hugs and kisses.  
XoXo  
Wifey, Johnny and Jamsey



Merry Christmas Daddy!  
We love and miss you!



Merry Christmas  
Dad  
We miss you and  
we love you ...



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year JOSH!  
We love you!



Merry Christmas Airman Eldred!  
We love & miss you so very much!



We are thinking of you always  
& loving you forever. We are counting  
the days you are in our arms again.



I miss you and love you Daddy!  
Merry Christmas  
Love,  
Anabella



Shout out to Andrew Beck!  
I love you more than the stars in the sky  
and the fish in the sea.  
(The cat tolerate you well too.)



Merry Christmas babe!  
Dadba and I miss and love you  
so much. We are so thankful for you and will  
continue to be here waiting.  
I love you!



Love you my sunshine!  
Miss you lots!



Merry Christmas Daddy! We miss you  
AM2 Zachariah McLendon



We miss you sooooo much and love you tons!  
Merry Christmas Hunny!  
XoXo



Merry Christmas MMrd Braithwaite!  
I miss you so much! We are very proud of you.  
We love you with all our hearts!  
Love,  
Paige & Zach



We love and miss you babe!



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.  
We miss you so much. We are so proud of you Kid!  
Love you,  
Mom, Dad and Kaden



Zack - We are so proud of you!  
We love you and know you will do  
amazing things!  
Happy New Year!  
We All Love You!



Merry Christmas! We love you Ben!

We love you,  
Ethan!



Wish we could be seeing each other over the holidays,  
but we will be thinking of you. Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year. We miss and love you so much!!! See you soon.



WE ARE NIMITZ



“YOU BRING ‘EM,

WE SLING ‘EM!”



Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, NORAD tracks everything that flies in and around North America in defense of our homeland.

On December 24, they have the very special mission of also tracking Santa.

NORAD has been tracking Santa since 1955, when a young child accidentally dialed the unlisted phone number of the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) Operations Center in Colorado Springs,

Colorado, believing she was calling Santa Claus after seeing a promotion in a local newspaper.

Air Force Colonel Harry Shoup, the commander on duty that night, was quick to realize a mistake had been made, and assured the youngster that CONAD would guarantee Santa a safe journey from the North Pole.

Thus a tradition was born that rolled over to NORAD when it was formed in 1958. Each year since, NORAD has dutifully reported Santa's location on December 24 to millions across the globe.

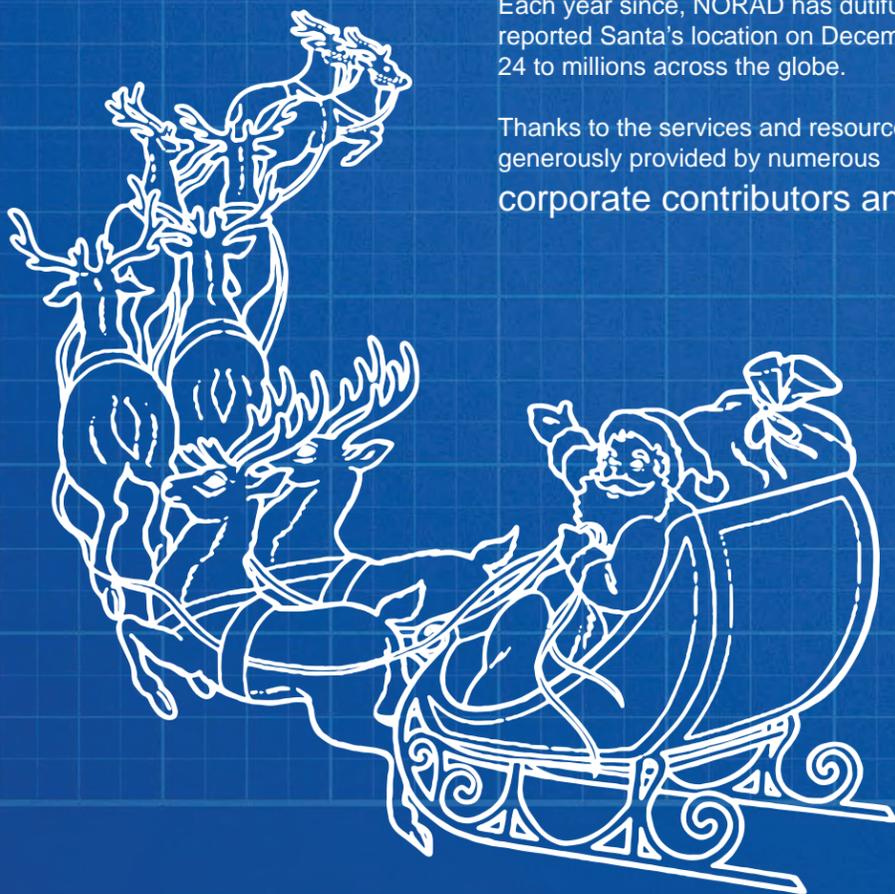
Thanks to the services and resources generously provided by numerous corporate contributors and

volunteers, NORAD Tracks Santa has persevered for more than 60 years.

Though the program began due to a misdialled number, NORAD Tracks Santa has flourished and is recognized as one of the Department of Defense's largest community outreach programs.

Each year, the NORAD Tracks Santa website receives nearly 15 million unique visitors from more than 200 countries and territories around the world. Volunteers receive more than 130,000 calls to the NORAD Tracks Santa hotline from children around the globe.

This year, children and the young-at-heart are able to track Santa through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.



**24 hours a day, 365 days a year, NORAD tracks everything that flies in and around North America in defense of our homeland.**

## Sleigh Technical Data

Feature	Answer
Designer & Builder.....	K. Kringle & Elves, Inc.
Probable First Flight.....	Dec. 24, A.D. 343
Home Base.....	North Pole
Length.....	75 cc (candy canes) / 150 lp (lollipops)
Width.....	40 cc / 80 lp
Height.....	55 cc / 110 lp
Weight at takeoff.....	75,000 gd (gumdrops)
Passenger weight at takeoff.....	Santa Claus: 260 pounds
Weight of gifts at takeoff.....	60,000 tons
Weight at landing.....	80,000 gd (ice & snow accumulation)
Passenger weight at landing.....	1,260 pounds
Propulsion.....	Nine (9) rp (reindeer power)
Armament.....	Antlers (purely defensive)
Fuel.....	Hay, oats and carrots (for reindeer)
Emissions.....	Classified
Climbing speed.....	One "T" (Twinkle of an eye)
Max speed.....	Faster than starlight

### Besides tracking Santa, what does NORAD normally do?

NORAD is a bi-national U.S./Canadian military organization responsible for the aerospace defense of North America. NORAD provides warning of impending missile and air attacks, safeguards the air sovereignty of North America, and maintains airborne forces for defense against attack. NORAD performs this important mission 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. But on Christmas Eve each year, NORAD has one additional mission: tracking Santa around the world! To learn more about NORAD, go to [www.norad.mil](http://www.norad.mil).

### How long has NORAD been tracking Santa?

NORAD's predecessor, the Continental Defense Command (CONAD), began tracking Santa in 1955. NORAD replaced CONAD in 1958 and took over the mission of tracking Santa's flight around the world every Christmas Eve!

### Why does NORAD track Santa?

Twenty four hours a day, 365 days a year, NORAD tracks airplanes, missiles, space launches and anything else that flies in or around the North American continent. While the tradition of tracking Santa began purely by accident, NORAD continues to track Santa. They're the only organization that has the technology, the qualifications, and the people to do it. And they love it! NORAD is honored to be Santa's official tracker on Christmas Eve!

### Does NORAD have any statistics on Santa's sleigh?

NORAD can confirm that Santa's sleigh is a versatile, all weather, multi-purpose, vertical short-take-off and landing vehicle. It is capable of traveling vast distances without refueling and is deployed, as far as we know, only on Christmas Eve (and briefly for a test flight about a month before Christmas). Note: Length, width and height are without reindeer.

### I would rather talk to someone at NORAD to find out where Santa is located. Is there a number I can call?

Yes! The NORAD Tracks Santa Operations Center is fully operational beginning at 4:00 a.m. MST on December 24. You can call 1 877 HI-NORAD (1 877 446-6723) to talk directly to a NORAD staff member who will be able to tell you Santa's exact location!

### How many people support this effort, and are they active duty military personnel?

One Department of Defense (DOD) civilian from the NORAD Public Affairs staff is assigned to manage the program. In addition, almost 1,250 Canadian and American uniformed personnel – Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marines, as well as DOD civilians and their families and friends – volunteer their time on Christmas Eve to answer the thousands of phone calls and emails that flood in from around the world.

# Family Ties



Story by MC2 Preston Jarrett

When Allyssa lost her mother, she gained a father figure.

Twelve years later, Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Orrintell Whyte and Fire Controlman 3rd Class Allyssa Haynes are serving together aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68).

"She's actually my niece," said Whyte. "Her mom was my sister, and that's always been my promise to her: that I would raise her daughter right. I feel like I did that."

Whyte, originally from Kingston, Jamaica, joined the Navy in October 2002. Now, 20 years later, Whyte has four children currently serving in the military, but he never expected to serve with them in the same command.

While the chances of family members being deployed together are nearly zero, a number of unlikely occurrences were necessary for them to reunite in this context.

"It's a big coincidence, really," said Whyte. "I came to California when I was on the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), and she had just graduated high school and decided to join the Navy. After boot camp, they sent her to Washington, and I later found out she was on the Nimitz. After I left the Lincoln, I went to the HSM (Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron) 73 'Battlecats'

and found out they were part of the Nimitz strike group. Now, we're on the same ship at the same time."

Haynes left for boot camp only two weeks after graduating high school, and she applied to be stationed on the West Coast in hopes of being closer to her family in San Diego, which brought her to the Nimitz, where she works as a NATO Sea Sparrow technician.

"My dad was on the Lincoln throughout my entire senior year past my graduation from boot camp," said Haynes. "When I was in C-school, he asked what ship I was going to be on. I told him the Nimitz, and he said he was going to be on the helo squadron for us, so we'd be on deployment together, which I thought was crazy."

Since Whyte's sea duty sometimes came in the way of him being present in Haynes' life, he expressed gratitude for the opportunity to spend deployment together and compensate for lost time.

"Our relationship actually hasn't changed much," said Whyte. "I think she's happy because now she feels like her dad is actually there. She said it's like a make-up because I was deployed when she was graduating high school. She really wanted me to be there, but I couldn't because I was deployed, but now, here

we are getting deployed together. It's like I'm making up for missing her graduation."

Haynes said she's always happy to see Whyte during her day-to-day while transiting through the ship.

"It's pretty cool seeing him in the mess decks and saying 'What's up, Dad?'" said Haynes. "He's very busy, especially when he's on the flight deck, so I can't see him all the time, but it's just really fun to bump into him. The funniest thing is when he introduces me as his daughter, and people won't believe it until we show them all the family photos."

The novelty of their particular situation isn't lost on either of them.

"I was thinking about it, and it's a cool experience that not many people get to witness," said Whyte. "A lot of people can say their parents retired from the military, but how many people can say they've spent deployment with their parents? Not many, so I think it's cool."

While Whyte is nearing retirement, he's gradually getting ready for his transition to civilian life, and Haynes is looking forward to making the most of her time aboard Nimitz.

"I'm going to be here until 2025," said Haynes. "It's a cool first/last moment. He's been in for a long time. I do want him to retire, unless he makes chief, but it's a once in a lifetime thing: my first deployment and his last." 🇺🇸





Sailors watch from the flight deck as aircraft fly in formation. Photo by MC3 Hannah Kanter.



AE2 Aric Barton fixes pins in a backup computer assembly. Photo by MC2 Samuel Osborn.



ABH1 Joshua Pulley observes flight operations. Photo by MC2 Justin McTaggart.



AM2 Brian Simmons uses a double vacuum debulking system to laminate carbon fiber plys. Photo by MC3 Caylen McCutcheon.



Sailors sort mail in the hangar bay. Photo by MC2 Samuel Osborn.



AE3 Brett Jacobs installs a silicone rectifier into an F-18 GCU generator. Photo by MC3 Caylen McCutcheon.



AMEAN Jazlyn Vargas and AOAN John Flecha examine fuel samples from an aircraft. Photo by MC3 Kevin Tang.



CS3 Leon Flores Reyes loads supplies onto a conveyor. Photo by MCSA Mariel Almonte Merejildo.



Sailors watch a helicopter haul cargo to the flight deck. Photo by MC2 Justin McTaggart.



AOAN Quintine Bartone collects aircraft chains on the flight deck. Photo by MC3 Kevin Tang.



AOAN Donovan Bewley installs a missile launcher into an aircraft. Photo by MC3 Caylen McCutcheon.



**U**SS Nimitz (CVN 68) hosts nine squadrons that comprise Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 17 and support different missions to accomplish the goals and needs of the strike group. Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 6 is an MH-60S Sea Hawk squadron that provides logistical and tactical support to the strike group, from vertical replenishments to transporting personnel casualties, as well as plane guarding, search-and-rescue (SAR) and increasing warfighting capabilities.

“Our squadron is the primary SAR squadron on the ship,” said U.S. Navy Lt. Spencer Jones, a pilot assigned to HSC-6. “We make sure no one has a bad day in the water.”

As the primary SAR squadron, they are responsible for retrieving anyone who goes overboard. During flight operations, they are the first responders for jet pilots ejected into the ocean.

“Should anyone hit the water, whether a pilot or someone falling off the deck, you’ll always have an HSC-6 helicopter coming to get you,” said Jones.

Fulfilling the logistics role, the MH-60S is a lighter counterpart to the MH-60R, meaning that the MH-60S is able to carry heavier loads of cargo and personnel. HSC-6 is capable of transporting parts to and from other ships in the strike group. They are also able to transport personnel between the ships that fixed-wing aircraft are incapable of landing on. During a replenishment-at-sea, they fly cargo from the supply ship to the carrier.

As far as the combat role of the MH-60S, there are times when jets are not capable of launching due to location, or political reasons. During times like these, the MH-60S is utilized and launched fully armed to create a screen for the ships of the strike group.

“The difference between the two aircraft is that the MH-60S is equipped with fewer instruments, fulfilling roles as a logistics platform and an attack platform to provide protection in situations where we’re in a strait transit or other cases,” said Jones.

When it comes to the personnel manning these aircraft, the aircrewmembers in the back are just as important for the squadron’s mission as the pilots are. From the cabin of the helicopter, they assist the pilots and serve as critical problem solvers if any emergency situations arise.

“We are professionals in our field,” said Naval Aircrewman (Helicopter) 2nd Class Keith Carpenter. “As cliché as it may sound, we train to fight and we fight to win. Our ‘fight’ is doing whatever it takes to protect, recover, and support our fighting force. When tasking is given, we say ‘when’ not ‘how.’”

But without the trust and teamwork among the pilots, aircrewmembers, maintainers, and administrative and logistic personnel, executing the mission wouldn’t be possible.

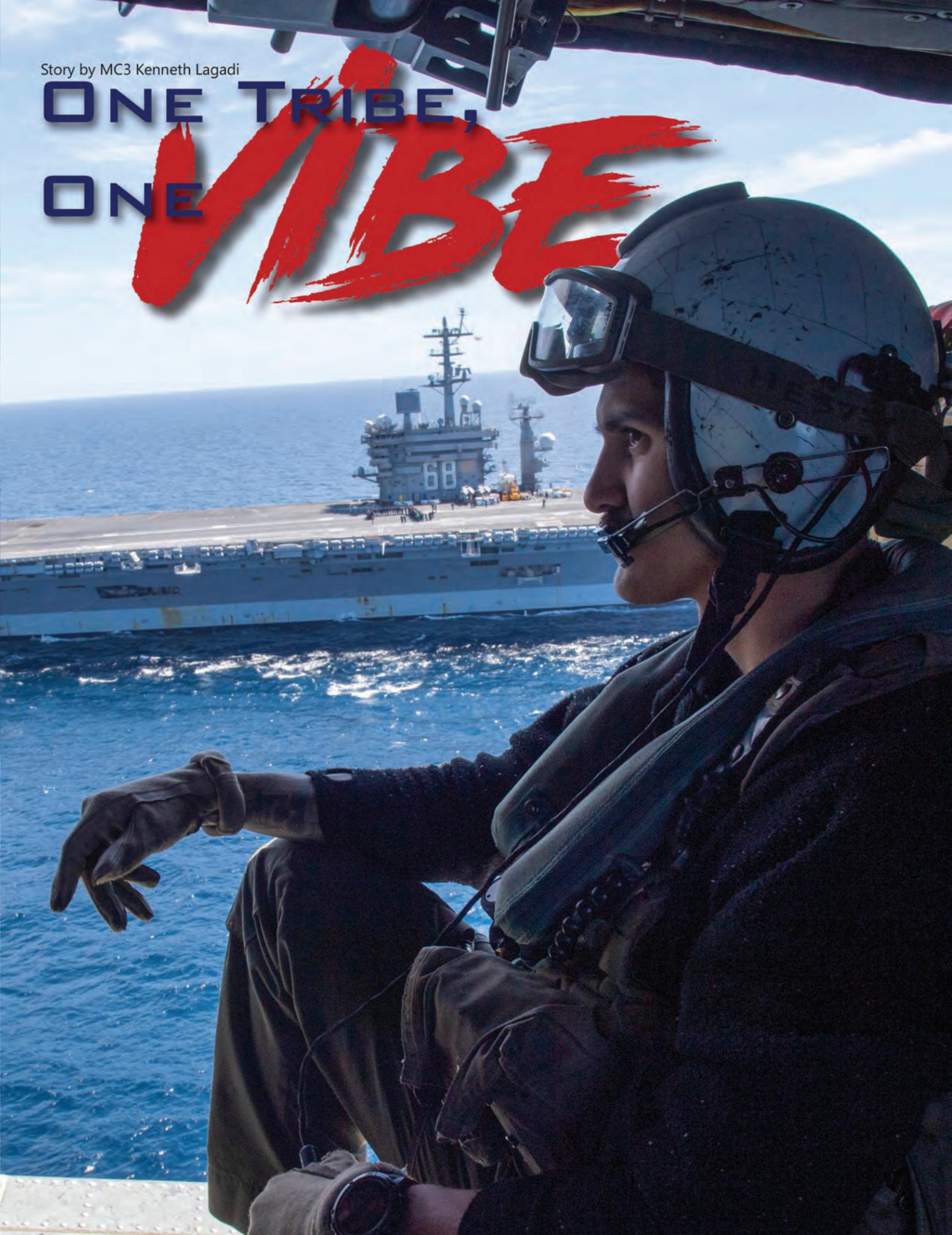
“Not every day is the best day, as every Sailor knows, but the culture and personalities of the people I work with are things that makes my job worth doing,” said Carpenter. “We all know each other to a depth not common to most occupations due to the nature of our job. Without comradery, the hard days would be harder and the good days would be hollow.”

HSC-6 is a vital component of the strike group, transporting supplies and protecting the thousands of people working aboard Nimitz. It’s not only the capabilities of the aircraft but also the experience, dedication and teamwork of the Sailors assigned to HSC-6 that allows this squadron to perform their mission and preserve strike group readiness. 

**“WE  
TRAIN  
TO  
FIGHT  
AND WE  
FIGHT  
TO WIN.”**

Story by MC3 Kenneth Lagadi

# ONE TRIBE, ONE **VIBE**





# Sugar Chateaux

Nimitz's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department (MWR) hosted a gingerbread house decorating event in the ship's aft mess decks. Sailors from various departments aboard the ship utilized pre-made kits containing edible supplies – including gingerbread pieces, icing and sprinkles – to create and decorate their very own "home sweet home."

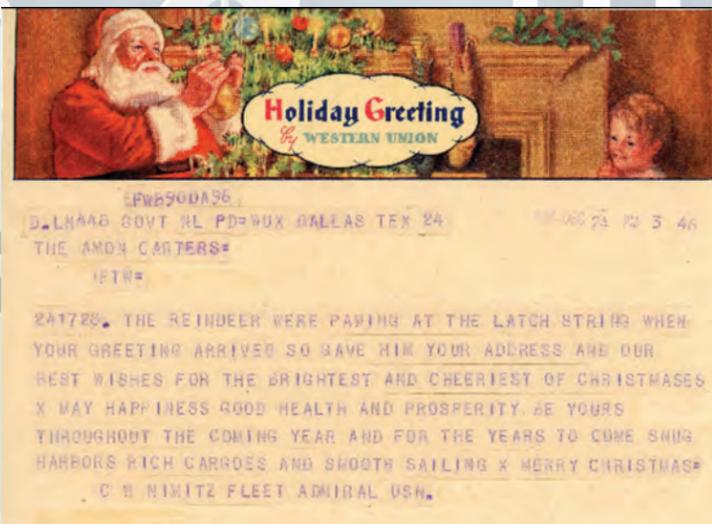




## Ghosts of Christmas Past

“A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens is a classic Victorian-era novel about an elderly miser who transforms into a kinder, gentler man. He is visited by his former business partner, Jacob Marley, and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet-to-Come.

Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz sent his own Christmas past message in this telegram, dated Christmas Eve, 1946, to his friend Amon G. Carter, the creator and publisher of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.



“The reindeer were pawing at the latch string when your greeting arrived so save him your address and our best wishes for the brightest and cheeriest of Christmases x may happiness good health and prosperity be yours throughout the coming year and for the years to come. Snug harbors, rich cargoes and smooth sailing x Merry Christmas x C W NIMITZ FLEET ADMIRAL USN.”

This 2022 deployment Christmas present is not as we originally imagined it in Guam, but we can look to the journey yet to come, in 2023. May it transform each of us into the best warfighters we can be. Happy Holidays!



# USS NIMITZ NOT-SO-HOME FOR CHRISTMAS Meal 2022

**CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
WR 3, WR 1 & 2, CHIEFS MESS AND AFT DINING FACILITIES

## THE MAIN COURSE

CHRISTMAS PRIME RIB  
ROAST TURKEY  
HONEY GLAZED HAM  
SAVORY BAKED CORNISH HENS  
SEAFOOD BAR

## THE SIDES

BUTTERY MASHED POTATOES  
SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE  
SAVORY BREAD STUFFING  
GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE  
CORN ON THE COB

## THE TRIMMINGS

GIBLET GRAVY	FRENCH ONION SOUP
NATURAL AU JUS	BROCCOLI AND CHEESE
HORSERADISH CRÈME SAUCE	SOUP
COCKTAIL SAUCE	POTATO SALAD
HOLIDAY CRANBERRY SAUCE	SALAD BAR

## HOLIDAY BAKED GOODS

PUMPKIN PIE	HOLIDAY COOKIES
PECAN PIE	CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES
SWEET POTATO PIE	MACADAMIA WHITE CHOCOLATE
APPLE PIE	COOKIES
CHERRY PIE	OATMEAL RASIN COOKIES
BLUEBERRY PIE	HONEY BUTTERED DINNER ROLLS
ASSORTED CHEESECAKE	PARMESAN DINNER ROLLS
ASSORTED SEASONAL CAKE	NIMITZ CELEBRATION CAKE
EGG NOG	ICE CREAM BAR

## CHAP'S CORNER: SHALOME!

It was Christmas Eve 2008, and I was at a small combat outpost in Musa Qala, Afghanistan. I had been sent there at the request of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines CO, to provide Christmas services for his Marines. The Marines were living and working out of a crude, two story cinder block house they called “The White House.” One could vaguely make out that it had once been whitewashed. The temperature was hovering around 20 degrees outside, but it was colder inside the “White House.” This meant the majority of the time, the Marines stayed outside huddled around the fire pit they had constructed.

Musa Qala was not a nice place. The town had been taken over by the Taliban and only a year before, an Irish Brigade had to negotiate with the Taliban for its safe extraction from the base. Upon arriving, I went to the roof of the house to visit with the Marines on duty. As I was standing alongside the roof's edge, looking over, a young Lance Cpl. said, “Ma’am, I wouldn’t do that if I were you. They love taking pot shots at anything they can see up here.” You didn’t need to tell me that twice.

That evening, around 2300, I held a candlelight service around the fire pit. Candlelight was fitting, as there was no electric power going to the house. The ANP (Afghan National Police) had long since destroyed the Marines’ main generator by plugging everything imaginable into it. As it was warmer outside by the fire, I decided to linger by the fire. There were Marines on the roof, and at the camp entrance, but other than that, it was quiet and I was the only one outside.

At around 0100, now Christmas Day, I was thinking about missing another Christmas when a local man, the assistant to the village governor whose office was located inside the wire, came out and squatted down across the fire pit from me. We smiled and nodded at one another until after a few minutes, the man put his hand up in a gesture I understood to be, “Wait here. I’ll be right back.” I smiled and nodded to him that I understood. He was gone for approximately 15 minutes. When he returned he had a platter of fresh goat meat and hot Naan bread. He squatted down closer to me now and placed the food between us, and let me know through gestures he wanted us to share a meal together.

That was the best meal I had had in a long time. As we sat there eating, not a word was spoken, because he spoke Pashtun and I spoke English, but the conversation was profound. After we finished the goat and bread, he gestured again to stay where I was. Again, I nodded I would stay. A few minutes later he squatted down again, gave me a small styrofoam cup and filled it with hot chai. We sat there, nodding and smiling at one another as we drank the sweet, hot tea. When the tea was gone, he got up, put his hands together like he was in prayer, slightly bowed at me and walked away.

I lingered by the fire until one of the staff sergeants came over and looked at me funny. I asked him what was up and he just shook his head, chuckled and said, “Chaps, some of us have been watching you from the roof; that guy is a pain in our butts and we’re pretty sure he hates we’re here. He’s always complaining to us or about us, and he sure ain’t never offered us food or chai.” Then he added, “No offense ma’am, but the fact you’re a woman and he was sharing a meal with you is even more amazing. We’re all just a little in shock about what we saw tonight.”

I can’t explain it either. Maybe God knew I needed some comforting on that cold Christmas Day in Afghanistan, so far away from the comforts of family and friends. All I do know is 14 years later, it’s still one of my favorite Christmases.

The Hebrew word for peace is Shalome, and in Greek, it is Eirene (i-ray -nay). Both the Hebrew and Greek words for peace means “One; quietness; rest.” In other words, Biblical peace is a state of wholeness or completeness. Peace is that condition of heart that communicates to us that God is fully involved in our situation. Once our heart is assured that all will be well, peace comes. That night, I was truly at Peace. May we each have this Shalome this Christmas. Amen.

- Chaplain Karen Rector, CDR, USN



# Deckplate Chatter

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION??



"We have a big breakfast every Christmas morning with every breakfast food imaginable! I love breakfast and my mom is an amazing cook."

-AEAN Mattea McBroom  
Orange City, FL

"My family does a Christmas scavenger hunt. It gives me quality time with my brothers and quiet time for my parents."

- MC2 Samuel Osborn  
Lascassas, TN



"Every Christmas my family makes tamales, a traditional Guatemalan dish."

- AM2 Errolyn Ortiz  
Forney, TX

"Family Dinner because my entire family gets together for the night."

-RS3 Karmell Merriman  
Oakland, CA



"My family has dinner at my grandmother's house every year. Good food, and good people."

- YN3 Ke'Audre Campbell  
Rock Hill, SC



"On Christmas, my whole family will play hide and seek at my grandparent's lake house."

- LSSN Gustavo Medina  
Hilton Head Island, SC

## Nimitz 68 Animal Crossing



**Age:** 11 Months  
**Breed:** Boston Terrier  
**Hobbies:** Eating and being a mess  
**Favorite Toy:** Socks  
**Dislikes:** Listening



## The COMBAT SYSTEMS ESWS



#1  
The Moriah Wind Monitoring System (WMS) provides a means of indicating apparent surface wind direction and speed.

#2  
Coms Frequencies:  
  
3-30 MHZ - High (HF)  
30-300 MHZ - Very High (VHF)  
300-3000 MHZ - Ultra High (UHF)  
3-30 GHZ - Super High (SHF)  
30-300 GHZ - Extremely High (EHF)

#3  
The 5 modes of fire for the MK 38 are:  
- Single Shot  
- Low Burst  
- High Burst  
- Low Continuous  
- High Continuous

#4  
A "hot gun" is when the barrel of the gun is so hot the rounds "cook off" as they pass through.

#5  
RADAR: Radio Detection and Ranging  
  
SONAR: Sound Navigation and Ranging

Merry Christmas  
LSI Graham.  
We love you.  
Love always  
The Wifey Unit



Merry Christmas My Love!  
The kids and I miss you so  
much and we are very  
proud of you.  
We look forward  
to being with you  
again. Love your wife  
and your  
two bundles of joy  
Liam & Savanna



Merry Christmas!



Ethan, you are doing incredible things and we are so proud of you.  
I can't wait to go on more adventures with you!  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Love,  
Jackie, Dan, Carole, Remi, Bella, Lucy, and Smoke

Merry Christmas Mike!  
So proud of you!  
Brutus and I  
love you with our  
whole hearts!  
Love,  
Han

Happy Holidays &  
New Years  
Eve Birthday to my Sailor  
husband!  
We love You!



Merry Christmas my love I am so proud of everything you do!  
We love and miss you.



Merry Christmas Dylan!  
This little guy is asking  
for one thing from Santa-no,  
not for Diapers.  
Best,  
Sarah Kelly



Merry Christmas  
We love you,  
ETC Halvorson



Merry Christmas MC2  
Jarrett! We love and miss  
you so much.



Merry Christmas and Happy  
New Year EMN1 Stachowski  
we love you!



Merry Christmas my love! You are incredible  
and I am so proud of you and all the  
hard work you are doing. I love you so much.  
Love,  
Annabelle



Argie  
Andhara  
Martin  
Feliz Navidad amor mio, todos  
los TUYOS estamos muy  
orgullosos de ti  
Martin Ramirez LSCS



Merry Christmas  
AC3 Nick Werla



The cats and I miss you tons!  
I cant wait for you to be back  
so we may continue our  
endless adventures. I love you  
to the moon and back!  
Forever and always Sam



Hi Daddy,  
We love you so much!



We love you!  
-Mom & Liz



We love you  
lots IT2 Bamanglag.  
Day by day  
and soon enough  
we'll be together again.  
You're doing fabulous  
and we're proud  
to call you ours.  
Hugs and kisses



Mathew Abel.  
Your girls miss you so much,  
we're so proud of you and  
we love you so very much!

Shout out to Chase Sealey,  
a one of a kind person who puts his  
work & others before himself. The girls and I  
are proud of you!  
We love you. Merry Christmas

Martin Ramirez LSCS



Merry Christmas!  
We love you to the moon and  
back!



Shout out to Ensign  
Dario Espinoza! We love you and miss you!  
Love, Anna Marie, Nicholas, Amelia, Zaxby & Ziggy  
XoXoXo



Merry Christmas  
AC3 Nick Werla

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Jesse Evans!  
Love, Aiti



Lucky says Merry Christmas Joseph  
and he can't wait to give you lots of kisses.  
We love you and so proud of you.  
T.J. Chris, Grace, Reego & Lucky



Happy Christmas Daddy!! Santa  
promised to bring you this hug  
from all of us!! We love you!!  
XOXO

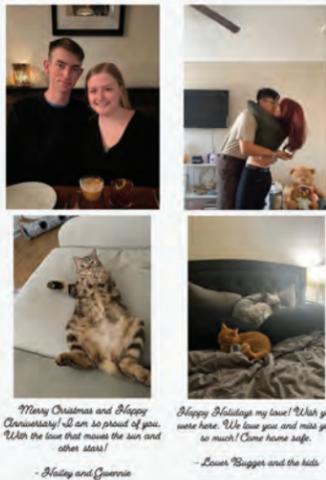


Your girls miss &  
love you!!



Merry Christmas



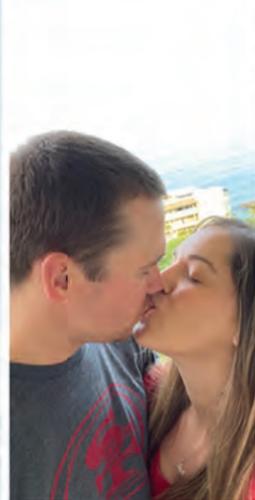


Merry Christmas and Happy Anniversary! I am so proud of you. With the love that moves the sun and other stars!  
-Naley and Geneva

Happy Holidays my love! With you were here. We love you and miss you so much! Come home safe.  
Love & miss you!  
-Leah, Digger and the kids



Merry Christmas! We are so proud of you and all your accomplishments! We look forward to our next adventures.  
Love & miss you!



We are so proud of you Nailey AZ2! I know that the deployment is so hard but this might be the last one! A day closer to be with you again! We sure love you so much!



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Get back here to us safe. I love & miss you both.  
-Mom



MERRY CHRISTMAS DAD!  
WE MISS YOU!



Branden Elmer,  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!  
With lots of love,  
Myles & Carli



We love you, EMN1 Frank!! Keep crushing it out there, baby! You're doing big things for our family and we could not be more proud of you!! Kick booty and get back home to us! We can't wait for big hugs from our man! SHORE DUTY NEXT, BABY!! We got this!! Always loving you! xoxo your Tiny Franks and Wiley



Merry Christmas  
Aaron Bafaro!  
Sending you lots of love and a big hug this holiday season.  
Love, Mom, Dad & Anthony



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. We love you Daddy and miss you so much! Can't wait to hug you tight.  
Love Hailey & Leah



You got this. Time will fly! Just wait and see! We will be reunited once again for many more adventures.  
Love you loads!  
From your future Mrs.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. We miss and love you Corey Harbin.  
-Bethany, Moose & Doc



You are my anchor & home. Be safe and know you are deeply missed by me and your 5 kids this Christmas. Near and far, closer together. I love you!



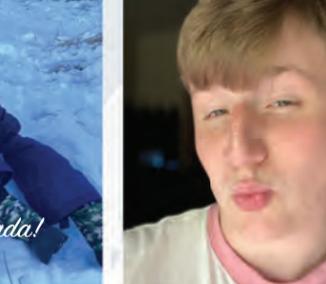
Feliz Navidad!



AMI Uriah Denton,  
We love you...  
Merry Christmas!  
Here's Ella's first real snow angel.  
Love, Becca, Ella & Liliana



Merry Christmas Dada!  
We love you!



Merry Christmas!



Merry Christmas & Happy 24th Kiddo!  
Keep up the good work, crush this deployment. I love you more than all the stars in the sky.  
Love Mom & Khalea



Merry Christmas Seed!



We love you Daddy!



Shout out to my Sailor & amazing husband!  
Merry Christmas!



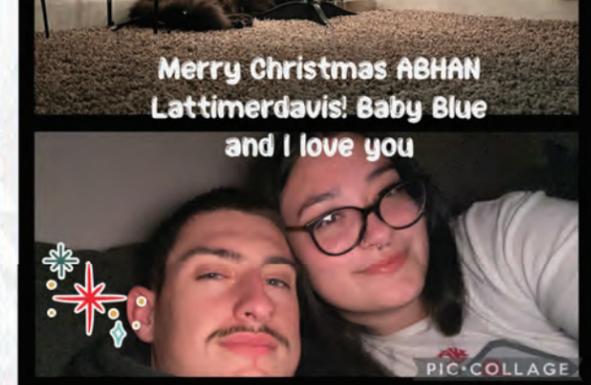
Merry Christmas Daddy! We love you!  
-TIG M Towers!



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! I am so proud of you. I can't wait to have you home. I miss you so much. Be safe. We got this love.



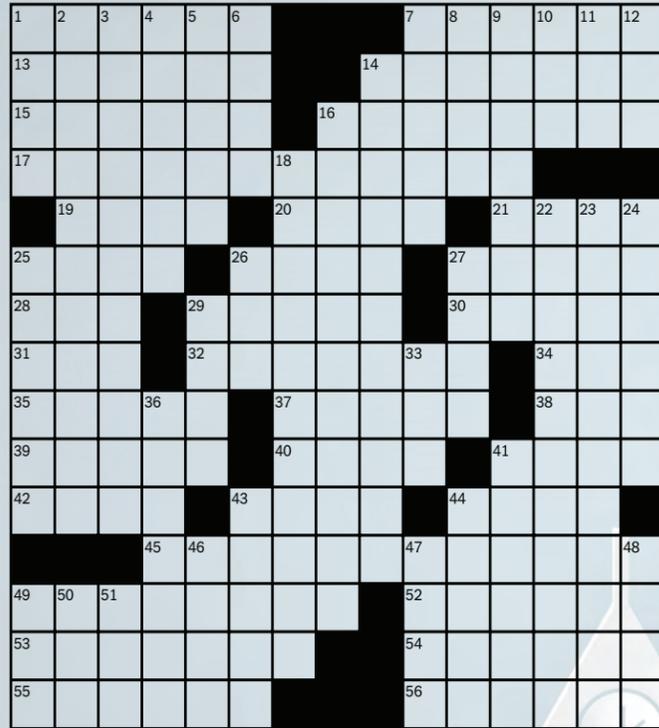
Merry Christmas Daddy!  
We love you!



Merry Christmas ABHAN Lattimerdavis! Baby Blue and I love you



PUZZLE BY CHRISTINA IVERSON AND TOM PEPPER



12/17/22

**ACROSS**

- 1 Psychs
- 7 Certain parental figure?
- 13 One confined to a cell?
- 14 Place with multiple ports
- 15 The Manassa \_\_\_\_, nickname for boxer Jack Dempsey
- 16 "Ideas worth spreading" series
- 17 It makes scents!
- 19 Gifts often given with kisses
- 20 Shut (up)
- 21 Informal times of day
- 25 One with sole possession?
- 26 Chicago mayor Lightfoot
- 27 It's a trap
- 28 Great deal
- 29 "I'll take another"
- 30 Void
- 31 Org. whose motto is "Per Ardua ad Astra"
- 32 Like the Northern Lights
- 34 Souvenir shop purchase
- 35 It goes without saying
- 37 Act big?
- 38 Bae
- 39 Forked-tailed fliers
- 40 Something that may be cut and then cured
- 41 Michael of "Life & Beth"
- 42 "Ah, yes, understood"
- 43 No-frills retirement options?
- 44 Bit of silliness
- 45 Not getting involved in any nastiness

**DOWN**

- 11 Common street name
- 12 Practice group?: Abbr.
- 14 Outdoor event with long sticks, informally
- 16 Cold shower?
- 18 "I spilled \_\_\_\_ on my dog. Now he's gone": Steven Wright
- 22 Some modern media-related speculations
- 23 Start of many a trick question
- 24 Gomez who got her start on "Barney & Friends"
- 25 Overcast clouds
- 26 Lucy of "Why Women Kill"
- 27 Pitcher's aim?
- 29 Big actors
- 33 Court fig.
- 36 Here
- 41 Final resting place
- 43 Like some hard-to-read messages
- 44 Soul, for one
- 46 Storage unit
- 47 Buds for brewers
- 48 Subject of a Nepali hunting license
- 49 Fix
- 50 Alternative to .com or .org
- 51 Shags, e.g.
- 52 Recorded
- 53 Detail-oriented sort
- 54 Clerical worker?
- 55 Made too much of something, perhaps
- 56 Honorific that translates to "born before"

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**



# Quick Notes



## Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist

The ESWS program is fully up and running aboard USS Nimitz!

The command's ESWS team will be conducting scheduled training twice weekly on Wednesdays and Thursdays in the First Class Mess at 1900, and will be departmentally assigned. The ESWS team will also provide ESWS Rodeos monthly. Testing will be held every Tuesday and Thursday in the First Class Mess at 0900.

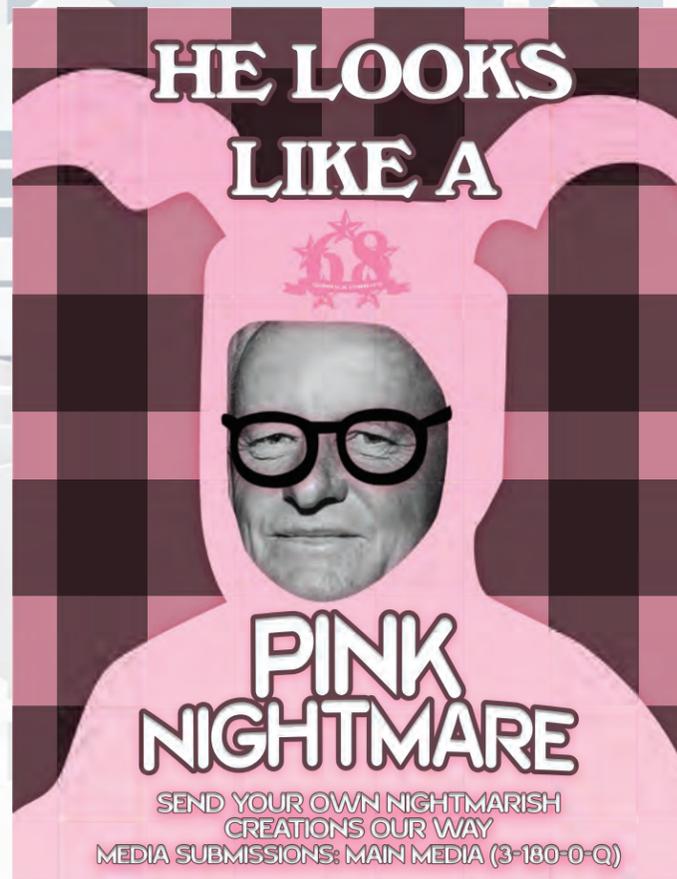
Contact your departmental ESWS coordinator for more info!

## PQS Update

There is a new version of DC PQS 43119-N available on the Share Point under Engineering > DC Corner. This PQS includes Damage Control Petty Officer. The previous version (43119-M) will only be accepted until Jan. 20, 2023.

## Division Fitness Teams

Divisional teams are forming to compete in fitness events, which will be held throughout deployment. To participate, contact FIT BOSS! Commemorative coins are planned for participants, courtesy of the First Class Association.



# MWR



Fun Boss  
J-Dial 6678

**MWR TICKET/GEAR WINDOW**  
2-148-2-Q

**UNDERWAY DAYS:**  
0830-1400 & 1500-1900

**UNDERWAY NIGHTS:**  
2000-0000 & 0300-0700

Sunday  
Holiday Week and  
Door Decoration  
Contest Winners  
Announced  
25

Tuesday  
Trivia Tuesday:  
Aft Mess Deck  
@2000  
27

Wednesday  
Card Game  
Night & Spades  
Tournament:  
Aft Mess Deck  
@2000  
28

Thursday  
Corn Hole  
Tournament:  
Aft Mess Deck  
@2000  
29

Friday  
Video Game  
Night:  
Aft Mess Deck  
@2000  
30

Saturday  
NYE Party:  
Aft Mess Deck  
@2200  
31



'TIS THE *Holiday Season*  
YOU CAN ALL *Rest At Ease*  
THE NIMITZ **STANDS WATCH**  
ACROSS **ALL SEVEN SEAS**

